

# Franklin Gazette

Volume 12, Number 2, Summer 2002

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"Happy that nation, fortunate that age, whose history is not diverting."  
Poor Richard, February 1740.

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## President's Message

by Ralph Gregory Elliot

It's Memorial Day as I put aside Garry Wills's book on the disappointing presidency of James Madison to pen these lines. It's a good book, part of a series of books devoted to the presidential years of America's chief magistrates. Madison's forte, Wills concludes, was as a legislator and not as CEO of a sovereign nation.

It's both amazing and heartening to see the ripple effects of good history writing. Friday I met an old friend I hadn't seen in a year, and she rhapsodized over what an eye-opening experience it had been to read Friend H.W. Brands's biography of Franklin, which I had commended to her when last we met. Not only was she overwhelmed by the breadth of Franklin's accomplishments; but the book had the added effect of turning her on to American history, and she followed Brands immediately with David McCullough's *John Adams*, followed by Joseph Ellis's *Founding Brothers*. She cannot get enough of this fascinating era.

Well, there is more where that came from. Friend James Srodes has just published **Franklin: The Essential Founding Father** (Regnery Publishing). Yale's Edmund Morgan will soon be publishing a book on Franklin, and that will be followed by one on the same subject by Brown's Gordon Wood. This fall the three-part television series on Franklin discussed in my last letter will be aired. Tonight and tomorrow night the History Channel broadcasts a two-part series based on *Founding Brothers*. And who knows what else is already planned or in the planning stages?

Congress (or more accurately, the Senate) has as of this writing still failed to pass the bill establishing the Franklin Tercentenary Commission. The problem is political maneuvering having nothing whatsoever to do with the substance or merits of the bill.

Not waiting upon a capricious Congress, the consortium that is planning a world-wide exhibition and other happenings and projects honoring Franklin, funded handsomely but only in part by a grant from the Pew Charitable Trusts, has begun its activities. Comprising the Franklin Institute, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the Library Company of Philadelphia, the American Philosophical Society and the University of Pennsylvania, the consortium has hired as its director the highly-experienced Conover Hunt, who has established herself at the Franklin Institute, which will house the office of the consortium.

The consortium is looking to involve many more groups, including the Friends, in its activities; and to that end sponsored a "town meeting" in Philadelphia to explain its mission and enlist support. Needless to say, the Friends were represented at that meeting. Ms. Hunt welcomes any and all suggestions from any of you who have ideas about what it should be doing over the next four-plus years. Among the projects planned is a comprehensive inventory of all Frankliniana (such as collections) worldwide, so that in one data base there will be a record of what's out there at a particular point in time. Many of you have information on this score, and I hope you will generously share it with Ms. Hunt and her staff.



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## President's Message *cont. from p. 1*

While it is always a pleasure to be reminded of the sagacity of our Ben (as I was two weeks ago upon my first visit to the magnificent Cleveland Museum of Art, where a 1763 Franklin observation on the arts in America introduced the textual welcome to the American galleries), there are some things associated with Franklin which I can happily eschew. Gout, for instance, which for the first time assailed me two weeks ago in my little toe. Though happily and quickly cured by the miracles of modern science, the experience did bring forcefully home how painful it must have been for Franklin to have endured much more widespread a condition for so many years. I had given passing thought to ordering up a sedan chair, as Franklin did, to be borne through the streets of Hartford and the precincts of the courthouse. The idle thought was as quickly dismissed, however, when I reflected on how federal and state legislation, combined with heightened employee sensitivity to perceived workplace inequities, had for all practical purposes eliminated junior lawyers in my firm as a source of bearers.

## Annual Fundraising Campaign

Our first-ever fund drive has tapped the reservoirs of good will that one would expect where honoring Ben Franklin is involved. Of particular note are four matching pledges from four of our most loyal members who, but for their desire to remain anonymous, would be honored here by name. These members have pledged a \$500 donation to reach \$5,000 and a second \$500 donation to reach \$10,000.

The generosity of these Friends should be an inspiration to us all. The Friends cannot do what it

should be doing on member dues income alone. An annual infusion of contributions from a fund drive is essential to our continued success and to our ability to play our proper role in the upcoming tercentenary celebrations.

To those of you who have given, our deepest thanks. To those of you who have delayed giving, let the magnificent challenge pledges of our four anonymous donors be the spur (to paraphrase Macbeth) to prick the sides of your intent.

Ralph Gregory Elliot, President



## Yo-Yo Ma Receives Benjamin Franklin Laureate Creativity Prize

On June 28, 2002, world-renowned cellist, Yo-Yo Ma became the first recipient of the Benjamin Franklin Laureate Creativity Prize, established to honor the world's most creative thinkers and innovators. Given jointly by the Creativity Foundation and the Smithsonian Associates, the award is intended to inspire creative thinking and service in the sciences, arts, humanities and all disciplines. Recipients receive a silver replica of the Nini medallion portrait, "Benjamin Franklin in Fur Cap." (An image of the Nini portrait can be seen on the first page of this issue.)

B. Franklin Kahn established the foundation and the idea for the award in January 2001. Kahn stated, "Yo-Yo Ma is inspirational in so many dimensions and disciplines that he is the ideal Laureate." Ma, who has studied the music of many countries, seeks to use music as a means of communicating and transmitting ideas

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## Franklin Tercentenary Exhibition Update

*Evan Welsh and Philip W.*

*Hammer, The Franklin Institute*

The Benjamin Franklin Tercentenary Consortium has announced the hiring of Conover Hunt as Executive Director. The Tercentenary Consortium is comprised of leading Franklin-related institutions based in Philadelphia, consisting of The American Philosophical Society, The Franklin Institute, The Library Company of Philadelphia, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, and the University of Pennsylvania. Hunt will oversee the development of an international traveling exhibition as well as activities associated with the 300th anniversary of Franklin's birth. The Pew Charitable Trusts issued a grant of \$4 million to the Consortium to support these efforts.

The traveling exhibition will open on October 6, 2005, at The Franklin Institute in Philadelphia. This date is significant since it marks the 282nd anniversary of the day Franklin set foot in Philadelphia, on the Market Street banks of the Delaware River. The exhibition will celebrate Franklin's 300th birthday on January 17, 2006, before traveling to three other cities in the United States and Europe. In advance of the exhibition, Hunt will oversee the locating, cataloging, and conserving of items that were owned by or associated closely with Franklin. The most important artifacts and documents will be included in the traveling exhibition.

"The Franklin Tercentenary Consortium is proud and honored to welcome Conover Hunt as its executive director," says Dennis Wint, Ph.D., President and CEO of The Franklin Institute. "Conover brings a wealth of experience and expertise which are essential to a project of this nature and stature."

Hunt's thirty years of experience include special project planning and management, cultural administration, strategic and interpretive museum planning, fund raising, exhibit design, and innovative educational programming and marketing. Since 1975, she has been president of Conover Hunt dba Museum Consultations providing independent services to national non-profits, museum, arts, and preservation and historical organizations.

Hunt received her BA from Newcomb College, Tulane University and her MA from the Winterthur Museum Program, University of Delaware.

An important component of the early stages of planning the Tercentenary exhibition will be a comprehensive assessment of extant Frankliniana, the conservation status of each object, and their availability to be loaned as part of the exhibit. One potential outcome of this assessment is a published catalogue of the world's collection of Franklin and Franklin-related objects. If you have or have knowledge of any such objects, please contact Conover Hunt at [bf300@fi.edu](mailto:bf300@fi.edu) or toll free 866-BEN-1707 or fax 215-448-1235.



### **Benjamin Franklin to Air on November 19 and November 20**

Twin Cities Public Television will air its long awaited three-part biography on Benjamin Franklin on November 19 and 20, 2002. The film, several years in the making, offers Franklin devotees a re-creation of Franklin's mind and his world. Drawn from his own writings and those of his contemporaries it is placed within its

context of the major political and scientific events that transformed American life. Scenes are filmed at historic locations in the original American colonies. (Interestingly scenes from eighteenth century London and Paris were recreated in Lithuania with the supervision of historians.)

The film explores multiple facets of Franklin's life. Well known as a Founding Father and statesman, Franklin was also a leading figure in the early struggles against slavery. He was the only Founding Father to campaign against slavery and later served as the first president of the Pennsylvania Abolitionist Society.

Other aspects of this biographical presentation celebrate Franklin's numerous improvements to contemporary life such as the lightning rod and bifocals, and a system of street lighting, as well as the numerous institutions he helped establish such as the American Philosophical Society, Pennsylvania Hospital and the University of Pennsylvania.

This documentary tells the story of the life and times of this remarkable man. As the Middlemarch Films website states, "If George Washington was politically the father of the United States, Franklin – with his earthy humor and extraordinary creativity – is its spiritual creator. He defines his age, an age of experimentation in science, government and human relations. Three hundred years after his birth, he continues to shape our thinking and our values as Americans."

Those attending the Friends of Franklin tour of Philadelphia in September will have the opportunity to meet the writers and producers of this extraordinary series and preview scenes from the documentary. A special interactive web site and teacher's guide will accompany the





## A Page from Benjamin Franklin's Engagement Calendar

In the late winter of 1781-1782, Franklin must have spent a great deal of time wondering what was to come next. After the glorious victory of Yorktown in late October, 1781, he probably hoped that the war would draw swiftly to a close, and negotiations to end the conflict would commence. But by February, 1782, the great celebrations of the victory were over, and there were few signs that the British ministry was interested in peace. Money to conduct a war which promised to continue for the indefinite future was scarce, and in January Franklin received a letter from Robert Morris, the American Superintendent of Finance, pressing him to secure another large loan from the French government. Funds to pay the debts of the American minister in Paris were likewise lacking, and supplies purchased in France for the American military were in warehouses in Brest waiting for ships to transport them to the United States. Franklin's official duties must have seemed especially heavy in the short, cold days of winter. What could he do to advance the American cause? He could not appear to be as worried as he must have felt. Giving structure to his week were his visits on Tuesdays to Versailles, where all foreign ministers were received on that particular day, and his Sundays, when he held his weekly "open house." Early in February he met with merchants to try to secure ships to carry the arms, uniforms, and ammunition so desperately needed back home. He wrote to his correspondents in the ports of France on the same subject. The offers of transport were untenable for a variety of reasons, and some responses were simply negative. Then, a diversion: in among Franklin's mail one day in mid-February was a missive. Pierre-Isaac Poissonnier, Dean of the Collège Royal, issued an invitation to a lecture tracing the progress of the sciences in France from the reign of François I to the present day. It was just this sort of occasion that Franklin used to show the world that the American minister to the French court was not nervous, was continuing to pursue his scientific interests, to keep current with his colleagues in the sciences, to attest to human progress. Franklin also relished a more personal kind of get together, one in which he could visit with his French friends, who had been so supportive of the American insurgents. On Feb. 16, he received a note from the chevalier Kéralio for just such an event. The duchesse douairière de Deux Ponts wanted to know what day Franklin could come to her house. With two sons fighting in the French forces in the United States, she had anxiously awaited the news from across the Atlantic. Now, one son had recently returned home, and her solicitude for her friend Franklin and the future of his country would be shown in the form of a dinner. We know from Kéralio's next letter that the date was set for Saturday, Feb. 23. Just as preparations

were in hand for this event, Franklin's grandson, William Temple Franklin, was making plans for a dinner party in Passy. On the back of a letter addressed to his grandfather dated Feb. 21, he jotted down the list of distinguished guests: the marquis de Lafayette, only a month since returned from America, and busy helping Franklin secure additional military and financial help from the French government; Abbé André Morellet, a political economist, member of the Académie française, and a contributor to the *Encyclopédie* of Diderot and d'Alembert; Admiral Charles-Henri, comte d'Estaing, who had commanded a French squadron dispatched to America in 1778, and who was wounded in an action near Savannah in 1779; Abbé Martin Lefebvre de La Roche, a scholar charged with preparing the late philosopher Claude-Adrien Helvétius' papers for publication; actor Joseph Caillot; and one of the Sarsfield brothers (both of whom held military rank). All of these men were intimates of Franklin, as well as knowledgeable friends of America. We can only guess what they talked about, but Temple was good enough to also leave us a sketch of the menu for the dinner. They dined on buttock of beef and cabbage, boiled turkey with oyster sauce, ham, chickens with eggs, rabbit smothered with onions, roast pork, calves' head, plum pudding, bread and butter, pancakes, punch, and beer. Mustard was the condiment of choice. Sustained by good company and hearty fare, Franklin met with French Foreign Minister Vergennes on the first of March, and in the course of this meeting Vergennes announced that the King had given his assent to a new loan to the Americans of 6,000,000 livres tournois. This was only half the amount that Robert Morris had calculated was necessary, but Franklin, undeterred, graciously accepted, and improved the day by also visiting French Naval Minister Castries to see if the French navy would consent to carrying the much needed American military supplies on naval transport ships. In the meantime, Franklin had been offered a chance to visit the laboratory of Jean-Paul Marat, a philosopher and physician who achieved lasting fame for the part he was to play in the French Revolution. Marat wrote to Franklin, "If you are curious to see a Series of new electrical experiments directed to establish many a principle hitherto unknown..." Franklin thus passed the uncomfortable time until the beginning of the peace negotiations in dogged pursuit of his mission, in scientific inquiry, and in the company of his friends. The story of this period of uncertainty balanced by good fellowship and intellectual stimulation is told in volume XXXVI of *The Papers of Benjamin Franklin*, which has just been published by Yale University Press.

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### ***Franklin's Calendar cont. from p. 4***

Since this is a time when many Americans are facing an uncertain future, as Franklin was in early 1782, we should perhaps follow our favorite Founding Father's wise practice in this matter, as well as in others. For Friends of Franklin who would like to recreate the menu for Franklin's dinner party, the recipe for roast pork, as well as those for oyster and onion sauces are to be found in his papers at the American Philosophical Society. Gilbert Chinard translated them in "Benjamin Franklin on the Art of Eating ..." (American Philosophical Society, 1958), and some were published in the *Franklin Gazette* a few years ago. Franklin would probably suggest that the meal be served to some good friends accompanied by discussions, in the words of Abbé de La Roche, of "morals, politics and philosophy."



### **A Little Portrait of Willy Bache**

*By Claude-Anne Lopez*

Willy was the first grandson that Franklin got to meet as a toddler. Whereas Benjamin Franklin Bache was almost six when his grandfather returned from England in the spring of 1775, a quiet and rather shy little boy, Willy, at two, was all exuberance and daring. "The youngest Boy is the strongest and stoutest Child of his Age that I have seen" exclaimed the instantly doting grandfather. "He seems an infant Hercules."

And what martial instincts! "Will has got a little Gun, marches with it, and whistles at the same Time by way of a Fife." Franklin's namesake Benny, whom he would soon take away to France for almost nine years, was referred to as "a good Boy" but never elicited the same enthusiasm as "little bold Will."

The Hercules label must have stuck, for Franklin's sister Jane jokingly refers to the child by that name. To describe the nascent but irrepressible American Republic, the old Doctor used more than once the image of the infant Hercules strangling those two snakes—obviously sent by perfidious Britain.

When Will was six he had a nightmare. In his mother's words: "he had not been long in bed before he came down in his shirt screaming. I soon sent him up and asking him in the morning how he could behave so and what was the matter, he told me he thought death was coming. I was so frightned, says he, that I sweat all over and I jumped out of Bed and pray'd up to Herculas (sic). I ask'd him what he said, down he went on his knees with uplifted hands, I think I never saw such a picture of devotion, and repeated the Lord's prayer; now whether tis best to instruct him in a little religion or let him pray a little longer to Herculas, I should be glad to have your oppinion." The opinion came back from Paris a few months later: "Teach him to direct his worship more properly, for the deity of Hercules is now quite out of fashion." A few years later, Will was mentioned as having memorized Anthony's speech over Caesar's body "which he can scarcely speak without tears."

He went eventually to study medicine in Scotland, then crossed the Channel to have a look at revolutionary France. When his parents cut funds from home to hurry his return, he cheerfully ignored them, embarked on a French privateer, lived adventurously and came back to Philadelphia full of "new" ideas, soon moving to Virginia to be near Jefferson.

Other than that, all I know about Willy is that he married Catharine Wister (b. 1770) in 1797, and that they had three daughters and a son, B.F. Bache (1801-1881). Willy's date of death is given as Aug. 5, 1820.



### **IN HIS OWN WORDS: FRANKLIN ON POETRY**

**A Exclusive Preview for Readers of the Gazette**

In these pages, we often publish the research of scholars in various fields. In this issue, readers of the *Gazette* beat literary scholars and historians to a first glimpse at a Franklin letter in print. We offer you a special preview of the contents of volume 36 of *The Papers of Benjamin Franklin*, covering the period November 1, 1781, through

*cont. p. 6*



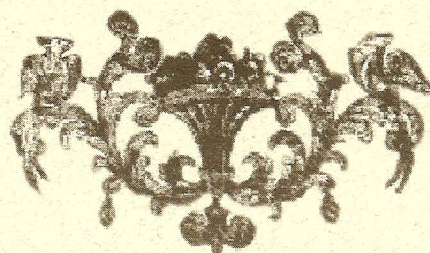
## In His Own Words *continued from p. 5*

March 15, 1782, which is available from Yale University Press. Franklin's letter where he shares his ideas on the purpose of poetry has not appeared in any of the earlier editions of his writings. We publish it here in English, translated by Natalie Lesueur, formerly the Senior Administrative Assistant at the Franklin Papers project. Although the original letter has not been found, Franklin kept a copy, which is now at the Library of Congress.

During the winter of 1781-82 many celebrations of the Franco-American victory at Yorktown took place in France. For those who supported American independence, Franklin was a key figure in the struggle, as the new nation's representative to the French court. Besides the toasts offered, banquets spread, and music played, he received many letters of congratulation from friends, acquaintances, and strangers alike.

We suspect he received so many effusive missives that he had a difficult time responding to them all, but one offering elicited a particularly heartfelt answer from the busy ambassador on February 24, 1782. Jean-Pierre D'Açarq, a former professor at the Royal Military Academy, member of several learned societies, and an expert on the French language, composed two odes after the surrender of Cornwallis' army to French and American commanders at Yorktown. The poems, one addressed to the English people, and the other to Holland, were read by Franklin with lively interest, and he wrote to express his gratitude with a warmth and expansiveness that is rarely found in his correspondence with a stranger:

"One could not make a finer use of Poetry than to restore it to its original design, that is, to devote it to the glorification of deeds in service of mankind and of the men who perform them. For my part, I am grateful for the kind mention you make of me, although I find myself far from deserving it. However, since it accompanies the Ode to the Struggle for Liberty, of which cause I am undoubtedly a most zealous partisan, I will not say that I regret it in the least. Accept the High Praise that your work, devoted to the public good, merits and the great Regard with which I am, Sir, your most humble and obedient Servant."

A black and white image of Benjamin Franklin's handwritten signature. The signature is written in a cursive style, with the name 'Benjamin Franklin' clearly legible, followed by a large, ornate flourish.

D'Açarq, as you may imagine, was thrilled with this response from the great man, and he wrote back on March 11, 1782, enclosing another poem celebrating America. Franklin was that nation's "Enlightened and Virtuous soul". D'Açarq hoped that Franklin would find his poetry worthy of presentation to the new republic, and anticipated that the publication of his pieces would have a beneficial effect. The author expressed his wish to remain anonymous if they were to be published, and explained that he made his living by teaching French to Englishmen, who would be inclined to seek another tutor if they knew their professor wrote in praise of the enemy. The poet treasured Franklin's letter, and thanked him a million times over for it.

None of the poems which engaged Franklin's attention have been located, but the poet's March letter to Franklin is among the good doctor's papers at the American Philosophical Society. Indeed, D'Açarq's poems anticipated the political developments of the spring of 1782; the States General of Holland finally recognized American independence, the British government led by Lord North fell, and was replaced by the Marquis of Rockingham's administration, which opened peace talks with the American Peace Commissioners. Thus, Franklin's letter to this friendly poet tells the underlying story of volume 36 in a few words: the news of the military victory at Yorktown astounds Europe, and eventually contributes to the fall of the British ministry that had prosecuted the war, and results in U.S. recognition by the Dutch. How Franklin will respond to the first overtures of peace is a story for volume 37. Stay tuned!

### **Creativity Award *continued:***

among different cultures. In that vein, he established the Silk Road Project to promote the study of the cultural, artistic and intellectual traditions along the trade routes of the ancient Silk Road. This route encompassed areas of India, Tibet, Persia and Greece and was in use from approximately 1000 B.C. until 1500 A.D.. The project hopes to highlight the heritage of the various countries involved and to identify those carrying on the traditions today. A newly formed musical group, known as the Silk Road Ensemble, tours with traditional music and specially commissioned pieces. The group will be appearing at a festival in Chicago in the fall of 2002 and is also scheduled to perform in Italy. To learn more about the project visit its website at [www.silkroadproject.org](http://www.silkroadproject.org).



## Letter to the Editor

As a new Friends of Franklin member, I was delighted to see in the Spring 2002 *Franklin Gazette* the selection entitled "Virtue: Part of the Curriculum." May I offer the following short piece for consideration in a future issue of the *Gazette*?

### Franklin's "Bold and Arduous Project" in English Composition

In 1970, Harvard researcher William G. Perry, Jr. published *Forms of Intellectual and Ethical Development in the College Years*, a work based on longitudinal studies of Harvard and Radcliffe students. The research argued that a person's ethical system need not for the most part be set in the high school years, but instead was still subject to great change in the college years and perhaps in the years beyond. Knowing that Franklin had proved that he, in his third decade, had effected great change in his own ethic, I constructed a syllabus for first-year English composition students which has met with continuing success here at the University of Cincinnati.

The syllabus calls for students, most of whom are not familiar with the concept of an ethic, to read closely the section of the *Autobiography* in which Franklin describes his "bold and arduous project" of attempting—through his own ethic—moral perfection. Students then summarize Franklin's ethic, his rationale for it, his method for "habituating" it, and his reflections on his "bold and arduous project."

For a second paper, students are then asked—à la Franklin—to articulate one's own ethic, and their rationale and method for acquiring or maintaining the virtues and principles that comprise their ethic. Next, students complement the ethic section from the *Autobiography* with a synop-

sis of Perry's longitudinal study. Subsequently, they compose an essay addressing the question, "What does it mean to have an ethic?"

Over the years, students have consistently been impressed by Franklin's "bold and arduous project," as well as by his method for acquiring the "habitude" of his thirteen virtues, but they have been impressed most of all by learning that the "little black book" Franklin kept with him wherever he went was not full of intriguing names and revelatory social connections, but of his thirteen virtues and his method of honoring them.

Often, students have hailed me to bring up the notion of Franklin's ethic or of their own. I cannot help but think that their study of a personal ethic, both of Franklin's and of one's own, has helped move them toward the balanced citizenship so well exemplified by Benjamin Franklin.

(I am a professor in the Language Arts Department at the University of Cincinnati, where I teach, in my twentieth year, rhetoric and composition. I love sprinkling my courses with quotations from Franklin, quotations such as "If you would not be forgotten as soon as you are dead, either write something worth reading, or do something worth writing," and, of course, "No pains, no gains." Cheers.)

Frank A. Davis

#### Editor's Note:

*We would love to see more comments and responses to articles in the Gazette. We are grateful to Frank A. Davis for providing this interesting insight into ways in which others have incorporated Franklin's views on virtue into curricula and daily life.*

Randy Cohen writing for *The New York Times Magazine* gives us more food for thought on the subject of virtue.

## NY Times Magazine Touts Franklin's Plan for Self-Improvement

Ruminating on the upcoming Fourth of July, Randy Cohen, who writes the column, "The Ethicist" for *The New York Times Magazine* discussed at length Franklin's plan for self-improvement, (June 30, 2002). He noted that it was a particularly American attitude that Franklin believed he could improve his character just as he would improve an invention. Commenting that the virtues Franklin chose were extremely practical and could lead to public as well as private improvement, Cohen lamented that today civic virtue is no longer emphasized and that virtue itself is seen as an impediment to happiness rather than the way of achieving it. He suggests that Americans would do well to follow Franklin's goals for self-improvement stating in Franklin's words, "Tho' I never arrived at the perfection I had been so ambitious of obtaining, yet I was by the endeavour a better and a happier man than I otherwise should have been."

*Ed. Note: Cohen suggests that Franklin abandoned his project soon after he began but some believe otherwise. See "Stump the Experts" below.*



### Stump the Experts!

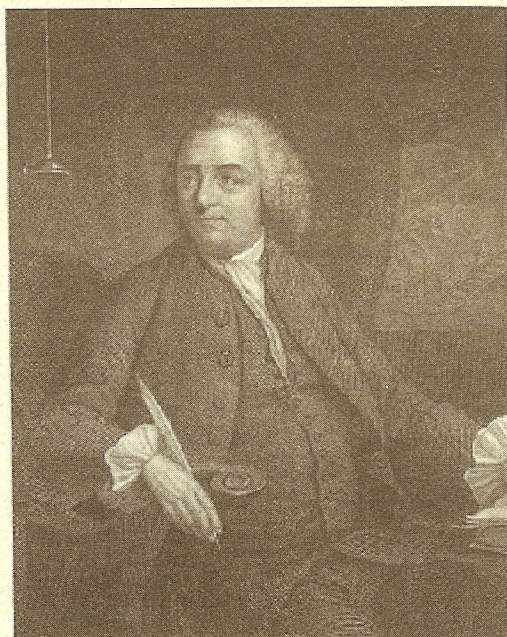
Dr. E. Philip Krider recalls reading an account of a dinner in Paris by a woman seated next to Dr. Franklin. Surprisingly Dr. Franklin ignored her, but she notes in a letter to her friend that as he reached for the bread, ivory tablets fell out of his sleeve. Dr. Krider offers this evidence that Dr. Franklin attempted to refine his character throughout his life, but Dr. Krider could not find this passage again to offer it as incontrovertible proof. Can anyone supply the reference?



## Special Friends of Franklin Excursion

**Franklin's Philadelphia:  
Then and Now**

**September 26-28, 2002**



An exciting program awaits those who plan to attend this year's Franklin excursion. Special visits to the Masonic Temple, Fireman's Hall, The Philadelphia Contributionship, The Franklin Institute, The Philadelphia Art Museum, Pennsylvania Hospital, and The American Philosophical Society have been arranged.

In addition to these esteemed Franklin venues, there will be an opportunity to experience some new additions to Philadelphia with the Lights of Liberty Show, The National Liberty Museum, and a presentation on the National Constitution Center scheduled to open on July 4th, 2003. We will learn about the consortium and exciting plans for the Tercentenary celebration from Conover Hunt, the newly hired Executive Director for the project.

We will also have the opportunity to have four special dining experiences with great presentations. Our Friend, Claude-Anne Lopez will present "Franklin and Flanders" at a Belgian luncheon at Cuvée Notre-dame Restaurant. Claude-Anne has delighted us many times with her entertaining and educational stories of Franklin. Friend James Srodes will present "Ben Franklin—The Man Who Invented Himself" at the Inn at Philadelphia. We will once again enjoy a luncheon experience at City Tavern where

we will learn about the history of that eating establishment during the time of our Founding Fathers.

Then we will have the opportunity to experience the cuisine of the Panorama Restaurant while learning about Middlemarch Films' PBS miniseries on Benjamin Franklin where we will be joined by Muffie Meyer, Producer/Director, Ellen Hovde, Producer/Director and Friend Ronald Blumer, Series Writer. We would like to acknowledge Friend Catherine Allan, who made the arrangements for this presentation and special viewing of clips from this series.

And, who knows what other surprises await our Friends' arrival? Don't miss this event and the opportunity to learn more about Franklin, see old Friends and meet new Friends, and experience the hospitality of our Philadelphia Friends who are delighted to host us. Questions should be directed to Kathy DeLuca at 856-854-7257 or [fof@benfranklin2006.org](mailto:fof@benfranklin2006.org).

And, look for more information on our February event when our California Friends host our next excursion. Keep checking our website for other Friend gatherings! See you in Philadelphia!

## Franklin Papers Wins NEH Grant

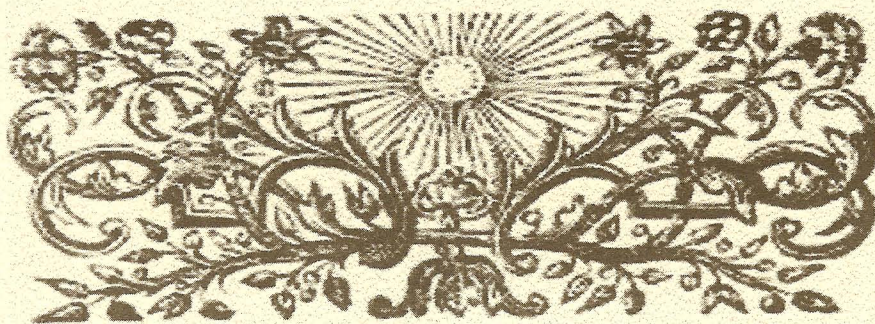
The National Endowment for the Humanities has announced its continued support of the preparation of the modern comprehensive edition of Benjamin Franklin's writings and correspondence by its recent award of a three-year grant to *The Papers of Benjamin Franklin*, beginning July 1, 2002. The \$300,000 award is in the form of a \$50,000 outright gift and a \$250,000 challenge grant which must be matched dollar for dollar. The editorial project, located in Yale University's Sterling Memorial Library, is currently working on volumes 37-40. The series, which has been published by Yale University Press since 1959, is a joint endeavor of the American Philosophical Society and the University.

## Bark Franklin: A New Tribute

Philadelphia and the surrounding regions have a number of sculptures honoring the city's favorite adopted son. A new contender could be considered the top dog.

Along the leafy Main Line suburban streets this summer there are a large number of whimsical stationary dogs. Like the cows of Chicago and the mermaids of Norfolk these dogs have been painted by local artists. They will be auctioned on September 22, 2002, to provide support for the Main Line Art Center of Haverford. Among the various "Art Unleashed" sculptures is "Bark Franklin" by Jill Rees, complete with bifocals. The sculpture can be found near the Ludington Library at the corner of Bryn Mawr and Lancaster Avenues.





## FRANKLIN TIDBITS

### FIRE PREVENTION AWARDS

In this season of dry weather and forest fires, it is worth noting that the United States Department of Agriculture's Forest Service division offers four Franklin awards for improving fire protection in underserved communities. They include the Director's Franklin Award, the Franklin Award for Federal Excess Personal Property, the Franklin Award for State Fire Assistance and the Franklin Award for Volunteer Fire Assistance. While each award is granted for specific purposes, the overall intent is to help states and local communities improve their fire safety and their response to fire fighting by providing needed equipment, technical training and financial assistance. For more information contact the Bureau of Fire and Aviation Management at 202.205.1760.

### BEN FRANKLIN: UNPLUGGED

Actor Josh Kornbluth takes his one man play, *Ben Franklin: Unplugged* on the road. Written by Kornbluth in collaboration with David Dower, *Ben*

*Franklin: Unplugged* offers an interesting and entertaining monologue that Kornbluth himself describes as "a comic-historical auto/biographical mystery." As he learns more about the "real" Franklin, Kornbluth realizes he learns more about himself as well. He credits Claude-Anne Lopez for his inspiration, as he was captivated by *Mon Cher Papa: Franklin and the Ladies of Paris* and *The Private Franklin*. Franklin himself provides the inspiration behind the taped music for the show: sounds of the glass armonica and excerpts from his string quartets can be heard. See Kornbluth's website: [www.joshkornbluth.com](http://www.joshkornbluth.com) for performances.

### FRANKLIN GENETICS PROJECT

L. David Roper is conducting a study to obtain a set of markers for the Y-chromosomes of various Franklin families as readers of past issues of the *Gazette* may recall. Thus far five male-line Franklins have been tested. A study of the results indicates that three different family lines have emerged. A description of the project and results can be found on the following website: [www.roperld.com/FranklinGenetics.htm](http://www.roperld.com/FranklinGenetics.htm). More participants are needed, however, to get a better determi-

nation of the various Franklin families that exist. To participate in the study e-mail David Roper at [roperld@vt.edu](mailto:roperld@vt.edu).

## GOOD READS

### FRANKLIN REVISITED

Take advantage of slower summer days to review and perhaps revise some of your ideas about Franklin with several new books about one of our best loved founding fathers. Friends of Franklin member James Srodes has just published his new epic, *Franklin: The Essential Founding Father*. Entertaining and enlightening it offers an extensive bibliography which will be of use to many for years to come. Mr. Srodes will be attending this fall's Friends of Franklin tour in Philadelphia where he will be the featured speaker at the Thursday evening dinner.

For a more specialized study, Kate Ohno recommends, David Waldstreicher's essay, "The Long Arm of Benjamin Franklin" in Katherine Ott et al., eds., *Artificial Parts, Practical Lives: Modern Histories of Prosthetics* (New York: New York University Press, 2002).

### JUST RELEASED:

*Benjamin Franklin* by Edmund Morgan has just been released by Yale University Press. Written by one of our greatest historians, this new work is being called "The best short biography of Franklin ever written." Search under new titles on Yale University Press's web site: [www.yale.edu/yup/](http://www.yale.edu/yup/).



Welcome and Thanks  
to  
New Members!

**Sustaining Friend:**

Robert Carroll,  
Wayne, PA

**Friends:**

Jeffrey E. Brooks,  
Dallas, TX

Frank Davis,  
Cincinnati, OH

Wilton Dillon,  
McLean, VA

Gerald Holton,  
Cambridge, MA

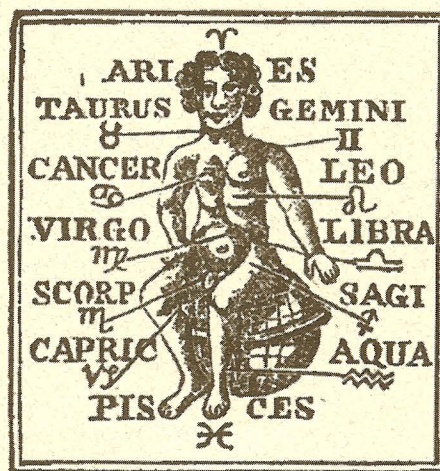
William Kahn,  
New York, NY

Laurie Kahn-Leavitt,  
Watertown, MA

Lawrence Klein,  
Philadelphia, PA

James Pruett,  
Chapel Hill, NC

Laurel Ulrich,  
Cambridge, MA



**Calendar of Events**

**September 26-28, 2002.**

"Franklin's Philadelphia – Then and Now." Friends of Franklin tour in Philadelphia. See article on page 8 for more details.

**October 4, 2002.**

Risk & Reputation: Insecurity in the Early American Economy." Conference of the Program in Early American Economy and Society, The Library Company of Philadelphia, 1314 Locust Street, Philadelphia, PA. This one-day conference highlights new research on how early Americans devised systems to protect their property and lifestyles, thus contributing to the growth of the nation's economy. The conference is free and open to the public.

Preregistration is requested; forms can be obtained from The Library Company's website: [www.librarycompany.org](http://www.librarycompany.org) or call The Library Company at 215.546.5588.

**November 4-6, 2002.**

Conference on the History of Lightning Rods to be held at The Bakken Library and Museum in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Contact the Bakken at 612.926.3878.

**November 19-20, 2002.**

PBS will air its new series, **Benjamin Franklin**. The series depicts Franklin's life from his early days in Boston through his days of printing and civic responsibility in Philadelphia and ultimately his contributions and responsibilities as a Founding Father, scientist and American diplomat.

**February, 2003.**

Friends of Franklin Excursion to California. Visits to the Huntington Library, the International Printing Museum, Knotts Berry Farm, a special tour of the Nixon Library and San Juan Capistrano Mission. For more information, contact Kathy DeLuca at 215-236-0300.

**January 17, 2003.** Benjamin Franklin, Founder Celebration! Philadelphia. 2003 marks the 250th anniversary of Franklin's appointment as Deputy Postmaster General of North America. This year's event will focus on the interchange of information in the colonies and today. Morning seminars will be followed by a procession to Franklin's grave and luncheon.



## *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  
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James M. Gassaway  
Swarthmore, PA

Michael L. George  
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Doug Hall  
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James Hayase  
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Louisville, KY

Frank B. Jones  
Bloomington, IN

Daniel Jouve  
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E. Philip Krider  
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Charles Lard  
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Noriyuki Uenami  
Tokyo, Japan

George Franklin Waters;  
Rochester, MN

Douglas L. Whitley;  
Batavia, IL

Ehsan Zayan  
London, UK



## *A Special Thank You!*

Admiring your new membership cards and wondering who was responsible? A special thank you is owed to Friend John Walburn from the Character Development Advocacy of Douglas County in Lawrence, Kansas. Since joining the Friends, John has donated his time and expertise by making use of his calligraphy talents on our annual membership cards. John has penned all the 2002 membership cards sent to our renewing and new members. Thank you, John, for sharing your skill with the Friends!

## **New Telephone and Fax Numbers for Friends**

Telephone: 856.979.1613

Fax: 856.854.0773



## 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!

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Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Amount enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

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Website: [www.benfranklin2006.org](http://www.benfranklin2006.org)

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