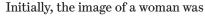# NEWS & NOTES

U.S. PAPER MONEY

Decision at Last

Harriet Tubman will grace the front of the $20 bill.

> AFTER MONTHS OF SPECULATION U.S. Secretary of the Treasury Jacob "Jack" Lew announced on April 20 that abolitionist and civil-rights icon Harriet Tubman will replace President Andrew Jackson on the $20 bill. The decision is part of a larger plan to redesign the $5, $10 and $20 notes by 2020.

PHOTO: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

TUBMAN

Best known as a conductor of the "Underground Railroad," a network of safe houses and routes used to guide slaves to freedom in the North, Tubman later became a Union spy during the Civil War. According to Lew, she is "not just a historical figure, but a role model for leadership and participation in our democracy."

Initially, the image of a woman was slated to replace that of Alexander Hamilton on the $10 bill. (Revision of this note is pressing because it is more susceptible to forgery than the current $20). However, the decision to replace his likeness was roundly criticized because, as first secretary of the U.S. Treasury, he advocated for a national currency.

Jackson, on the other hand, "unequivocally hated the idea of a central bank that issued paper currency," says Stephen Mihm, associate professor of history at the University of Georgia, who opines that the former president would be "thrilled" to no longer grace the front of the $20. Instead, Jackson will move to the note's back, joining a new image of the White House.

Hamilton's portrait will be retained on the $10, while the back will depict suffragist leaders Lucretia Mott, Sojourner Truth, Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Alice Paul.

The $5 bill's back will include an updated Lincoln Memorial motif, along with images of former First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. and singer Marian Anderson. President Abraham Lincoln will remain on the front.

For more information about the redesigns, visit *www.modernmoney.treasury.gov*.