

**Closing remarks to Banknote 2003**  
**Tony Poole, Director**  
**Wednesday February 5<sup>th</sup> 2003**

Ladies and Gentlemen, Sponsors and Delegates:

Before we conclude this event and depart for all points around the globe, I wanted to briefly summarize the highlights of Banknote 2003 and what we have learned during our time together.

Peter Fisher started us off with a clear message of continuous improvement – a theme that played throughout the four days we were together. From deterrence of counterfeiting to improved quality and efficiency of banknote operations, the key message we took away is that continuous improvement is critical to maintaining the integrity of banknotes and the banknote industry.

Many of our speakers came prepared with their own version of continuous improvement:

- From advances in overt features – ink, holograms, kinograms to advances in intaglio and offset printing techniques that stretch the boundaries of traditional printing technologies
- From specialized covert features for machine (vending and high speed) readability to development of covert features for forensic investigation
- And we heard again the lively debate between paper and polymer – a debate that seems to have driven both sides to improve to meet the increasing needs for a longer life banknote substrate

We also had a number of compelling presentations from our friends in Government:

- We learned how a number of central banks have set out to improve their cash handing operations
- We learned about the importance of public education to communicate note design changes
- We learned about the CBCDG – central banks that have come together to address the ever increasing issue of digital counterfeiting
- We received feedback from a number of central banks on their use of polymer – from negative to positive – clearly demonstrating that they are pushing the technical envelope to address their unique challenges
- And we heard a number of compelling presentations from the Federal Reserve, the Bureau of Engraving and Printing and – much to everyone's delight – the United States Secret Service coming out of the closet on a number of very

significant counterfeiting problems that they have investigated and their new four legged ways of detecting counterfeits

What we also saw was a significant increase in delegate participation, from your very interesting and sometimes challenging questions; to the rapt attention you paid our 36 speakers. Clear evidence that the topics presented were stimulating and compelling.

The greatest reward for us was the level of interaction between the delegates throughout the Conference. When we gathered here on Sunday we were 300 individuals from 40 countries each having an individual agenda. As we leave here today, the feeling is much more that we are a team of 300 with a common cause.

This group – both government and industry – must stick together. We must work to the theme of continuous improvement – the betterment of banknotes to stay ahead of counterfeiters and to constantly build the public's confidence in what is an integral part of our world's society.

Before we break – and on behalf of my colleagues Jill Caiazzo and John Hanley – I want to thank a number of people:

- Our returning sponsors from Banknote 2000 – Arjo Wiggins, Crane and Company, Giesecke & Devrient, KBA Giori, Orell Füssli, Louisenthal and SICPA and our new sponsors this year – Association Goznak, Hologram Industries, Leonard Kurz and Maximus. Without you Banknote 2003 would not have been possible.
- Our speakers for spending countless hours preparing compelling and interesting presentations
- Currency News for providing us some REAL news to read every morning
- Roland Costa and the Federal Reserve for hosting us in Richmond on Tuesday
- Tom Ferguson and the Bureau of Engraving and Printing for a very interesting tour of their facility this afternoon
- And you – our delegates – for your involvement, interest and significant participation throughout the conference

We will stay in touch with you to let you know our plans. Currently we are thinking that we will re-gather here in Washington – two years from now – at Banknote 2005. As the details come together on this event, you – our delegates – will be kept informed. We will continue to use our web site. Please check it as we will post photos from Banknote 2003 as well as provide information on things to come.

Again – thank you for coming and making this event such a success. We wish you a safe journey home and look forward to seeing you soon.