

FEBRUARY 1, 2009

WATERHOUSE SYMBOLISM

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- A rainbow conveys hope
- A clearing sky conveys hope
- A six pointed star conveys creation of heaven and earth
- A flag conveys victory; self-assertion; thought or ideal; identification; and nationalism

GEORGE WASHINGTON AS A HERO

The portrait to the right is by Gilbert Stuart called *George Washington* and was painted in 1796. It is housed at the National Portrait Gallery and is known as the Lansdowne Portrait because it was given to the Marquis of Lansdowne, an English supporter, by Senator and Mrs. Bingham of Pennsylvania. It has many symbols connected to it. To the left of Washington's right hand is the inkwell and quill which conveys that Washington signed and passed many bills and laws during his Presidency. The books next to the inkwell and quill convey Washington's work in the world of ideas and politics. The table leg below Washington's hand has two eagles which convey great strength, speed and soar-

ing flight. In their talons are arrows which convey war. The books on the floor below the table conveys Washington as a military hero. In the right top is a rainbow which conveys hope. Also, since a rainbow is white light split into many parts, it conveys unity in the diversity for a new nation. The medallion on the back of the chair conveys peace. Notice the medallion has 13 stars and 13 stars which conveys the original 13 colonies.



GEORGE WASHINGTON AGAIN AS A HERO

Another famous painting of Washington is *Washington Crossing the Delaware*, 1851, by Emanuel Luetze, housed at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York City. There are many copies of the painting one being in the West Wing of the White House. Notice the way the sky in the back is clear-

ing, which conveys hope. The people in the boat convey a cross section of the American colonies including a man in a Scottish bonnet and a man of African descent. The man behind Washington with the flag is Monroe, a future President (1817-25.)



UNITED STATES SEAL

The image to the right is the front of the United States Seal. It conveys the coat of arms of the U.S. and we see an eagle outstretched. In his right talon is 13 arrows which refer to the original 13 colonies. In the left talon, he holds an olive branch which has thirteen leaves and thirteen berries, which once again, refers to the original 13 colonies. The two symbols together convey that the United States has a strong desire for peace but will always be ready for

war. Notice that the eagle's head is turned towards the olive branch which conveys that the United States has a strong preference for peace. In his beak, he holds the motto *E pluribus Unum* (Out of Many, One.) Over his head appears 13 stars on a blue field and they are arranged in rows of 1-4-3-4-1 forming a six pointed star, a symbol of the creation of heaven and earth. Notice the shield on his chest showing the colors of the American flag.



THE WHITE HOUSE

The White House was built from 1792 to 1800 and has been the official home and workplace of the President since John Adams (in office from 1797-1801) who actually began living there in 1800. The photo to the right is the earliest known one of the White House taken c. 1846 by John Plumbe during the administration of James K. Polk (1845-1849) a Ten-

nessee President. The White House conveys American leadership. It also conveys the American presidency and the nation's power. John Adams, writing to Abigail Adams on November 2, 1800, offered the following prayer, "*I pray heaven to bestow the best of blessings on this house and all that shall hereafter inhabit it. May none but the wise men ever rule under this roof.*"



AIR FORCE ONE

Air Force one is the air traffic control call sign of any airplane carrying the President of the United States. In most cases, it refers to the plane that carries the President around the world. It conveys the American presidency and power.

The airplane or aircraft conveys a spiritual aspiration,

namely individual release of the earth-bound ego by escape to the purifying reaches of the upper air. It also conveys ambition and the word flying is what you do on airplane conveys thought, imagination, speed and escape. It is thought of as a modern symbol for commerce and travel.

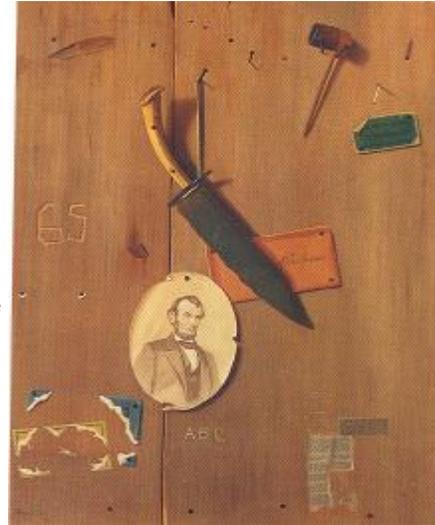


PETO'S REMINISCENCE OF WAR, 1865, 1987

The painting to the right is by John Peto and is housed at the Wadsworth Atheneum, Hartford, Connecticut. Because Peto's father died in 1895, there has been much speculation that Peto related his grief of his father with the grief of the country of the loss of Abraham Lincoln even though there is a 30 year time span. Notice the date 65 is carved to the right referring to the death date of

Lincoln and the name ABE carved below Lincoln's photograph. The bowie knife above the photo refers to a Petro family tradition that this knife was found on the battlefield of Gettysburg by John's father-in-law, who served as a corp drummer for General Grant who became another President from 1869-1877. Could the rusty nail above Lincoln's head refer to the nails of Christ and how he was crucified for our sins? Lincoln was cruci-

fied for the freedom of African Americans. The pipe seen in the right hand corner conveys the pipe of peace and the ending of the Civil War.



ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S ORIGINAL BURIAL SITE

There are always many legends connected to the burial sites of Presidents - and who is buried in Grant's tomb? When Lincoln was originally laid to rest in 1865, he was placed in this temporary tomb to the right. Supposedly, many sightings of Lincoln's ghost was seen close to the temporary tomb. He was seen checking out the broken ground where the new tomb would be placed. Eventually, Lincoln was moved to the monument behind on the hill. However, after the body was moved,

there was strange sobbing noises and footsteps heard in the vicinity of the first site.

Notice, the obelisk on the hill, his second burial site, and the obelisk started out as an Egyptian pagan symbol and was adopted by the Christians as a symbol of pointing the soul towards heaven.

Obelisks also represented a ray of light and a sunbeam. It conveyed the sun at its zenith and marked the grave of a king in Egypt. It is appropriate it marks Lincoln's grave.



JOHN ADAMS' BURIAL SITE

Another interesting presidential burial site is John Adams in the First Unitarian Church, in Quincy, Massachusetts. He was originally buried at the Hancock Cemetery, also in Quincy. Notice the flag to the right which has 13 stars and stripes conveying the 13 original colonies of the United States. The flag conveys

victory; self-assertion; thought or ideal; identification; and nationalism. Notice the wreath of flowers which conveys eternity. Notice the banner to has DAR on it.

It stands for the Daughter of the American Revolution which was founded in 1890 and is active in the marking and preservation of historic

places.

Membership is open to women with one or more ancestors in the American Revolution.



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WATERHOUSE SYMBOLISM

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SYMBOLS THROUGHOUT THE CENTURIES

ANOTHER MYSTERY SOLVED

Patricia Wells, Administrative Director of the Association for Gravestone Studies, sent me this marker for identification. The grave marker is located in Canada. However, before I could figure it out, another member supplied the following information: The symbol shown is that of the Loyal Orange Association of British America (Orangemen). The society was founded in the late 18th-century in Ireland (1830 in Canada, 1867 in US) as an anti-Catholic, pro-

British (monarchy) order. In the late 19th century, the Orangemen joined with the Jr. Order United American Mechanics (a similar society in US) to restrict immigration to US, promote the Protestant religion, the separation of church and state, loyalty to the flag, the English language, and public schools, etc. Women relatives of Orangemen members could join the Loyal True Blue Association and the Ladies Orange Benevolent Association. The Orange Order was most known for its anti-Catholic,

pro English (anti- French Canadian aspirations) 'patriotism'. Grand Lodges still operate in most of the provinces in Canada. "The Order was the chief social institution in Upper Canada, organizing many community and benevolent activities, and helping Protestant immigrants to settle. It remained a predominant political force in southern Ontario well into the twentieth century. A notable exception to Orange predominance occurred in London, Ontario, where Catholic and Protestant Irish formed a non-sectarian Irish society in 1877." (quote = Wikipedia)

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR



While putting together the final part of this newsletter, I was watching the television coverage of Obama's historical train trip from Philadelphia to Washington, DC. I loved how many times the reporters said how symbolic that trip is for the country because it mirrors one that Abraham Lincoln did in 1861.

We can clearly see how rich the American Presidency continues to be in symbolism.

Take care,

Richard Waterhouse

