

Franklin Gazette

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"Would you persuade, think of interest, not of reason." Poor Richard, June, 1734

President's Message

by Ralph Gregory Elliot

It's curious how at a particular point in time, unplanned and unbidden, different people working independently all arrive at a common theme or perspective out of the mainstream. So it was during the Friends of Franklin's 4-day sojourn in lovely Pasadena, California (extensive driving through which yielded not a single neighborhood in which one would not want to live). The theme was Franklin as a Bostonian, and the effect on Franklin of his first 17 years in that Puritan city.

Bill Meikle, the "Boston Franklin", set the theme boldly with his luncheon talk about how those first 17 years in the milieu of Boston, with its inquiring Mathers, his brother James's newspaper and library, helped form the basic Franklin and inculcated those habits of both industry and curiosity that became the hallmarks of the mature man. That talk, in turn, dovetailed nicely with my talk on how many of the issues Franklin confronted as a journalist, and especially publishing and writing for James's *New England Courant* in Boston, persist for journalists even unto today.

The tour culminated with a discussion by Nian-Sheng Huang, who teaches history at California State University Channel Islands, of his researches into the life of Ben's father, Josiah Franklin, who died in 1745 at the ripe old age of 88. One interesting aperçu was the debt under which Josiah was continually groaning and how that debt, rather than supposed parsimony, may

well have been the reason he had to send Ben away empty-handed when in 1724 Ben sought financial backing to start his own printing establishment in Philadelphia.

Not much has been written on Franklin's first 17 years. The only substantial work of which I am aware is Arthur Tourtellot's 1977 work, *Benjamin Franklin: The Shaping of Genius, The Boston Years*, in which he notes that Franklin returned to Boston "with almost decennial regularity": 1724, 1733, 1743, 1753, 1754, 1763 and 1775, culminating in the codicil to his will in 1789 leaving a thousand pounds to Boston to establish a revolving fund to help young mechanics get a start in life.

The tour was a delight, even with an earthquake at 4:20 a.m. (5.4 on the Richter scale) that, however briefly, roused some of us from our deep dreams of peace. The Huntington Library brought us talks by Professor Robert Middlekauff on what made Franklin tick ("curiosity"); by Dr. Paul Zall, co-compiler of the "genetic" *Autobiography*, and by Pamela Hartsock, who spoke on the four installments of the *Autobiography* of 1771, 1784 and even unto his deathbed, and how each of these played its part in what we today

know as the *Autobiography*. The 1771 text written by Franklin was displayed to us, as were such other pieces of Frankliniana as copies of *Poor Richard's Almanack*. The afternoon, sunny and cloudless, was spent surveying the fabulous art housed in the Huntington mansion and the 207 acres of gardens and plantings. Viewing the dazzling displays of the works of Reynolds, Gainsborough, Raeburn, Romney and their contemporaries, one can easily understand with



Portrait of Benjamin Franklin by
Jean-Baptiste Greuze.

Courtesy of
The American Philosophical Society.

cont. pg. 2

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President's Message

cont. from p. 1

what reluctance Franklin uprooted himself from the great city of London in 1775 to return to his provincial Philadelphia.

Mark Barbour gave us a fascinating morning at his International Printing Museum in Carson, discussing the evolution of printing and demonstrating how various generations of presses worked. Ron Coleman spoke to us about Franklin and the history of firefighting in America. Stuart Green spoke to us on Franklin and the origin of modern medical research and the role that Franklin's investigation of Mesmer played in that scenario. And, for good measure, we visited one of the fabled California missions, San Gabriel.

One could not help but be impressed on this tour with the rich treasure of talent that resides in our members. Bob Middlekauff, Stuart Green and Pam Hartsock are life members, while Mark Barbour, Ron Coleman, Bill Meikle and Nian -Sheng Huang are members. The fund of knowledge about and insight into Franklin possessed right within our own ranks by our members is a jewel beyond price, and represents a significant contribution this organization can make to a meaningful and intellectually rigorous and honest tercentenary celebration of Ben's birth.

As our colleagues reviewed for us various aspects of Ben's life, I was reminded once again of the superb chronology of that life compiled for us by another remarkable Friend; founding member Frank Jones. Hoosier extraordinaire and long-time development sparkplug of Indiana University, Frank put together a substantial journey through the life of Franklin which is still available, albeit in dwindling

supply, from the Friends. This organization was made by people like Frank, and we are fortunate to have shared our common interest in Franklin with him.

Ellen Cohn tells me that Volume 37's publication is imminent, and we await it with eager anticipation. Ed Morgan enthralled a hundred or so Franklin aficionados with his Birthday talk at our New Haven luncheon January 18. Gordon Wood's fascinating talk this winter at the APS on the "Americanization of Benjamin Franklin" piques everyone's curiosity about his forthcoming book on the great man. Franklin also gets high marks from Bernard Bailyn in his recently-published collection of "sketches" entitled *To Begin the World Anew: The Genius and Ambiguities of the American Founders*.

When her father told her he was attending a birthday luncheon in Philadelphia January 17 for Benjamin Franklin, nine-year-old Molly Covalleski of that city pondered for a moment and then asked "Is that the man who invented the bridge" linking her city to New Jersey? No, Molly, that was one feat our Ben did not get around to accomplishing. But as America's attention is increasingly drawn to this remarkable man as we approach the tercentenary in 2006, and as our greatest scholars flood the scene with reappraisals of the man and his times, Molly and her friends will come to appreciate that however mighty and imposing a bridge of steel may be, the contributions of the man whose memory it honors are of a quality and substance that will endure long after the artifacts of our time dissolve into obsolescence or crumble from the ravages of time.



Franklin Feted in Philadelphia

Despite frigid weather and snow on the ground more than 150 people gathered in Philadelphia on January 17, 2003, to commemorate Franklin's 297th birthday and the 250th anniversary of his appointment as Deputy Postmaster General of North America. Seminars at the American Philosophical Society's Franklin Hall began the day's events. Friend James Srodes spoke entertainingly and informatively on "Franklin and his Internet: the Printing Press and the Post Office." Gordon Morison, former assistant Postmaster General and now a consultant and the Executive Director of the 2006 World Philatelic Exhibition lectured on the history of stamps showing images of rare and wonderful stamps and first day covers. Franklin appears on many examples of American stamps.

A procession to Franklin's grave was led by representatives of Philadelphia organizations he founded or was affiliated with, including the University of Pennsylvania, the Philadelphia Contributionship, Pennsylvania Hospital and the American Philosophical Society, the Carpenters' Company of

Philadelphia, Historic Bartram's Garden and other interested guests. Many Friends of Franklin were in attendance. At the Christ Church graveyard the Reverend Timothy Stafford and B. Franklin Reinauer, chairman of the Benjamin Franklin, Founder Celebration spoke and a wreath and branches of Franklania were laid on Franklin's grave.

The keynote speaker at the luncheon, and this year's recipient of the Franklin Founder bowl was John E. Potter, Postmaster General of the United States. John Potter's speech, "The Transformation of a Legacy" alluded to the need for innovation and ingenuity in the postal system both in Franklin's time and our own. He recounted the tale of Franklin arriving at a crowded inn after a long day inspecting post offices, tired, cold and longing for a seat at the crowded fireplace. He called a stable boy and in a loud voice handed him a coin, asking him to get a bucket of oysters for his horse. With that the room emptied, the crowd eager to see a horse eating oysters. Upon their return, there was Franklin, his feet toasting in front of the flames!

Moving to the present day, Mr. Potter recounted the steps he and his management team have taken to ensure that the postal system changes in response to its times. He has recently presented to Congress his new "Transformation Plan" for the postal system to enable it to better face today's challenges which range from competition with fax machines, e-mail, and alternative delivery systems to bio-terrorist threats. It was in recognition of the tremendous strides the United States Postal System has made since the days of Franklin and Mr. Potter's successful handling of its myriad challenges that the Franklin Celebration Committee awarded to Mr. Potter the coveted Franklin Founder bowl.

A special cover was issued for this event and Post Office employees cancelled both covers and programs for interested guests. The luncheon ended, as usual, with the spirit and enthusiasm of Franklin. Friend Ralph Archbold, speaking as Franklin, led the crowd in a final "Huzzah!"



New Haven Birthday Celebration a Success

On January 18, nearly 100 official and unofficial Friends of Franklin, hailing from various locations as distant as Toronto, gathered in New Haven to celebrate, albeit belatedly, the 297th anniversary of Franklin's birth. The festivities began before noon at the New Haven Lawn Club, where arriving guests had the chance to enjoy a cocktail and meet each other prior to the banquet. After feasting on salmon and filet mignon, the assembled Friends turned to the heart of the festivities: a talk about Franklin by Yale's Sterling Professor of History Emeritus, Edmund Morgan. The quality of the company and the savor of the repast were surpassed only by the lucid and delightfully fresh lecture, which followed the meal. Ralph Elliot offered a brief introduction to the lecture, during which he also took time to identify and applaud the devoted efforts of the individuals in attendance who represented, and continue to painstakingly produce, the Papers of Benjamin Franklin. The ever-humble Morgan then approached the podium. If "Half Wits talk much and say little," as the *Poor Richard Improved* of 1748 suggests, then we must accord Morgan a full measure, for in a matter of minutes, and with few pages of well chosen words, he managed to paint a vivid picture, not only of the scope, versatility, and keen depth of Franklin's influential genius, but also of the com-

elling reasons we continue to delve into the history of that seminal period in the history of the world. Afterwards, in testimony to overwhelmingly favorable reception of Morgan's insights, a seemingly endless line of people waited for the esteemed speaker to sign their copy of his eponymously titled biography of *Benjamin Franklin*. However, for many of the Friends present, this did not conclude the day's events, for the Franklin Collection (home to the Franklin Papers) had opened its doors to all interested parties, providing a rare chance to examine firsthand the materials and processes by which one of the superlative historical monuments of the century is gradually brought into being. "I find I love Company, Chat, a Laugh, a Glass, and even a Song, as well as ever; and at the same Time relish better than I us'd to do, the grave Observations and wise Sentences of old Men's Conversation..." Franklin wrote to his old friend Hugh Roberts in 1761. Perhaps, then, the only item lacking in this year's celebration was a song. Something to think about for next year.

Aidan McGlaze, Editorial Assistant for the Cumulative Index, *The Papers of Benjamin Franklin*

The United States Postal Service: Then and Now

In 1753 King George III appointed Benjamin Franklin Deputy Postmaster General of North America along with William Hunter, Postmaster of Williamsburg, Virginia. Franklin immediately initiated changes to increase the efficiency and safety of communication between Americans. He had a long time to think about these changes; 15 years earlier he was the postmaster of Philadelphia. This wasn't a full-time job

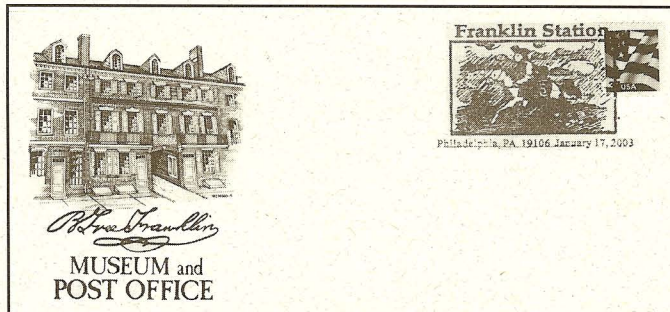
and he continued to publish *The Pennsylvania Gazette*. Both the *Gazette* and Franklin depended on the rapid and safe delivery of news and information and he continued to maintain a keen interest in mail delivery. He began the inspection of post offices, had new surveys made, and established new, shorter routes. Riders began to carry the mail at night between New York and Philadelphia, shortening travel time. In 1760 Franklin could report a surplus in operating revenues. By the time he left office in 1774 mail was carried from Maine to Florida and New York to Canada, as well as to England on regular schedules. His

appointment ended as colonial unrest grew and Franklin spent much time abroad. However, in 1775 at the request of the newly created

and women who deliver over 200 billion pieces of mail a year to 127 million households and twelve million businesses. Mail is delivered by air and rail as well as by land and sea. Stamps, introduced in 1847, are a commonplace necessity and sold at bank machines and supermarkets as well as the local post office.

More information on the history of the United States Postal Service can be found

on the USPS web site: www.usps.com. A special museum has been dedicated to postal history, The National Postal Museum, which is part of the Smithsonian. It is located on Massachusetts Avenue and it too has a web site: <http://www.postal-museum.si.edu/>, which includes descriptions of its exhibits and collections. Those further interested in the history of stamps and stamp collecting may wish to contact: The American Philatelic Society, 100 Oakwood Ave., P.O. Box 8000, State College, PA 16803, Phone: 814-237-3803 or visit the Society's web site: <http://www.stamps.org>.



Continental Congress he chaired a committee to investigate the establishment of an American postal system and the Congress subsequently appointed him the first Postmaster General. Franklin served in this position until November 7, 1776. These were the beginnings of the United States Postal Service as we know it today. It still wasn't large. By 1780 there were 26 post riders, a Postmaster General, a Secretary/Comptroller, three surveyors and one Inspector of Dead Letters.

In contrast the United States Postal Service today employs 750,000 men

Christ Church Burial Ground Reopens for Visitors

On April 28, 2003, visitors will once more be able to view Franklin's grave from within the centuries-old Christ Church graveyard, at Fifth and Arch streets, which first opened in 1719. The Church closed the burial ground in 1976, as the Bicentennial drew to a close, fearful that the crumbling headstones could not sustain further damage. The graveyard opened only for special events such as the celebration of Franklin's birthday on January 17. The Christ Church Preservation Trust raised \$400,000 to stabilize and preserve these memorials. Weeds have been cleared and preservation experts, Jean K. Wolf and John Carr, reconstructed nearly 165 gravestones



and markers. More than 4,000 people are thought to be buried here. In addition to Benjamin Franklin and his family, Francis Hopkinson, George Ross and Joseph Hewes, three other Signers of the Declaration of Independence are buried here as well as scores of lesser-known Philadelphians. Guides hope to tell their stories as well. The burial ground will be open for individual strollers as well as guided tours.

Graveside ceremony, January 17, 2003.

"A Striking Likeness"

by Kate Ohno

Forty years ago art historian Charles Coleman Sellers published his magisterial study, *Benjamin Franklin in Portraiture* (New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 1962). His goals are spelled out in the first paragraph of the preface, "My purpose in this study has been to define the appearance and character of Benjamin Franklin as revealed in portraiture. A secondary aim has been to show something of the historical role of the portraits themselves in spreading his fame and sustaining the philosophy, the policies, and the nation he represented. My interest has been both in the man and the symbol." Sellers worked on his study for a full ten years, and in his catalogue he presented a summary of what he called "the matrix portraits," those done in Franklin's lifetime, from which all others have derived. Sellers proclaimed that he would not treat all portraits of Franklin in his study, although he did include "certain authoritative contemporary works not from life." Nevertheless, Sellers' book is the Bible for anyone interested in depictions of Franklin, and in it he included many of the works done during Franklin's lifetime.



When I discovered a 1782 letter describing "an extreme good bust of Dr Franklin ... from an original" I immediately consulted Sellers' book to see if he identified the likeness. In that I was disappointed. The letter*, written by Martha Drennan McTier (1742-1837) to her husband, Belfast merchant Samuel McTier (1742-1795), recounts her discovery of Franklin's likeness in a bookseller's shop. The "bust" was a copy made by a local bookseller, a "Mr. Wilson". Wilson claimed acquaintance with the great man himself, who had visited Wilson's father's home. Martha McTier, writing from St. Andrews, Scotland, "felt a pleasure in rescuing the venerable head from a land unworthy of such an honour". Mrs. McTier and her husband were active in the Patriot party in Ireland, which had warmed to Franklin's defense of liberty, and she was the sister of William Drennan, who would achieve notoriety among the United Irishmen.

So who was this bookseller, and from which original did he copy the likeness? Wilson is a common name, but the most likely candidate for Mr. Wilson's father is typefounder and professor of astronomy Alexander Wilson (1714-1786), whose typefoundry Franklin visited in 1759, the same year in which he received an honorary degree from the University of St. Andrews. Could the image have been generated as a celebration of the conferring of the L.L.D. degree? Sellers believes this is unlikely. Although by 1782 a great many likenesses of Franklin were in circulation, the main candidate for the "bust" is not what most of us would identify as a bust. In the eighteenth century, the term "bust" was also used to describe a bust length medallion. The "matrix portrait" for Wilson's "bust" was probably Isaac Gosset's profile of Franklin, which was sculpted c. 1766, when Franklin was also posing for David Martin's well-known "Thumb Portrait". The wax profile was copied in ceramic by both Josiah Wedgwood and James Tassie, and an unsigned uniface medal in bronze was also produced. Sellers tells us that the Wedgwood medallions "were a primary historical factor in maintaining Franklin's reputation in England during the critical years of the war and in echoing his fame more lately and broadly". Franklin's reputation was certainly in question in Britain during the Revolution, and a scathing attack in the *Political Magazine* (1780), was illustrated with another well-known portrait of Franklin, an engraving made from a 1778 porcelain profile medallion produced at the Sèvres factory. But despite the ubiquity of the Sèvres medallion, and other busts of Franklin produced during the war years in France, the Gosset profile seems the likeliest source for McTier's "striking likeness". Franklin's great friend Polly Hewson owned one of Gosset's wax profiles of Franklin. It is now at the American Philosophical Society, which acquired it from her descendant, and it is shown above.

Martha McTier intended the likeness of Franklin for a gift for Alexander Henry Haliday (1728?-1802), a Belfast clergyman who was also a moving force in the struggle for Irish autonomy, and an intimate friend of Irish statesman Lord Charlemont. Perhaps Wilson's copy of Franklin's portrait still exists in Belfast?

*Martha McTier's letter is published in Jean Agnew, ed., *The Drennan-McTier Letters 1776-1793* (3 vols., [Dublin], 1998), i, 63.

The Interception of Franklin's Correspondence in 1784

By James Kelly

The presence among the Irish papers of Britain's youngest prime minister, William Pitt the Younger (1759-1806), of copies of three letters addressed to Benjamin Franklin is both unexpected and surprising. These letters are in the safekeeping of the Public Record Office at Kew, London, but, as if to heighten the mystery generated by their presence, copies of these copies, made at the behest of Pitt's early biographer Bishop Sir George Pretymann Tomline (1750-1827), can be found with his papers which are in the Suffolk Record Office at Ipswich. Significantly, the three letters date from the autumn of 1784, when Franklin no longer posed any threat to British strategic or diplomatic interests. More pertinently, all were written by the Irish political radical Sir Edward Newenham (1734-1814), whose correspondence was intercepted and copied by the Post Office in the autumn of 1784 on the instructions both of the prime minister and of the Crown's representative in Ireland, the Lord Lieutenant, the Duke of Rutland. This action was prompted by the unease ministers and officials in Britain and Ireland entertained that Newenham was embarked (with others) on a conspiracy to encourage the French to intervene in Ireland in order to further his own political ends. Since this was not the case, his correspondence with Benjamin Franklin casts no light on the matter, though the letters are otherwise revealing of his attitudes and concerns at this point. Nonetheless, since Newenham had been an enthusiastic supporter of the cause of the American colonists during the war for independence and had been suspected of disloyalty arising out of his regular contact with Franklin

at Passy, it is not surprising that the letters that passed between the two men were among the small number of fully recorded aspects of Newenham's intercepted correspondence.

Though they did not enjoy what could be termed a friendship, Sir Edward Newenham and Benjamin Franklin corresponded with reasonable regularity during the last twelve years of Franklin's life. The fact that the bulk of the letters they exchanged during that time were written by Newenham is indicative of the latter's eagerness to retain Franklin's favour, but the relationship was not always one-sided. Indeed, when they first made direct contact in 1779, Franklin was as eager as his Irish admirer to establish a clear line of communication. The primary reason for this was Newenham's reputation as an outspoken critic of the policies of the government of Lord North with respect to the American colonies. Newenham also attracted positive notice for aiding American prisoners of war (Ethan Allan most notably) that were held in Ireland, which was not the sort of conduct generally expected of members of the Irish parliament for the prestigious constituency of County Dublin. Despite their shared enthusiasm for the American cause, there is no evidence to suggest that they had any direct contact before January 1779 when Newenham appealed to Franklin from Marseilles, where he had travelled for personal reasons, to intervene on his behalf to secure a residence permit. Franklin obliged, and he was further forthcoming in May when Newenham requested 'a protection against any American ships of war' (Franklin Papers, xxix, 471-

2) that he might encounter on his return to Ireland. Since Franklin had but recently learned that Newenham had not fulfilled a promise he had made to communicate a memorial on behalf of a number of aspiring Belfast manufacturers who wished to emigrate to America, the readiness with which he overlooked Newenham's transgression and supplied the requested documents is surprising. It makes sense, however, when one realises that Franklin entertained hopes that Newenham could be of use to the Franco-American cause in the war against Great Britain. Indeed, Franklin even suggested that Edward Bancroft, who had served him for a time and who was recruited by the Marquis de Lafayette to travel to Ireland to promote 'revolution' there, should meet up with Newenham at Ostend. Lafayette urged caution, and his circumspection proved well-founded as it later emerged that Bancroft was a double agent in the pay of the British.

Since Newenham was quite unaware of Franklin's attempt to enmesh him in a diplomatic intrigue that must have caused him considerable political problems at home had it come to pass, he was happy to remain in contact with a man he deeply admired. Indeed, whereas virtually anybody else would have kept the connection quiet, the incautious manner in which Newenham trumpeted that he enjoyed the confidence of the American leadership caused the secretary of state, Lord Hillsborough, to order that he should be watched in the spring of 1781. Nothing incriminating was discovered, but Newenham's pro-American activities continued to provide cause for official concern.

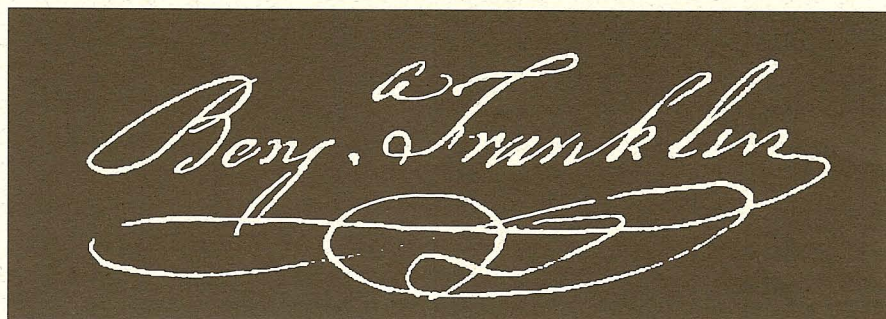
Given the course of the war in America, it was understandable that officials in Britain and Ireland should look with unease upon Newenham's decision to visit Franklin at Passy on a further trip to France in 1782-83. Newenham, by contrast, entertained no reservations, and the warm reception he was accorded seemed ample vindication. Indeed, he concluded that Franklin was a firm and fast friend when, had he been more alert, he might have noted that the American representative retained hopes that he might yet be of use to America as Britain and the colonists negotiated a peace treaty.

In practice, the Anglo-American negotiations concluded with no input from Newenham. Nonetheless, following his return to Dublin in the late summer of 1783, he contrived, initially with Franklin's support, to make an issue in the House of Commons of Ireland's inclusion in the treaty. This caused the Irish administration some unease, but despite Newenham's preparedness to read extracts from Franklin's letters to him into the record of the House of Commons in an attempt to animate a response in Ireland, he was unsuccessful. This ethically doubtful action might, in other circumstances, have provoked a breach between the two men, whereas the correspondence was to continue for the remainder of Franklin's life. That this was so was due largely to Newenham since his letters were both more numerous and considerably longer than those he received in reply. Newenham accepted this in part because he was hopeful that Franklin (and the other American leaders – George Washington and John Jay – with whom he also maintained a correspondence) would help him secure positions for his younger sons in the American consular service.

Franklin, for his part, had less to gain from the correspondence, though Newenham's letters did serve the useful purpose throughout the 1780s of providing him with a detailed, if occasionally idiosyncratic, perspective on contemporary Irish, Anglo-Irish and on European society and politics. They are also deeply revealing of Newenham's attitudes, and it was this that encouraged the British and Irish executives to authorize their interception in the second half of 1784. Alarmed by an upsurge of politically motivated disorder on the streets of Dublin and persuaded that Newenham – for long the *eminent grise* of popular radical politics in the capital – now sought to emulate his American heroes and involve the French in Irish affairs, it was decided to intercept Newenham's correspondence. As a consequence, his letters to a variety of friends and family were copied so they could be scrutinized for evidence of treasonable activity. None was found, because none existed. Newenham's expressions of support for the cause of the American colonists may have been indiscreet at times, and his admiration of Benjamin Franklin incautiously expressed. However, he was fully aware where his loyalties lay and he was never induced to cross the line that separated criticism of crown policy from treason by engaging in seditious intrigue either with the French Court or with the leaders of the American Revolution, not least with Benjamin Franklin.

The three letters from Newenham to Franklin that were intercepted and copied bear the dates 29 September, 9 and 12 October. In common with a majority of Newenham's letters to Franklin, they are full of political and personal gossip, and are highly revealing biographically of their author. Significantly, each of the letters reached their destination, and the original can be consulted in the collection of Franklin papers in the American Philosophical Society. The interception of Newenham's correspondence with Franklin lasted for only a few months as a letter to Franklin from Newenham dated 14 December 1784 was not intercepted or copied. Nonetheless, the existence of contemporary copies of three letters to Franklin in the Chatham papers in the Public Record Office and near contemporary copies of these copies in the Pretymann papers in the Suffolk Record Office at Ipswich of three letters addressed is of more than merely archival curiosity. It emphasizes that an examination of Franklin's relationship with a figure who has been portrayed as one of his less significant and less interesting correspondents is still capable of generating new and revealing insights into his life and relationships.

James Kelly is Head of the History Department, St Patrick's College, Dublin City University. Franklin's relationship with Newenham is explored in fuller detail in his book *Sir Edward Newenham, 1734-1814* (Four Courts Press: Dublin, 2003). It is scheduled to be released this summer.



Franklin's Musical Influence

by Cecilia Brauer

Thanks to the armonica, a most extraordinary experience happened to me. It occurred last August when I, as an associate member of the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, traveled with them to Europe to perform in the Music Festivals in Weisbaden, Salzburg, Lucerne and Baden-Baden.

When I learned that we were going to Salzburg, Mozart's town, I immediately contacted the librarian, Ms. Genviève Geffray of The Internazionale Stiftung Mozarteum, which has the largest collection of the letters of Mozart and his father, Leopold, and also a vast number of Mozart's manuscripts.

I requested to see the music that Mozart wrote for the armonica, which included the *Solo Adagio* and *Quintet*. Ms. Geffray informed me that, unfortunately, one was in Paris and the other in London. She added that the Mozarteum did have 13 measures of an unfinished *Fantasia-Quintet*, including the armonica, which Mozart began in

1791, the year of his death, asking if I would like to see that. Of course, I quickly responded "YES" and we made arrangements to meet on my "free day".

Ms. Geffray took me to the specially designed private vault of the Mozarteum, which is in the basement of Mozart's home in Salzburg. I was led into a small room which housed several glass cases containing Mozart's letters, manuscripts, and also his sister Nannerl's notebook which not only held several compositions he wrote at a very early age, but also a composition that Mozart learned on January 24, 1761, between 9:00 and 9:30 in the evening three days before his 5th birthday, (as noted by his sister).

After viewing these treasures, I was led to a table with a green folder and a pair of white gloves atop. I realized then that I was going to be allowed the privilege of holding the original unfinished *Fantasia*. Upon donning the gloves and holding this

manuscript in my hands in this small, private room surrounded by his genius, I could feel his ghost and spirit. I lost my composure and broke into tears. After calming down, Ms Geffray asked me to sign their book of "prominent people" as she quoted. I was honored to do so realizing that Benjamin Franklin's armonica and I will always be a part of the history of The Internazionale Stiftung Mozarteum in Salzburg.

Upon my return I resumed my performances of "Ben Franklin and the Armonica" in libraries, museums, and schools, which I especially enjoy doing, as it is such a wonderful educational program for students. The armonica was also recently featured in the sound track of the movie *FRIDA*, the story of the Mexican artist, Frida Kahlo Rivera.

Editor's note: More information on the armonica may be found at the following website: www.gigmasters.com/armonica/

DR. WILLIAM W. L. GLENN 1914-2003

by Claude-Anne Lopez

The Franklin Papers have lost one of their most enthusiastic and beloved members in the person of Dr. William Glenn. Not only did he have a great career in cardiovascular surgery, marked by a series of brilliant inventions (an early artificial heart, the Glenn shunt to bypass malformed hearts, a first model of what would become the pacemaker, to name a few) but he was also a passionate student of the history of medicine, and of Franklin's interests and accomplishments. A longtime member of the Friends of the Franklin Papers, he spent time in the Franklin Papers office, poring over our documents, and writing up his findings in the Presidential Address delivered on the occasion of the 1984 annual meeting of the New England Surgical Society. It was published in 1985 in the *American Journal of Surgery* under the title of "Benjamin Franklin: Physician and Philosopher." A summary of this paper was published in the *Franklin Gazette*, Spring 1993 (vol. 4, no. 2).

Bill, who served as our organization's vice-president, hardly ever missed a meeting. I can see him sitting next to his wife Amory, very close, walking beside her, very close. They looked like young lovers and both brought so much charm and warmth to our reunions.

To Amory, to Billy, and Elizabeth (whom I had in my carpool), I wish to convey the deep sense of loss of all who knew Dr. William W. L. Glenn.

FRANKLIN TIDBITS

Good Reads for Kids

Rosalyn Schanzer's *How Ben Franklin Stole the Lightning*, (Harper Collins, 2003), is a colorful, quirky account of Franklin's inventions leading up to his experiments with electricity and the creation of the lightning rod. Beautifully illustrated, the book draws upon sources from the American Philosophical Society, and contains a number of his drawings on the end papers. Schanzer also includes listings of some of Franklin's other scientific experiments she couldn't fit into the book in a way that's engaging to children. It is her drawings, however, which capture your heart. As one nine-year old admirer, Katie Smith, writes: "It tells the story in plain and simple English and it has good illustrations!"



Franklin Sightings

As Benjamin Franklin's 300th birthday draws near, he has been sighted across the country. Principal Eddie McCauley of the Ben Franklin Elementary School in Wichita Falls, Texas, sent a newspaper clipping showing Franklin (in the person of Bruce Edwards) visiting the school on his birthday to talk about his life. Bruce Edwards, the husband of a former teacher at the school, enjoys this annual event so much he returned from his new home in Ft. Worth, Texas to repeat it. The Ben Franklin Elementary School is proud to be a member of the Friends of Franklin. Principal McCauley invites you to visit the school's web site at franklin.wfisd.net.

Robert C. Dewell, a writer of local history from Baraboo, Wisconsin, writes that he has "managed to mention or quote Franklin in several of the articles so you can see

that he is remembered in this remarkable city and state." Mr. Dewell included an article, which will appear in his next volume of local stories to be published this year. In this he speaks of Franklin's work during the French and Indian War that resulted in the winning of the Midwest and Upper Midwest territories for the British and their American colonists. Mr. Dewell credits Franklin's efforts in peace negotiations with the British with helping to insure that all of the South and the Upper Midwest were given to the Americans. The passage of the Northwest Ordinance in 1787 resulted in the ultimate creation of the state of Wisconsin. In an accompanying photograph Robert Dewell is greeted by Mr. Franklin, portrayed by Tom Spencer of Muncie, Indiana.



Fabricating Franklin

The website for The Papers of George Washington (www.gwpapers.virginia.edu) includes a wonderful account of the transformation of the signing of the Constitution into sculpture, which first appeared in *The New York Times*. The National Constitution Center, which is scheduled to open in Philadelphia on July 4, 2003, commissioned 42 life size bronze figures depicting the 39 signers and 3 dissenters from StudioEIS, a three dimensional design and sculpture facility. Seven actors portraying key men, came together in Brooklyn, New York, for a photographic session which brought the signing to life. Stuart Williamson, a portrait sculptor from London, did the heads of key individuals and supervised the others. Williamson spoke of the challenges of the Franklin sculpture, which attempts to capture the qualities evident in both the Jean-Antoine Houdon

bust and the Duplessis portrait. The progression from idea to bronze involved numerous steps involving real models encased in vaseline and plaster as the first step, and the addition of real clothing at the end.

Mark your calendars for the opening of the Constitution Center to see the final stage!



American National Biography Queries: Franklin ranks 11th in on-line searches

When *American National Biography* (ANB) Online checked its databases to determine which are the Americans that students and other researchers most frequently sought information for, Benjamin Franklin ranked 11th with 767 hits from February 2000 through May 2002. George Washington came in first with 5,264 searches, followed by Lincoln and Martin Luther King Jr. Rosa Parks is the only living American in the top ten with 1,228 searches.

The *American National Biography* (ANB) was published in 1998 through the efforts of the American Council of Learned Societies who entered into a contract with Oxford University Press in 1987. Twenty-four volumes were published containing nearly 17,500 biographies written by 6000 scholars. Biographies range from 750 to 7500 words and not surprisingly Franklin's was the longest. *ANB Online*, the online version, debuted in February 2000, and allows searches by date of birth, date of death, sex, occupation, birthplace and combinations. *ANB Online* is available by subscription only.

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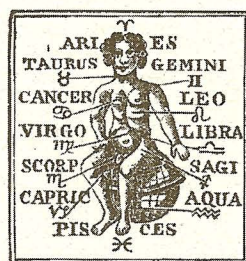
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The Friends of Franklin Organization is seeking speakers on Franklin and various aspects of his life. If you are interested in sharing your research with other members of the Friends please contact Kathy DeLuca at 856.979.1613

Visit the
Friends of Franklin website:
www.benfranklin2006.org



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Ongoing-February 2006

Exhibit at the College of Physicians of Philadelphia, "Only One Man Died: Medical Adventures on the Lewis and Clark Trail." Exhibit explores the medical aspects of the Lewis and Clark expedition. Meriwether Lewis carefully planned the trip consulting with doctors in Philadelphia to learn critical medical skills he would need for the expedition and purchasing medical supplies, scientific equipment and provisions.

March 17, 2003

Launch of ExplorePAhistory.com. New site by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission and the eight stations of the Pennsylvania Public Television Network will provide access to historical interpretation and rare documents and images from the Pennsylvania State Archives. Educators can use the site to help develop curriculum. Visitors will be also be able to use the site to identify other sites of interest and travel information.

April – May 2003

Franklin tours scheduled as part of Philadelphia Open House. Special visits to the American Philosophical Society, The Philadelphia Contributionship, The Library Company, Pennsylvania Hospital, and the University of Pennsylvania are being offered. Contact Kathy De Luca for more information: 856.979.1613.

May 3, August 17, and October 11, 2003

Visit the home of Franklin's long-time friend John Bartram and tour the city from the river. Historic Bartram's Garden is hosting three special events in the next few months in conjunction with special hour-long river cruises. Boat departs from Bartram's Garden and sails up the Schuylkill to

the Fairmount Waterworks and back. On May 3, Historic Bartram's Garden will hold its annual native plant sale. On August 17, 2003, Bartram's curator Joel Fry will speak on the Franklinia. Saturday, October 11, is the commemoration of the 275th anniversary of the purchase of the property by John Bartram in 1728. Tickets are \$15 apiece; call 215.729.5281 for more information.

July 4, 2003

Opening of the National Constitution Center, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, which includes a new life-size bronze sculpture of Franklin, among others. He is depicted at the close of the Constitutional Convention of 1787.

September 19, 2003

"The Atlantic Economy in the Era of Eighteenth-Century Revolutions," Conference of the Program in Early American Economy and Society, The Library Company of Philadelphia. Call (215) 546-3181 for more information, or visit the Library Company's website, www.librarycompany.org.

January 16, 2004

Celebration! Benjamin Franklin, Founder festivities including seminar, luncheon and procession to Franklin's grave. Details will follow.

October 6, 2005

Benjamin Franklin Consortium Exhibit opens in Philadelphia at the Franklin Institute.

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

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