



*This is America...*

Today, this handsome creature is still one of the most forceful ways of saying, "This is Freedom — This is America!" The Eagle is now, as it has been since the forming of the original thirteen states, a rallying standard of patriotic America.

In choosing the design for a special plate to commemorate the Bicentennial of The United States, a number of widely accepted symbols of American Independence were explored. The final selection of the Eagle, the thirteen stars, and the border garland of laurel was made because of their symbolic identity with the birth and growth of this great country.

The choice of the Eagle was made because of its historical significance as a symbol of courage, freedom, and indomitable will. It signifies the determination of a people to govern themselves; to remain aloof from alliances which generate security at the cost of liberty. The use of the American Bald Eagle as the central motif of the Great American Seal is but one example of the strength of character this great bird projects.

The thirteen stars were chosen for use on the plate in order to acknowledge the debt owed to the thirteen colonies upon whose separate and corporate govern-

ment rested the hopes of the new nation. It was both in their individual and in their collective willingness to endure privation and threat that a new United States of America could emerge. The Declaration of Independence was a manifesto for a whole new way of life. And it was in the purposiveness of the thirteen new states that this manifesto for liberty acquired the fabric and sinew to survive beyond the drawing board of political discussion.

Finally, the garland of laurel which surrounds the "Independence Plate" was selected to express the nation's search for peace. Throughout its history, the defense of liberty has been the only banner about which the nation would rally for purposes of war. And then only would it take up arms after all peaceful means of co-survival had been exhausted.

Strong in purpose, united in belief, dedicated to the right of man to peace, liberty and "the pursuit of happiness", The United States of America celebrates a two hundredth birthday resolved to continue to be a place of hope, a land of opportunity, a cause for peace.

This bicentennial commemorative plate is designed to be part of the remembered tributes to the occasion.

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*This handcrafted Eagle Plate is being introduced by Fenton for the Bicentennial of the United States of America (1776-1976). In 1975, it will be made on a limited basis in a "new-old" color re-created especially for the occasion, Patriot Red (antique collectors call it Fenton Red Slag).*

*After December 31, 1975, the Plate will no longer be made in this color but will be produced in a special new color just for 1976. On December 31, 1976, when the bicentennial takes its place in history, the mould for the Plate will be destroyed, insuring its future as a collector's piece.*

*Fenton*