Franklin Gazette

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"Let thy discontents be secrets." ~ *Poor Richard, 1739*

President's Message

by Ralph Gregory Elliot

In times like the present crisis wrought by the events of September 11, Americans, understandably and rightly, seek for answer and guidance in the experiences of our past. As always, the infant years of our Republic offer lessons and insights that stand later generations in good stead.

From their sad and bitter experience in Vietnam, Americans are acutely aware that Government can make mistakes; Government resents being told it is in the process of making mistakes; Government feels both free and duty-bound to keep facts from the public, to alter and refashion the data it does give the public, and to seek to manipulate the media to report only what Government wants reported and in the way — with the "spin" — Government wants. Americans are also acutely aware of the enormous harm — to lives of members of our armed services, to public confidence and faith in the credibility of its elected officials, to the public's willingness to comply with its leaders' requests and to acquiesce in its leaders' policies — that such activities create.

Of equal danger is the opportunity crisis — and especially the perception that the nation is at "war" — provides to those who have always been less than congenial to precious and hard-won civil liberties to pass laws and take other steps to eliminate, suspend, or make more difficult the exercise of, those basic rights of the individual. The requirements of protecting "national security" are invoked as the justification — the "cover", the excuse — for implementing the ulterior agenda that had long pre-existed the crisis.

Some 200 years ago, in 1798, the United States found itself at odds with its old ally, France, now under the control of the post-Terror Directory dominated by Napoleon Bonaparte. Partisan politics was in its infancy then, but a brawling and caterwauling infancy it was, with the Federalist curmudgeon John Adams as President and the smoothly devious Republican Thomas Jefferson as Vice President. The press, too, was violently and vocally partisan, making no pretense to that dispassionate disinterestedness that is now its most proudly borne standard. Adams and his partisans were convinced that Jefferson and his adherents, both in and outside the press, were dangerously Francophilic and that something had to be done about it.

The French Revolution had begun three months after George Washington first took the oath of office in 1789, and the Federalist government he headed had looked with growing unease as it spiralled out of control and into the infamous Reign of Terror, killing and imprisoning many, like the Marquis de Lafayette, who had been among America's most ardent supporters. In 1795, the Directory had assumed control, Napoleon had emerged as its central figure, and he was embarking on his imperial wars with singular success. Adams and the Federalists viewed this with alarm, and sought to come to a peaceful accommodation by sending three negotiators to prevent war. They were not only poorly received, but were met with demands for an American loan to France to help finance her war effort plus a bribe of a quarter of a million dollars for the Directory, before the French would negotiate.

When Adams and Congress learned of this, they immediately began mobilizing for war, ultimately calling George Washington out of retirement to take command of

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215-BEN-0300
(215-236-0300)
Fax: 215-440-3423
email:fof@benfranklin2006.org
Website:
www.benfranklin2006.org

Ralph Elliot, *President*

Alison M. Lewis, *Editor*
alewis4722@earthlink.net
215-727-7847

Claude-Anne Lopez,
Co-Editor

Newsletter Coordination:
Kathleen DeLuca
Roy Goodman

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President's Message

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a new army. Federalists in Congress also took the occasion to seek to cripple their Jeffersonian Republican opponents. The Alien and Sedition Acts of 1798 were pure partisan politics. They made it more difficult for aliens to become citizens, and made it easier to detain and deport aliens (and this was aimed not only at the French but, significantly, at the large numbers of Irish who were fleeing England and, once here, voting Republican rather than for the Anglophilic Federalists). As a consequence of the Alien Acts, many aliens simply went back to Europe voluntarily.

The Sedition Act of 1798, however, was the cornerstone of the anti-Republican Federalist agenda. It made it a federal crime to "write, print, utter or publish" or help anyone else to do so, "any false, scandalous and malicious writing" against the President, Congress or the government generally with intent to defame them or bring them "into contempt or disrepute" or "excite against them" "the hatred of the good people of the United States" or "to resist, oppose or defeat" any law or order by the President. A defendant so accused was allowed to prove the truth of what he had written as a defense; but so loosely, broadly and amorphously was the law written that it became a cudgel in the hands of the zealous district attorney.

In 1798 and 1799, some 17 indictments were handed down, including indictments against four of the five most prominent Republican newspapers. The leaders of the outcry demanding convictions were, sadly, their competitor Federalist newspapers.

By its own terms, the Sedition Act expired on March 3, 1801, John Adams' last day in office. Though not sponsored by Adams, it was vigorously implemented by his Secretary of State, Timothy Pickering, with Adams's enthusiastic blessing. It remains the single greatest stain on his otherwise illustrious career. All in all, some 25 persons were arrested under the Act in its two-year lifespan. Ten were convicted.

Vainly seeking to prevent enactment of the Acts, James Madison perceptively observed in a letter to Thomas Jefferson on May 13, 1798, "Perhaps it is a universal truth that the loss of liberty at home is to be charged to provisions against danger real or pretended from abroad."

While happily the 342-page "USA Patriot Act" passed by Congress and signed by the President in late October stayed its hand from overt encroachments on freedom of speech and of the press, it has significantly expanded governmental ability to wiretap all of us, to have access to previously private data and bank accounts of all of us, to consider previously innocuous acts by all of us as potential acts of terrorism, and to conduct covert searches of all of us and our homes and offices. In November, the Attorney General announced that conversations between lawyers and their clients, which the law has for centuries held privileged and confidential, will now be subjected to monitoring by Justice Department personnel. More such incursions are sure to follow.

Only vigilance — vigilance coupled with speech and writing — can help to prevent such a dissolution of our cherished liberties. We have already seen too many signs in the general population of an intolerance for dissent, of private penalties and punishments being visited upon those who ask hard questions about our leaders and their policies, or who suggest that perhaps our government might profit from examining its policies to see if they might have unintentionally contributed to the climate that has resulted in the recent and continuing attacks upon our society as a whole. When popular frustration begins to boil over as Americans

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President's Message -- cont.

come to realize that there is no quick fix to the current problem, that terrorism in all of its manifold forms and with the unpredictability that is its hallmark, will forever be a permanent condition of all our lives, their impulse to lash out at dissent may make it politically expedient for Congress to pass laws designed to stifle dissent.

On the walls of the Jefferson Memorial in Washington are words erroneously ascribed to Jefferson, which were in fact written by a contemporary, John Philpot Curran: "Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty." The sentiment, however, is no less true, whoever the real author may have been. Equally to the point are the less-known words of another of the Founders, our worldly-wise friend, Benjamin Franklin, written in 1759; and those words provide a fitting and appropriate close to this column: "They that can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety."

FAREWELL
from the editor

This will be my final issue as editor of the *Franklin Gazette*. I started doing this job almost four years ago, beginning with the "double issue" of Volume 8, nos. 1 & 2. Overall, my experience in working with this journal has been very positive. I have had the opportunity to meet (occasionally in person, more often through e-mail, telephone calls, or the printed page) a number of dedicated Franklin scholars, descendants, and fans. Their enthusiasm and devotion to Franklin, his work, and his ideas, have never failed to inspire me. Because of them, I have learned more about Franklin than I ever thought possible. Even more importantly, I have learned that there is more to learn about Franklin than is possible for any one person to learn on her own. The community of the "Friends of Franklin" provides an invaluable service to each other and to the world at large.

I'd like to take one last opportunity to thank everyone who helped so much during my tenure as editor: Ralph Elliot, who could always be counted upon to send a timely and interesting "President's Message;" Claude-Anne Lopez, who provided great advice, wonderful articles, and expert proofreading; Kathy Deluca for continued support in her role as Executive Secretary; Roy Goodman for his tireless efforts in the promotion of Franklin and the Friends of Franklin organization; and last but not least Kate Ohno at the Yale Papers for her numerous contributions to the Gazette, both written and technical, as well as her moral support and consistency in serving as a liaison between Philadelphia and New Haven. I'd also like to thank the American Philosophical Society Library for providing invaluable assistance through its great staff and tremendous Franklin collection.

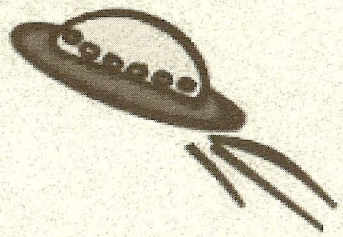
Lastly, I'd like to say that while you may be losing me as an editor, you will be gaining me as a "Friend!"

-- Alison Lewis

Yet Another Word from Ralph...

With this issue of the *Gazette* we bid a fond but regretful farewell to **Alison Lewis**, who has guided its fate as editor these past four years. During her tenure she has brought to this publication a sense of craftsmanship and dedication to articles that are both scholarly and interesting (two qualities not often found in tandem), a recognition of the importance of timeliness and regularity in the publication of its four issues each year, and an understanding that in disseminating Frankliniana of every shape and form serving every interest, the *Gazette* serves as the single most visible bond that unites the Friends in a company of shared interests and cheerful fellowship. She leaves us with our heartfelt thanks for a stewardship well and ably conducted and with every good wish for happiness and success in her new position.

-- Ralph Elliot



SF Fans Invade Philadelphia; Discuss Franklin

"Furnished as all Europe now is with Academies of Science, with nice instruments and the spirit of experiment, the progress of human knowledge will be rapid and discoveries made of which we have at present no conception. I begin to be almost sorry I was born so soon, since I cannot have the happiness of knowing what will be known a hundred years hence." – Benjamin Franklin, 1783.

The 59th World Science Fiction Convention was held in Philadelphia, August 30 – September 3, 2001. Thousands of fans with a wide variety of interests discussed their favorite books, heard readings by prominent authors, attended panels on scientific and literary topics, participated in costume parades and satirical musical performances, and spent their money on SF art, books, and crafts. Benjamin Franklin was very much present. His image was featured not only on publicity for the convention, but on the cover of the souvenir program and on the official "Millennium Philcon" t-shirt. Cartoons of Franklin along with hu-

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Benjamin Franklin, Zealous Partisan

by Jonathan R. Dull

On February 24, 1783 Benjamin Franklin wrote to thank a former professor named Jean-Pierre d'Açarq for two odes. The poems are no longer extant, but we know that they praised liberty, of which, confessed Franklin, he was a zealous partisan ("dont je suis sans doute un zelé partisan"). Franklin's letter, to be published on pages 607-8 of the forthcoming Volume 36 of *The Papers of Benjamin Franklin,* is an explicit statement of an often neglected but central aspect of the first American minister plenipotentiary to a foreign court. Benjamin Franklin was as ardent a revolutionary as any of the patriots of 1775-1783 and to ignore his zeal is to misunderstand him.

The public record of his service is impressive. Elected to Congress the day after his return from England, just two weeks after the Battle of Lexington, he served in Philadelphia for the next year and a half (except for journeys to Cambridge, Staten Island, and Montreal on Congress' behalf). He then began an almost nine year mission to the French court, during which he served as commissioner, minister plenipotentiary, and peace commissioner, and helped negotiate the 1778 Franco-American Treaties of Commerce and of Alliance, the 1782 preliminary peace agreement with Great Britain, and the 1783 final peace treaty. Nonetheless Franklin has been tarred by his colleague John Adams' accusations of indolence and self-indulgence.

Fortunately for Franklin the bulk of his correspondence during his French mission is extant; it will fill twenty volumes of *The Papers of Benjamin Franklin* (the fourteenth of which is about to be published, thanks in large part to the generous and long-standing support of the National Historical Publications and Records Commission). As important as were the great negotiations with the French and British court they comprise only a small fraction of the correspondence. Most of the letters deal with the routine matters which even today burden American diplomatic missions: the constant demands of Americans overseas for assistance and the adjustments of conflicting interests with foreign governments. Franklin's task was much more difficult, however. He had a minuscule staff (no more than three secretaries at any time, one of them his grandson), communication with his home government was difficult at best, he was faced with myriad onerous requirements such as verifying and cashing loan office certificates, and perhaps worst of all, he was plagued with a constant fear that his financial credit would be exhausted and he and his country disgraced. Admittedly there were compensations. His health was endangered not by hunger but by gout aggravated by too rich a diet. The dinner parties he attended, however, had a purpose which seems to have eluded Adams, that of reassuring the French aristocracy that American revolutionaries were not bearers of a contagion which might (and eventually did) threaten them. Franklin was serious when he described himself as an old man oppressed with too much business (*Franklin Papers*, 36: 465).

The quality of his correspondence is even more revealing than its quantity. The constituents to whom he devoted the most energy were American sailors captive in English prisons such as Forton Prison in Portsmouth and Old Mill Prison in Plymouth. He sent money to help them survive their imprisonment, assisted those who had escaped, and even outfitted privateers to try to capture British sailors to exchange for them. The mistreatment of prisoners was an example of what Franklin considered the inhumanity of King George III and his government. One might suspect from his repeated references to English bloodthirstiness that what gave Franklin his energy was rage. (He never mentions, however, the personal wound inflicted on him by the British, the defection to Loyalism of his once-adored son William.)

Even Franklin's weaknesses as a diplomat are those of an over zealous patriot. In writing Americans like Robert Morris, Franklin, still in some sense a Boston puritan, may criticize Americans wasting money on frivolities, but his criticisms seldom go any deeper; one gets the impression he believed the American cause totally righteous and American conduct of the war totally proper and virtuous. His smugness led him into some serious mistakes. He viewed with disdain the taking of security precautions and hence the American mission was full of spies; this hindered communication with the French who understandably did not discuss war strategy with him. Unlike Adams, he did not devote serious study to statecraft and this led him into other mistakes, such as not doing more to block the impolitic doomed mission of Francis Dana to St. Petersburg.

Many of Franklin's strengths predate the revolution. His cosmopolitanism, discretion, and talent for conciliation were exceptional. It is difficult to imagine anyone else doing as well at obtaining from France the financial aid so vital to sustaining the American cause. This "softer side" of Franklin does not mean, however, that there was not a hard, inner core that sustained him during his lengthy and difficult mission. That core seems to have consisted in an unshakeable belief in the American cause and a hatred of its enemies.

Jonathan R. Dull is senior associate editor of *The Papers of Benjamin Franklin* This article was originally published in *Annotation*, Vol. 29, No. 3 (Sept., 2001), p. 11.

More on Franklin and Adams

By Claude-Anne Lopez

After reading Jonathan Dull's interesting and balanced remarks, I feel the urge to address the same topic, Franklin's patriotism, from a different perspective, and with somewhat more animus toward Adams. I can well afford to be feisty now: I'm finally retired, I never belonged to academia (no Ph.D.!) and I feel it is time to speak up. And so, I'm offering the *Gazette* some excerpts from *My Life with Benjamin Franklin*, taken from the essay entitled, "Was Franklin too French?"

After Franklin's policy of alleged passivity had borne fruit in the shape of treaties of commerce and alliance, loans amounting to millions of livres tournois, a French expeditionary corps, and finally, peace negotiations, he was accused of excessive gratitude where little, if any, was required. So much has been written on the reasons for Adams' hostility to Franklin that I can only suggest that Adams must have felt toward him the Salieri did toward Mozart, if we are to believe the author of *Amadeus*. Adams knew himself to be an intelligent, hard-working, God-fearing, and patriotic man, which he truly was. But there, right beside him, lived that unworthy genius who enjoyed himself, indulged himself, and possessed all the charisma. It was galling.

Some excerpts from letters from Franklin and Adams to third parties tell the story of this duel with the raw power of their unchecked anger:

Adams on Franklin: "If I was in Congress and the Marble Mercury in the Garden of Versailles were in Nomination for an Embassy, I would not hesitate to give my Vote for the Statue, upon the Principle that it could do no harm."

Franklin on Adams: "[Mr. Adams] is always an honest Man, often a wise one, but sometimes... absolutely out of his senses."

Adams on Franklin: "You may depend on this, the moment an American minister gives a loose to his passion for women, that moment he is undone; he is instantly at the mercy of the spies of the Court, and the tool of the most profligate of the human race." (Considering that Franklin was seventy-seven when this passage was written, it betrays at least a grudging admiration for his enduring powers.)

Franklin on Adams (on the possibility of having to collaborate with him on treaties of commerce with various European nations): "I can have no favorable opinion on what may be the Offspring of a Coalition between my Ignorance and his Positiveness."

Adams on France: "All I ever suffered in public life has been little, in Comparison with what I have suffered in Europe, the greatest and worst part of which has been caused by the ill Dispositions of the Comte de Vergennes, aided by the Jealousy, Envy and selfish Servility of Dr. Franklin."

Franklin on France: "[I believe] that this Court is to be treated with Decency and Delicacy... and that such an Expression of Gratitude is not only our Duty, but our Interest... It is my Intention, while I stay here, to procure what Advantages I can for our Country, by endeavouring to please this Court... [Mr. Adams] thinks, as he tells me himself, that America has been too free in Expressions of Gratitude to France; for that she is more oblig'd to us than we are to her."

Gratitude toward France was to be the bone of contention from then on. Britain, in Franklin's view, was still to be feared: "Britain has not well digested the loss of Its Dominion over us, and has still at times some flattering Hopes of recovering it... A Breach between us and France would infallibly bring the English again upon our Backs; And yet we have some wild Heads among our Countrymen, who are endeavouring to weaken that Connection!"

The price paid by Franklin for this attachment to France would be very high. The most embittered letter the Doctor ever wrote, I believe, was sent on September 10, 1783, exactly one week after the signing of the Treaty of Paris. He had heard from his Boston friend, the Reverend Samuel Cooper, that "It is confidently reported, propagated, and believed by some among us, that the Court of France was at bottom against our obtaining the Fishery and Territory in that great Extent in which both are secured by us by the Treaty; that our Minister at that Court favoured, or did not oppose this Design against us; and that it was entirely owing to the Firmness, Sagacity and Disinterestedness of Mr. Adams, with whom Mr. Jay united, that we have obtained those important Advantages."

Franklin did not react to this astounding accusation until the peace treaty had been signed. Then, on that September 10, he sent identical letters to Adams and Jay: "It is not my Purpose, to dispute any Share of the Honour of

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Franklin and Adams *-- cont. from p.5*

that Treaty which the Friends of my Colleagues may be disposed to give them; but having now spent fifty Years of my Life in public Offices and Trusts, and having still one Ambition left, that of carrying the Character of Fidelity, at least, to the Grave with me, I cannot allow that I was behind any of them in Zeal and Faithfulness. I therefore think that I ought not to suffer an Accusation, which falls little short of Treason to my Country, to pass without Notice."

The next installment of the price to pay for loyalty to one's ally in war was paid by Franklin's grandson Temple, who had served the peace commission as secretary, filling reams of pages with his clear hand that resembles his grandfather's so much that we editors have trouble distinguishing between them. When the moment came to bring the peace treaty to Congress, the honor did not go to Temple, who had been Jay's choice, and for whom this would have been an important stepping stone since, as the son of a Loyalist, he was ever under a cloud. The honor went instead to John Thaxter, a protégé of Adams who had had nothing to do with the clerical work involved in the negotiations. Franklin must have grown worried at that point. In his anxiety, he made an unusual move. He asked Congress to take Temple under its protection and, in view of his own experience and past services to the public, to name the young man secretary to the commission soon to be appointed for the conclusion of treaties of commerce with various European nations. He also mentioned that Sweden had expressed an interest in having Temple serve as American minister in Stockholm.

What a mistake! It took no time for Franklin's enemies to escalate the Swedish possibility into a French certainty and to tell each other, in agitation, that the wily old diplomat proposed to install his bastard grandson in Paris while grabbing the London embassy for himself. From William Lee to his brother Arthur to Elbridge Gerry to John Adams, the imaginary plot was repeated and embellished as it went round. Now, at last, Franklin had revealed his vulnerable spot: the way to hurt him was through Temple. A triumphant Gerry was able to report to Adams on June 16, 1784, that Temple had not been chosen as secretary to the new commission precisely *because* he was related to Franklin: "I think, your friend the D-r, when he finds… that his Grandson has not only no Prospect of Promotion but has actually been superseded… Indeed, we have not been reserved in Congress with respect to the Doctor, having declared in so many Words, that so far advanced in Years and so tractable is he, that it has become a Matter of Indifference to Us, whether We employ him or the Count de Vergennes to negotiate our Concerns at the Court of Versailles."

From then on Franklin never obtained anything he wished on a personal level. The population of Philadelphia gave him a hero's welcome on his return, but the authorities were, and remained, cool. He may have had the trappings of prestige, such as towns and counties named after him—even the first state west of the Appalachians (though only for a few years)—but real power had slipped from his hands, and he was too politically astute not to know it. As sole recompense for his mission to Paris, he asked that his son-in-law, Richard Bache, be reinstated in his former job as postmaster general. The request was ignored. Washington answered every paragraph of Franklin's letter except that one. Far from having been victimized by Franklin, I'd say that Adams and his relatives came out on top.

{Editor's note: The fourth installment of *From Warm to Very Warm to Icy to So-So: The Story of a Friendship: Benjamin Franklin and William Strahan* by Claude-Anne Lopez should appear in the next issue of the *Franklin Gazette*.]

In His Own Words: Franklin's Assessment of the American Spirit

by Kate Ohno

On March 29, 1776, Franklin addressed a letter to a friend in Britain, Anthony Todd. The original manuscript is in the Public Record Office in London. It was composed in New York City at the beginning of the Revolutionary War. At the time he wrote it he may well have been aware that British troops were leaving Boston. Where would they attack next?

"How long will the ***Insanity*** on your side the Water continue? Every Day's Plundering of our Property and Burning our Habitations, serves but to exasperate and unite us the more. The Breach between you and us grows daily wider and more difficult to heal. Britain without us can grow no stronger: Without her we shall become a tenfold greater and mightier People. Do you chuse to have so increasing a Nation of Enemies? Do you think it prudent by your Barbarities to fix us in a rooted Hatred of your Nation, and make all our innumerable Posterity detest you? Yet this is the Way in which you are now proceeding. Our Primers begin to be printed with Cuts of the Burnings of Charlestown, of Falmouth, of James Town, of Norfolk, with the Flight of Women and Children from these defenceless Places, some Falling by Shot in their Flight. [Ethan]Allen and his People, with [James] Lovell, an amiable Character and a Man of Letters! all in Chains on

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board your Ships; Is any body among you weak enough to imagine that these Mischiefs are neither to be paid for, nor revenged? while we treat your People that are our Prisoners, with the utmost Kindness and Humanity. Your Ministers may imagine that we shall soon be tired of this, and submit. But they are mistaken, as you may recollect they have been hitherto in every Instance in which I told you at the time they were mistaken. And I now venture to tell you, that tho' this War may be a long one, (and I think it will probably last beyond my Time) we shall with God's Help finally get the better of you. The Consequences I leave to your Imagination... Since writing the above I have been riding round the Skirts of this Town to view the Works; they are but lately begun, but prodigiously forward, all Ranks of People working at them as Volunteers with the greatest Alacrity, and without Pay, to have them ready for the Reception of Gen. Howe, who having finish'd his Visit to Boston is daily expected here. What will you do with this Spirit? You can have no Conception of Merchants and Gentlemen working with Spades and Wheelbarrows among Porters and Negroes: I suppose you will scarce believe it."

Now this nation which Franklin worked so hard to create struggles to muster a united front against an unprecedented attack. We watch our government try to strike a balance between the defense of the country and its citizens and the civil liberties that most people consider to be a hallmark of life in the United States. What would Franklin advise? Many people have rediscovered one of Franklin's most often quoted phrases, "Those who would give up essential liberty, to purchase a little temporary safety, deserve neither liberty nor safety." During the French and Indian War Franklin was given the task of drafting a message to the royal governor of Pennsylvania by the Pennsylvania Assembly. The assembly's relationship with the governor was troubled, and the security of the colony was at stake. Franklin's pithy statement was part of a strongly worded letter dated Nov. 11, 1755. He brought the phrase into play a second time, on Feb. 17, 1775, when he was negotiating with the British government to achieve the repeal of the Coercive Acts.

Another New Find!

By Claude-Anne Lopez

The joyous emotion felt by a family at the arrival of a healthy baby is on a par with the squeaks of the Franklin editors at the appearance of a genuine new document.

A few months ago, I was happy to report that in a French castle, in plain view of tourists, there had lain for quite some time a hitherto unnoticed letter by Franklin—his first after his return from Paris to Philadelphia in 1785. And now, here is the saga of another significant letter that lay dormant among family papers, right here in Connecticut, not too far from Yale, and has suddenly come to light.

HOW DID IT HAPPEN?

Antoinette (Toni) Roades, in Charlottesville, Va., is writing the biography of a female Barclay who lived at the time of the Civil War, a descendant of Thomas Barclay who played a role during the American Revolution. Her approaches to various Barclay descendants do not yield much until a just-retired teacher at the Taft School in Watertown, Conn., Mr. Barclay Johnson, Jr., decides to send her a bunch of old papers he had in his house. Whereupon our editor, Ellen Cohn, receives an excited call from an associate editor at the Papers of George Washington, at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, reporting that a woman has just walked in with a letter from Franklin to Thomas Barclay, dated February 16, 1783. Do we have it? No we don't. But now, courtesy of Mr. Johnson, we have a photocopy of it.

WHO WAS THIS THOMAS BARCLAY?

He was an answer to Franklin's repeated prayers to Congress. We are so used to thinking about Franklin as competent in every field that it comes as a surprise to discover that, by his own admission, he did not know how to deal with maritime problems or with complicated commercial accounts. Our volumes are peppered with his appeals for help:

March 4, 1780. "As vessels of war under my care create me a vast deal of business, of a kind that I am inexperienced in, and by my distance from the coast is very difficult to be well executed, I must repeat my earnest request that a person of skill in such affairs may be appointed in the character of consul, to take charge of them. I imagine that much would by that means be saved in the expense of their various refitting and supplies, which to me appears enormous."

The Congress granted him his wish the following November by electing as consul and sending to France William Palfrey, paymaster general of the army. He was expected to direct naval affairs in France and to forward supplies collected there. Palfrey embarked on the *Shelala* in December, along with two barrels of apples and one of nuts sent by the Baches. By February 1781, Franklin, delighted, wrote that he was expecting the ship any day. But it was lost at sea with no survivors.

The following June, Congress elected Barclay to the position of vice-consul, in deference to Palfrey whose fate remained unknown. This must have given Frankin pleasure for the Barclays had extended hospitality and friendship to the Bache family for three months during the British occupation of Philadelphia.

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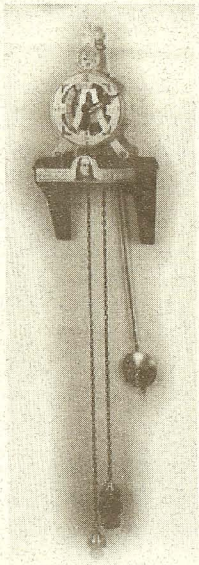
PAID ADVERTISEMENT

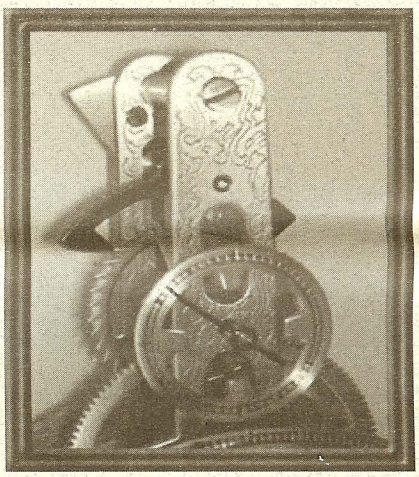
Benjamin Franklin's Three-Wheeled Clock



Whilst on Ambassadorial duties in London in 1759 Benjamin Franklin invented a functional and handsome Wall Clock with the objective of simplifying clock construction but without any sacrifice of accuracy. His innovative design has now been recreated in solid brass and American Oak. Even after 242 years, you can enjoy the sight and sound of the mid-eighteenth century and celebrate the inventive genius of one of history's most extraordinarily talented figures.

Roy Mallett, an English horological craftsman of distinction, has recreated Franklin's inventive masterpiece. Each Clock is numbered in a strictly limited edition of only 5,000 and supplied with a signed and numbered Certificate ofAuthenticity and Provenance. It is a functional and decorative Clock and an Objet d'Art to grace any office or home. The Oak bracket support is easily affixed to a wall with just two brass screws which are supplied. The result is a stylish and decorative conversation piece as well as a direct link and a functional celebration of the genius of Benjamin Franklin.

The unconventional principal dial has a single hand which revolves once every four hours and the smaller dial shows the seconds of each minute. Only three wheels drive the thirty hour mechanism, which is weight driven and which features a classic 24-inch pendulum. The clock measures approximately 26 inches in length and the oak bracket support is 8 inches wide. The skeletonised construction of the support frame allows the cog-driven mechanism and the escapement to be seen in all its hand-crafted, brass detail.



Perhaps most remarkable of all, the price is a very reasonable $495 for an artefact of this handcrafted quality, historical importance, and decorative appeal. From the sale of each item $25 will be donated to the funds of The Friends of Franklin and a further $50 towards the restoration fund of No. 36, Craven Street, London, where Franklin lived. A full renovation project is now into the second phase and funds are urgently needed to complete internal wiring,, decoration, and furnishings.

As each clock is individually commissioned, please allow 12 weeks for delivery.
The special price of $495 per clock is inclusive of Shipping, Packing, and Insurance in Transit.

Please contact Kathy DeLuca, The Friends of Franklin, at 215-BEN-0300 (215-235-0300) for an order form.
Orders will be forwarded to the manufacturer for processing and shipping..

Payment can be made by VISA or MasterCard only.
Please provide the following information:

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Good Reads: Reviews of Franklin Related Books

The Papers Of Benjamin Franklin, Vol.36: November 1, 1781, through March 15, 1782 edited by Ellen R. Cohn. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2001. 848 p. Hardback. $85.00. ISBN 0-300-08870-1. As this newest volume opens, Franklin despairs of living long enough to see the war come to an end. He had been plagued by continued financial demands from Congress that he could not meet and was worried about how much further he could draw on France's goodwill. But on the evening of November 19, Vergennes received and forwarded to Franklin the news of Cornwallis's capitulation at Yorktown a month earlier. All France celebrated the Franco-American victory, and Franklin's life became a whirl of dinner parties and congratulations. Franklin spent the winter in excellent health and used this period of relative respite to intellectual advantage, buying books and attending scientific meetings. He could do little to hasten the war's end, however, and waited patiently for a change of policy by the British government. With the approach of spring he received a series of letters on the failing fortunes of Lord North and his colleagues in the House of Commons. As the volume ends, Lord Cholmondeley is on his way to Paris. His arrival will offer Franklin a chance to make contact with a new British government that might negotiate for peace. PLEASE NOTE: A special discounted price is available for Friends of Franklin who wish to purchase this volume. Please contact Kathy Deluca at 215-236-0300 for further information.

Benjamin Franklin by Susan R. Gregson. Mankato, MN: Bridgestone Books, 2001. 48 p. Hardback. $16.95. ISBN: 0736810315. Part of the Let Freedom Ring/American Revolution Biographies series, this easy-to-read non-fiction book is aimed at middle school readers. Colorfully illustrated, it tells the story of Franklin's life, presenting many of his accomplishments and interests. The book also contains a map, a list of places of interest, a timeline, and a list of websites to visit. Great for youngsters who need to be encouraged to read, or who are ready to learn a bit more about Franklin.

Benjamin Franklin: Inventor, Statesman, and Patriot by R. Conrad Stein, translated by James D. Jan. Boston, MA: Cheng & Tsui, 1998. 128 p. Paperback. $9.95 ISBN: 0887273114. A charming English/Chinese bilingual edition of a life of Franklin. The text is intended for intermediate and advanced Chinese students of English, as well as for English speakers studying Chinese who wish to ground their reading study in familiar material. This edition includes original line drawings and color illustrations by William Jacobson.

The Bakken's Glass Armonica

By Elizabeth Ihrig
Bakken Library and Museum

The Bakken Library and Museum in Minneapolis, MN has a glass armonica which was purchased in 1975, through a French instrument dealer, from the descendants of Mme. Brillon de Jouy. She was a neighbor of Franklin's during the years 1777-1785 when he lived in Passy, a suburb of Paris, and he gave her the instrument when he departed from France for the United States.

The instrument is made of mahogany and its main part consists of a spindle that originally bore 28 glass cups (now there are 27). The diameter of these cups increases from 70 mm to 160 mm. In a letter written in 1762 to the Italian scientist, Giambatista Beccaria, Franklin describes an instrument that bears 37 cups. Because the Brillon armonica had only 28 cups and because the pedal apparatus is rather fragile and summary, it is thought that perhaps the Brillon armonica was a prototype, rather than one that was constructed for lasting use. When this particular armonica was built is unknown. A tradition among Brillon's descendants holds that its construction began in England and that it was finished for Franklin in Versailles, but even that tradition doesn't include a date for the making of the instrument.

In his letter to Beccaria, Franklin described the armonica as being well adapted to music that was "soft and plaintive". He continued that "the advantages of this instrument are, that its tones are incomparably sweet beyond those of any other; that they may be swelled and softened at pleasure by stronger or weaker pressures of the finger, and continued to any length; and that the instrument, being once well tuned, never again wants tuning." He complimented Beccaria in closing, saying "In honour of your musical language, I have borrowed from it the name of this instrument, calling it the Armonica."

The armonica was popular with the public and received the serious attention of many 18th century musicians. Franklin himself enjoyed performing upon it and seems to have always had one at his living quarters. His friend Mme. Brillon, an accomplished and intelligent woman, was also a fine musician and a master of the harpsichord and the pianoforte, and played other instruments and composed music as well.

Several 18th century composers wrote for the glass armonica; a recording of armonica music played by Bruno Hoffman includes works written for this instrument by Mozart, Johann Friedrich Reichardt, Karl Leopold Röllig, Johann Abraham Peter Schulz, and Johann Gottlieb Naumann.

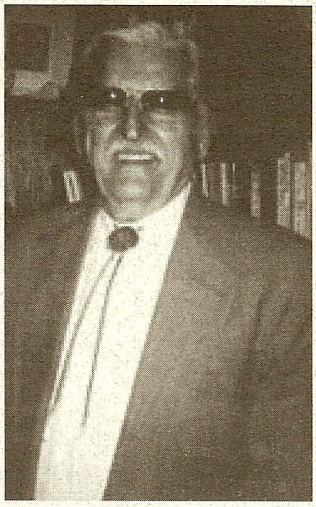
[The Brillon armonica is a part of the artifacts collection at the Bakken, which is a place that Franklin would love – it's devoted entirely to electricity! Check out their website at www.thebakken.org – Ed.]

Science Fiction -- *cont. from p.3*

morous adaptations of his well-known sayings ("A penny saved is another penny you can spend in the Dealers Room") were scattered throughout the pocket conference schedule. The back cover of the schedule was a cartoon of two farmers watching UFOs land in a field, along with the caption "Funny, Poor Richard's Almanack said the invasion from outer space weren't due till late fall."

A number of programs associated with the convention also featured Franklin. On Thursday, a group of about 25 fans, including several professional SF writers, were treated to a tour of the American Philosophical Society Library. They were shown items from Franklin's personal library, and curators introduced them to some of the science collections and the UFO materials held by the library. At the convention site, a number of panels focused on Franklin directly or peripherally. These included: "Ben Franklin: Master of Science, Master of Propaganda," "The Wisest Man in the World: Ben Franklin in Fact and Fiction," "SF Ben Franklin Could have Read: The Very Early History of SF," "Unorthodox Visions in Penn's Commonwealth," "Ben Franklin: The Light of Reason and the Light of Alchemy," "Radical Philadelphia Visions: Benjamin Franklin and Scott Nearing," "Franklin's Genius and the Genius of Science Fiction," and "The Future of Science and Technology as Viewed from Franklin's Time." The children's program at the convention, called "Camp Franklin," treated budding fans to activities like guinea pig divination and pool parties, and also showed the cartoon video *Ben and Me*, the story of Benjamin Franklin and his mouse friend.

If anyone is disappointed that they missed the chance to experience Benjamin Franklin in the context of the world of science fiction, fear not! Philadelphia SF fans have already put in bids to host the WorldCon again in 2010 and/or 2019. Your opportunity may be in the future!



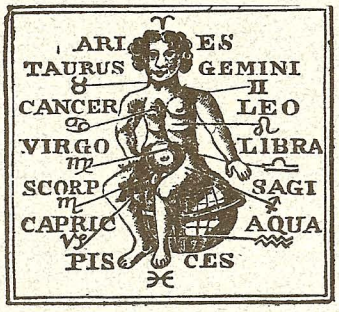
Friend of Franklin ***Dan Kalenak*** *of Odessa, TX shows off the bolo tie he made using his Franklin medallion. Dan finds this a more practical use of the medal than keeping it in a drawer or his pocket, or using it as a paperweight. Thanks for sharing, Dan! You're a true Texan and a true friend of Franklin!*

New Find! -- *cont. from p.7*

The Barclay family landed in France in the fall of 1781 and for the first year Thomas was totally absorbed with obtaining and shipping a replacement for the lost cargo of the *Lafayette*, as well as dealing with the problems of American captains, which took him all along the coast of France and as far as Amsterdam. Franklin's newfound letter, inviting him to come to Paris as soon as possible, enclosed a congressional resolution "to liquidate and finally to settle the accounts of all the servants of the United States who have been entrusted with the expenditure of the public in Europe..." What relief Franklin must have felt to pass on this heavy task to a man trained in commercial matters! He also assured Barclay that he was preparing everything to make his work easier.

The new letter, which will appear in Vol. XXXVIII, fits perfectly in the scheme of Franklin's mission. Barclay had a chance to prove his ability. After the Revolution he was sent to Morocco to negotiate a treaty between the U.S. and the sultan, and in 1791 he served as consul there.

Strangely, he does not appear in the *Dictionary of American Biography* where the only Thomas Barclay is a staunch Loyalist, but our resourceful Jonathan Dull found information in R. Burnham Moffat, *The Barclays of New York* (New York, 1904), p. 234.



Calendar of Events

January 17, 2002. Save the date! Parade and luncheon in honor of Franklin's birthday and the 250th anniversary of the founding of the Philadelphia Contributorship. In Philadelphia. Contact Carol Smith at CSmith@contributorship.com for more information.

January 19, 2002. The Friends of the Franklin Papers will host their annual Benjamin Franklin Birthday Party at noon at the New Haven Lawn Club. The program this year is a talk by the producers of the forthcoming multi-part Benjamin Franklin documentary which will air on PBS in the fall of 2002. Middlemarch Films, Inc. producers will speak about the making of the series and will show clips from the episodes. Anyone who would like to make a reservation for the event, which will include lunch, should contact the Franklin Papers at (203) 432-1814 or email Kate Ohno at kate.ohno@yale.edu.

November 7-10, 2002. Conference on the History of the Lightning Rod, to be held at the Bakken Library and Museum in Minneapolis. Contact the Bakken at 612-926-3878; more details about the conference forthcoming.

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;
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Deane M. Sherman;
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Malcolm Smith;
Highland Park, IL

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 Members:

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Ikuko Nakano;
Kanagawa-ken, Japan

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Friends of Franklin, Inc.
P.O. Box 40048
Philadelphia, PA 19106
Website: www.benfranklin2006.org