

Franklin Gazette

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Friends of Franklin, Inc. P.O. Box 40048, Philadelphia, PA 19106

"There are no ugly loves or handsome prisons." - *Poor Richard*, 1737

President's Message

by Ralph Gregory Elliot

We have commented in previous columns on Benjamin Franklin's uniqueness as a common American to whom we all can relate and as, with Mark Twain, one of the two quintessentially American voices over our first 200-plus years. There is another aspect of Franklin that is unique among the Founders; and that facet was brought home to me as I recently read two more books in the burgeoning canon of Frankliniana.

The first of these was the marvelous newly-published book of essays on Franklin - some old, some new, all an unalloyed delight to read - by Friends Director Claude-Anne Lopez, long a pillar of strength at the Franklin Papers at Yale. Entitled *My Life With Benjamin Franklin* and published by Yale University Press, this much-heralded book lives up to everyone's expectations. Readable with special insight by Friends, it would make the perfect Christmas gift as an introduction to the multi-faceted great man. The prudent buyer will stock up while supplies last. I read it from cover to cover on an April flight to Phoenix, and the hours flew by.

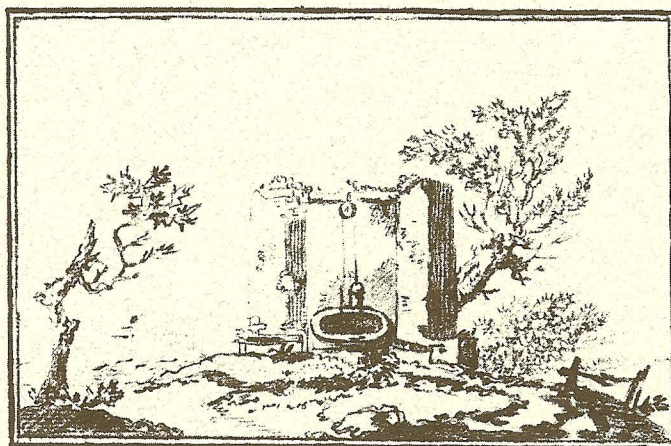
The second book, of which I had never heard before this year,

came out some 20 years ago edited by P. M. Zall of the University of California. Entitled *Ben Franklin Laughing*, it consists of some 250-plus anecdotes about Franklin culled primarily from contemporary sources (and some from Franklin himself).

And that is the point. Franklin, uniquely among the Founders, is marvelously accessible to us all in the form of stories, reminiscences and anecdotes about him. His contemporaries seemed to delight in recording or telling others of their encounters with him and the witty or sagacious tenor of his conversation.

We hear and read almost nothing in the way of stories and anecdotes about Washington, Adams, Jefferson, Hamilton, Madison, Jay, or any of Franklin's other contemporaries. Compared to him they were boring stiff (even the multi-talented but infinitely more private Jefferson). Their table-talk was unremarkable, their social life pedestrian, their private writings utilitarian and instrumental. One never hears a story that begins "I'll never forget the day George Washington and I were quaffing some tankards of ale . . ."

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*To the garden of Ben Franklin
by M. de la Roche*

Franklin's drawing of the garden at Passy -- 1782

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Friends of Franklin Board members meet at the American Philosophical Society. Around the table, from L to R: Lee Knepp, Ellen Cohn, Ralph Archbold, Kathy DeLuca, Ralph Elliot, Roy Goodman, George Franklin Waters, Phil Krider.

President's Message

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And it is that abundance of anecdotes - especially from 1757 onward as he lived among the literate monde of London and Paris - that continues the accessibility to us of Franklin the man that he himself fostered in his *Autobiography*, which only takes us up to his English embassy. To be sure, Franklin was fortunate that in Europe, and especially in Paris, he dwelt in a society where memoirs, reminiscences, diaries and other forms of remembrance enhancers were popular forms of expression, just waiting for an open personality like Franklin's to record. Still and all, it is doubtful that his fellow Founders, if similarly situated in Paris as Franklin was, would have inspired the volume of reminiscence that Franklin did. Certainly Jefferson's succeeding ministry saw no such phenomenon.

And so we love Franklin the more because his story comes to us not with a portentous March of Time score in the background, but largely through easily-digestible anecdotes of adoring and not-so-adoring contemporaries, who dwell on the human and humanistic Franklin they knew as a friend, fellow dinner guest and boon companion.

Franklin Tidbits

News about Friends. Phil Greenslet will be participating in the American Numismatic Association's 109th Annual Convention, to be held August 9-11, 2000 at the Pennsylvania Convention Center, 1201 Arch Street in Philadelphia. Phil has been specially invited to display his eleven-case exhibit of Franklin medals, dating from 1762-1996. Additionally, he has created a four-case exhibit on Franklin and The Institute, for the Local Interest Category. Friends who live in the area or who might be visiting Philadelphia this summer should keep this event in mind. Come meet Phil and see this fascinating display commemorating Franklin!

Cecilia Brauer performed on the glass armonica in the New York Metropolitan Opera's production of Lucia di Lammermoor this past season. According to Cecilia, "I have been playing [the armonica] in this opera since 1994, but this year we did six performances of the 1835 version which had a much longer armonica part as Donizetti wrote at that time. Ben Franklin, the armonica, and myself had mention in the intermission feature when the opera was broadcast in December. I know that Franklin would have been delighted to know that his armonica was being performed at the Metropolitan Opera House."

Friends in the press. There was a fine review of **Josh Kornbluth's** one-man show, "Ben Franklin: Unplugged," in the May 11, 2000 edition of the *Washington Post*. According to *Post* reviewer Lloyd Rose, the show "works on a lot of levels. Primarily it's a detective story, as Kornbluth – possessed, like most of us, of only the patriotic clichés about Franklin – delves into his subject. In true modern scholarly style, he perceives the presence in an absence – i.e., the untold story of Franklin's break with his royalist son – in the episodes in Franklin's life that he neglected to include in his autobiography." The other angles that Rose sees in the show are a show-biz saga, a revenge story, a bunch of political jokes, and "a character study of an eccentric Yale professor" – our own Claude-Anne Lopez. Josh says he thinks that his friend Claude would find "some delicious irony" in being referred to in this manner!

Speaking of **Claude-Anne Lopez**, her most recent work, *My Life with Benjamin Franklin*, continues to garner rave reviews. Publishers' Weekly of March 13, 2000 states that "the essays range wonderfully far afield, reflecting the catholicity of Franklin's interests and his innumerable personal, scientific and political involvements....Lopez's essays are elegant in construction, and her prose is polished....Readers already knowledgeable about Franklin will appreciate the author's subtle insights into this extraordinary figure, and all will certainly enjoy these graceful exercises in the essay form." Margaret Flanagan in the April 1, 2000 edition of *Booklist* says: "Renowned Franklin scholar Lopez offers 18 original essays designed to illuminate little-known facets of the life and times of Benjamin Franklin. Culled from more than 30,000 documents on Franklin housed at Yale University, these humorous, poignant, and dramatic episodes are related with the contagious warmth and affection of a faithful admirer....this collection of articles represents a treasure trove of fascinating Franklin trivia. A robust, vastly

informative tribute to an inimitable American icon."

Franklin in the press. The January/February, 2000 issue of *Philanthropy* featured **Franklin's will** as the subject of their "The Last Page" column. The portion of his will which makes his bequests to the towns of Boston and Philadelphia is quoted, and there is a brief update on what happened to the money in both cities.

The September, 1999 issue of *Physics Today* contains an article by Gerald Holton entitled "I.I. Rabi as Educator and Science Warrior." Rabi was an esteemed physicist who worked at Columbia, and who was, during WWII, the associate director of the MIT Radiation Laboratory and advisor to J. Robert Oppenheimer at Los Alamos. He later took on a more public role as "a civic scientist." Holton writes: "Throughout Rabi's dazzling career during this trying century, that self-educated, God-struck youngster within him was constantly motivated to wise and courageous service, on behalf of both science and the country he loved. I think he had before his eyes a model. In a 1964 lecture, he confessed: 'My ideal man is Benjamin Franklin – the figure in American history most worthy of emulationFranklin is my ideal of a whole man.' Initially a craftsman, Franklin had become one of the greatest scientists of his time, and also a successful diplomat and statesman. 'Where are the life-size, or even the pint-size Benjamin Franklins of today?' asked Rabi poignantly. From what we know of Rabi, it is clear that he himself is a worthy, life-size model for our own turbulent times." Thanks to Friend of Franklin Phil Krider for drawing our attention to this article.

Bethany Klein's "Getting My Freak On" in the Jan. 26, 2000 edition of the *Philadelphia Weekly* declares the glass armonica "delightfully weird" and the **Franklin Court Museum** "the most psychedelic space this side of the Mississippi."

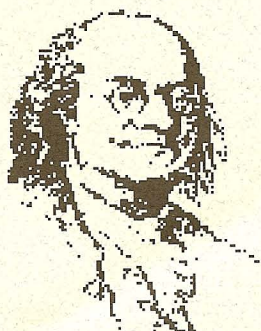
Check Mate

Joshua Standig, an internationally ranked chess player and proud graduate of Ben Franklin Junior High in Teaneck, NJ., responds to Claude-Anne Lopez's question – "Who gave the better appraisal of the game?" – at the end of her essay concerning Dubourg's "Counterpoint" to Franklin's *Morals of Chess*:

In my opinion Dubourg's take on the Royal Game and its players isn't quite as valid, nor as generally applicable as Benjamin Franklin's *Morals*: "1. In chess, time counts for nothing" – this is certainly not the case in modern tournament games, which are governed by fast and faster time limits, enforced by digital or analog chess clocks. And it's surely not the case in "blitz" games, nor in on-line games played with graphical interfaces via the Internet Chess Club. "2. In chess, the fight is always one on one" – I'll grant the general applicability of this point, although there are exceptions; e.g. the recently completed "Garry Kasparov versus The World" on-line match game. "3. In chess, the outcome is always winning or losing, with nothing in between" – patently false now, as it had been for at least 250 years before Dubourg wrote his would-be refutation of Franklin's *Morals*; the draw is an outcome which is precisely betwixt winning and losing, with each player garnering *half* a point, as opposed to the full point accorded to a victor and the zero points given to the loser of a game. This third point makes me wonder just how well acquainted Dubourg was with the game and its basic rules. "4. In chess, there are indeed thousands of possible combinations, but they are all of the same kind, depending solely on calculations and not at all on luck. In life, fate never fails to play a role in human affairs." In theory, computers may one day reduce chess to pure calculations, but the complexity of the game is such that, in most positions, *no* human player can possibly

cont. on p.9

**A New Document:
Written and Signed by Himself!**
by Claude-Anne Lopez



It is not often, these days, that a new document comes our way, let alone a letter by Franklin in his most gracious style and perfect penmanship. This document, furthermore, reached us in such a pleasant manner, equipped with a date that not only gives us ample time to publish it in due course, but will also allow us to proclaim it the very first missive sent from Philadelphia to Paris by the Doctor, hardly back on land after his triumphant mission to France.

Here is how it happened. Claude Fohlen is a French professor of American history, the author of a biography of Jefferson, currently writing one of Franklin. In a recent letter, he asked me to look up in previous editions of the Papers what had been said about a certain letter sent by Franklin to his Parisian friend Louis-Guillaume Le Veillard "some time in September 1785." This, of course, because our own edition has not yet reached 1785. I consulted all the earlier editions without finding any mention of the letter in question. When I turned to our own files of future material, the only thing I found in September 1785 (on the 16th) was a five-page narrative of the voyage home addressed to this very Le Veillard but clearly signed by William Temple Franklin, grandson Temple.

Thus it became obvious that Professor Fohlen was referring to a document not included in the collection at Yale nor anywhere else. And where had he seen it? "In the little museum of the château Thoiry where it is in plain view of visitors, next to a Jefferson document." The château's owner had promised him a photocopy but had not yet sent it.

At that point I informed M. Fohlen that he had made a real discovery and urged him either to renew his request for a copy or enter the château by any means on a moonless night and "liberate" the document. No need for that, it turned out. On April 1st, M. Fohlen wrote that the château's owner, Vicomte Paul de Lapanouse, had sent him a copy—which he included—and had told him

over the telephone that he had no objection to its publication. Since this letter will not appear until our volume 43, says Jonathan Dull, our master-planner, and we are now putting the finishing touches on 36, I cannot resist the temptation to offer it right now to the readers of the *Gazette*.

First, to put the letter in context, a brief sketch of the warm and facetious relationship between Franklin and the Le Veillard family, his close neighbors in Passy. Le Veillard was the owner of a local spa, the *Nouvelles Eaux de Passy*, whose health-giving properties were indispensable, he felt, to the well-being of his kidneystone-afflicted friend and hero. As Franklin set off on his return trip to Pennsylvania in July, 1785, Le Veillard, who had planned to escort him as far as Le Havre, was persuaded to cross the Channel in order to make sure that, once in Southampton, the bottles of mineral water were properly put on board.

When explaining this change in plan to Madame Le Veillard, a very pious person given to good works, who had stayed in Paris, Franklin sounded quite a rakish note: "You know, my dear friend, that your husband, a while ago, tried to convince me to remain in France. Now, the tables are turned, and I am trying to persuade him to come with me to America; and I have great hopes of succeeding, for I have already prevailed on him to go as far as England. Perhaps, since you are so far away, and I am so close, we will see the power of your attraction diminished and mine reinforced, so that I shall be able to drag him along. In such a case, I don't see any better solace for you than taking a lover, and in order to conduct this affair with more prudence and decency, I recommend *Monsieur le Curé*. He is a good and worthy priest whom I esteem infinitely. If you don't like this suggestion, follow us and bring along your amiable children. Thus, I shall acquire the whole family to live with me in America, which would give me infinite pleasure."

Rather than wax indignant at the risqué suggestion, the lady coolly took it in stride: "To tell the truth, yes, my good papa, by the time M. Le Veillard arrived here, I was terribly afraid that your attraction might have proved stronger than mine, but happily, as he will confirm, I had not yet followed your counsel. The sorrow I felt at seeing you go and the fear of not seeing him again, must have been what kept me from taking such a step. Otherwise, impulsive as I am and coquette as you know me, I would not have tarried so long in seeking solace, since I had your approbation. But thanks to all these circumstances, he found me just as he had left me, terribly sad about your departure, looking at your portrait every minute of the day, and daydreaming about paying you a visit. Such a daydream is sometimes expressed aloud, and my daughter wants to be part of it."

cont. p.10

In His Own Words:
Benjamin Franklin

In His Own [Angry] Words
or
Still Another *Bête Noire*
Part II

by Claude Anne Lopez and Kate Ohno

Franklin's letter, printed below, was written on February 12, 1774, in response to Josiah Tucker's *Four Tracts, Together with Two Sermons, on Political and Commercial Subjects*. Tucker, the Dean of Gloucester, had enraged Franklin by his earlier writings (see Part I, published in the Spring 2000 *Gazette*), but this letter, as far as we know, is the first of a series of communications in a heated, though brief, exchange.

Tucker's pamphlet was published early in 1774, and a warped version of its contents soon reached the colonies: Tucker had charged Franklin, rumor had it, with proposing the Stamp Act! In a letter written to his brother, Franklin's friend Thomas Wharton said, "Should he [Tucker] prove that, it will be a cutting stroke to the Doctor's popularity."

This was not the import of Tucker's remarks, as you will see below, but in a letter of February 24, 1774, he did accuse Franklin of exceeding "the Bounds of Morality in the Method you pursued for the Advancement of the supposed interests of America... I was repeatedly informed, that you had solicited the late Mr. George Grenville for a Place or Agency in the Distribution of Stamps in America: From which Circumstance I myself concluded, that you had made Interest for it on your own Account..." Later in the same letter Tucker admitted that although there were "no positive Proofs" that Franklin had done so for his own personal gain, there was "sufficient Evidence ... of your having applied for it in favour of another Person." Whether Franklin wanted the position for himself or someone else, Tucker said, "is very immaterial to the general Merits of the Question." Franklin, in his response of February 26, refuted these charges with a detailed description of how the Crown's appointments of stamp tax collectors in America had come to be made. He continued, "I cannot at present on Examination of my Conscience charge myself with any Immorality of that kind..." Franklin then sarcastically asked Tucker to acquaint him with any lingering suspicions; they must have some foundation, and if he only knew what they were, they could be remedied. Franklin concluded his letter: "In your Writings I appear a bad Man; but if I am such, and you can thus help me to become in reality a good one, I shall esteem it more than a sufficient Reparation, to ... Your most obedient humble

Servant B.F." This was too much for Tucker. He never, as far as we can tell, wrote Franklin again. Franklin waited for nearly a year, and on February 10, 1775, wrote once more to Tucker to see if he had received the sizzling missive of February 26, 1774. He certainly had. In 1776 Tucker published an extract of the offending letter, claiming it proved that Franklin and other colonial agents had acquiesced in the enforcement of the hated Stamp Act.

"Reverend Sir, Being informed by a Friend that some severe Strictures on my Conduct and Character had appeared in a new Book published under your respectable Name, I purchased and read it. After thanking you sincerely for those Parts of it that are so instructive on Points of great Importance to the common Interests of man-kind, permit me to complain, that if by the description you give in Page 180, 181, of a certain American Patriot, whom you say you need not name, you do, as is supposed, mean myself, nothing can be farther from the truth than your assertion, that I applied or used any interest directly or indirectly to be appointed one of the Stamp Officers for America; I certainly never expressed a Wish of the kind to any person whatever, much less was I, as you say, 'more than ordinary assiduous on this Head.' I have heretofore seen in the Newspapers, Insinuations of the same Import, naming me expressly; but being without the name of the Writer, I took no Notice of them. I know not whether they were yours, or were only your Authority for your present charge. But now that they have the Weight of your Name and dignified Character, I am more sensible of the injury. And I beg leave to request that you would reconsider the Grounds on which you have ventured to publish an Accusation that, if believed, must prejudice me extremely in the opinion of good Men, especially in my own country, whence I was sent expressly to oppose the imposition of that Tax. If on such reconsideration and Enquiry you find as I am persuaded you will, that you have been imposed upon by false Reports, or have too lightly given credit to Hearsays in a matter that concerns another's Reputation, I flatter myself that your Equity will induce you to do me Justice, by retracting that Accusation. In Confidence of this, I am with great Esteem, Reverend Sir, Your most obedient and most humble Servant, BF"

If any Friend would like to read the entire exchange, it is published in *The Papers of Benjamin Franklin*, Vol. 21, pages 83-5, 121-2, 123, 125-8, 486.

[In His Own Words is a column designed to present the writings of Franklin by placing them within their historical context. Generally written by members of the Franklin Papers staff, it is hoped that these columns will help us remember Franklin's true genius and wit. -- Ed.]

What Benjamin Franklin Really Said About Vegetarianism

By Larry Kaiser

While it is becoming more common to see articles on vegetarian diets in general interest publications, references to the history of vegetarianism often don't appear in the media. Many articles treat vegetarianism as something new. In other cases, when early American vegetarians are mentioned, the account may not be very accurate or complete. Often the coverage fails to appreciate adequately the long tradition vegetarianism has in this country.

Few people know that Benjamin Franklin was vegetarian for part of his lifetime. How did vegetarianism actually appear to this famous man?

Background for an answer to this question can be gathered from his writings, from the written sources that influenced him, and from the words of other vegetarians Franklin knew and befriended. All this evidence shows that, whether or not he was able to live up to them himself, the reasons he saw for vegetarianism in the 1700's were ethical and practical.

His writings demonstrate that in addition to the moral aspects, Franklin also saw a pragmatic side to vegetarianism. As a young printer's apprentice in the 1720's, he came upon a book by Thomas Tryon. This was probably *Wisdom's Dictates* (1691), a digest of Tryon's lengthy *The Way to Health, Wealth, and Happiness*. Franklin recalls:

When about 16-years-of-age, I happen'd to meet with a book written by one Tryon, recommending a vegetable diet. I determin'd to go into it. My brother being yet unmarried, did not keep house, but boarded himself and his apprentices in another family. My refusing to eat flesh occasioned an inconveniency, and I was frequently chid for my singularity. I made myself acquainted with Tryon's manner of preparing some of his dishes, such as boiling potatoes or rice, making hasty pudding, and a few others, and then propos'd to my brother, that if he would give me weekly half the money he paid for my board, I would board myself. He instantly agreed to it, and I presently found that I could save half what he paid me. This was an additional fund for buying books: but I had another advantage in it. My brother and the rest going from the printing-house to their meals, I remain'd there alone, and dispatching presently my light repast (which often was no more than a biscuit or a slice of bread, a handful of raisins or a tart from the pastry cook's, and a glass of water) had the rest of the time till their return for study, in which I made the greater progress from that greater clearness of head and quicker apprehension which usually attend temperance in eating and drinking. (1)

So, along with the ethical dimension, a vegetarian diet meant savings in both money and time to the young apprentice. He had been desperate from a young age to acquire books and read them; now he had extra means of doing both. Franklin does not make any exaggerated claims for the health benefits of abstaining from meat, nor does he criticize meat-eating as unhealthy.

Exactly what did the young Franklin find in Tryon's work? *Wisdom's Dictates* is 150 pages of rules about health. These include commentary on diet, exercise, and cleanliness. The concluding pages consist of "A Bill of Fare" which supplies 75 recipes; most likely these were the ones tested and adopted by Franklin.

Tryon defends the vegetarian diet as superior, both physically and spiritually. He bases this on his interpretation of Christianity. The moral emphasis of *Wisdom's Dictates* can be seen on the title page, which refers to the bill of fare as "Seventy-five Noble dishes of Excellent Food, far exceeding those made of fish or flesh, which banquet I present to the sons of wisdom, or such as shall decline that depraved custom of eating flesh and blood."

Tryon goes on to say in the opening pages:

"Refrain at all times such foods as cannot be procured without violence and oppression. For know, that all the inferior creatures when hurt do cry and send forth their complaints to their maker...Be not insensible that every creature doth bear the image of the great creator according to the nature of each, and that he is the vital power in all things. Therefore, let none take pleasure to offer violence to that life, lest he awaken the fierce wrath, and bring danger to his own soul. But let mercy and compassion dwell plentifully in your hearts, that you may be comprehended in the friendly principle of God's love and holy light. Be a friend to everything that's good, and then everything will be a friend to thee, and co-operate for thy good and welfare."

The author also warns his readers against "Hunting, hawking, shooting, and all violent oppressive exercises" due to their immoral nature.

When describing the recipes at his book's end, Tryon again stresses the ethical reasons for adopting the vegetarian diet. These dishes, he informs the reader, are "prepared without flesh and blood, or the dying groans of God's innocent and harmless creatures." He asks the reader to "consider also that thy life is near and dear to thee, the like is understood of all other creatures." (2)

Even if he had never read Tryon or become a vegetarian himself, Franklin still would have been acutely aware of the moral arguments for vegetarianism. This is because, based in Philadelphia, he was well-acquainted with Quakerism and those Quakers who espoused a vegetarian diet. Some of the best known Quaker proponents of the abolition of slavery were also vegetarian.

cont. on p.8

Benjamin Franklin's Armonica

By Steven M. Lash

The glass armonica may be Benjamin Franklin's most endearing invention, if not his most enduring. He invented the little known musical instrument in 1761 when he was serving in London as an agent for Pennsylvania. It is based on the simple pleasure of drawing a sound from a water glass by rubbing a moistened finger around its brim. Franklin attended a concert of the popular 'musical glasses' and was enchanted by the unusual sound. However, he found the musical glasses (a set of many glasses of various sizes that were tuned with water) inefficient because the glasses had to be tediously filled and tuned before each performance. After much experimentation, he replaced the partially filled glasses with a series of thirty-seven glass bowls that were tuned by size not with water. The instrument's three octaves of glasses were turned on their sides and nested, the rim of one glass overlapping but not touching the next one. Franklin ingeniously fixed the neck of each glass bowl horizontally to a spindle using a perforated cork. The entire glass bowl/spindle assembly was then mounted in a case and the bowls were rotated by a foot-operated treadle mechanism similar to a spinning wheel. The armonica's glass bowls are tuned like the keys of a piano and it is played by lightly touching the spinning glasses with moistened fingers.

During the armonica's fleeting heyday, in the latter part of the eighteenth century, many composers including Mozart and Beethoven composed music for it. Thomas Jefferson called it "delicious" and physician and hypnotist Anton Mesmer played background music with it to 'mesmerize' his patients. It is also said that when Ben Franklin returned home late one night, he began to play the armonica in the attic. His wife Deborah awoke, heard the idyllic sounds, and presumed she had died and gone to heaven.

The popularity of the armonica diminished as rapidly as it had risen. It was expensive and difficult to play well and many people believed that the lead in the glasses was injurious to the player's health. Some communities in Europe even banned it and Franklin's charm-

ing set of glasses fell into a 150-year period of neglect. Today, due to the efforts of the late Gerhard Finkenbeiner, a scientific glassblower who reinvented the glass harmonica using quartz glass, Franklin's instrument is enjoying a renaissance. (Although glass harmonica is the more common name for the instrument, Franklin named it the armonica.) (*Franklin named it armonica, after the Italian word for harmony. - Ed.*)

My curiosity in the armonica was piqued when Finkenbeiner showed me a photograph of Franklin's original armonica. It was housed in a 'neat frame with four legs' and looked like a tapered coffin supported by the splayed legs of a newborn calf. As a woodworker primarily interested in eighteenth century furniture, I knew immediately that I wanted to design and build a Franklin style case and stand for a Finkenbeiner glass harmonica.



Charles James of Purpool Lane, near Greys Inn, London, made Franklin's original instrument. It is unknown whether he personally made just the glasses, or the glasses and the cabinet, but I suspect that the case and stand were not made at the same time. The original case is about 3/4" longer than the stand and overhangs the left end, the brasses on the case do not match the brasses on the stand, and the veneers also do not match. The case was veneered with a highly figured swirled mahogany while the stand was veneered with vertical striped mahogany. Regardless, I adjusted my calculations so that the case fit the stand but I matched the veneers and brasses of the original.

Irene Coffey, librarian at the Franklin Institute Science Museum in Philadelphia, (where Franklin's original armonica is located,) aided me with historical information, measurements, photographs, and a detailed description of the case and stand. I followed the dimensions, materials, and case construction techniques as closely as possible, but this marriage of period cabinet and modern instrument necessitated some design innovations.

Franklin's instrument used foot power to rotate the glasses with the motion governed by a heavy flywheel. Finkenbeiner's is powered by a small electric motor with a rheostat controlling the speed of the rotat-

cont. p.8

Vegetarian...

cont. from p.6

The first of these was Benjamin Lay. In 1731, he and his wife moved to Philadelphia from Barbados. There they had witnessed the horrors of the slave trade. This experience, along with his Quaker upbringing in England, deeply influenced his views. Lay was known among Philadelphians for his temperance and his refusal to harm animal life in order to obtain food or clothing. Lay fought against slavery in Pennsylvania and nearby colonies. This battle brought him into contact with Franklin, with whom he maintained a friendship until Lay died in 1759.

There is no doubt that Franklin knew of Lay's beliefs. Lay was far from reserved in expressing his views, whether it be about slavery or the abuse of animals. He once "kidnapped" his neighbors' six-year-old son, and when the worried parents came looking for him, Lay told them, "Your child is safe in my house and you may now conceive of the sorrow you afflict upon the parents of the Negro girl you hold in slavery, for she was torn from them by avarice." He once took a bladder filled with blood into the Yearly Meeting of the Quakers, and puncturing it with a sword, sprinkled blood on some of his companions, telling them, "Thus shall God shed the blood of those persons who enslave their fellow-creatures." (3) His efforts to promote abolition were rewarded when, shortly before his death, the Society of Friends called on all Quakers to release their slaves as a religious duty.

Another Quaker abolitionist and vegetarian known to Franklin was the itinerant preacher John Woolman. In his *Journal*, Woolman states that he was "early convinced in my mind that true religion consisted in an inward life, wherein the heart doth love and reverence God the Creator and learn to exercise true justice and goodness, not only toward all men,

but also toward the brute creatures..."

(4) Woolman, over the course of 30 years, traveled throughout the colonies, speaking against slavery and promoting his views on respect for life. His two-part work, *Considerations on the Keeping of Negroes*, was read in England as well as America and may have been more influential than any other document in turning the Society of Friends against the practice of slavery. Franklin printed the second part of Woolman's essay, as well as other anti-slavery publications.

Woolman also campaigned against the misuse of animals, particularly horses and oxen. He felt that the abuse of domestic animals for profit was a great evil, and urged relatives not to write when he was traveling due to the conditions endured by those horses used on the stage coaches which delivered the mail.

Franklin had his differences with Quakers, in particular over the refusal of some of them to participate in the defense of the colony. However, through his association with Quakers such as Lay and Woolman, he was exposed to arguments against flesh-eating and knew them to be based on ethical principles.

In Franklin's world, a vegetarian diet was primarily associated with moral choices, not claims of health benefits. Those who would dismiss vegetarianism as a passing fad must not be aware of this long history of ethical vegetarianism in America. This tradition continued into the nineteenth century and helped form the moral basis for the vegetarian movement of the 1830's. It was this later movement that first popularized the case for the health benefits of a vegetarian diet in America.

Footnotes

- (1) Benjamin Franklin, *Autobiography*, (New York, W.W. Norton and Company, 1986), p.28.
- (2) Thomas Tryon, *Wisdom's Dictates* (London, 1691), pp.1, 6-7, and 139.
- (3) John Thomas Scharf, *History of Philadelphia* (Philadelphia, L.H. Everts, 1884) p.1249. Also, *American Reformers: H.W. Wilson Bio-*

graphical Dictionary (New York, H.W. Wilson Company, 1985), pp.514-5.

- (4) John Woolman, *Journal* (1772), (New York, Oxford University Press, 171), p.28.

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[Eds. note: Franklin printed Lay's abolitionist tract *All Slave-Keepers ... Apostates* in 1737, but there is not evidence in Franklin's writings to suggest that he knew either Lay or Woolman well, or that he had read or thought much about their writings. It is hoped that readers will nonetheless find the above views interesting in light of being contemporary with Franklin.]

Armonica

cont. from p.7

ing cups. In Franklin's instrument the spindle to which the glasses are affixed turn on brass gudgeons or collars at each end. Finkenbeiner's spindle turns on two stainless steel ball bearing assemblies. I hid the motor and rheostat within the stand and designed brass covers to hide the ball bearing assemblies. Although the left drawer in the original is a fake, I thought it would be convenient for the player to have handy access to a water supply so I designed the stand with two functioning drawers and lined them with epoxy.

The case brasses were custom made and designed from photographs of the originals. As a final touch, I calligraphed Franklin's words describing his armonica on the right spindle support. He wrote, "...its tones are incomparably sweet beyond those of any other." He was right!

Lash's armonica has been played in concerts, heard on National Public Radio, and Alan Alda's public television program, Scientific American Frontiers. Lash builds American period furniture as an avocation in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan and is the president of the Society of American Period Furniture Makers.

Franklin Descendant Dinner

Saturday, September 16

Come join us! All members of the Friends of Franklin, descendants or otherwise, are invited to attend a special dinner to gather and share an evening with fellow Friends, descendant members, and their families at an event which we hope will be the beginning of future Franklin descendant gatherings.

Through our descendant project managed and researched by Elly Fitzig (and Franklin Satterthwaite Bache before Elly), we have identified many Franklin descendants whom we have invited to join us for an evening that will focus on their ancestry.

The dinner will be held at the Harvard Club (374 Commonwealth Avenue) on Saturday, September 16 beginning at 6:30 p.m. Although this dinner is included as part of "Benjamin Franklin's Historic Boston and Nantucket" tour, you do not have to be a tour participant to attend this dinner nor do you have to be a descendant.

To make your reservation, please complete the information below and make check payable to Events Plus.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Daytime Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Additional guests: _____

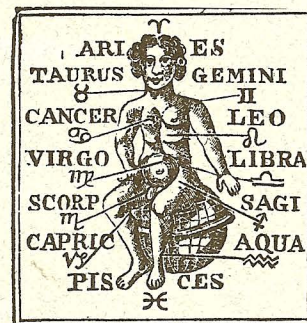
_____ I/we are descendants of Benjamin Franklin.

Please reserve _____ places @ \$75 per person.

Total Enclosed: _____

Mail form and check (made payable to Events Plus) to Kathy DeLuca at:

Events Plus
219-P Berlin Road, #186
Cherry Hill, NJ 08034



Calendar of Events

June 23 & 25, 2000. Rebroadcast of the History Channel's **Lost and Found** episode, featuring Franklin's armonica. If you missed it last time, the show will be re-run on Friday, June 23 at 8pm ET & PT, 7pm CT, 6pm MT and on Sunday, June 25 at 12 noon ET and PT, 11am CT, and 10am MT.

September 14-18, 2000. Benjamin Franklin's Historic Boston and Nantucket. Friends of Franklin tour to the Boston area. Call 215-BEN-0300 for more information.

September 16, 2000. Franklin Descendants' Dinner. Harvard Club, Boston, MA. See further information and registration form to the left.

Check Mate

cont. from p.3

calculate out all of the possible combinations and variations of moves which remain in a game; the number of these possible combinations of moves, from the initial position of the chess pieces, has been estimated as being well in excess of that of all the sub-atomic particles in the Universe. So, instead of pure calculation, human chessplayers do indeed rely on other, less exact methods: e.g. pattern recognition, playing hunches, psychology, probability estimates, and yes, fate, aka dumb luck. *[I think most of us would agree that in this particular battle of wits, the game goes to Franklin. – Ed.]*

Friends of Franklin Tour: Franklin's Historic Boston and Nantucket

September 13-19, 2000

You will be able to discover Benjamin Franklin's Boston and Nantucket roots on this two-part educational tour of Boston and Nantucket with fellow Friends.

You will stand on Milk Street at the childhood home of Franklin, look across Boston wharves that lured him to a lifetime of studying sailing and the ocean depths; walk the battlegrounds at Lexington and Concord where Franklin is today featured and honored in the Masonic Museum of our National Heritage; gaze from the grounds of America's other obelisk called the Washington Monument; and learn about the history and art of whaling Franklin knew on the island of Nantucket—from whence came his mother and all of his Folger kin.

You will be greeted and welcomed by fellow Friends, Bill Meikle (Boston's Franklin) and wife, Barbara, who will lead us through Franklin's Boston and parts of the "Freedom Trail". Thanks to Bill, special arrangements have been made to dine at the Museum of The Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company, an opportunity that very few experience. Special arrangements have also been made at Finkenbeiners, a unique and one-of-a-kind shop where glass armonicas are made. And, Stuart Karu, the Founder of the Friends of Franklin, has invited us to his home in Cape Elizabeth to view his considerable collection of Frankliniana.

These are just a few of the highlights of this year's tour when we spend September 13-16 (Wed.-Sat.) in Franklin's historic Boston and then proceed to the picturesque Nantucket from September 17-19 (Sun.-Tue).

Our travel to Boston and Nantucket is considered peak time. For this reason, hotel rooms must be released at an earlier date than usual. If you are planning to attend the tour and have not sent in your registration and initial payment, please contact Kathy DeLuca as soon as possible to be sure your are included in the room block.

For a complete tour brochure or to register for the tour, call Kathy at 215-236-0300.

New Franklin letter...

cont. from p.4

The traveling party reached Philadelphia on September 15, to a tumultuous welcome described by Temple in his letter of the following day: every vessel in the port—even the British ones—showing their colors, decorations all over town, a huge crowd following the patriarch, his two grandsons, and his grand-nephew to his doorstep where the meeting with daughter Sally and a bevy of new grandchildren took place, while he, Temple, unashamedly shed tears of joy. All of this in fluent but imperfect French. About the crossing, he says that they encountered a dreadful storm on August 23—the worst the Captain had ever seen—during which most passengers were frightfully seasick—Franklin being, as usual, the exception. No need to worry about the salted beef that had been so bad for him during the voyage out to France eight years earlier; this time, half a dozen sheep and as many pigs were devoured, plus hundreds of hens, ducks, turkeys and geese. The mineral water was sparingly swallowed, thanks to the flow of punch, port, claret, etc. (In a later letter, Franklin assured Le Veillard, he was drinking vast quantities of it, back home, to very good effect.)

Finally the new document, Franklin's own letter, enclosed with Temple's: "Philadelphia, Sept. 15.

1785. We arrived here, my dear Friend, yesterday Morning, after a very pleasant Passage of Seven Weeks, during which there was but one Day in which I did not wish that you had continued the Voyage with me, and that was the 23d of August, when we met with a violent Storm that lasted 24 Hours. I am now with my Family and five new Grandchildren prattling to me and clinging about my Knees, with Friends coming in to see me, which hinders my adding more than a Request that you would present my respectful and affectionate Remembrance to those I left behind me in your Neighbourhood, and tell them I shall always love them. My Grandson joins me in best Wishes of Happiness to you and yours. I am and shall be ever, my dear Friend, Yours most affectionately B Franklin"

What strikes me about this new letter is that, attentive and charming as it is, it sounds absolutely proper: no more joking, no more salacious hints. Back in his own world, he sensed immediately that Parisian mockery had to be left behind. Not so Le Veillard, who, on October 30, answers in his usual jolly way. Once again, he urges Franklin to pursue the writing of his memoirs. That had become his *idée fixe*, and it was to him that Franklin ultimately sent the original manuscript of the Autobiography.

Their destinies, as well as their styles, diverged more and more. For Franklin, the peace of family life and the shade of his mulberry tree. For Le Veillard, elation when the Bastille fell, honor when he became the first mayor of Passy, despair and death on the guillotine when the extremists took over. But the Le Veillard family, ever faithful, saved the precious manuscript from America until the mid-nineteenth century when it was handed to the American minister to France and now rests at the Huntington Library.



Special Thanks to Our Life Members!

William D. Anderson, Jr.;
Wichita, KS

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Call for Papers

Franklin Values in the New Millennium: A Symposium

30 November 2000

Benjamin Franklin House and the Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures, and Commerce (RSA) are requesting prospectuses for papers to be presented 30 November 2000 at a half-day conference at the RSA in London on the theme: Franklin Values in the New Millennium.

In his *Autobiography* Franklin outlined thirteen virtues he sought to attain in his youth: temperance, silence, order, resolution, frugality, industry, sincerity, justice, moderation, cleanliness, tranquillity, chastity, and humility. Are these and his proposed methods for attaining them merely quaint remnants of a long-past epoch or do they have resonance for the 21st century? What today is the weight of global values Franklin espoused in relation to industry, trade, politics, religion, and science, among other areas?

Six papers will be presented at the symposium and it is hoped that a conference volume will be published from the proceedings. We encourage wide-ranging interpretation of the topic, and request those interested to submit a prospectus of their paper (500-750 words) for con-

sideration by 30 June 2000. Prospectuses should be sent by mail to: Benjamin Franklin House, 36 Craven Street, London WC2N 5NG, UK or by e-mail to: *BenjaminFranklinHouse@msn.com*.

Welcome to Our New Members!

Upgraded to Life Members:

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Life Members	\$1,000	Franklin Friend	\$50
Institutional Members	\$1,000	Student Members (full time only; photocopy id)	\$20
Sustaining Friend	\$ 100	Subscription (Educators and libraries only)	\$20

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