

# Franklin Gazette

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"Many a man thinks he is buying pleasure, when he is really selling himself a slave to it." - *Poor Richard, 1750*

## President's Message

by Ralph Gregory Elliot

I've just finished reading Simon Schama's review of David McCullough's new book *John Adams* in *The New Yorker*. The review begins with a recounting of the oft-told tale about Adams and Franklin sharing a bed at a New Jersey inn in 1776, and debating the effects of nocturnal "fresh" air. I had known that McCullough was working on the book, but hadn't realized that it had been published.

Its appearance made me realize just how interested Americans remain, 225 years after the Declaration of Independence, in the men from that era who created this country. Within the past year alone, we've seen a new full-scale biography of Franklin, in addition to Claude Lopez's collection of essays and various specialized works on Franklin noted in each issue of the *Gazette*. Joseph Ellis has won a Pulitzer Prize for his *Founding Brothers*. Jack Rakove has given us a new book on Madison. And I am sure those of more scholarly bent and vocation than I can add generously to this list.

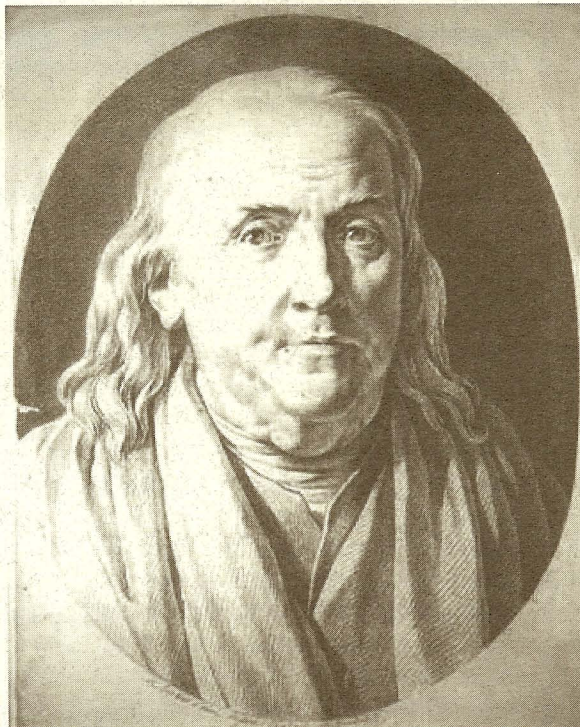
What is it about these men and this period that inspires writers to produce and

readers to devour tomes on their times and travails? What can there be new to say? What insights have yet to be discerned? Why has somebody not said, "Enough, already"?

There may be as many answers to these questions as there are writers and readers, but I think certain reasons are common to us all. There has, by common consensus,

never been at any one time in our history such a happy confluence of talents as that represented by the Founders. And as different as they were from each other on a host of matters, they all came from essentially a common background, drank from the same intellectual well and dined on the same tradition of political and social thought.

There was, in short, a shared set of principles and thoughts that flowed from the Glorious Revolution of 1688, which in turn was midwived by principles in the air since the beginning of the seventeenth century and certainly in the writings of the period from 1625 to 1660. The role of government, the need to limit government, what rights individuals had vis-a-vis each other, gov-



Chalk Drawing of Franklin by Barbier



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## President's Message

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ernment and social and religious institutions, the imperatives of balance and harmony in any successful polity, the imperfection of humankind and the need to deal with that realistically in creating government — all these and more were the warp and woof of writing and thought in the world of greater Britannia in the 18th century when the Founders were born and coming of age.

Franklin, the most cosmopolitan of the Founders, was particularly aware of these forces and ideas, though not by temperament a thinker or student of the Adams, Jefferson or Madison stripe. For Franklin, alone among the Founders, had supped on the intellectual, scientific, artistic and cultural feast that was lavishly laid out in the London of the 18th Century. From 1757 to 1762 and then again from 1764 to 1775 — a total of 16 almost consecutive years — he had frequented the company of David Hume, Adam Smith and the host of scientists, writers and artists who made of London so rich and vibrant a community.

From May 17 until September 2 this year the Yale Center for British Art has mounted a magnificent exhibition occupying its entire third floor entitled "The Line of Beauty: British Drawings and Watercolors of the Eighteenth Century," which illumines in picture and accompanying text what the Center's brochure calls "the birth of many of the social, cultural and political forms and institutions that still define our world today." Franklin experienced this firsthand, and his Founder colleagues did so by reading, and all arrived at a consensus about what the good society should be.

What fascinates Americans today must inevitably be this consensus and how it was implemented to create that good society. We live at a time when common understandings

of what is right and wrong morally and ethically, what is beautiful and pleasing artistically, what is melodious musically, what society and its government should or should not be doing have disintegrated. An increasingly plural society has slipped its moorings and is adrift on a sea of relativism, creating and abandoning sects, cults, philosophies and lifestyles in a desperate search for an organizing principle that will inform life and satisfy the individual's needs.

The Founders, by contrast, had their act together. They had a center, and their center held. While there inevitably were differences among them on how to implement their ideas — Franklin's unicameralism v. bicameralism, a bill of rights v. none, Hamilton's world of commerce v. Jefferson's idealized yeoman — they repaired always to a shared set of principles and beliefs. How they did so, and the blessings that have continued to flow from their having done so, and how they recognized that any progress required compromise — these revelations, I think, are a major reason why, over 200 years after the fact and despite all that has been written before, Americans with unabated avidity devour books on the Founders and watch PBS, A&E and The History Channel for programs on the subject.

## Franklin Genealogy Project

Recently the Board of the Friends of Franklin decided to close the Franklin genealogy project, which has been faithfully and effectively run for many years by **Elly Fitzig**, a life member of our organization. Elly researched the Franklin family genealogy and contacted many of Benjamin Franklin's heirs. Her compiled research and correspondence fills two boxes that have been received by the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. The material will be useful to present and future genealogists, as well as historians.

*cont.*



Founded in 1824 in Philadelphia, The Historical Society of Pennsylvania is one of the oldest historical societies in the United States and holds historical materials of national importance. It is one of the largest family history libraries in the nation, has excellent printed collections on local and regional history, and offers a manuscript collection renowned for its 17th-, 18th- and 19th-century holdings.

Our heartfelt thanks go to Elly for her strong commitment to this research project and for the product that she developed for the future benefit of historians, writers, and researchers of every stripe.

### **An Educational Journey: "Traveling with Benjamin Franklin"**

In Greenville, South Carolina, there is passionate interest and much time devoted to the study of our favorite Founding Father. Carl Weyermann taught the course, "Traveling with Benjamin Franklin," as part of the Furman University Learning in Retirement Program. The class met earlier this year for one and a half hours each week for nine or ten sessions. Professor Weyermann contacted the editorial offices of *The Papers of Benjamin Franklin* for insight into the contents of the forthcoming volume (thirty-sixth in the series, and slated to appear in time for Christmas), which covers November, 1781, through mid-March, 1782. The class was anxious to learn about newly discovered material and little known stories from this period of Franklin's life. Professor Weyermann is thinking of offering a new class on Franklin's literary productions, perhaps this fall. During the winter term the Furman Learning in Retirement Program had an enrollment of 340 and about 47 different subjects were taught. Franklin would, no doubt, approve. He observed in a September 2, 1786, letter to his friend Jan Ingenhousz, "I can rise no higher, nor expect any greater Felicity in this world... To inquisitive Minds, like

yours and mine, the Reflection that the Quantity of Human Knowledge bears no Proportion to the Quantity of human ignorance, must be in our View rather pleasing, viz. That tho' we are to live forever, we may be continually amus'd and delighted with knowing something new."

-- Kate Ohno

### **Proposal to Use Benjamin Franklin's Y-Chromosome to Settle Some Family Traditions about Relationships to Benjamin**

by L. David Roper  
(roperld@vt.edu)

Many Franklin families, including my mother's, have a tradition that they are related to Benjamin Franklin, the statesman. In my hobby as a genealogist of Franklin families I get e-mails regularly with such assertions.

If the Y-chromosome of Benjamin's could be extracted from, say, a hair of his, some of these assertions could be tested. I propose that the Friends of Franklin do such an extraction and publish the pattern so that some of the Franklins' family traditions can be tested.

Elementary genetics teaches that a human egg becomes a female embryo when a sperm gives it an X-chromosome and a male embryo when the sperm gives it a Y-chromosome. Thus, the Y-chromosome is passed down generations only through the male line. The only change from one generation to the next is by mutations, which are rare.

So one can determine male paternal lineage by comparing the DNA coding of Y-chromosomes. This was recently done for descendants of a slave woman, Sally Hemings, with the result that one of her sons had a Jefferson Y-chromosome, either from Thomas or one of his near male relatives. At least two other families have used the Y-chromosome to determine

the closeness of relationships in the male lines.

The detailed structure in terms of base-pair coding is not required; only the general pattern on a chromograph is needed. There are several labs that do such work, at a cost of about \$300 per person.

After Ben's Y-chromosome pattern is determined, any male-line Franklin could have his Y-chromosome pattern determined and compare it to Ben's.

It probably would be a first occurrence to make Benjamin Franklin's Y-chromosome pattern available to anyone who wanted it.

[Ed.'s note: *Friend of Franklin L. David Roper is a Professor Emeritus of Physics at Virginia Polytechnic. He has many interesting websites, including one devoted to his hobby of genealogy. Located at <http://www.roperld.com>, the site is of particular interest to those working with the Roper and Franklin surnames.*]

### **Claude-Anne in Connecticut**

The August 2000 issue of *Connecticut* magazine featured *Friend of Franklin* Claude-Anne Lopez in their "1st Person" column by Bill Slocum. As usual, life member Claude-Anne was full of enthusiasm for our friend Ben. "What I like most are his brains," she is quoted as saying. "I find him endlessly interesting."

The short article puts in a good plug for Claude-Anne's book, *My Life with Benjamin Franklin*, as well as for the *Papers* project. *Papers* editor Ellen Cohn describes Claude-Anne as "a mainstay" who has "this superb ability to look beyond the words and imagine the psychological circumstances." The article acknowledges her place at the vanguard of "open[ing] up the private lives of historical figures for modern readers."



## The Brief Return of Dr. Benjamin Franklin

By William A. Betts

[Ed.'s note: what follows is an imaginative piece of fiction based on one reader's interpretation of Franklin's bagatelle concerning the ephemera (Franklin's full text included). Readers wishing to know more about the context of the writing of the bagatelle should consult the Franklin Papers, Vol. 27, pp. 430-435, for Franklin's Sept. 20, 1778 letter to Mme. Brillon.)

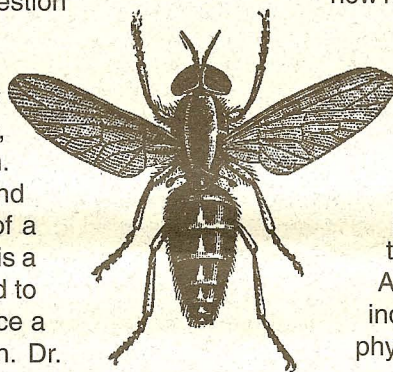
In 1778, Benjamin Franklin, while the United States Minister to France, writes a bagatelle entitled, "The Ephemera". Dr. Franklin's bagatelle tells the story of a soliloquy spoken by an ephemera, a mayfly of the insect order *Ephemeroptera*, whose members in one day emerge from water, breed and die. Only Dr. Franklin could have written such a piece because he is the only human being of that day who professes to "understand all the inferior animal tongues". The ephemera in question here is an "old grey-headed one" speaking while perched on a solitary leaf, though there is a certain lady indirectly involved here, a very lovely French lady, for whom Dr. Franklin has great affection. The lady's name is Madame Brillon and Moulin Joly is a lovely Parisian home of a mutual friend. The Moulin Joly's garden is a delightful spot where the couple enjoyed to stroll. One day, while strolling, they notice a large number of mayflies in the garden. Dr. Franklin observes the lone old one appears to be full of himself and enjoying his soliloquy. A short time later, in a letter, Franklin provides Madame a translation of the insect's discourse.

"It was the opinion of learned philosophers of our race, who lived and flourished long before my time, that this vast world, the Moulin Joly, could not itself subsist more than eighteen hours and I think there were some foundation for that opinion, since, by the apparent motion of the great luminary that gives life to all nature, and which in my time has evidently declined considerably towards the ocean at the end of our earth, it must then finish its course, be extinguished in the waters that surround us, and leave the world in cold and darkness, necessarily producing universal death and destruction. I have lived seven of those hours, a great age, being no less than four hundred minutes of time. How very few of us continue so long! I have seen generations born, flourish, and expire. My present friends are the children and grandchildren of the friends of my youth, who are now, alas, no more! And

I must soon follow them; for, by the course of nature, though still in health, I cannot expect to live above seven or eight minutes longer. What now avails all my toil and labor, in amassing honey-dew on this leaf, which I cannot live to enjoy! What the political struggles I have been engaged in, for the good of my compatriot inhabitants of this bush, or my philosophical studies for the benefit of our race in general! For, in politics, what can laws do without morals? Our present race of ephemerae will in the course of minutes become corrupt, like those of other and older bushes, and consequently as wretched. And in philosophy how small our progress! Alas! art is long and life is short! My friends would comfort me with the idea of a name, they say, I shall leave behind me; and they tell me I have lived long enough to nature and to glory. But what will fame be to an ephemera who no longer exists? And what will become of all history in the eighteenth hour, when the world itself, even the Moulin Joly, shall come to its end, and be buried in universal ruin?

"To me, after all my eager pursuits, no solid pleasures now remain, but the reflection of a long life spent in meaning well, the sensible conversation of a few good lady ephemera, and now and then a kind smile and a tune from the ever amiable Brillante."

It is fitting that the "old grey one" has been permitted to return for a short visit in our time to share his wisdom with us once more. As we now know, he is a wise and learned individual, cognizant of the politics, philosophy and issues of his day:



A strong storm trundles over an angry Pacific Ocean near Piedras Blancas Point, California. The severe low pressure system approaches and smothers the gray, frothy coastline, swelling an already vigorous surf, sending it roaring and crashing against the craggy shore. The great wind moves inland, first into the valley and up against the western slopes of the Sierra Nevada mountains. There, standing tall and stately, her race alone and aloft in the kingdom of life on earth, Mother Sequoia has patiently waited and is pleased that her massive majestic fingers will soon sway ever so gently and slowly send forth seeds from her cones, small three inch appendages which have taken more than one year to mature. Soaring higher than a football field, she is hewn from the elements faith, chance, hope and order. No one in her family has ever died from old age, only by accident. She knows few protoplasmic peers. Her red brown, fibrous bark resists fire, fungi and insects. Those gracing her pyramidal presence pause and stand in cathedral quietness as if to pay silent homage like loyal subjects to their Empress.

cont. on p.6



**From Warm to Very Warm to  
Icy to So-So:  
The Story of a Friendship  
Benjamin Franklin and William Strahan  
Part II: Books Across the Sea**

*by Claude-Anne Lopez*

Within months of making the acquaintance of Strahan in 1743, Franklin started ordering books from the famous London printer and publisher. He gave his new friend free rein: "I would not have you be too nice in the choice of pamphlets you send me. Let me have everything, good or bad, that makes a noise and has a run, for I have friends here of different tastes to oblige..." He was yearning for the new edition of Pope and asked for six sets as soon as it came out, for "that Poet has many admirers here."

And then, Franklin made this marvelous remark about the American reading public: "Your authors know but little of the fame they have on this side the Ocean. We are a kind of posterity in respect to them. We read their works with perfect impartiality, being at too great a distance to be biased by the fashions, parties and prejudices that prevail among you. We know nothing of their personal failings; the blemishes in their characters never reach us, and therefore the bright and amiable part strikes us with its full force. ... We have no competition with them, and therefore we praise and admire them without restraint."

Lucky English writers indeed! Franklin also waxed poetic over the sixteenth-century James Thomson, author of *The Seasons*: "That charming poet has brought more tears of pleasure into my eyes than all I ever read before. I wish it were in my power to return him any part of the joy he has given me." Thomson, in fact, would be abundantly quoted in *Poor Richard*.

Two months later, an order went off to London for a number of English dictionaries, grammars, vocabularies, Aesop's *Fables* in Latin, *The Compleat French-Master for Ladies and Gentlemen*, as well as German-English dictionaries.

On December 22, 1745, Franklin requested several works by Isaac Watts, his favorite living poet and logician. The following summer, between orders for spelling books and post-horns (for he was by now postmaster) Franklin happily responds to the half-serious, half in jest fantasy that his Sally, then age three, will one day become the bride of six-year-old William Strahan, Jr. Cook books, health books, *Female Fables*, and various treatises were ordered by Deborah.

By late 1747, having formed his partnership with David Hall, Franklin told his English correspondent that henceforth he would only buy books for himself or a friend. The work he eventually selected for himself and which proved a rich source of quotations for *Poor Richard* was Charles Palmer's *A Collection of Select Aphorisms and Maxims* (London, 1748).

Does all this mean that the book traffic went only one way across the ocean? No. Franklin also exported what the colonies had to offer in the intellectual way. Especially the work of his Quaker friend James Logan (1674-1751) who had emigrated to Philadelphia at the age of 25 as William Penn's secretary and eventually became clerk, member, and senior member of the Council, mayor of Philadelphia, and finally presiding judge and chief justice of the Supreme Court. A man of wide intellectual interests, he assembled a library of three thousand books now known as the Loganian Library, a public trust. In 1744, Franklin proudly printed M. T. Cicero's *CATO MAJOR, or his Discourse of OLD-AGE: With Explanatory Notes*. This is generally considered the handsomest volume that came off his press, and he printed one thousand copies of it, three hundred of which were sent to Strahan. Franklin's preface, "The Printer to the Reader," ends on a hopeful note: "I shall add...my hearty wish, that this first translation of a *Classic* in the *Western World*, may be followed with many others, performed with equal judgment and success; and be a happy omen, that Philadelphia shall become the seat of the American Muses."

Unfortunately, unbeknownst to author and publisher, six other translations had already appeared in England, so that the new edition sold slowly at first.

*To be continued...*

**Attention Friends!  
*Franklin Gazette*  
Contributions Needed!**

The *Franklin Gazette* welcomes, even thrives, on contributions from our readers! We accept submissions for longer research articles (up to about 2,000 words), as well as shorter essays, news items, and reports of events. We're also always looking for information about forthcoming events for our calendar. The only requirement for all submissions is that they be Franklin-related, or somehow of interest to the Friends of Franklin. We can't guarantee publication of your submission, or provide payment, but you will have the joy of participation! Contact your editor, Alison Lewis, at [alewis@amphilsoc.org](mailto:alewis@amphilsoc.org) or 215-440-3444 for more information. Electronic submissions are preferred.



The strong winds and stinging sheets of rain reach the Empress and her branches sway as her cones are released and one particular seed is carried, cushioned and cradled by the violence of the storm. Its survival rate is good, just less than twenty-five percent. Brisk air currents first keep it suspended then drives it strongly to the earth floor where the storm has caused surface debris to shift and cover the seed with mulch. There, safely nestled on earth, the seed rests. There is ample time for germination and growth. Above the seed on a single leaf of a lowly bush a solitary ephemera is perched, hunkered down and braving the whirling wind. He has witnessed all, and following an absence of 223 years, he speaks...

"In my wildest dreams, I never imagined the great luminary would permit me mortal status again. Alas! the days I've been away being no less than over eighty one thousand four hundred lifetimes of my race, yet the time has been but about five percent of your four thousand year life expectancy! By the course of nature what force makes you a giant and me a fly? Forgive my sense of impropriety and blasphemy, traits which appear to be almost an exclusive prerogative of old men these days. I should be green with envy but green is after all our natural color. Besides, we ephemerae have no time nor patience for envy. Is it not ironic we are of the same uterus in the spectrum of life and the order of nature? Forgive me for this incessant ranting, but it is incredible you have the potential for seeing so many sunrises; I have seen one. And you shall be with one hundred thirty-three generations of humans. My friends and relatives tell me I've been fortunate to have seen none. Through the days, some of my race have seen and heard about the best of what humans have made. Since I have been away I have read some of their books and have listened to some of their music and have seen some of their art. Not bad I say, though art certainly has no obligation to be beautiful only enrich the beholder. I once said, "Art is long and life is short" 'Twas true, 'twas true! 'Tis the same for you my new found friend and I'll speak about this later. The great luminary has apparently chosen to grant you longevity while denying you mobility. Ah, but not let that hold someone as splendid as you at bay! Allow your dreams and aspirations to soar! Spend a hundred years in Florence and ponder before the magnificent bronze doors of Il Duomo, see the Altar of St. John and Michelangelo's David. Spend another century in Rome and do see the Sistine Chapel when there are not thousands there shuffling about muttering in many tongues while straining their necks for enrichment and imagining how Michelangelo felt at day's end having painted all day on his back. See Amsterdam and the Rijksmuseum, the flowers, and the people of the Netherlands. You must not forget Paris, my beloved hometown. I'd say two hundred years for the first

visit would be a good start. Then, come home and heed the wisdom of an ancient Spanish treasure: "Perfect the art of loafing and, having done so, rest well afterward". Before you head back west, spend some time at the magnificent museums in Washington, New York and Chicago, then visit Maine's Owl's Head Transportation Museum. Pay particular attention to the 1934 Packard Twelve sedan with its long, elegant hood flanked by twin side mounts and the glistening chromed grill shell and the distinctive graceful cormorant with her wings held high and her serpentine neck bowed low. Examine the finest broadcloth upholstery, and seats on which even we ephemerae have walked! Observe the padded hand pulls and hand-stitched leather and r u n -



strips and bezels, Ah, the many forms of art! Only an ephemera could ramble on thus, extolling the virtues and bliss of an eternal time without limits, time to read all the best books, listen to thousands of hours of Bach, Handel, and Mozart and dine on epicurean delights during and following a half million sunsets of mauve

and salmon! Strange stuff you may say, emitted by a mere ephemera. But our sad lot is not just that we live and die in one day. We enjoy the company of a few good lady ephemera, that we do and must do this day! But in our amorous pursuits we've not the time for wine and fine cuisine for we ephemerae emerge, copulate and die without feeding. Ah, but there are joys and privileges of an uncorrupted few, such as myself, who are granted a transfer to the "Great Luminary Triumphant", and once there, enjoy pleasures hitherto unknown!

But enough of life's pleasures. I now press my point on patient one. Much of what I now say speaks of gloom and destruction though these are not subjects upon which I normally expound. These are matters requiring caution and cognizance of one now assuming a life of four millennia. All my foregoing remarks were predicated on the presupposition that life shall proceed in due course commensurate with one's race and longevity without interference by humans and/or the great luminary. However, life does not always proceed as planned and even you shall not live forever. The same is true for members of my race, some of whom are stricken in their prime. One million brown trout past and present will attest to this!

First, a word on humans. There are those who say you are to live in a world gone mad. Well, some of us thought that in 1778, but there is real substance to this in the twenty-first century. 'Tis true the majority of humans no longer are in touch with the sea and the earth. Few humans are left who live in harmony with the physical world we call home. 'Tis also true humans appear wiser than they were in my day but it does not necessarily follow that their wisdom prevails in all things orderly and natural

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## The Tangles (Somewhat) Untangled: Friend Pamela Hartsock Finally Completes Ph.D.!

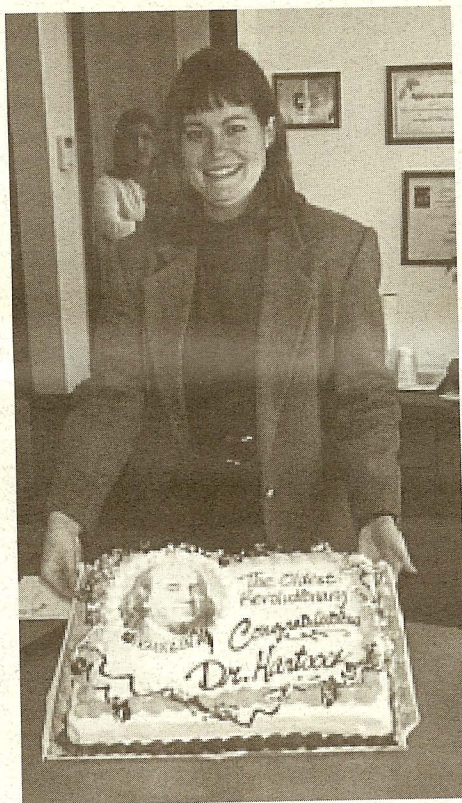
I became acquainted with the Friends of Franklin in 1996 on the Williamsburg, Virginia tour, at which time I was nearly two years into my Ph.D. dissertation. Being a local to the area at the time, I was invited by Kathy DeLuca and Dr. Larry Tise to give a lecture on my research. What an honor it was, especially since the room where I presented was the same in which it had been determined that Benjamin Franklin would receive the College of William and Mary's first honorary degree. On the Philadelphia tour in 1998, I sat on the bronze park bench with Franklin at the University of Pennsylvania and promised him that I would take less time to write the dissertation about his *Autobiography* than it took him to write his narrative. During the 2000 tour to Boston (after I rejoicingly submitted a draft of the "thorn in my side"), two additional promises were made to Friends Marvin and Marilyn Alexander: one, that I would graduate that December and two, that my husband would finally accompany me on the 2001 tour. To fulfill Promise Two, the Graduate School at the University of Missouri-Columbia received my final, unbound original dissertation exactly six years to the day after I defended my written Ph.D. exam. For Promise One, I guess I did good: it took Franklin 14 more years to write his *Autobiography*, plus he never did complete it.

But I easily might not have completed the dissertation had I not been motivated to earn the same title ("Doctor") as our illustrious pal Franklin. Now that I'm a bonafide Franklin scholar, I can entirely relate to fellow experts and their struggles of being sucked into the Franklin vortex. Carl Van Doren notes in the Preface to his 800-page Pulitzer Prize-winning Franklin biography (1938), "This is a long book. It could twice as easily have been three times as long." In the Introduction to my dissertation, I stress that the work is a perpetual study of *Autobiography* editions, for I discovered several rare and new editions after my writing was complete. Like many scholarly articles that have a dissertation-like title, the first part of my dissertation's title reads "Tracing the Pattern Among the Tangled Threads." This is a reference to the Introduction of the Parallel Text edition (1949), where Max

Farrand describes the complicated and frustrating process by which it often took days to recall information up to his last stopping point, implying the need to work continuously. When I encountered this quotation, I knew that the words would serve appropriately as the epigram preceding the text of my dissertation. As may be recalled from my presentation in Williamsburg, I believe it took every day of those two years of research to "get the story straight" on a basic history of landmark *Autobiography* editions.

Just how did this Franklinfan-ishness begin? I came about my subject matter from a hobby of collecting editions of Franklin's *Autobiography*. As seen in my dissertation's Appendix, my first copy was a black-and-white 1958 edition revealing just one eye, nose, and lips of a person: unmistakably the likeness of Franklin. A few years later, I encountered three copies of Franklin's *Autobiography* in

a used bookstore. Even though they were issued by the same publisher, each cover was unique. As I casually related this curious finding to my advisor Tom Quirk during the what-are-ideas-for-your-dissertation conversation, his eyes became enlarged and he said, "That's bookable!" Then, he gave me a most daunting task: "In your introduction, give your readers a sense of your research and estimate the number of editions you examined." This was not so simple a task. I am so obsessive about collecting editions that I consider "different" editions to be any difference in covers, the slightest difference in texts, the *Autobiography* being just one piece of writing in an issue, and the like. I currently own over 300 "different" printings (are you still surprised, then, that I asked to move in with Stuart Karu?) and that I examined at least twice that many, but there are perhaps close to 1,000 "different" editions by my standards, and I am out to collect them ALL.



Drs. Franklin and Hartsock celebrate

Seriously (for just a little bit), my dissertation traces for the first time a history of Franklin *Autobiography* editions and reprints. Though familiar, I recounted the *Autobiography*'s pre-publication history in the first chapter, examining the four distinct narrative composition periods as well as numerous letters in which Franklin discussed the *Autobiography*'s progress (or lack thereof). The next two chapters trace editions chronologically from first publication to a few years after the Civil War (right around the time of John Bigelow's then-landmark edition

cont. on p.8



## Benjamin Franklin, Education on the Web, and Virtualology

One can't help but think that Benjamin Franklin, with his broad range of interests, encyclopedic knowledge, and love of learning, would embrace the World Wide Web wholeheartedly if he were alive today. The Web has changed the entire face of education, including how future generations approach learning. Anyone today under the age of about twenty-five has had the computer, and Internet access, as major components of their educational experience.

Into this arena steps Virtualology, a new educational website that first came to our attention through contact with new Friend of Franklin life member, **Stanley Klos**. Virtualology describes their mission as "to foster an understanding of humanity's great moments, exceptional minds, remarkable talents, infamous actions, great events, natural history, scientific discoveries and the celebration of individuals." The site, with its homepage at [virtualology.com](http://virtualology.com) is divided up into a Library and five Museums (Art, History, Science, Natural History, and War). Each of these divisions is further divided into "Halls" and each Hall is then broken down into specific subjects. Benjamin Franklin is of course present, to be found in the Museum of History, Hall of the Declaration of Independence, under his own URL of [benjaminfranklin.org](http://benjaminfranklin.org).

The Virtualology site has been gaining in recognition and praise from educators and web reviewers. *USA Today* recognized Virtualology as a "Hot Site" and Best TopSites.com has ranked it as number 29 in their "Hot 100 Educational Sites." One of the unique things about the site is that it not only provides quality information and interesting graphics related to the covered subjects, but it also serves as a venue for student writing on all levels from primary school through graduate studies. Submissions must be part of a class assignment and include a teacher/professor letter of recommendation. Students under eighteen need the permission of a parent or guardian, and no last names are used on the site for minors (an unfortunately needed precaution in the interest of child safety on the 'Net).

Student essays on Franklin are already posted on the site, along with other useful information and the means to do a more in-depth search on the topic. Clicking "Search" under Benjamin Franklin brought up a list of useful URL, including the Friends of Franklin website. We hope that everyone who's connected to the Web will check out this interesting site, and that Friends who are educators will bring the site to the attention of their students. Thanks to Virtualology president Stan Klos for his Franklin-like vision for a productive and educational use of the Internet!

Dr. Hartsock -- cont. from p.7

[1868]) and through the end of the twentieth century. A "potpourri" chapter analyzes a variety of editions: children's, non-English, audio, electronic, and even Braille versions. Because there is so much complexity (ironically) in the most important editions and so many different issues, it is mainly due to Franklin's overall popularity that the *Autobiography* survives (and in so many formats) today.

I am offering copies of my dissertation for sale to fellow Friends who have inquired about obtaining a copy before I was even close to completion. Even when copies are available through UMI (home of all dissertations on microfilm), they will run \$71 for a hard copy; I am offering copies for \$65, which includes shipping (which covers only production and binding, since I now live in California, where the cost of everything has gone up due to through-the-roof prices for Franklin's electricity. Do you suppose the state will offer me a discounted electric bill because I composed a Franklin dissertation?). Besides saving you a year-long wait through UMI, the copies I offer have four color pages (which I highly doubt UMI copies will contain) and are mostly double-sided to save paper. They are beautifully hardbound, available in five colors: dark blue, forest green, gray, maroon, and purple. If interested, please call me at (619) 462-1515 or email me at (why of course!)

If any interested person would wish to preview the dissertation before purchase, I would be happy to email a copy of the abstract. For fellow Californians who need to save \$65 for one days' worth of electricity, let me say that the Friends of Franklin, Inc. is mentioned in my Acknowledgments page. I wish to offer sincere and heartfelt thanks to all of you who supported and encouraged me through this most tedious but thoroughly rewarding experience.

So, when you see "Franklinfan" bidding on a Franklin *Autobiography* edition on eBay, please don't outbid me; I desperately need that edition to add to my collection! And as for Promise Three to the Alexanders: both Craig and I will see you in Brussels and Amsterdam!





## In Benjamin Franklin's Name

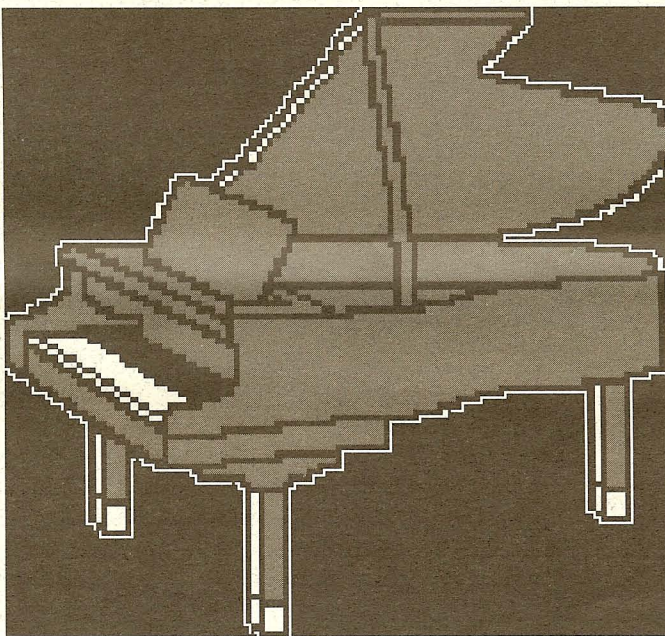
For the last eighteen years, the state of Pennsylvania has helped entrepreneurs to establish and enlarge more than 1,500 Pennsylvania-based companies through an innovative approach to economic development, christened Ben Franklin Partners. Businesses targeted by the program have included chemical, biotechnology, biomedical, pharmaceutical, composite, and laboratory equipment producers, as well as software, metal, and electronic component manufacturers. Supporting the application of new technologies as the basis for economic growth is central to the mission of the four privately operated non-profit regional organizations that make up Ben Franklin Technology Partners. BFTPs receive the bulk of their funding from the state through the Department of Community and Economic Development, but each organization is independent of the others and has its own governing board and agenda. In order to bring new high-wage jobs to Pennsylvania and create opportunities for citizens of the state, the regional organizations offer funding, advice, marketing, and research assistance. Every BFTP is affiliated with at least one university. By connecting high-tech start up companies with intellectual centers the BFTPs hope to tap the physical facilities as well as the resources of knowledge at affiliated universities. BFTPs take calculated chances on companies so new that even venture capitalists are reluctant to support the development of their ideas and products. Besides investing in individual companies the BFTPs offer support services for young companies: marketing, strategy planning, financial analysis, and hiring. The BFTPs also support high tech business through workforce training programs, underwriting business incubator facilities, and funding centers of excellence. In several senses, the BFTPs are an extension of Franklin's own intellectual and financial planning legacies. These organizations allow businesses to apply newly discovered scientific information for practical purposes. Anyone who has studied Franklin's own inventions will recognize that the good Doctor was committed to a similar goal. His ideas on how achievements may be magnified when people work together for a common purpose seem to be echoed in the collaborative nature of the business/economic development/university partnerships created through the medium of the BFTPs. Moreover, Franklin, in his will, provided funds for the assistance of artisans. Would he not have warmly endorsed the idea of economic development and job creation in his adopted state of Pennsylvania? Friends of Franklin can

imagine he would have been thrilled and flattered to have lent his name to the enterprise. For more information on BFTPs, see "Taking Care of Business" by Marc S. Reisch in the April 2, 2001 issue of *Chemical and Engineering News*, from which the information on the BFTPs was drawn.

## Benjamin Franklin...and Pianos?

Most Friends of Franklin are aware of the connection between Benjamin Franklin and his musical invention, the glass armonica. But did you know that there is also a (somewhat distant) connection between Ben and pianos?

Cecilia Brauer, concert pianist and glass armonica player (not to mention Friend of Franklin) recently discovered the connection in one of her piano reference books. This fascinating scholarly work, entitled *Men, Women & Pianos: A Social History* by Arthur Loesser, spills the beans in a section called "The American Piano Takes Its Own Shape" on page 458:



"Boston supported an active piano trade early in the century. About 1813 a group of piano makers named Appleton, Hayts, and Babcock got together and established a business, moving after a time to a large building at 6 Milk Street, a

place said to have been the site of Benjamin Franklin's birthplace. After 1816 one John R. Parker backed the business financially and he called it the Franklin Music Warehouse, sometimes the Franklin Music Manufactory. The Franklin concern made pianos diligently and pushed its own product actively; nevertheless, it was glad enough to take money from the majority of customers who still felt safer with an imported article."

It's interesting to note the weight Franklin's name was carrying, 25 years after his death and in the context of music. He would surely approve of the "diligent" manufacturing of pianos as an American business concern, especially in the town of his birth.



## Good Reads: Reviews of Franklin Related Books

*Finding Colonial Americas: Essays Honoring J.A. Leo Lemay.* Edited by Carla Mulford and David S. Shields. Newark, DE: University of Delaware Press, 2001. 481 p. \$59.50, hardback. ISBN 0874-137225. This new volume honors the long and inspiring career of Friend of Franklin life member Leo Lemay, as historian and teacher. It includes an essay about Leo, and a bibliography of his works through the year 2000. The book is divided into five parts, each focusing on a different slice of colonial America, including Manor Culture, the South, and Comparative Colonialisms. The one of greatest interest to Friends is the section entitled "Benjamin Franklin and His Friends." With seven essays in this section, it is the largest part of the book. The essays are written by an impressive array of scholars, and Friends of Franklin are well represented by Barbara Oberg, Roy Goodman, and Carla Mulford (who co-edited the volume in addition to contributing an essay). A fine scholarly achievement, and a fitting tribute to Leo!

The June 2001 issue of *Smithsonian Magazine* contains an article entitled "Dr. Franklin's Plan." Written by Stephan A. Schwartz, it is beautifully illustrated and engagingly written. Friends of Franklin Roy Goodman and Ellen Cohn served as advisors when Schwartz was writing the article. The "plan" referred to in the title is both Franklin's plan for his own life, and the plan he helped to forge for the new nation of America. A nice, popularly accessible article from a well-regarded periodical.

*Last Refuge of Scoundrels: A Revolutionary Novel.* By Paul Lussier. New York: Warner Books, 2001. 320 pages. \$26.95, hardback. ISBN: 0446523429. This is a novel with a different take on the American Revolution. The Founding Fathers become

minor figures while common people, including students, midwives, prostitutes and slaves become the major characters. Lussier weaves fact and fiction, legend and historical events, to create the world of the Revolution from the common people's point of view. As for BF, the publisher's promotional materials describe him as "the horny Ben Franklin, whose mission to seduce the French to the American cause is waged mostly on chaise lounges." It's the kind of book that you will either love or hate! The softcover edition is expected to be published early next year.



*Ephemera -- cont. from p.6*

as prescribed by the great luminary. There are many whose practices, politics and philosophy are rapidly propelling to within a hair's breadth of obliterating our earth. Weapon grade nuclear material is possessed by many nations, some that are this afternoon either at war or on the brink of war. You will no doubt hear about the rapidly changing face of the earth, the destruction of your fellow gymnosperms without reforestation and the growing insatiable food consumption of a greatly expanding population of humans which is already assured of becoming a biological crisis of cataclysmic proportions. To an old grey-headed one, the saddest, most tragic truism is all our world's demise will stem from greed and a chronic failure to recognize humans are a part of one world family of living organisms. And humans claim to have superior intelligence? When not humans you must confront the great luminary and earth forces which today warn of rumblings below the earth's surface, portending catastrophic terrestrial changes here where you are now planted. Such changes may render wider a wide Pacific Ocean and render your miraculous cellulose fodder for the fish!

Ah! Life should not be all gloom but life is fleeting. Deceive thee not that there are thousands upon thousands of moments 'before you because tomorrow those moments may be no more and you and your loved ones are left to dream about what might have been.

Oops! My time is finished. As usual, I've talked too long and besides, you must be exhausted from your flight. In closing, welcome! and ponder the worm's eye prudence of an old grey-headed fool from a race which knows no better philosophy: Enjoy! Enjoy!"

## From the Membership Secretary : Join Us in Belgium!

I urge all my Friends not to miss a once in a lifetime opportunity to share Ben Franklin's experiences in Belgium with a very special person on our fall 2001 tour to Europe. Claude-Anne Lopez, noted author of *Mon Cher Papa* and *My Life with Benjamin Franklin* will enchant us with the stories of Benjamin Franklin and her native land. She is not only a story teller *par excellence* but has spent many years with Benjamin Franklin at the Franklin Papers and will present a special insight into Franklin on this unique tour. We urgently need your reservation now to insure our hotel accommodations and travel plans.

Please see the Calendar entry on page 11 for contact information regarding the tour.

— Ralph Archibold





## Special Thanks to Our Life Members!

William D. Anderson, Jr.;  
Wichita, KS

Genya Asama  
Suwa-Gun Nagano-Ken, Japan

Jackson C. Boswell;  
Arlington, VA

Anna Coxe-Toogood;  
Wyndmoor, PA

Elly Fitzig; Wichita, KS

James M. Gassaway;  
Swarthmore, PA

Michael L. George;  
Dallas, TX

Doug Hall; Cincinnati, OH

James Hayase; Tokyo, Japan

E Cutter Hughes, Jr;  
Huntsville, AL

Mr. & Mrs. David A. Jones;  
Louisville, KY

Frank B. Jones; Bloomington, IN

Benjamin Franklin Kahn;  
Chevy Chase, MD

Stuart E. Karu;  
Cape Elizabeth, ME

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Penn Valley, PA

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Carnegie, PA

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Albert Merck;  
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Michael Newcomb;  
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Noriyuki Uenami;  
Tokyo, Japan

George Franklin Waters;  
Rochester, MN

Douglas L. Whitley;  
Batavia, IL

Ehsan Zayan;  
London, UK

## Welcome and Thank You to Our New Members!

### Life:

Genya Asama;  
*Suwa-Gun Nagano-Ken,  
Japan*

Stanley Klos;  
*Carnegie, PA*

Anna Coxe-Toogood,  
*Wyndmoor, PA*

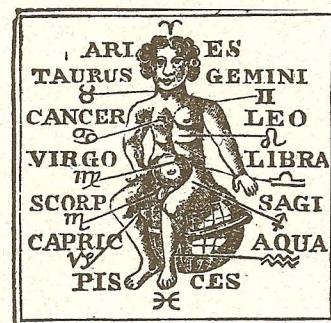
### Friend:

Stuart A. Green;  
*Los Alamitos, CA*

Peggy Hoffman Adams;  
*Bedminister, PA*

Stacy Schiff;  
*New York, NY*

Anthony Watson;  
*Sydney, Australia*



## Calendar of Events

### September 30-October 10, 2001.

Friends of Franklin tour to Belgium and the Netherlands, including beautiful Brussels and enchanting Amsterdam. Call Kathy DeLuca at 215-BEN-0300 with any questions or to register.



### Join Friends of Franklin!

Would you like to become an official member of the Friends of Franklin organization? Do you have a friend or relative who might wish to join, or who would appreciate a gift membership? All individuals, scholars, students, collectors, and Franklinophiles, as well as institutions, are invited to become members of the Friends of Franklin at the following membership rates:

Life Members	\$1,000	Sustaining Friend	\$100
Institutional Members	\$1,000	Franklin Friend	\$50
Supporting Friend	\$ 250	Student Members (full time only; photocopy id)	\$20

**YES, I'd like to join the Friends of Franklin!**

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**MAILING ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **FAX:** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-MAIL:** \_\_\_\_\_

Method of payment: Personal check \_\_\_\_\_ or Money order \_\_\_\_\_ (Made payable to Friends of Franklin, Inc.)  
Credit Card: American Express \_\_\_\_\_ MasterCard \_\_\_\_\_ VISA \_\_\_\_\_  
Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Amount enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send to: Friends of Franklin, Inc., PO Box 40048, Philadelphia, PA 19106

215-BEN-0300(215-236-0300)

215-440-3423 (FAX)

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