

Eye of the Storm

By: Joanna Grammon
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As someone who appreciates a fine printing job, I have to admit it is impressive ---- nice paper, excellent engraving. As partial payment for a subscription, for which I am not at liberty to say, we received a \$10 "Liberty Currency" silver certificate. To quote from "Casablanca," "round up the usual suspects."

The note is slightly shorter than currency now in general circulation, and purports to be "redeemable by bearer on demand."

The front of the note bears a depiction of the Statue of Liberty and a serial number, as well as the assertion that the piece of paper is worth one Troy ounce of .999 fine silver, and that the use of the \$10 receipt "is an exercise of the bearer's First Amendment right to petition the government for a silver-based currency as stated in the U.S. Constitution."

The date on the front states it is a "Series 1998." On the back is a stamped date, Jan. 10, 2000. There is also a signature on the front, that of a person named Bernard von NotHaus, as nearly as I can decipher. Underneath the signature line is the legend "senior economist," a toll free number and a website address, <http://www.libertydollar.org/>

Evidently, there is a warehouse containing the silver to back up this claim at the Sunshine Minting Inc. in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. The back of the note states it is a warehouse receipt for the one ounce of silver, and includes the assertion by the "undersigned," a warehouse official with a signature resembling a treble clef with an attitude, that the certificate has to be renewed or surrendered within 20 years, is insured against fire or theft, and that storage and insurance fees have been prepaid for five years. It also stipulates some terms.

After five years, the note loses one percent of its value each year to insurance and storage fees, based on the value of the silver at the time of surrender. "Additional fees limited to shipping and handling may be incurred upon surrender of this warehouse receipt," it states. That ought to encourage banks to accept these things.

Here is my theory: The one place most likely to redeem these notes is in Coeur d'Alene. I think this is a surefire ploy to increase tourism in that part of Idaho, which is quite lovely. It would almost be worth the trip to claim the silver; I could always use it to make jewelry.