

Franklin Gazette

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

Visit: www.benfranklin2006.org

"Dost thou love life? Then do not squander time, for that's the stuff Life is made of" Poor Richard, June, 1746

President's Message

By Ralph Gregory Elliot

Franklin, again? Well not quite. But Gore Vidal, author of *Myra Breckinridge* and other tomes, has just published a slim volume, *Inventing a Nation*, in praise of the Founders (especially the first three Presidents), and finds Franklin the most prescient of them all. Quoting Franklin's remarks to the Constitutional Convention, read to it by Joseph Wilson, on its final day, he emphasizes a portion he claims is often omitted from biographies and histories: after "there is no form of government but what may be a blessing to the people if well administered; and I believe farther that this is likely to be well administered for a course of years", Franklin continued: "and can only end in despotism, as other forms have done before it, when the people shall become so corrupted as to need despotic government, being incapable of any other." Vidal sees in this latter portion a dark foreboding of Enron and the invasion of Iraq as despotism and corruption have gained ascendancy in 21st-century America. Personally, I think Vidal reads as a prediction of things to come what Franklin meant only as a description of conditions that could occur, not conditions that were historical inevitabilities.

This is always a danger the Founders face. Their words were written and spoken in context. But properly manipulated, with generous dollops of ellipses, they can be invoked to approve or condemn an infinite variety of phenomena today in ways the eighteenth-century speaker and writer could never have imagined. Those of us who form a Praetorian Guard around the memory of our Founders and the integrity of what they said and did would do well to be constantly vigilant lest their names, words and

deeds be perverted for personal and possibly unworthy ends by those today with hidden agendas who seek the borrowed lustre of a Founder's name.

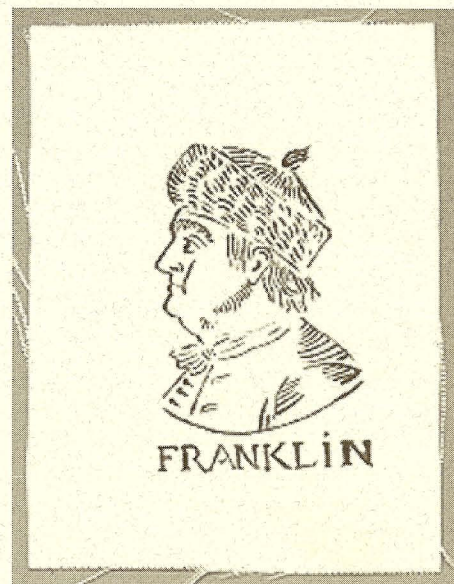
A goodly number of Friends spent three glorious days touring Annapolis October 30 - November 1. That city, which I had never before visited, is a positive jewel, a thorough delight. Special private tours of the Naval Academy, historic homes, the State Capitol (briefly our nation's capital, where Washington resigned his commission and the Treaty of Paris was ratified), complemented with interesting talks and performances by the learned and the talented of Annapolis and elsewhere, and an opening dinner talk by Walter Isaacson all made for a thoroughly worthwhile late fall outing. 2003 has introduced me to Pasadena and Annapolis, and I could easily and happily live in either city.

Your response to our Second Annual Fund drive has been magnificent. Thus far, we have significantly increased the number of donors and have reached the \$7,500 mark.

Thanks to all who gave; and to the laggards among you, there's still time for a 2003 deduction.

Our Franklin schools are bombarding us with requests for suggestions on activities they can undertake to fulfill their responsibilities to the community regarding Franklin. Any suggestions you may have will be gratefully received.

These lines are written soon after learning of the death, in Chicago, of one of our esteemed long-time members, former president and good friend, Malcolm Smith. Malcolm was devoted to the Friends and to the Papers; and was always generous with his wise



Bianchi, I. Profile sketch of Franklin on fabric. Courtesy of The American Philosophical Society.

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format) are preferred.

Gift memberships and
back issues are available.

President's Message

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advice and innovative thoughts on ways for the Friends to fulfill their Franklin mission. He will be missed.

And finally, good news on the tercentenary front. Well over a year after creation of the federal commission to plan for Ben's 300th birthday commemoration, the President in October got around to naming his appointees; and the Friends are delighted that among them is our own esteemed

Treasurer, Ralph Archbold, the "Philadelphia Ben". Those of us who remain concerned at the pace of celebratory planning and at the stasis and limited vision reflected in some of what has been planned, hope the advent of the commission may possibly portend more exciting, vital, engaging, and comprehensive plans in the future. Franklin deserves no less.

Additional Franklin Schools

John Walburn, a Friend of Franklin from Wichita, KS sent the names of two additional Franklin schools to Kathy DeLuca who sent certificates and enrolled them in the Birthday Partnership:

Franklin Elementary,
Junction City, KS.

Franklin Elementary,
Wichita, KS.



Federal Tercentenary Commission Members Announced

On October 24, 2003, President George W. Bush announced the appointment of six members to the Benjamin Franklin Tercentenary Commission. Friends of Franklin treasurer Ralph F. Archbold, headed the list. Joining him from Pennsylvania are Judith Rodin, President of the University of Pennsylvania, John Anderson Fry, President of Franklin and Marshall College, and Charles R. Gerow, CEO of Quantum Communications in Harrisburg.

Wayne A. Budd, executive vice president and general counsel of John Hancock, and Jeffrey L. Sedgwick, associate professor of political science at the University of Massachusetts Amherst are the representatives from Massachusetts.

Eight members were appointed by Congress: Senator Joseph Biden from Delaware; former Congressman from Pennsylvania, Robert Borski; Congressman Michael Castle from Delaware; Elise R.W. DuPont, former first lady of Delaware; Congressman Chaka Fattah from Pennsylvania; Senator Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania; and Joseph Torsella, president and CEO of the Constitution Center. Dr. James H. Billington, the Librarian of Congress, serves in an ex-officio capacity.

The Commission's purpose is to oversee the celebration of Benjamin Franklin's 300th anniversary, including the minting of a tercentenary coin, the issuing of a postage stamp depicting Franklin, the rededication of the Franklin National Memorial at the Franklin Institute and convening a joint session of the United States Congress for ceremonies and activities honoring Benjamin Franklin. The full act can be found through a link on the Benjamin Franklin Consortium website: www.benfranklin300.com.

Save America's Treasures Grant Will Preserve Franklin-related Items

by Page Talbot

The Save America's Treasures program (SAT), a joint program of the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities, the National Park Service, the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Institute for Museum and Library Services, has awarded a \$300,000 grant for conservation of Franklin-related items in the collections of eleven Philadelphia institutions. This is the largest collections-based grant award and may be the first consortium award ever given by SAT. The Library Company of Philadelphia submitted the grant application and the Conservation Center for Art and Historical Artifacts will coordinate the project.

The Library Company of Philadelphia served as the lead applicant for this request from the Franklin Tercentenary Project, a consortium comprised of The Library Company, the American Philosophical Society, the University of Pennsylvania, The Franklin Institute, and the Philadelphia Museum of Art. To celebrate the 300th anniversary of Franklin's birth in 2006, items from collections at these sites, and other American and international museums and libraries with important Franklin collections, will be displayed in a 8,000-square-foot exhibition entitled "Benjamin Franklin: A Man in Search of a Better World." The exhibition will initially be presented at The Franklin Institute in Philadelphia before traveling to the Museum of Science in Boston, the Musée Carnavalet and Musée des Arts et Métiers in Paris, The Denver Museum of Nature and Science and one additional venue, with an anticipated total attendance of 1 million.

As part of the Franklin Tercentenary Consortium project, selected highlights from these important collections will be conserved by paper, painting, objects, textile, and furniture conservators in order to preserve them for future generations and increase their accessibility. Many of the artifacts are broken or damaged; many of the manuscripts and printed materials are brittle and unstable. Among the treasures in these collections are the only existing first issue of the first edition of the 1733 *Poor Richard's Almanack* from the Rosenbach Museum and Library, a long-buried stove plate from a "Franklin" stove owned by William Bartram, Franklin's electrostatic machine at the Library Company of Philadelphia, and the last life portrait of Franklin by Charles Willson Peale at the Atwater Kent Museum of Philadelphia. But rather than just focusing on individual blockbuster items, the Franklin Tercentenary Project is interested in conserving for future generations the broad range of existing primary documents and artifacts that offer direct insight into the life, achievements, and legacy of Benjamin Franklin, an American citizen of the world.

Special Hotel Offer

The Independence Park Hotel has extended a special guest room rate of \$119 plus taxes to all Friends of Franklin visitors from January 15-19, 2004 in honor of Benjamin Franklin's Birthday celebration. In addition to the discounted room rate, the Independence Park has offered to donate \$10 per night per room to the Friends of Franklin.

Built in 1856 and listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the Independence Park Hotel offers 36 charming guest rooms, a warm and inviting lobby complete with fireplace, and gracious hospitality all within footsteps of Independence National Historical Park. The Independence Park Hotel offers a complimentary European style breakfast daily along with afternoon tea with snacks. The Belgian Waffles are truly delicious and the afternoon snacks delightful!

Reservations should be made directly with the Independence Park Hotel to insure this special offer. The offer is not valid if travel agents are utilized. All guests should make their reservations directly with the Independence Park Hotel (800-624-2988 or at 215-922-4443) and identify themselves as a member of the Friends of Franklin to insure the special \$119 rate.

Celebrate Franklin's Birthday in Philadelphia

This year the Celebration of Benjamin Franklin, Founder will commemorate his birthday on Friday, January 16, 2004. The theme of this year's event is Freedom of the Press and will celebrate the 250th anniversary of the editorial cartoon and the 275th anniversary of Franklin's publishing career with *The Pennsylvania Gazette*. Activities will begin with a seminar Friday morning at the American Philosophical Society's

Benjamin Franklin Hall, 427 Chestnut Street, where Ellen Cohn, editor-in-chief of the Franklin Papers, will speak on "Freedom and the Press: New Insights from the Franklin Papers." This will be followed by a procession from the Library of the American Philosophical Society to Franklin's grave by participants, marching with banners and flags behind color guards and bagpipers. At the luncheon which follows

at the Down Town Club, Tony Auth, the Pulitzer Prize winning editorial cartoonist for *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, will deliver the keynote address: "Catching the Spark: Political Cartooning in the Twenty-first Century." Performances on the glass armonica will be given by Friends of Franklin members Cecilia Brauer and Carolinn Skyler. For further information or reservations contact: Carol Smith at 856.429.8331.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN AND A MATTER OF LUNACY

STUART A. GREEN, M.D

On October 21, 1787, Benjamin Franklin received a letter from a lunatic. Franklin was, at the time, President of Pennsylvania's Executive Council and the writer was a Mr. Joseph Elam who had been, a week earlier, committed for lunacy to Pennsylvania Hospital's insanity ward. Elam's primary complaint was about the hospital's food. He wrote that he was a

"...Merchant, now Confined in Philadelphia Hospital, [and] has had no allowance of provisions since a Scanty dinner Yesterday and is Threatened to have none but on Terms which he thinks unsafe to Accept.

I therefore Beseech thee by the Mercies of God...to grant me a Safe Conduct (if in chains) to thy presence without delay."

Franklin was, no doubt, familiar with the name "Elam." Twenty-two years earlier, Joseph Elam's older brother Emanuel was among a group of British merchants who, along with Franklin, gave testimony before the House of Commons in an effort to get the Stamp Act repealed. (Another Elam brother, Samuel, publicly opposed repressive British colonial policy in the years before the Declaration of Independence.) The Elam brothers of Leeds were Quaker wool merchants, pioneers in the export of inexpensive woolens and worsteds to North America.

Joseph's 1787 incarceration in Pennsylvania Hospital was not the first time that he was locked up for inappropriate conduct. Eight years earlier, as the result of one of Joseph's particularly bizarre escapades, an ad was placed in the October 12, 1779 *Leeds Mercury* by John Eagle (a lawyer for the Leeds to Liverpool Canal Navigation Company) offering a one hundred guinea-reward to anyone "except Joseph Elam" for information leading to the conviction of the person who cut down the bank of the canal and let the water out.

The following week, Joseph Elam took out a newspaper announcement admitting to cutting down the canal's bank, claiming that a bridge and the canal were built across his freehold, preventing his passage; so he broke down the bank to drain the water away. He complained bitterly about the "desperate and despicable Instances of Cruelty...the Managers of said Canal have done and suffered to mine." He ended the announcement by ranting:

"And in the Name of the Lord of Hosts, and by the Almighty Power of the God of Jacob (for I have no Might of my own) I will chastise them, or they shall come to the Acknowledgment of the Truth, or let my name be blotted out of the Book of Life, or let me become the Scorn of all, to the Loathing of my own Flesh; or let my Memory be blotted out from before Men for ever...."

One week later, on October 19, 1779, an announcement in the *Leeds Intelligencer* described the auction sale of Joseph Elam's one - acre field of land. A week after that, an announcement in the *Leeds Mercury* noted the forthcoming auction sale of Joseph Elam's household furniture. Elam was, at the time, confined in York Castle prison when he placed the announcement, which included more ranting about God.

Subsequently, Joseph was involved in several contentious lawsuits, a couple of bankruptcies, and at least two disownments (Quaker excommunications).

Many years earlier, Joseph Elam lived for a while in Virginia. He attended Quaker meetings in Curles, located in Henrico County. He traded, no doubt, with his neighbors, the tobacco-growing Randolphs.

Before Franklin had an opportunity to reply to the petition, Joseph "eloped" (escaped) from Pennsylvania Hospital and made his way to Richmond, Virginia. There he conferred with then Governor Edmund Randolph, who, on December 15, 1787, wrote to Benjamin Franklin:

"Mr. Joseph Elam, who will have the honor of delivering this letter to your excellency...informs me, that he was arrested in Philadelphia, as a proper Subject for the hospital there, and that he has escaped from his confinement. He wishes to return to your city for the arrangement of some business.... But he fears, that he may be again taken into custody, unless he can receive your excellency's protection. ... I have been

acquainted with him ever since his arrival...in September 1785; [I] have done a great deal of intricate business with him and in the whole course of our transactions found him to be intelligent, and orderly in his behaviour."

Eleven days later, On December 26, 1787, Franklin wrote a letter to the Managers of Pennsylvania Hospital that consisted of but a single sentence: "Gentlemen: If Mr. Joseph Elam, the Bearer, should be brought to the Hospital and offer'd for Confinement there as a person insane, this is to request that you would immediately give me Information thereof. I am Gentlemen, your humble Servant, B. Franklin."

Three months after that, on March 5, 1788, all six doctors at Pennsylvania Hospital (including Benjamin Rush, and John Jones, Franklin's personal physician) declared Elam insane and recommended him for admission. The next day, Elam was admitted to Pennsylvania Hospital for "Lunicy." He escaped six days later. Five days after that, Joseph was readmitted to Pennsylvania Hospital, again as a lunatic. He was discharged in three days.

In early May 1788, Franklin received from Joseph Elam a note which asked Franklin to "inform me who were my Accusers as to the horrid Crimes thou laid to my Charge..."



In mid-May 1788, Franklin was sent a pair of petitions, one from Joseph Elam and the other from Elam and watchmaker William Brewer. The document signed by Elam and Brewer reads:

"William Brewer Watch Maker in Chestnut street between Front & Second street Philadelphia saith that last night above 8 o'clock 3 men came to his house at which Joseph Elam had lodging and inquired for the said Elam whereof he informed me when I inquired their names I was ordered down on which I locked myself in my Room, They said William saith that they told him that if I did not give over disturbing the Meetings they would waylay me and give me such a Ducking as that I should not be able to walk the streets, which alarmed him much".

Elam, as a result of the threats asked Franklin to "...Issue a Proclamation for apprehending the assassins or grant him such other security to his Person as in Your Wisdom may seem meet. If you do not think proper to put the country to the Expense of a Reward I am willing to pay One hundred Dollars on conviction of any of them..."

On May 12, 1788, Franklin finally responded to Randolph's December 15, 1787, request with a three-page letter that read, in part:

"I received the Letter...relating to Mr. Elam and I thereupon gave him a Note directed to the Managers of the Hospital, requiring...that if he were again brought to be confined as insane, they should acquaint me before they receiv'd him.

"Some time after, several of the Heads of the Society of Quakers came to me with a Complaint that he frequently disturb'd their religious Meetings; and inform'd me that his Confinement in the Hospital was obtain'd for him as a favour by his Friends on Account of his Insanity, he being at that Time imprison'd in the common Goal for Breach of the Peace, and for insulting the Magistrate before whom he was brought by spitting in his Face...they had continu'd to bear with the Disturbances he occasion'd after his Escape from thence..."

"I sent for him, acquainted him with the Complaint....and advis'd him to behave more prudently....The Physicians of our Hospital...have given it as their Opinion...that he is really insane...yet as often as I have seen him he discours'd rationally; so that I take it to be a temporary occasional kind of Madness; which in some Constitutions is produc'd by even a few Glasses of Wine...this Gentleman's excentric Conduct has brought him into Difficulties which I could not prevent."

Ten days later, Randolph replied to Franklin's May 12th letter:

"Last night I received your favor concerning Joseph Elam. The testimony against him is so well authenticated, that, not knowing how to question its truth, I cannot account for his prudence of conduct and discourse as far as I have witnessed them....I shall therefore state the matter to him when he returns, according to my present view of it, and doubt not that I shall prevent a repetition of his improper behaviour."

About a month later, an arrest warrant was issued for Joseph Elam by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, based on his lunatic conduct while disturbing and insulting Quakers in their place of worship. It was signed by Chief Justice Thomas McKean, a Declaration of Independence signer, subsequently president of the Continental Congress under the Articles of Confederation and later governor of Pennsylvania. Justice George Bryan, formerly a member of the Stamp Act Congress and also a governor of Pennsylvania, co-signed the warrant.

That same day, Joseph was logged into Pennsylvania Hospital for the fourth time. He escaped on August 10th, and made his way to Virginia once again. There, Randolph showed Elam Franklin's letter, which caused Joseph to become rather agitated: on September 12th, a month after his escape, Elam wrote a two - page letter to Randolph that was a classic example of manic behavior. The entire first page of the letter and one quarter of the second page are a single run-on sentence. The hand writing changes as Joseph became increasingly distressed toward the end of his missive. Here is a taste of the document:

"I believe that nothing less than a Regard for Truth would induce me to make remarks on the President of the Supreme Executive Council of Pennsylvania'...He [Franklin] coolly told me there was great complaints ...He mentions several of the Heads of the Society of Quakers came to him. [But] the Quakers Writings abundantly shows that they acknowledge no more than one head. [so].those he mentions must...be two headed monsters...the Tender mercies of the Wicked are Cruel more so than death....the Physicians of the Hospital ...have been fooled by an Impudent Air Balloon, a Quaker Quack Doctor.

"I remember when a school boy that my Fellows would say: tho' the Quakers will not swear they will Lie....I have experienced the Philadelphia Quakers to be Imprudent Liars.

The President is pleased to say "yet as often as I have seen him he discoursed rationally" and then mentions the effect of a few Glasses of Wine on some constitutions what truly he did not try it on mine rather than judged me contrary to his own knowledge."

Ten days after that, Randolph wrote again to Franklin claiming that Joseph Elam had been frequently with him and that he was not insane. Also, Randolph requested that Joseph Elam be sent to Virginia in the future instead of being admitted to the Pennsylvania Hospital, unless he broke the law, in which case he was to be treated like any criminal.

On November 5, 1788, Benjamin Franklin retired from public life, although not from public visibility, and Thomas Mifflin became President of Pennsylvania. Nevertheless, Joseph Elam kept at it. Three days later, on November 8th, Elam wrote to Franklin:

"As I understand thou has Chosen a private Station I hope thou will take a little time to attend to my Complaint...And request thou will be pleased to send for my Accusers and me to meet thee together in a day or two, and if they will not agree to such terms...assist me in preferring my Case to the assembly of this State...that I may quietly enjoy the

Liberty of a Freeholder and Citizen which I am daily prevented from...my present Lameness appears...have been Occasioned by thy letter of 12th May to Governor Randolph."

Two days later, the aged philosopher penned his reply. It was pure Franklin:

"I received your Note of the 8th Instt. and being now, as you observe, retired to a private Station, I hope to enjoy the Repose appertaining to it. I cannot think therefore of Calling, as you propose, you and your Accusers before me, to discuss Differences which I have no Authority to judge of or to determine. I can only give you my Friendly Advice, which is, to behave peaceably and respectfully to the religious Society you profess to be connected with, especially in their public Assemblies; in which case I am persuaded you may quietly enjoy "that Liberty of a Freeholder and Citizen" which you desire, without receiving from them the smallest Interruption. By giving me no farther Trouble with your Quarrels, you will oblige,

Your Wellwisher, B Franklin"

Joseph Elam died in 1794 at the age of 64. His older brother Emanuel, who had thirty years before given testimony before Commons, was executor of his estate.

To be venerated in one's own lifetime, as was Benjamin

Franklin, demanded a seriousness of purpose appropriate to every occasion, regardless how seemingly trivial. Franklin's level-headed dealings with Joseph Elam confirm his stature as a conscientious state administrator and serve as a model for others in authority who must, from time to time, respond to communications from the mentally ill. Franklin, for example, conducted his own investigation of the allegations that led to Joseph's confinement rather than accepting Governor Randolph's assessment. Thereafter he reported his findings to Randolph in an appropriately earnest manner. Once Franklin stepped down from his public position however, he wisely declined further involvement with Elam's problems. Indeed, based upon the documents here considered, we would today be in the dark about what Benjamin Franklin really and truly thought of Joseph Elam's odd behavior except that Franklin, when he finally put away the relevant papers, filed them, in his own hand, under the heading "Mad Elam."

Presented, in part, at the 2001 Friends of Franklin Meeting, Philadelphia, PA

IN HIS OWN WORDS:

What Advice Would Franklin Give to Gray Davis?

The votes are counted, the voting machines are put away until next year. As always, the losers must be thinking, "What next?". What advice would Franklin give under the circumstances? First he might say, as he did to his sister Jane Mecom in a June 3, 1786, letter, "I am not fond of giving advice, having seldom seen it taken. An Italian poet [Ariosto], in his account of a voyage to the moon, tells us that All things lost on earth are treasured there. On which somebody observed: There must be in the moon a great deal of good advice."

But after this demur, he might reflect, as he did in a letter he penned to John Jay on Jan. 6, 1784,

which is now in the collection of the Library of Congress, that "You too have, or may have your Enemies: But let not that render you unhappy. If you make a right use of your enemies they will do you more good than harm. They point out to us our faults; they put us upon our guard and help us live more correctly."

He might also offer this bit of comfort, as he did in a March 1, 1766, letter to his sister Jane:

"One's true happiness depends more upon one's own judgment of oneself, on a consciousness of rectitude in

action and intention and in the approbation of those few who judge impartially than upon the applause of the unthinking undiscerning multitude, who are apt to cry Hosannah today, and tomorrow, crucify Him."

If your local disappointed candidate is wise, perhaps he/she is to be found reading Franklin. If not, check with NASA for names on the roster for the flight to the moon!

A handwritten signature of Benjamin Franklin in cursive script, written in white ink on a dark background. The signature reads "Benj. Franklin" and is followed by a large, stylized flourish.

James Ferguson's Account of Franklin's Three-Wheel Clock*

Apparently Franklin never wrote a description of the three-wheel clock he devised, nor does he seem to have known that his friend James Ferguson published an account of it. He told Jan Ingenhousz in a letter of April 29, 1785, that he had seen several of his clocks in Paris, made by John Whitehurst of Derby, England. In the absence of any account of the construction and operation of this timepiece by its inventor, there is Ferguson's description, first published in 1773. We know that Franklin's invention predated 1758, because in that year Ferguson is credited with the design of a clock based on Franklin's concept.

"A Clock shewing the Hours, Minutes, and Seconds, having only three Wheels and two Pinions in the whole Movement. Invented by Dr. FRANKLIN of Philadelphia."

"The dial-plate of this clock is represented by Fig. 1 of Plate 1. The hours are engraven in spiral spaces, along two diameters of a circle containing four times 60 minutes. The index A goes round in four hours, and counts the minutes from any hour it has passed by, to the next following hour. The time, as it appears in the figure, is either 32½ minutes past XII, or past III, or past VIII; and so on in each quarter of the circle, pointing to the number of minutes after the hours the index last left in its motion. Now, as one can hardly be four hours mistaken in estimating the time, he can always tell the true hour and minute, by looking at the clock, from the time he rises till the time he goes to bed. The small hand B, in the arch at top, goes round once in a minute, and shews the seconds as in a common clock.

"Fig. 2. Shews the wheel-work of this clock. A is the first or great wheel, it contains 160 teeth, goes round in four hours, and the Index

A (Fig. 1.) is put upon its axis, and moved round in the same time. The hole in the index is round, it is put tight upon the round end of the axis, so as to be carried by the motion of the wheel, but may be set at any time to the proper hours and minute, without affecting either the wheel or its axis. This wheel of 160 teeth turns a pinion B of 10 leaves; and as 10 is but a 16th part of 160, the pinion goes round in a quarter of an hour. On the axis of this pinion is the wheel C of 120 teeth; it also goes round in a quarter of an hour, and turns a pinion D, of 8 leaves, round in a minute; for there are 15 minutes in a quarter of an hour, and 8 times 15 is 120. On the axis of this pinion is the *second-hand* B (Fig. 1.) and also the common wheel E (Fig. 2.) of 30 teeth, for moving a pendulum (by pallets) that vibrates seconds, as in a common clock.

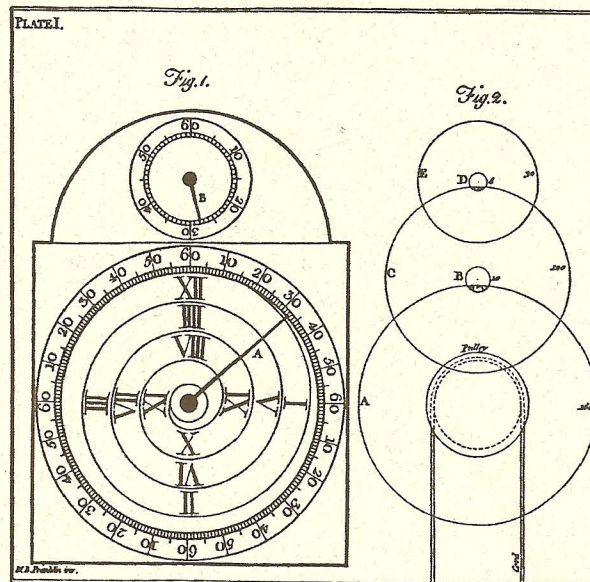
"This clock is not designed to be wound up by a winch, but to be drawn up like a clock that goes only 30 hours. For this purpose, the line must go over a pulley on the axis of the great wheel, as in a common 30 hour clock. Several clocks have been made according to this ingenious plan of the Doctor's, and I can affirm, that I have seen one of them, which measures time exceedingly well. The simpler that any machine is, the better it will be allowed to be, by every man of science."

Ferguson criticized Franklin's clock because it had to be rewound more than once a week. He also described

the awkwardness of reading the clock during the hours of darkness, when one "may possibly be mistaken four hours in reckoning the time by it, as the hand cannot be upon any hour, or pass by any hour, without being upon or passing by four hours at the same time."

An electrically-powered 20th-century version of the design, dubbed "The Benjamin Franklin Clock," was manufactured by the Paragon Electric Company, Inc., of Two Rivers, Wisconsin. Model BFC1-0 had the following directions printed on the back: "1. Eliminate the two hour numbers it is not likely to be by observing the sun or other natural factors. 2. The hour number left is the correct time plus any minute indicated by the hand." "Time is Money" is on a small plate on the top of the timepiece. It was made in the U.S.A.

**Select Mechanical Exercises: Shewing how to construct different Clocks, Orreries, and Sun-Dials, on Plain and Easy Principles, ... (Second edition, London, 1778), pp. 1-4.*



Holiday Gift Guide for Franklinophiles

by Kate Ohno

Gift membership in the Friends of Franklin, which comes with *Benjamin Franklin 1706-1790. A Chronology of The Eighteenth Century's Most Eminent Citizen*.

Video or DVD of the Emmy awarding winning Benjamin Franklin mini-series on PBS. Order it online: <http://www.shoppbs.org>

AUDIO:

The Angelic Sounds of Christmas CD with Cecilia Brauer on armonica/harmonium, Raymond Gniwewek, violin, and Judith Blegen, soprano. Order it online: www.gigmasters.com/armonica/index.asp

Pirate Songs CD with Ellen Cohn (editor-in-chief of The Papers of Benjamin Franklin) singing Franklin's early composition, "The Downfall of Piracy," also known as "Teach the Rover". Edward Teach was the infamous Blackbeard, the most feared of all pirates. Franklin's lyrics were written in 1718 when he was only 13 years old. The CD is available from the New Bedford Whaling Museum, New Bedford, Mass. <http://www.whalingmuseum.org>

The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin: audiobook read by Fred Wayne (1997): four cassettes.

BOOKS:

New books about Franklin are men-

tioned in the Good Reads section, but here are some of our other favorites:

- Claude-Anne Lopez, *My Life with Benjamin Franklin* (New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 2001).
- Edmund S. Morgan, *Benjamin Franklin* (New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 2002). Newly available in paperback.
- Walter Isaacson, *Benjamin Franklin: An American Life* (New York: Simon & Schuster, 2003).
- H.W. Brands, *The First American: The Life and Times of Benjamin Franklin* available in paperback (Anchor Books, 2002).
- Paul M. Zall, ed., *Ben Franklin Laughing: Anecdotes from Original Sources By and About Benjamin Franklin* (1980).
- Alf J. Mapp, *Faiths of Our Fathers: What America's Founders Really Believed* (2003).

AND BOOKS FOR KIDS:

- Candace Fleming, *The Hatmaker's Sign*: the story that Franklin told to Jefferson. Paperback published in 2000. For readers ages 5-10.
- Deborah Fleming, *The Mysterious Ocean Highway: Benjamin Franklin and the Gulf Stream* (Sagebrush Education Resources, 1999).

- Dennis B. Fradin, *Who Was Benjamin Franklin?* (Grosset & Dunlap, 2002). For readers ages 8-10.
- Robert Lawson, *Ben and Me: An Astonishing Life of Benjamin Franklin As Written by His Good Mouse Amos* (Little, Brown & Co., 1998). With fabulous illustrations! For readers ages 8-12.
- Rosalyn Schanzer, *How Ben Franklin Stole the Lightning* (HarperCollins, 2002) For readers 6-12.

Franklin has a walk on part in a new book by my 16-year-old son's favorite science fiction author: Neal Stephenson's *Quicksilver* is the first volume of a trilogy, but the critics say that each volume stands on its own (2003).

TOYS:

There are no fewer than two Franklin action figures! The posable one, mentioned elsewhere in this issue, is available online at: www.odysseytoys.com/ecommerce/control/main

Both have kites, but the one from Accoutrements has packaging that lists his inventions, innovations, and his thirteen virtues, as well as some quotes. Available online at www.accoutrements.com/actionfigures

FRANKLIN TIDBITS

Emmy Award for Benjamin Franklin

Twin Cities Public Television's (TPT) production of Benjamin Franklin, which aired on Public Television stations last November, received the Emmy Award for Outstanding Nonfiction Special on September 13, 2003 at the annual awards ceremony held in Los Angeles. PBS recently announced that Benjamin Franklin was the most watched special of the fall season.

Franklinia Alatomaha reintroduced

In 1765 John and William Bartram discovered an unknown species of tree, with delicate white blossoms. They named it in honor of John Bartram's great friend, Benjamin Franklin and brought seeds back to Philadelphia. By 1803 the species was extinct in the wilderness and all Franklinia trees that exist today come from the seeds John and William brought back to Philadelphia. In the spring of 2002, the Nature Conservancy in conjunction with the Atlanta Botanical Garden planted 10 saplings along the Altamaha River in Georgia where the tree was first discovered. This year another 20 Franklinia trees were to be added according to an article by Alison Schneider in *Nature Conservancy Magazine*, Spring 2003, vol. 53, no. 1.

East Coast Premiere of Franklin's Apprentice

From April 21 until May 23, 2004, the Arden Theater in Philadelphia will present *Franklin's Apprentice*, by Laurie Brooks and directed by Aaron Posner. The fictional account of Franklin's rescue of a young boy, serving as a human conductor in a circus show, and their subsequent experiments in electricity will take place just blocks from where Franklin lived and experimented. This is part of the Arden Children's Theater season and is intended for ages 9 and up. For more information contact the Arden theater at 215.922.1122 or by email: tickets@ardentheatre.org.

continued on pg. 9

Franklin: A World Star Action Figure

Franklin joins U.S. Presidents, explorers, adventurers and world leaders in a new series of action figures by Odyssey Toys. Each comes with a biography card, accessories, period clothing, removable hats and bodies that can bend. Check the company's website for more information on the figures and teachers' guides: www.odysseytoys.com/ecommerce/control/tguide.

Franklin Goes Commercial Continues!

The newest commercial sighting of Franklin came in the September 2003 catalog of the Duluth Trading Company (vol. T23, No. 10) which depicts him in a hardhat holding a hammer as he stands among his colleagues in the chambers of the State House as they hammer out new governing principles.

National Archives' Murals Restored

In 1936 Barry Faulkner painted two monumental murals in the rotunda of the National Archives building in Washington, D.C., The Declaration of Independence and The Constitution of the United States. These renderings of two historic events flanked the Charters of Freedom which were installed in the rotunda: the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution of the United States, and the Bill of Rights. The two-year project which began in November of 2000 preceded the renovations of the building, a two-year project which began in July 2001. The Atlantic Company of America, Inc. undertook the project, working under the direction of senior conservator, David Olin. The murals were carefully removed to a specially constructed laboratory for thorough stabilization and cleaning. They were reinstalled in early 2003 and carefully covered as the remainder of the building work continued. The unveiling occurred in September of 2003 when the National Archives reopened to the public. More information on the project can be found at the National Archives' website: www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/spring_2003_murals.html.



Good Reads

Elizabeth Pascali's article, "Benjamin Franklin and 'Science in the American Parlor': When Science, Art and Fun Were One." *21st Century Science and Technology Magazine*, Fall 2003.

Candace Fleming, *Ben Franklin's Almanac: Being a True Account of the Good Gentleman's Life*, New York: An Anne Schwartz Book/Atheneum Books for Young Readers. Although written for young children this book apparently is destined to please all ages in this beautifully illustrated and captivating collection of quotes by and about Franklin, facts, timelines, essays, jokes and anecdotes.

Walter Isaacson, ed., *The Benjamin Franklin Reader*, Simon & Schuster, October 2003. This volume incorporates the complete *Autobiography* along with dozens of other Franklin essays and letters. Introductory notes to each piece provide the context. An introductory essay outlines Franklin's life and his role as a writer.

Michael B. Schiffer, *Draw the Lightning Down: Benjamin Franklin and Electrical Technology in the Age of Enlightenment*, University of California Press, October 2003 for young adults and older.

Filled with historical details and anecdotes this book places Franklin within the context of the larger scientific community and explains how those early electrical devices worked, what they looked like and what they meant for those who invented and used them.

The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin is being reissued by Simon & Schuster, Touchstone, 2004.

Good Reads On-line:

Neal Lane, "Benjamin Franklin, Civic Scientist," *Physics Today*, October 2003 at www.physicstoday.org/vol-56/iss-10/p41.html. Neal Lane, the former director of the National Science Foundation and a science advisor to President Clinton, has written a compelling and highly readable account of Franklin as one who used his scientific skills to address societal questions and postulates ways in which Franklin would continue to meld scientific and social issues today. His suggestions include encouraging scientists to run for Congress; organizing science seminars for policymakers, strengthening science literacy across the nation, and making better use of television and computer games. Dr. Lane's arguments for more civic scientists would be heartily endorsed by Dr. Franklin and offer much food for thought for the rest of us.

Bruce E. Johansen, *Forgotten Founders: Benjamin Franklin, the Iroquois and the Rationale for the American Revolution*, originally published by Gambit Incorporated, Ipswich, Massachusetts, 1982, is reproduced completely on-line at www.ratical.org/many_worlds/6Nations/FF.html. Using Franklin as his witness, "Dr. Johansen shows us how the primitive, but surprisingly democratic and enlightened culture of the American Indian, clarified the thinking of immigrant colonists and even of the world beyond our

shores...." This excerpt (from the inside jacket) along with others offers readers with limited time the ability to browse different segments of the book and return to read more in greater depth. It is also available in hardcopy as a trade paperback for \$9.95 from Harvard Common Press, 535 Albany Street, Boston, MA 02118.



MEMBERS' HIGHLIGHTS

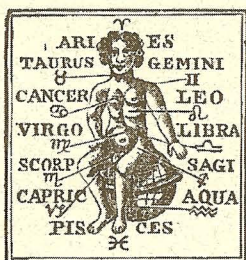
On-Air Junto

FOF life member, Michael Newcomb, M.D. introduced the first progressive talk radio show in Arizona, *OnSecondThought*, on July 7, 2003. The show, intended to balance the rhetoric of ultraconservatives on the air, will invite local and national leaders to discuss current economic and political issues. It can be heard Monday through Friday from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. KFNN, 1100 on the AM dial.

Additional Armonica Notes

In May of 2003 Cecilia Brauer played the armonica for the New York City Ballet's new production of the *Carnival of the Animals* at Lincoln Center. *Carnival of the Animals* composer Camille Saint-Saens wrote the armonica into the "Aquarium" segment. For this production, conductor Andrea Quinn augmented the armonica part slightly. John Lithgow wrote a charming story to it, which he narrated. It was featured in the "Elephant" segment. The *Carnival* was such a tremendous success that it was repeated at the Saratoga Performing Arts Center Summer Music Festival later in the summer. Cecilia writes that she believes that this is the very first time the armonica was used as written in the *Carnival* in the United States. Saint-Saens originally composed the *Carnival* for a fourteen-member private orchestra and stipulated that it not be performed publicly (with the exception of the "Swan" segment). The first public performance took place in 1922, a year after his death.





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.

January 16, 2004

Celebration! Benjamin Franklin, Founder festivities including seminar, luncheon and procession to Franklin's grave. See article on Franklin's Birthday Celebration for more details. For reservations contact: Carol Smith, 856.429.8331 or cwsmith@verizon.net.

January 29, January 31, February 1 and February 3, 2004

Performance of "Benjamin Franklin, Abolitionist," Curriculum Gallery, Franklin and Marshall College, Lancaster, Pennsylvania. See "Benjamin Franklin, Abolitionist" article for more information.

April 21-May 23, 2004

Franklin's Apprentice playing at the Arden Theater, 40 N. Second Street, Philadelphia. Call 215.922.1122 for more information.

October, 2004

"Benjamin Franklin and Italy" tour.

October 6, 2005

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

In Memoriam

Franklin Bache Satterthwaite died peacefully in his sleep on June 30, 2003. Born on October 26, 1914 to Pennington and Helen (nee Peabody) Satterthwaite of Short Hills, New Jersey, Franklin graduated from Philips Exeter Academy in 1934 and Princeton University in 1938. After serving in the US Army from 1942 to 1946, he gained his MA in statistics from New York University; he followed a long career as a market research executive and pursued many other interests both before and after retirement. A child prodigy in chess, lover of light and serious opera, keen sportsman, smooth dancer, boundlessly curious reader, enthusiastic artist, determined solver of mathematical puzzles, tireless debater, sipper of fine (sometimes homemade) wines, devoted companion of many dogs, and strong family man, Franklin lived a long and full life. A direct descendant of Benjamin Franklin and expert genealogist, he also served as President General of the Society for the Descendants of Signers of the Declaration of Independence.



Malcolm Smith (Feb. 25, 1921-Nov. 7, 2003), past President of the Friends of Franklin, once described himself as a "Self-Educated Franklin buff" but to those of us who knew this vital and energetic man he was far more than a mere buff. His association with the Friends began early in the organization's history when his daughter Louise gave him a gift membership. It wasn't long before he enthusiastically accepted the position of President of the Board. His boundless enthusiasm for all things Franklin led him in many directions; his house was filled with Franklin portraits and he was a keen reader of new works on his hero. At a meeting with Ralph Lerner, the Benjamin Franklin Professor of History at the University of Chicago, Lerner presented Malcolm with a take-home exam: write a bagatelle on Franklin. Malcolm took up the challenge and immediately suggested that all the members of the Friends should do the same and compare results. This, he said, was the "sort of thing that might have happened with the Junto". Malcolm did not limit himself to intellectual pursuits; he and his wife Muriel also emulated Franklin in their philanthropy. Personally dedicated to keeping Franklin's name and accomplishments alive in the public memory, they were generous supporters of The Papers of Benjamin Franklin and they worked to enlist others in the same effort. All the major benchmarks of their lives were marked by a request that their friends support The Franklin Papers in lieu of gifts. This decorated soldier, entrepreneur, and philanthropist spent much time thinking about Benjamin Franklin, and concluded "There is still so much to know about this fascinating man."

Many of the Friends who knew Malcolm will also remember his wife Muriel, who, sadly, predeceased him last year. Their daughter Louise K. Smith, 70 E. Cedar Street, Chicago, IL 60611, chose to honor her father's memory by continuing his philanthropy, and requested that memorial gifts be sent to the Franklin Papers. The editors of The Papers are honored to establish a Malcolm N. Smith Fund.

"Benjamin Franklin, Abolitionist" at Franklin and Marshall

An unusual and thought-provoking performance/exhibit, "Benjamin Franklin, Abolitionist," is being presented at the Curriculum Gallery Franklin and Marshall College. Tentative dates are Thursday, January 29, Saturday, January 31, Sunday, February 1, and Tuesday, February 3, 2004. This presentation, written and directed by Dr. Amanda Kemp, raises the issues of how central should slavery be to our discussion of the many talents and contributions of Franklin, and, secondly, how is our commemoration of the past affected by interpreting history from the perspective of those who were enslaved rather than the perspective of those who were slave holders. Through the performance spectators travel through the exhibit, "Benjamin Franklin, Abolitionist" with a docent; as re-enactors from a second exhibit being dismantled, "African Americans in the 18th Century," bring to life that exhibit, providing a contrast to the more traditional interpretations of history. The exhibit is built around seven stations each containing items and narratives from the two shows. To help audiences distinguish between the two exhibits black and white photographs and transparencies, Plexiglas and other see-through materials are used for the official Franklin exhibit. The African Americans exhibit is depicted with brown on brown materials such as wood or tan paper. It is a forty-five minute performance and the cast and director will be available afterwards for questions. The exhibit/performance is free and open to the public. For further information, contact Dr. Amanda Kemp, 717.358.4623 or by e-mail: amanda.kemp@fm.edu.

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on Franklin and various aspects
of his life. If you are interested
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please contact Kathy DeLuca at
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