

Franklin Gazette

Volume 14, Number 1, Spring 2004

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

Visit: www.benfranklin2006.org

"To serve the public faithfully and at the same time please it entirely is impracticable." *Almanac*, Oct. 1758.

President's Message

By Ralph Gregory Elliot

There were two honorees at Philadelphia's annual Franklin Celebration this January. One was the Franklin Papers Project at Yale, observing its 50th anniversary with the imminent publication of Volume 37 of the Papers. I was honored to have been asked to make the presentation to Ellen Cohn, the Papers' Editor, who earlier that day had given a talk on "Freedom and the Press: New Insights from the Franklin Papers." The other honoree, recipient of the Franklin Founder Bowl, was Tony Auth, Pulitzer Prize-winning cartoonist for *The Philadelphia Inquirer*. The luncheon at which these awards were presented celebrated the 250th anniversary of the first American political cartoon published by Franklin, the famous "Join or Die" snake cartoon urging union among the colonies in 1754.

Franklin himself was not a "voluptuary of the First Amendment," in Alexander Bickel's memorable phrase. Indeed, while the Bill of Rights was proposed during his lifetime, it was not ratified until 1791, a year after Ben's death. His writings on the press — principally, *On the Abuse of the Press* (March 30, 1788) and *An Account of the Supreme Court of Judicature in Pennsylvania, viz. the Court of the Press* (September 12, 1789) — were satirical chidings for its tendency to defame.

And yet, Franklin was keenly aware of the power of the press to shape and mold public opinion and policy. From his early days working for his brother James at Boston's *The New England Courant*, campaigning against smallpox inoculation, to his busy days at the *Gazette* in Philadelphia, Franklin saw that measured doses of reason, logic, satire and ridicule could work wonders in turning the minds of his read-

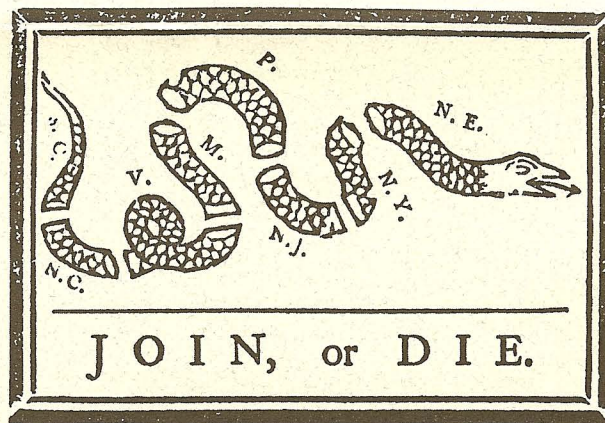
ers. His 16 years as the colonies' lobbyist in England saw his steady, judicious and informed use of articles and pamphlets to tell the colonies' side of the story and seek allies for the redress of their grievances.

America has been blessed since Franklin's time with the freest press in the world. Often raucous, partisan, seamy and tasteless, it has, in its finest incarnations, served its readers well by "baring the secrets of government", in Hugo Black's

phrase, in holding government officials' feet to the fire, in ferreting out the truth and telling it to its readers, in bursting bubbles of pomposity and cant; and, generally speaking, in helping to ensure the fulfillment of the fundamental premise of our democratic republic: that the ultimate sovereigns, those to whom officials must ultimately answer, are the people, and the press has a duty so to inform them of the facts that they can meet their constitutional duties to evaluate government.

With a few deft strokes, Tony Auth and his compatriot cartoonists — Herblock, Conrad and the others — speak truth to power in an unforgettable graphic way. Now more than ever, as legitimate fear of unpredictable terror all too often leads to an unwarranted access of secrecy, fear and concealment on the part of government, we need the sort of fearless champions of the truth represented by Auth and his fellow ink-stained wretches of the press.

When Franklin was asked what he and the other delegates to the Constitutional Convention had created, he famously responded "A Republic, if you can keep it." A free and fearless press is the most powerful weapon in the arsenal protecting that Republic.



Cartoon published by Franklin in *The Pennsylvania Gazette*.
Courtesy of the American Philosophical Society.

Franklin Gazette

published quarterly by:

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Philadelphia, PA 19106

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Publication schedule is
as follows:
March, June, September,
and December

Newsletter submissions
are encouraged.
Deadlines are the 15th of the
month preceding publication.
Submissions by e-mail or
computer disks (text-only
format) are preferred.

Gift memberships and
back issues are available.

Good Reads

The Papers of Benjamin Franklin: Volume 37. Ellen R. Cohn, Editor-in-Chief, Jonathan R. Dull, Senior Associate Editor, Karen Duval, Associate Editor, Judith M. Adkins, Kate M. Ohno, and Michael A. Sletcher, Assistant Editors, Claude A. Lopez, Consulting Editor, and Natalie S. LeSueur, Editorial Assistant (New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 2003). This book, encompassing five months during 1782 (March 16 through August 15), promises to be one of the most significant volumes in the entire series of Benjamin Franklin's papers. Between March and August, Franklin mastered one of the greatest challenges of his diplomatic career by establishing the framework for a peace agreement with Great Britain. The negotiations required enormous subtlety in order to mollify the French while also satisfying the British. Franklin's success was based upon the same strengths he had demonstrated several years earlier during the lengthy search for an alliance with the French government: an unswerving confidence in the rectitude and ultimate triumph of the American cause, immense patience, and an aptitude for one of the diplomat's most subtle arts--creating contrasting impressions for different audiences. A special discount has been secured for Friends of Franklin. Contact Kathy DeLuca for the ordering code: tel. (856) 979-1613 or email: fof@benfranklin2006.org.

Forthcoming:

The Americanization of Benjamin Franklin by Gordon Wood (The Penguin Press, May 2004). Hailed as a "landmark work," Gordon Wood's new book sets out to reveal Franklin the man, Franklin the myth, and the roots of

American character. Wood maintains that our notions blind us to the man Franklin really was, and by understanding his preoccupation with becoming a gentleman, his longtime loyalty to the Crown and burning ambition to be a player in the British Empire's power structure; the personal character of his conversion to revolutionary; his reasons for writing the *Autobiography*; his controversies with John and Samuel Adams and with Congress; his love of Europe and conflicted sense of national identity; the fact that his death was greeted by mass mourning in France and widely ignored in America, we begin to come to grips with "the Revolution's necessary man." Wood explains why Franklin's importance was denigrated in his own lifetime and his image has been distorted ever since, despite his posthumously published *Autobiography*.

Benjamin Franklin's Vision of American Community: a Study in Rhetorical Iconology by Lester C. Olson, (University of South Carolina Press, March 2004). This book dramatizes changes in Franklin's political commitments by focusing on the visual rhetoric of the images he designed to represent British America.

For Children:

Benjamin Franklin: Creating a Nation by Karen Clemens Warrick (Enslow Publishers, Inc., January 2004). For ages 9 to 12.

The Amazing Mr. Franklin by Ruth Ashby (Peachtree Publishers, Ltd., April 2004). It introduces children ages 9 to 12 to the life of Franklin through his life as an inventor and statesman.



Thank You!

Special thanks to all our members who continue to support the Friends by renewing their 2004 membership. Thanks to those who upgraded their membership and to those who sent names of friends and relatives who might be interested in joining the Friends. Please continue to send names of those interested in Franklin so we can make them aware of the Friends of Franklin and we can continue to grow. As always, the Friends appreciate your interest and help.

Franklin's Birthday Celebration: Focus on Freedom of the Press.

Numerous Franklin devotees gathered in Philadelphia on Friday, January 16, 2004 to celebrate Franklin's 298th birthday. This year's event, sponsored by Celebration! Benjamin Franklin, Founder, commemorated both the 275th anniversary of Franklin's ownership of *The Pennsylvania Gazette* and the 250th anniversary of the publication of the cartoon "Join or Die." The unifying theme, Freedom of the Press, was one touched upon by all speakers who saw its significance from a number of different perspectives.

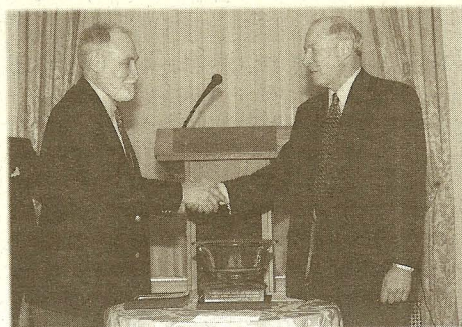
The day began with a seminar at Franklin Hall where Ellen Cohn, Editor-in-Chief of The Papers of Benjamin Franklin, spoke on "Franklin and Freedom of the Press: New Insights from the Franklin Papers." Her captivating talk led many to request that she publish all or parts of it. A segment can be found in this issue: "Franklin and the Philosopher." Despite the frigid cold about 150 members of Franklin-founded organizations, friends and descendants marched to his grave to lay a wreath and Franklinia branches.

Luncheon at the Down Town Club followed, where Carolinn Skyler played selections on the glass armonica for arriving guests. Proclamations from the city and state were read along with a letter from First Lady Laura Bush. The Franklin Founder Bowl, a prestigious annual award, was presented to Tony Auth, editorial cartoonist for *The Philadelphia Inquirer*.

One of the chief goals of Celebration! Benjamin Franklin, Founder is to bring the multiple facets of Franklin's life to public attention. While Franklin's career as a printer is well known, his contributions to the world of editorial cartooning are less so. On May 9, 1754, he introduced a new dimension to American printing when he published the first American political cartoon in a newspaper. His now famous "Join or Die" rendering of a snake cut into segments (representing different sections of the colonies), urged the colonies to unite to negotiate with the Iroquois at the New Albany Congress. With a few strokes



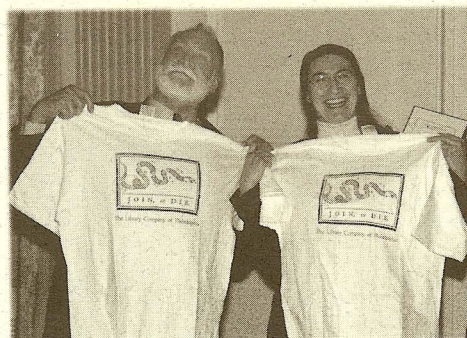
Procession begins.



Tony Auth (left) receives Franklin Founder Award from Art Saxon.



Carolinn Skyler playing the glass armonica.



Tony Auth and Ellen Cohn model their T-shirts.

Franklin captured the essence of his argument, forcing his readers to consider contemporary issues and formulate their own opinions. This powerful cartoon, reproduced throughout the country, continued to be used in different forms over the next two decades, eventually becoming one of the best known symbols of the American Revolution.

Tony Auth, Franklin's counterpart of today, spoke on the issues involved in freedom of the press, particularly as it pertained to the fields of editorial cartooning. Mr. Auth's cartoons (a number of which he showed in a slide presentation) have covered topics ranging from local to international interest and have evoked laughter, anguish or anger depending upon the viewer's perspective and attested to by the samples of hate mail that he read. There is little doubt however that these cartoons caused his readers to stop and think. Franklin would approve. Franklin also would have approved of the special cartoon Tony Auth allowed the group to reproduce for the occasion: Franklin on a skateboard at Love Park in Philadelphia!

A second special award was given to Ellen Cohn in recognition of the 50th anniversary of the Papers of Benjamin Franklin. FOF President, Ralph Elliot in making this presentation, spoke eloquently on the importance of a free press. Appropriately the specially inscribed wax engraving by Donna Weaver, which was given to Ellen Cohn, depicted Franklin in his younger years with a printing press painted on the glass.

A lighthearted gift from the Library Company of Philadelphia, a T-shirt with the "Join or Die" cartoon was given to Tony Auth and Ellen Cohn, as an everyday reminder of Franklin's contributions.

Plans are underway for next year's Celebration and ideas for speakers and themes are always welcome. Send any suggestions to Kathy DeLuca at fof@benfranklin2006.org or 856.979.1613 or Carol W. Smith: cwsmith@verizon.net.

A Special Preview of Volume 37 of The Papers of Benjamin Franklin

Two hundred and twenty-two years ago this spring Benjamin Franklin knew that there was a chance that peace negotiations might be opened. The Revolutionary War still raged; but the British defeat at Yorktown and economic problems had led Parliament to begin to moderate its prosecution of the war. As Franklin explained to George Washington in a letter written from Paris dated April 2, 1782, "The English seem not to know either how to continue the War, or to make Peace with us. Instead of entering into a regular Treaty, for putting an End to a Contest they are tired of, they have voted in Parliament that the Recovery of America by Force is impracticable, that an offensive War against us ought not to be continued, and that whoever advises it shall be deemed an Enemy to his Country. ...The Ministry [of Lord North] not understanding or approving this making Peace by halves have quitted their Places, but we have no certain Account here who is to succeed them, so that the Measures likely to be taken are yet uncertain. ...There are Grounds for good Hopes however, but I think we should not therefore relax in our Preparations for a vigorous Campaign, as that Nation is subject to sudden Fluctuations..."

In His Own Words: "The Good End"

It is in this uncertain state of affairs that volume 37 of *The Papers of Benjamin Franklin* opens. Here we offer an extract of a never before published letter which Franklin wrote a little more than a week after his mis-sive to Washington. As an American representative in the European theater of the war, one of Franklin's responsibilities was arranging for the exchange of prisoners. His efforts were supported in London by his friend William Hodgson, a merchant in the North American trade before the war. Hodgson not only worked to liberate captured Americans from British jails, but fervently wished for peace. Previously Franklin had rebuffed several British acquaintances who offered to serve as go-betweens to try to open peace talks. In late March, 1782, Hodgson joyfully notified his friend of the replacement of the pro-war government by a ministry that would contain several of Franklin's acquaintances from his years in London. In the same letter Hodgson renewed his offer to be instrumental in opening talks, and explained that, "being an Introducer to a Negotiation ... I should consider the greatest honor of my Life." Franklin's answer is below.

The original letter has not been found, but an extract, made by Hodgson, is now in the Sheffield Central Library in England. This letter was not included in any of the previous collections of Franklin's correspondence and appears for the first time in volume 37.

"Passy Apl 13th 1782
Sir

On looking over the Letters you have favored me with, I see several particulars, that have been hitherto unanswered, thro the Multiplicity of Affairs which devour my Time & distract my attention;

You hinted your Willingness to come over hither in case the Journey cou'd be made usefull to the publick; I did not at that Time see any Probability of it—But the Change of Sentiments respecting America, and the consequent Change of Ministry, render it possible; If therefore you continue of the same Mind, & it wou'd not now be more inconvenient to your Private Affairs—I wish you wou'd wait on Lord Camden [Charles Pratt] or Lord Shelburne [William Petty], acquaint them with your Intention that you possess my fullest Confidence, & that if they desire any Propositions or even Ideas, to be communicated to me, tending to the good End we ought all have in View, Peace, they may safely convey them by you, a Passport from this Court is not necessary to enter the Kingdom. Englishmen arrive here daily without any & are not questioned, and I shou'd be very happy indeed to see you."

Franklin did not know that the Earl of Shelburne had already considered and discarded the idea of sending Hodgson as the new ministry's emissary, and had dispatched Richard Oswald instead. Oswald arrived in Paris the day after Franklin wrote his letter summoning Hodgson. The rest of volume 37, which covers the period of March 16 to August 15, 1782, traces the first peace talks with all their ups and downs, and includes Franklin's own journal of the negotiations. The continuing talks leading up to the preliminary treaty with Britain will be detailed in volume 38.



Mapping the Past

by Kate Ohno

An interesting new project was described by Chris Carola in an Associated Press story last fall; a group of historians in Upstate New York is hard at work mapping the original Military Road which once linked Fort Edward on the upper reaches of the Hudson River to Lake George. Carola explained that thousands of American, French, and British soldiers and Native Americans utilized the road during the French and Indian and Revolutionary Wars.

Our interest, as Friends of Franklin, is Franklin's use of the route during his diplomatic mission as one of the American Commissioners to Canada in the early spring of 1776. The American Commissioners were appointed by Congress to investigate the possibility of the Canadians joining with the thirteen colonies, but they also reported on the state and needs of American troops in Canada, and the strategic and tactical potential of the defense of the American border with Canada.

Franklin left Philadelphia on March 26, and reached Montreal on April 29. He remained there only two weeks, and returned home by June 1. It was one of the most miserable periods of his life; the journey was long and difficult, and once arrived he discovered that the American troops were desperately short of food, money, and military supplies. Moreover, American credit was at a low point, and even pro-American supporters in Canada were vociferous critics of Congress. To make matters worse, Franklin's health, even at the start of the journey, was uncharacteristically poor.

It was no small matter even for a healthy 70-year-old to make the trip in good weather, but northern New York in April was still in the grip of winter when Franklin wrote to his friend Josiah Quincy, Sr., on April 15 from Saratoga: "I am here on my Way to Canada, detain'd by the present State of the Lakes, in which the unthaw'd Ice obstructs Navigation. I begin to apprehend that I have undertaken a Fatigue that at my Time of Life may prove too much for me, so I sit down to write to a few Friends by way of Farewell."

Although he feared that he might never return from Canada, his mission was vital, and he persevered. His traveling companion, Charles Carroll of Carrollton, kept a journal describing the rigors of the journey. Here is their experience of the Military Road: the travelers left Fort Edward on April 17 after a heavy snowfall on April 12 had delayed their trip for four days: "We had not got

a mile from the fort when a messenger from General Schuyler met us. He was sent with a letter by the general to inform us that Lake George was not open, and to desire us to remain at an inn kept by one Wing, at seven miles distance from Fort Edward and as many from Fort George." The terrain was hilly and wooded with pine; for a short distance the Military Road paralleled the Hudson River, which runs nearly due north and south between Fort Edward and Fort George. About three miles from Fort Edward they paused to observe the Kingsbury Falls, a 30-foot waterfall from which they saw "the spray arising like a vapor or fog from the violence of the fall. The banks of the river, above and below these falls for a mile or two, are remarkably steep and high, and appear to be formed, or faced with a kind of stone very much resembling slate. The banks of Mohawk's river at the Cohoes are faced with the same sort of stone;--it is said to be an indication of sea-coal. Mr. Wing's tavern is in the township of Queensbury, and Charlotte county; Hudson's river is not above a quarter of a mile from his house. There is a most beautiful fall in the river at this place. From still water, to the foot of the fall, I imagine the fall can not be less than sixty feet, but the fall is not perpendicular; it may be about a hundred and twenty or a hundred and fifty feet long, and in this length, it is broken into three distinct falls, one of which may be twenty-five feet nearly perpendicular... [April] 18th. We set off from Wing's tavern about twelve o'clock this day, and reached Fort George about two o'clock; the distance is eight miles and a half;--you can not discover the lake until you come to the heights surrounding it,--the descent from which to the lake is nearly a mile long;--from these heights you have a beautiful view of the lake for fifteen miles down it. Its greatest breadth during these fifteen miles does not exceed a mile and a quarter, to judge by the eye... Several rocky islands appear in the lake, covered with a species of cedar called here *hemlock*. Fort George is in as ruinous condition as Fort Edward, it is a small bastion, faced with stone, and built on an eminence commanding the head of the lake.—There are some barracks in it, in which the troops were quartered, or rather one barrack, which occupied almost the whole space between the walls."

The Commissioners reported to John Hancock on May 6, "At Fort George we had an interview with the

Deputies of the seven Indian tribes of Canada to the great council of Onandaga: they were on their return home from this council. They informed us that the result of their deliberations was to maintain a perfect neutrality during the present contest: that they had received the hatchet from Colonel Guy Johnson [the chief organizer of Indian support for the British]; but being a sharp weapon and liable to wound their bosoms, they were resolved no longer to keep it, but to deliver it up to us." This hopeful preliminary meeting was followed by a second, less auspicious one in Montreal, after which the Commissioners wryly admitted that the hatchet would not be given up before another conference of all the tribes, and then only "with the consent of the whole, and with greater solemnity. We judged it expedient to make them a small present, and we think it will be necessary to make them another more considerable, when the hatchet is delivered up."

The following day Franklin and his party set off by boat on Lake George. Navigation proved difficult because of the amount of ice still on the lake, and the boats, fitted with awnings, served as their only shelter as well as their bedroom. They did not sleep under a roof until April 27th, when they spent two nights in house that had been so vandalized that they had to sleep on the floor. When they finally reached Montreal they were accommodated at the house of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Walker, the finest house in town, but the deteriorating military situation made the Commissioners' continued presence risky, and Franklin, ill and discouraged, left his companions to return to Philadelphia on May 11. Charles Carroll and Samuel Chase remained in Montreal, but the real danger faced by all the Commissioners is portrayed in their May 11 letter to Franklin: "Our Stay at this place is uncertain: we shall be cautious to retreat in Time to St. John's. We understand there is but a very small garrison there and exceedingly negligent. No Centries posted in the Night." Franklin must have received their warning at that very place. Although there was every reason to hurry on his way, he met with frustration at every turn. He wrote from St. John's on May 12: "It was with the utmost Difficulty I got a Conveyance here, the Country being all afraid to be known to assist us with carriages." He was further encumbered by his traveling companion, Mrs. Walker, who had been his hostess in Montreal. Before the retreating army they went, with "three Waggon-Loads of Baggage, brought thither without putting her to any Expence". As if this were not enough, both Mrs. Walker and her husband, when he

caught up to them, took "Liberties in taunting at our Conduct in Canada, that it came almost to a Quarrel...[we] parted civilly tho' coldly." Franklin observed, "I think they both have excellent Talents at making themselves Enemies, and I believe, live where they will, they will never be long without them." Franklin's other companion, John Carroll, confirmed Franklin's assessment, and went further: "[Franklin] has given you but a faint idea of the impertinence of our fellow travellers. The lady had the assurance to tell us that the Commissioners had advised with and been governed by Tories."

Franklin managed with a heroic effort to control his temper, and his safe return to Philadelphia was greeted with joy by his sister, Jane Mecom, who wrote their friend Caty Greene about the frustrating trip: "He suffered many Difeculties in going was taken sick in a Day or two after His arival and has never had a well Day since. The Raiseing the siege of Quebeck, the Ignorance of the Canadans, there Incapacity and Aversnes to have any thing to do in the war and his Indisposition I beleve Affected His Spirets... He has never layn by but won Day at Newyork in His Return..." According to later letters he suffered from boils, edema, and perhaps psoriasis, and upon reaching Philadelphia he was laid up with an attack of gout so severe that he spent nearly a month recuperating. All in all, he was not the poster child for Canadian tourism.

The Military Road which saw his sufferings from bad weather, ill health, sharp-tongued companions, and the real danger of enemy attack, followed much the same path as the present day Route 9. This busy four-lane highway is full of tourists seeking an Adirondack respite summer and winter. Who remembers its construction in 1755 or its association with the Fort William Henry massacre immortalized by James Fenimore Cooper in *The Last of the Mohicans*? But the terrain and the lessons of the skirmishes of the French and Indian War would not have been far from Franklin's mind as he traveled the Military Road. As he slogged through the snow and muck he would have been remembering the Battle of Lake George and the Indian ambush—the Bloody Morning Scout—that preceded it. Members of the Warren County Historical Society have brought in a global positioning system to help retrace the path of the road, but can modern technology help us recover the pain and discouragement that Franklin experienced there? The remarkable thing is that he continued to support the patriot cause after such an inauspicious beginning.

The Philosopher and the Peasant

by Ellen Cohn

Editor's Note: Ellen Cohn spoke about "Franklin, Freedom and the Press," focusing on Franklin's private press at Passy on January 16, 2004, at Franklin Hall, Philadelphia. We are indebted to her for providing the following story, which was part of that lecture. It has been expanded from the headnote in Volume 37, pp. 611-14.

When fifty-two-year-old Pierre-André Gargaz arrived at the gate of Franklin's residence at the Hôtel de Valentinois, probably towards the end of May, 1782, he cut an unusual figure. He was dressed in little better than rags. His arm was branded with the letters "GAL" for "galérien," or galley slave. He had been walking for weeks from the south of France clutching a long, handwritten treatise. Speaking in the heavily-accented French of his native region, the mountains of Haute-Provence, he asked for an audience with the American minister plenipotentiary.

Gargaz, a former merchant, had had a tragic life. Married at the age of 16, he was widowed at the age of 24, and all three of his children had died in infancy. In 1761 Gargaz was accused of a murder he maintained he did not commit. He was sentenced at Toulon to twenty years on the galleys.

Gargaz evidently used his incarceration to think and to write. The fact that his guards permitted him this privilege was highly unusual. His main preoccupation was the evils of war, and how countries could secure a lasting and permanent peace. In 1779, signing himself "Galley Slave No. 1336," he sent Franklin two papers: one on how America and Britain could end the Revolution, and a second on how all of Europe could secure a state of permanent peace. The latter was inspired by a plan by Henry IV and his chief minister Sully that was revised and published by the Abbé de Saint-Pierre in 1712. Franklin endorsed the manuscript,

"Project of Universal Peace by a Galley Slave." When Gargaz was finally released in March, 1781, he expanded his treatise on universal peace. Unable to interest a local printer in his work, he carried the manuscript to Paris where he hoped to obtain permission from the book authorities for its publication. Shunned by the aristocracy and the Paris publishing establishment, he turned to Franklin. Arriving at Franklin's door within weeks of the minister's having initiated peace negotiations with the British, his appearance could not have been more timely.

Franklin described their encounter in a letter he wrote to a friend in England. "There is methinks a point that has been too little considered in treaties, the means of making them durable. An honest peasant from the mountains of Provence, brought me the other day a manuscript he had written on the subject, and which he could not procure permission to print. It appeared to me to have much good sense in it; and therefore I got some copies to be struck off for him to distribute where he may think fit. ... This man aims at no profit from his pamphlet or his project, asks for nothing, expects nothing, and does not even desire to be known.... [He could] not afford the expence of riding to Paris, so he came on foot; such was his zeal for peace and the hope of forwarding and securing it by communicating his ideas to great men here. His rustic and poor appearance has prevented his access to them; or obtaining their attention; but he does not seem yet

to be discouraged. I honour much the character of this *veritable philosophe*."

A year later, Franklin told the same story to a young British visitor. "In the course of last year," he is quoted as saying, "a man very shabbily dressed—all his dress together was not worth five shillings—came and desired to see me. He was admitted, and, on asking his business, he told me that he had walked from one of the remotest provinces in France, for the purpose of seeing me and showing me a plan which he had formed for a universal and perpetual peace. I took his plan and read it, and found it to contain much good sense. I desired him to print it. He said he had no money: so I printed it for him. He took as many copies as he wished for, and gave several away; but no notice whatever was taken of it."

The pamphlet that Franklin printed on his private press was entitled, in English translation, *Conciliator of all the Nations of Europe, or, Project of Perpetual Peace Between all the Sovereigns of Europe & their Neighbors*, by "P. A. G." There can be little doubt that this final version benefited from discussions with Franklin at Passy. Forty-six pages in length, the pamphlet began with a definition of peace, a petition to the King, and a circular letter imploring all friends of the human race to do everything in their power to see this plan adopted. The plan itself was divided into eight "infallible means" for establishing and maintaining perpetual peace among all the sovereigns of

Europe. Each sovereign was to send a representative to a perpetual Congress in, say, Lyon (instead of Toulon, as Gargaz had earlier proposed), where they would adjudicate international disputes according to a system Gargaz outlined. All nations would agree to be content with their present boundaries, would engage in free commerce on land and sea, and would be allowed to maintain fortresses, warships, and standing armies to protect their territory. In times of peace, the soldiers could be employed in projects for the public good--building roads, bridges, irrigation canals, and so on. The final section of the pamphlet was a series of thirteen common arguments in favor of war, with refutations for each. The fourth argument, for example, was the claim that war increases the circulation of money. Gargaz countered with a series of examples of public works projects that could usefully employ the population while ameliorating living conditions, stimulating trade, eliminating famine, establishing funds for victims of natural disasters, and overseeing child welfare. His final suggestion--admittedly difficult and expensive, but not impossible for a united Europe--was cutting through the isthmuses of Panama and Suez.

Armed with this privately printed version, Gargaz tried again to approach influential individuals who might help him find a publisher. He was not shy, though was most often unsuccessful. One of the few people who did not ignore him was French foreign minister Vergennes, who accepted a pamphlet (undoubtedly through Franklin's intervention) and deemed it worthy of publication. An undated and unsigned letter which the Franklin Papers editors recently identified as having been written by Gargaz, now among Franklin's

papers at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, is addressed "Au Roi" -- To the King -- and opens with the salutation, "Sire." With his idiosyncratic spelling and singular style, Gargaz assumes the identity of an unnamed third party who is recommending the worthy treatise of the "philosophe Gargaz." This letter, we believe, was drafted by Gargaz and presented to Franklin as a model of a letter for Franklin's signature -- part of the author's determined campaign to obtain the notice of the King. We have no record of Franklin ever having sent it, or anything remotely like it.

Gargaz and Franklin had another interest in common, besides a deep desire to see an end to war. Oddly enough, both men had developed phonetic alphabets, and were champions of spelling reform. Gargaz had managed to get his system of spelling reform published in Marseilles in 1773, a remarkable feat for a galley slave. Did the two men discuss this topic at Passy? Jottings on a piece of scrap paper dating from the second half of June (the back of an address sheet from an inconsequential letter) indicate that they did. Franklin began by writing out French word endings that sounded nearly the same: "é, ai, ait, ais, ois, oient." Beneath them, Gargaz copied the endings, indicating that the latter two could also be spelled "es" and "ent." He then demonstrated that his phonetic spelling of "ils mangeroient" would be "iz manjeren." Franklin countered with his own attempt at Gargaz's system: "il fezet." These few snippets of words are our only evidence of what may have been hours of conversation between the American minister plenipotentiary, engaged at that moment in trying to arrange for a durable peace between England and America, and the former galley slave who brought him a theory on how a

peace might be made permanent among all the European nations.

What happened to Gargaz's theories? Sadly, as Franklin indicated, no one seems to have taken them -- or him -- very seriously, not even Franklin's replacement as minister to the French court, Thomas Jefferson.

Historians have long known that shortly after Franklin left France, Gargaz presented Jefferson with a copy of his treatise (which he also sent to all the European heads of state), and followed this up with a letter asking Jefferson to take an active role in adopting his plan. Jefferson, it seems, never bothered to answer. Thanks to recent research by French archivist Ferréol de Ferry, we now know exactly what Gargaz presented. It was not the pamphlet Franklin printed. It was a new version of the treatise, published (finally!) by a French press in the south of France. We knew that in April, 1785, Gargaz wrote excitedly to Franklin that he had found a publisher, and begged Franklin to do him the honor of accepting the dedication. Until M. de Ferry located a version of this 1785 publication, we had no evidence that it was ever issued. It was published just as Franklin was sailing across the Atlantic in the summer of 1785, and the copies Gargaz sent to Paris were never delivered. The pamphlet, which was revised and expanded from the version Franklin saw, did indeed bear a prominent dedication to the Minister Plenipotentiary "who had deigned to approve its intention." It has one other notable feature. Gargaz had come up with a new name for his proposed European congress that would adjudicate all disputes. He called it, "the United Nations."



FRANKLIN TIDBITS

Are Franklin's Words Right for Today?

What were you doing when you heard that Saddam Hussein had been captured? Sources in the White House Press Corps tell us that our commander and chief was engrossed in a book. It was Walter Isaacson's recent biography, *Benjamin Franklin: An American Life*.

On the other hand, Vice President Cheney's use of Franklin's words provoked some questions from a European audience. It seems that his wife Lynne chose the following Franklin quote for the family's holiday card: "If a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without His aid?" At a January meeting in Davos, Switzerland, Cheney was asked whether he considered the United States to be an empire. The vice president explained that the quote reflected Franklin's thoughts on the importance of God in the affairs of men, and he stressed that "It did not refer, or should not be taken as some kind of indication, that the United States today sees itself as an empire."

Ben Franklin's Musical World

Ben Franklin's Musical World was the subject of a Philomel concert performed January 16, 17 and 18 at the Church of St. Martin-in-the Fields, Chestnut Hill, Pennsylvania, St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Doylestown, Pennsylvania and at Christ Church in Philadelphia. Philomel, which specializes in the performance of 17th and 18th century chamber music, played several Scottish tunes as well as works by Franz Joseph Haydn, Luigi Boccherini and Michael Corrette, pieces with which Franklin was likely to have been familiar. Program notes highlighting Franklin's musical interests as well as a brief discussion of concerts of that era added much to the audience's enjoyment of the concert, the first in a series which will again commemorate his birthday in 2005. Copies of those program notes are available by e-mail from Philomel. WHYY, Philadelphia's public radio station filmed clips of the rehearsal for this concert, which will be aired in the next few months in advance of the 300th anniversary celebration. For copies of those program notes or upcoming schedule information contact Philomel through their website: www.philomel.org.

Franklin's Garden

Franklin is perched on a pedestal surveying his garden and adjoining work shop at the Philadelphia Flower Show in an award winning exhibit, "Ben Franklin's Secret Garden: Sowing the Seeds of the American Paradise," designed by the Camden City Garden Club. Architect Tim Kearney drew the plans for the workshop which students from Camden County Technical School built. The statue of Franklin and one of his printing presses are on loan from the Franklin Institute. Other

Franklin interests including a Franklin stove, a busybody, bifocals and silk worms are represented to give visitors a sense of Franklin's multiple interests. The garden itself is colorful and entertaining, demanding the visitor's careful attention lest a small detail be missed. The Camden City Garden Club used weeping mulberry trees, Franklinias, red oaks, azaleas and rhododendron as well as smaller plants which provide color and depth. Small topiaries add a touch of whimsy and Franklin's philosophy is ever present. Inset into the ground are pavers with some of his more memorable quotes. The cartoon, "Join or Die," is etched into a stone but also appears on a kite high above the garden. The exhibit will be permanently installed at the Camden Children's Garden on the Camden waterfront this summer. The Camden Children's Garden is a wonderful destination for anyone visiting the Philadelphia region. For more information see their website: www.camdenchildrensgarden.org.

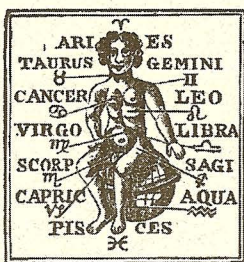
Christ Church Graveyard Records

Record of the Inscriptions of the Tablets and Grave-stones in the Burial-Grounds of Christ Church, Philadelphia provides information on the gravestones of one of America's historic cemeteries in a searchable CD-ROM format. It is based on the original publication of the inscriptions by parishioner Edward Clark in 1864. Clark, noting that many inscriptions were already endangered by erosion over the years, wanted to record those that remained for the future. In addition to this, Christ Church Preservation Trust has also published a short history of the graveyard: *Lives of the Silent Stones in the Christ Church Burial Ground: 50 Family Profiles*, written by Jean K. Wolf. This well-illustrated, carefully researched volume, provides biographical and family information for the Franklin family and many of their contemporaries. For ordering information contact Neil Ronk, Head Guide at nronk@christchurchphila.org.

Ben Franklin, the Puzzle!

Feeling the need for some mental calisthenics? How fast can you assemble, "Ben Franklin, the Puzzle?" This fun site, developed by the Ben Franklin School in Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin times your efforts to assemble a Franklin puzzle in a number of different ways. Fun for kids and adults alike. The web site is <http://www.sdmf.k12.wi.us/bf/benpuzzle.htm>. There's also a crossword puzzle to try: <http://www2.lhric.org/pocantico/franklin/crossword.htm>.





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.

April 21- May 23, 2004

Franklin's Apprentice playing at the Arden Theater 40 N. Second Street. Philadelphia. 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. Part of Arden Children's Theater season. For more information contact the Arden Theater, 215.922.1122.

June 3, 2004

"Christ Church Steeple Event." Celebrate the 250th anniversary of the steeple, raised in 1754 with funds from a lottery organized by Benjamin Franklin. Dinner and award presentation to historian David McCullough. For information about tickets please contact mstock@christchurchphila.org.

June 5, 2004

Weissport Canalabration, 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Check the FOF website for more details.

Summer 2004

"Ben Franklin's Secret Garden: Sowing the Seeds of the American Paradise," Camden Children's Garden, Camden, New Jersey. For more information see their website: www.camdenchildrensgarden.org or call: 856.365.8733

September 29 – October 5, 2004

"Ben Franklin and Italy." Tour sponsored by the Friends of Franklin. The tour will be limited to 35 people and the brochure will be mailed to all Friends of Franklin in March. For more information, contact Kathy DeLuca at 856-979-1613 or via e-mail at fof@benfranklin2006.org.

October 2005

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

"Benjamin Franklin and Italy" tour

From September 27-October 5, 2004, the Friends of Franklin will embark on yet another Franklin journey—enjoying a trip to a country that Franklin hoped to see. We visit Turin, Milan, Como, Padua, and Venice during our trip with opportunities for tours to other places and additional excursions.

While Franklin mapped out several visits to Italy at different points in his life, he never set foot in Italy. His involvement in public affairs and then later in life his age precluded him from visiting a country whose language he read and loved and whose culture he greatly admired. He influenced numerous Italian contemporaries—scientists, philosophers, diplomats, and printers. He enjoyed visiting with the various Italian Ambassadors during his time in Paris as well.

We are most fortunate to have as our host the distinguished Professor Sigfrido Leschiutta, Vice President of the Academy of Sciences in Turin, who has studied and written about Franklin and his Italian connections and contributions. Professor Leschiutta will personally guide us through our visit to the Academy as well as arrange for our visits to other "Franklin" cities.

In addition to the Franklin connections, we will learn about the architecture and history of these Italian cities, enjoy the Italian delicacies (polenta and parmesan cheese, some of Franklin's favorites), enjoy a gondola ride, and have ample opportunity to explore museums and shops. One full day will be free to explore and enjoy personal interests.

The tour will be limited to 35 people and the brochure will be mailed to all Friends of Franklin in March. Feel free to share it with friends and relatives who may wish to accompany us on what will be an exciting and enlightening experience for all.

For more information, contact Kathy DeLuca at 856-979-1613 or via e-mail at fof@benfranklin2006.org. We look forward to seeing you in Italy!

Editor's Note: Sigfrido Leschiutta's article: BENIAMINO FRANKLIN E IL PIEMONTE, is available on the web in both Italian and a translated version. Do a google search for "BENIAMINO FRANKLIN E IL PIEMONTE" and click on the translate button. Because this is an automatic translation, it is awkward in spots and somewhat difficult to follow, but it gives a sense of the connections between Franklin and Italy. There is also a good book in English on the same subject: Benjamin Franklin and Italy by Antonio Pace, (Philadelphia: American Philosophical Society, 1958).

"Franklin & Medicine" Special Interest Group

Over the past few months, several Friends have expressed a desire to communicate with other members of the Friends who have specific interests in Franklin and his medical contributions and connections. As we have many Friends who are in the medical profession, the Friends would like to use "Franklin and Medicine" as a "pilot" special interest group.

If you have a specific expertise or knowledge of Franklin and medicine and want to be part of this interest group, simply e-mail Kathy DeLuca at fof@benfranklin2006.org and let her know. It will be the first step in what we hope will lead to other special interest groups within our organization.



E-Mail Addresses Requested!

The Friends are in the process of creating an electronic newsletter that will be e-mailed periodically to all our members who have provided e-mail addresses. Unfortunately, we are missing some e-mail addresses and want to make sure we give everyone the option to receive this piece, which will be entirely different from our treasured Gazette. As the 300th birthday approaches, the Friends will use this as an additional vehicle to promote Franklin events worldwide that we might learn about after our *Gazette* goes to print. We don't want you to miss out on any of these events so please send an e-mail to Kathy DeLuca at fof@benfranklin2006.org to sign up to receive this piece. The electronic newsletter will premier around the beginning of May.

Special Thanks to Our Life Members!

William D. Anderson, Jr.
Wichita, KS

Genya Asama
Suwa-Gun Nagano-Ken, Japan

Jackson C. Boswell
Arlington, VA

Anna Coxe-Toogood
Wyndmoor, PA

Elly Fitzig
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Dudley Herschbach
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Huntsville, AL

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Louisville, KY

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Bloomington, IN

Daniel Jouve
Paris, France

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Chevy Chase, MD

Stuart E. Karu
Cape Elizabeth, ME

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Carnegie, PA

E. Philip Krider
Tucson, AZ

Charles Lard
West Hartford, CT

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Berwyn, PA

J.A. Leo Lemay
Newark, DE

Claude-Anne Lopez
New Haven, CT

Martin Mangold
Rockville, MD

Albert Merck
Lexington, MA

Robert Middlekauff
Oakland, CA

Ikuko Nakano
Kanagawa-ken, Japan

Michael Newcomb
Cave Creek, AZ

Barbara Oberg
Princeton, NJ

Greg Orwoll
Rochester, MN

L. David Roper
Blacksburg, VA

Michel Roubinet
Ozoir La Ferriere, France

Deane M. Sherman
Rockville, MD

Malcolm Smith
Highland Park, IL

Noriyuki Uenami
Tokyo, Japan

George Franklin Waters
Rochester, MN

Douglas L. Whitley
Batavia, IL

Ehsan Zayan
London, UK

Welcome & Thanks to New Members!

Life Members

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Berwyn, PA

Franklin Diplomat

Harry J. Agzigian
Newtown, PA

Winchell S. Carroll
Bryn Mawr, PA

Friends

Leonard R. Arnold
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Tom Biglen
Big Timber, MT

Deborah Devine
Washington, DC

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Martin Levitt
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Hannah H.R. Shipley
Wayne, PA

Joseph B. Walters, Jr.,
Belmont, MA

Anthony Watson, Sydney,
Australia

J. Davy Yockey
Trevose, PA



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

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	\$1,500	Franklin Diplomat	\$100
Corporate Members	\$1,000	Franklin Friend	\$50
Franklin Patriot	\$ 250		

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

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Volume 14, Number 1, Spring, 2004

Website: www.benfranklin2006.org

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