



## Questioned Documents Section – 2003

---

### J3 Design and Security Features in the New Euro

Carl R. McClary, BA\*, 2600 Century Parkway, Suite 410, Atlanta, GA

Background on the new European currency and its security features are discussed.

The Treaty of Rome in 1957 established a common European market as an objective to increase prosperity. A monumental part of that objective was realized when, on January 1, 2002, twelve Member States of the European Union converted from their own individual currencies to the new euro – the largest monetary changeover in history. Included in the turnover are Belgium, Germany, Greece, Spain, France, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Austria, Portugal, and Finland. Even though they are members of the European Union, Denmark, Sweden, and the United Kingdom do not participate in the common currency. The change has not been without controversy, but is expected to be a uniting force in Europe as well as the rest of the effected world. Since its introduction, the euro has enjoyed a near one to one parity with the U.S. dollar and has recently traded slightly higher during the troubled U.S. financial markets.

As of February 28, 2002, old notes and coins were to be withdrawn from circulation. To replace them, 8 new coins are currently being offered in denominations of 1 and 2 euros and 50, 20, 10, 5, 2 cents, and 1 cent. The observance of these coins will have the Member States own motif but will not limit usage within the participating nations. Seven new notes are offered in denominations of 500, 200, 100, 50, 20, 10, and

5. The notes do not feature a national side, but will depict bridges, windows, and gateways representing Europe's architectural heritage. With the new notes and coins come security features similar to U.S. currency in addition to some new ones. This paper will discuss the latest security features found in the new currency such as foil, printing, watermarks, holograms, and minting methods. Additionally, some back-ground on the euro's implementation and development will be given as well as the economic impact of this historic event since January 1.

**Design Features, Security Features, New Euro**