

Franklin Gazette

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

Visit: www.benfranklin2006.org

"It's the easiest thing in the world for a man to deceive himself." Poor Richard, April, 1746.

Message From the Acting President

By Roy E. Goodman

Our April 8 & 9 Friends events in Washington, D.C. proved to be very special days. The Aspen Institute, and Walter Isaacson, hosted a special symposium, **"Why Franklin? Which Franklin?"** Ellen Cohn, Editor-in-Chief of the Franklin Papers, served as moderator. Walter Isaacson and James Srodes spoke during the morning session, and Claude-Anne Lopez and Jim Lehrer provided equally lively presentations in the afternoon. Not only was the Symposium well attended, but also informative, very casual and in a way, almost like being with Ben himself.

At Friday evening's special dinner, Claude-Anne Lopez received the inaugural Benjamin Franklin Award. Stuart Karu, the first president of our organization, ably served as the master of ceremonies with warmth, wit and a damned good memory of the early days of the Friends. Ralph Elliot's idea for the award, was to "recognize extraordinary contributions to the cause of Franklin, perpetuating his memory and accomplishments." Claude-Anne is certainly the most worthy of recipients for the Franklin Award. When I presented a small-scale reproduction of G.W. Ludneen's sculpture of Franklin sitting on a bench in Philadelphia, on behalf of the Friends, Claude-Anne was obviously moved. Her sentiments are conveyed in the letter to the Friends in this issue.

Marty Mangold, Joan McFarland, Ellen Cohn and Cliff

Hardin provided a musical repast that Marty had arranged especially for the evening.

On Saturday morning prior to leaving the hotel, Lady Joan Reid updated us on the exciting developments regarding Franklin's Craven Street house. We departed

from there to the home of founding member Benjamin Franklin Kahn who graciously gave the group an overview of his collection of sculptures, medals and other pieces of Frankliniana. Phil Grenslet also displayed some of his Franklin numismatic collection for us.

Lunch at the National Press Club, with a presentation by James Srodes and Thomas Allen on Espionage and the American Revolution

was followed by a tour of the International Spy Museum which concluded our D.C. program. I'd like to thank Kathy DeLuca for bringing this all together.

Our Washington events brought together old Friends and new Friends, in wonderful venues to honor an extraordinary friend, Claude-Anne Lopez. Of course, these kinds of programs rest on the generosity and creativity of our membership and their eagerness to share their time, knowledge and hospitality. Please don't forget the Annual Fund Drive which really helps make the Friends of Franklin a "ben" eficial organization.



Speakers at the April symposium of the Friends of Franklin. From left to right, front: James Srodes, Jim Lehrer, Claude-Anne Lopez; rear: Walter Isaacson, Ellen Cohn. Photograph by Michael Lopez.

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Letter to Claude

Dear Claude:

It is with the greatest honor and most keen pleasure that I write to advise you that the Friends of Franklin Board has voted to name you the inaugural recipient of an award created to recognize extraordinary contributions to the cause of Franklin, perpetuating his memory and his accomplishments with that depth and breadth of scholarship which is uniquely yours.

The award will be given periodically, not annually, and only when a truly deserving recipient, like you, has been recognized. Your accomplishments in the field of Franklin's life will set the gold standard against which all others' worth will be measured.

The award will be presented to you at the Friends' Washington symposium in April; Kathy will provide you with details. I only wish my health permitted me to attend; but alas, that is not to be. I must simply sustain myself with the comfort and satisfaction that come from knowing that so truly worthy a recipient will receive an honor she so richly deserves. We are all in your debt.

Sincerely,
Ralph Gregory Elliot

Editor's Note: This letter from Ralph Elliot, written last February shortly before his death, apprised Claude-Anne Lopez of the high esteem in which she is held by the Friends of Franklin. The inaugural Franklin award was presented to her at the April symposium and it is described by Roy Goodman in the Acting President's message. Claude's grateful acknowledgment of the award follows.

Claude's Response

THANK YOU, THANK YOU...

April 8, 2005 was one of the high points of my life. The dinner given in my honor at the University Club of Washington that evening made me feel as if I had won the Pulitzer Prize on top of the Nobel, only it was better, warmer, and cozier: it was a celebration of friendship organized by our imaginative Kathy DeLuca. A Belgian menu (so good!) reminding one and all that I was born and raised in Brussels, a musical interlude orchestrated by Marty Mangold with lovely singing by Joan McFarland and our own Ellen Cohn, plus piano and cello performances by Clif Hardin and Marty.

And then, there were the old friends, the nucleus who assembled some twenty years ago at the University of Pennsylvania to create a society that would appeal to the many Franklin buffs scattered all over the country, giving them a chance to meet, attend symposiums, travel to the places HE had visited (including Chicago, something of a stretch!) and rejoicing in the impact he had on our lives.

I had been dreaming for quite a while about this project but had no idea about the way to bring it into existence. Whereupon, purely by chance, I met Stuart Karu, then living in the outskirts of Washington, in Potomac. Here was a man of the world, of the business world, a man who knew how to accomplish things...and he adored Franklin. Did we ever click! The Friends of Franklin was born, Stuart was our first president, and I had the joy of meeting George Franklin Waters (from Minnesota), Watty Strouss (from New York City), Seymour Block (from Florida), Philip Krider (from Arizona), Frank Jones (from Indiana), Benjamin Franklin Kahn (from D.C.), Roy Goodman (from the APS, Philadelphia), Ralph Archbold (BF's reincarnation), and so many others. It was indeed joy.

People who have reached my age know that there is no pure joy without a tinge of sadness for the missing ones. Deane Sherman, my close friend of more than fifty years, had left us a few weeks before the party, and so had Ralph Elliot, whose idea it had been to present me with this award.

The award, now sitting on the mantelpiece in my living room, is a charming small-scale reproduction of G.W. Ludneen's sculpture of Franklin sitting on a bench in Philadelphia, with an empty space beside him, ready for visitors. The first visitor in my case was the tiny teddy bear of my neighbors' little girl.

A big thanks to all of you, those who could come and those who could not but sent me a message, and especially to Kathy who managed the feast to perfection, even discovering, for the front page of the menu, a photo of me that must have been taken a century ago.

Fondly,
Claude-Anne Lopez

“A Runaway’s Journeys— Boston to Philadelphia”

September 10-17, 2005

This year's fall excursion offers a fascinating journey that follows Benjamin Franklin's trail as a young runaway from Boston to Philadelphia. With the assistance of Friends Barbara and Bill Meikle, we have organized seven days of Franklin that will commence Saturday morning, September 10 and end Saturday evening, September 17.

In Boston we begin at the Old South Meeting House to view the Franklin family pew and then continue with a walking tour through Benjamin's boyhood Boston. We will visit the Old State House and enjoy an afternoon lecture on Benjamin Franklin and food.

Sunday's visits include such Boston highlights as Bunker Hill, a view of Cambridge Common where Franklin met with General George Washington, and then off to a private tour at Harvard University to see their scientific instrument collection. Enjoy a picnic at National Historic Park in Lexington and then stroll to Hartwell Tavern before boarding a bus to Concord to tour the Manse (next to the "rude bridge"). Our day ends with dinner at the Ancient and Honorable Artillery of Massachusetts at Faneuil Hall and a lecture on Benjamin Franklin's clothing by Henry Cooke, renowned colonial tailor.

On Monday we leave Boston and journey to Warwick to tour one of the houses in which Caty Ray Greene hosted Franklin. We then travel to Newport and enjoy lunch at White Horse Tavern. We will visit a museum displaying James Franklin's printing press and explore the "Hidden Treasures of Colonial Newport" on an afternoon walking tour.

Tuesday morning we will visit the Connecticut River Museum where we will see the first American submarine, 'The Turtle', which Franklin was the first to view. Our next destination is New Haven, where we will visit the Papers of Benjamin Franklin at Yale University with Friend Ellen Cohn, Editor, and her staff. We remain in New Haven overnight.

We continue our journey early Wednesday morning to New York where Franklin met with printer William Bradford, whom he hoped would employ him. Although not connected to Franklin's original journey, we will make a stop at the Conference House in Staten Island where Franklin, John Adams, and Edward Rutledge met with Admiral Richard Howe on September 11, 1776 to attempt a Revolutionary War peace conference.

Unlike Franklin who journeyed by boat, we journey by bus to Perth Amboy, New Jersey where Franklin disembarked his boat. We will visit The Proprietary House where William Franklin, the loyalist governor of New Jersey, lived prior to his arrest and expulsion. We will tour the house and learn more about the relationship between father and son. We will also stop at St. Peter's Episcopal Church where William Franklin worshiped. This church now has a stained glass window with Benjamin Franklin's image.

Benjamin Franklin walked the 50 miles to Burlington, New Jersey, but once again we will be transported in comfort. Burlington is where the young Franklin discovered that he had just missed the regular boat traveling down

the Delaware to Philadelphia. Here he met a woman from whom he bought gingerbread and was her guest at dinner. In exchange, he treated her to a pot of ale. He walked by the river later that evening and discovered a smaller boat which was headed for Philadelphia. Franklin joined the small group and helped row his way to Philadelphia.

We will meet the local Burlington historian who will talk about Franklin's brief visit as a 17-year old boy and his return visit in 1728 for a three month period to print currency on New Jersey's first copperplate press. We will visit the Revell House, believed to be the place where Franklin was fed dinner by the "kindly woman."

Thursday we arrive in Philadelphia for three days of combined visits, programs, and lectures which will include a special visit to Bartram's Garden, behind-the-scenes at the National Constitution Center, the Lights of Liberty show, a special behind-the-scenes director's tour of the Stenton mansion and it's new "Shaping Franklin" exhibit opening in September, which examines a young Franklin's visits to the mansion and his relationship early in his career with one of colonial Pennsylvania's most learned men, James Logan, plus updates on the Franklin Tercentenary, and much, much more!

Mark your calendars now, and keep an eye out for registration details in your mailbox and on-line in the very near future. This excursion will be limited to 40 attendees. Please join us on our Franklin trail!



Benjamin Franklin Takes On the Tanners

By Anna Coxé Toogood



In 1736 Benjamin and Deborah Franklin's four-year-old son, Francis Folger, died of smallpox — a searing blow to any parent. That same year Franklin had to jump out of a window to save himself from a house fire. Such agitating personal experiences helped formulate his thoughts about public health in the ever-building city of Philadelphia.

For most of his sixty-plus years in Philadelphia Franklin lived on Market Street, near the Markets at the center of town, and just two blocks above the Dock. The Dock was a tidal estuary that began at the Delaware River and ran northwest as a creek to a point beyond Third Street, where it forked and continued both north and southwestwardly. By 1730 at least six tanners practiced their trade along its banks east of Fourth Street. Others lined Chestnut Street between Third and Fourth Streets, merely one block from Franklin's door. The tanners' leather was essential for making shoes and bridles, aprons and vests, and purses among many other uses, so that the trade was considered critical in its day.

By 1739, however, the tan yards had become controversial. In April of that year Franklin joined his neighbors in a formal petition to the Pennsylvania Assembly to remove the tanners from the center of town. Their petition argued that the obnoxious condition of the tan yards and their proximity to the Dock posed a real risk to public safety. In what well may have been Franklin's own words, the petition read as follows:

...the erecting new Tan-Yards, &c., within the Bounds of the City should be forbidden, and that those already erected should be removed in such Time as might be tho't reasonable: And the Reasons given by the Petitioners were,

in short, that many offensive and unwholesome Smells do arise from Tan Yards, to the great Annoyance of the Neighbourhood, and therefore to the great Injury of all those who have Lots or Tenements near them, as it considerably lessens the Value of such Lots and Tenements. That the Dock Street, upon which the Tanners are seated, was given with the Dock for publick Service, but that the Tanners had taken up and encumber'd the Street with their Pits, &c. and had choaked the Dock (which was formerly navigable as high as Third-Street) with their Tan, Horns, &c. That the said Dock if open might be of great Use in several respects, and particularly in Case of Fires in that Part of the Town; but as it now lies, is a grievous Nuisance. That the Smoak arising from the burning Tan fills all the neighbouring Houses, and is exceedingly offensive. That there are not very far from the Town, Places which might be as convenient to the Tanners, and not so injurious to the City. ...as the Tanners who own the Land on the Dock are very few, and the People whose Interest is affected by their Remaining there, are a very great Number, the Damage they would suffer in removing, would be but a Trifle, in Comparison to the Damage done to others, and to the City, by their Continuing where they are. Notwithstanding which, if the Tanners could be so regulated as to become inoffensive, the Petitioners declar'd that they should be therewith satisfied.

The six tanners on the Dock, however, had already been operating in the area for close to half a century and most were influential, well-heeled Quakers in control of government. William Hudson, for instance, a pioneer to Philadelphia, had served as mayor, alderman, and associate justice for the city. Besides his marriage to a wealthy Quaker, Mary Richardson, he had gained power through civic and religious service and land acquisition in the city. He had built his house on the east side of Third

Street just above the Dock. Hudson's daughter had married Joseph Howell, also a tanner who operated in the neighborhood.

On August 16, 1739 in reaction to the petition against them before the Assembly, the tanners made a confident counter move: they put before the Assembly their proposals to regulate the tanning industry and published them in William Bradford's *Mercury*. In a statement entitled, "A convenient Method for the better regulating of Tan-Yards, submitted by the Tanners to the Honorable House of Representatives of the Freemen of the Province of Pennsylvania," they suggested

Let the Tanyards be well paved between all the Pitts, and wash'd once every Day:

Let the Watering-Pools and Masterings (which are the only Parts that afford offensive smells) be enclosed on every Side and roofed over, within which Enclosure may be a Subterranean Passage to receive the Washings and Filth of the Yard into the Dock or River at High Water: Let the whole Yard be likewise inclosed on all Sides with some strong close-Fence, at least seven or eight Foot high, and every Tanner be obliged every Week to cart off his Tan, Horns and such offensive Offalls.

Five of the tanners signed their name -- William Hudson, jun. John Ogden, Samuel Morris, John Howell, William Smith -- and added that the sixth, "John Snowden being out of Town, we the Subscribers declare Assent to the above Proposal. Samuel Morris, John Howel."

The same *Mercury* article reported that the Assembly had "REJECTED" the petition against the tanners and had affirmed the

tanners' right to follow their trade within the city so long as they took up their own proposals. The state legislators also required that the City Corporation see that the regulations were carried out.

Franklin knew the stakes were high. These were powerful men in the world of politics and he as clerk of the Assembly and as deputy postmaster general at Philadelphia stood to lose his favored place in the political arena. At the same time, he was ready to fight fire with fire. Franklin went public with the petitioners' retort in his *Pennsylvania Gazette* for August 30, 1739. Using the ploy of a letter to the editor, he first reprinted the tanners' information from the *Mercury* and then countered with the debates on the subject that he was privy to as clerk of the Assembly. It read:

Resolved,

That the City of Philadelphia being the Place where the Tanners, Skinners, &c. have planted their Fatts [vats] Lime-pitts, &c. The Inconveniences arising from those Yards and Pitts must be best known there; It is therefore referred to the Mayor and Commonalty of Philadelphia, by an Ordinance for that Purpose to make such Provision for the Relief of the Petitioners, against the Tanners, Skinners, Butchers &c. as they shall find to be necessary and consistent with the Powers of their Incorporation.

Franklin pointed out "It is hard to imagine what could induce the Tanners to publish a Relation, so partial and so false..." and pointed out that the petitioners had only made a "modest Attempt to deliver a great Number of Tradesmen from being poisoned by few, and restore them the Liberty of Breathing freely in their own Houses."

Franklin knew first hand about breathing in the fumes of the tan yards. Anyone who has come within range of a tan yard, even in the 20th century, remarks on the foul odor. But that was only half the battle for Franklin. The Dock as a receptacle of tan yard waste from the skinned cattle and curing of hides created miasmas he thought



Tanning Hides for Leather

Alexander Hamilton's *Report on Manufactures* (1791) identified the tanning industry as one of the most important in the new nation and noted that in Pennsylvania and Delaware, it was "very prosperous."

An ancient trade that had not changed for centuries, tanning hides for leather took up to two years in its cycle and required heavy labor. The work was messy and smelly. Hides arrived at the tannery from the slaughterhouse with horns, tail and bloody flesh yet to be removed. After two washings to reduce the grime and to scrape the hair off, the hides were stacked in large in-ground vats (as seen in this engraving by Diderot) filled with a tanning solution consisting of water and pulverized oak bark. The hides had to be shifted from vat to vat for several months before they finally were ready to be hung up to dry in airy lofts. They then went to curriers who dressed the leather before it went to tradesmen to be fashioned into various leather products.

Franklin and his fellow petitioners tried to relocate six tanners from near the heart of town, but the Pennsylvania Assembly and City Council allowed them to stay on the condition that the tanners self-regulate their trade.

prompted disease and clogged the channel, posing an obstacle to fire fighting.

Rankled by the hubris of a second article in the *Mercury* from the tanners, Franklin as much as accused "these positive Gentlemen" of being liars. (*Gazette*, October 18, 1739). He scoffed at their claim that tan yards "did not promote contagious Distempers amongst us" and at their claim that when violent distempers raged in the city, people living in the vicinity of the tan yards "were preserved from it more than those in other Parts of the Town." In truth, he reported, the 1699 distemper had "swept off great Numbers...with extraordinary Violence." Then the city had only two tanners—Hudson and Lambert—and both were on the Dock. One of them died from the epidemic in less than two days, and a great many people living nearby also were swept to their death.

The debate ended as quickly as it arose. The tanners remained on

the Dock for decades to follow. Franklin had picked one fight that he could not win, but the attention drawn to the foulness of the Dock lingered in the minds of his community. In 1748 an epidemic of yellow fever broke out and a report was sent to the Proprietors by Richard Peters, secretary that the filthy condition of Dock Creek laid at the root of the outbreak. Again, in a widespread effort to clean up the city in 1763, the State passed a statute that fined anyone from dumping "any carcase, carrion or fifth whatsoever, or any dirt rubbish ..." into the Dock. Finally City Council voted to arch over the channel between Walnut and Third Streets in 1765 and the remaining section from Walnut to Front Street in 1784.

While Franklin had done his part to publicize an unhealthy condition in Philadelphia, it would take a century and a half before modern medicine began to grasp the cause of many diseases that afflicted urban centers.

Something Franklin Did Not Predict

By Claude-Anne Lopez

Sometimes, working on The Papers of Benjamin Franklin, we must forgo publishing a document due to time and space constraints. Most of the time these omissions are insignificant, but sometimes they contain the pearl of a story. One such document, written in 1776, is a satirical poem by Anglican clergyman and medical doctor Jonathan Odell (1737-1818) entitled "Inscription for a Curious Chamber-Stove, in the form of an Urn, so contrived as to make the flame descend, instead of rise, from the fire: Invented by Doctor Franklin." Odell was William Franklin's parish priest and great friend. At the Yale University Library is an 1839 letter to Dr. John W. Francis from Philadelphian Redwood Fisher (1782-1856) that quotes the verses and offers an explanation of them.

Fisher claimed that he had never had a manuscript copy of the poem, "but have retained [the verses] in my memory" because they were so often repeated by his father [Miers Fisher, a Philadelphia Quaker, who was exiled to Virginia during the Revolutionary War]. His explanation of the verses was this: Doctor Odell was a man of learning, with a deep interest in the sciences. He had "a most profound respect and veneration for Doct. Franklin as a Philosopher" but unfortunately on the question of American independence, Odell "took the opposite side in Politicks"[he served as both chaplain and physician to the Loyalist troops]. Fisher reminded Francis, "It will be recollected that the Urn Stove of our great Statesman [Franklin] consumed its own smoke which was thrown into the center, to expose it to the action of the greatest heat." Odell, in his poem imagined the urn of the stove as the funeral urn of its inventor, and the verses were intended to be Franklin's epitaph.

Like a Newton sublimely he soar'd
To a summit before unattained,
New Regions of Science explored,
And the Palm of Philosophy gained.

By a Spark which he caught from the Skies,
He displayed an unparalleled Wonder;
And we saw with Delight and Surprise
That his Rod would defend us from Thunder.

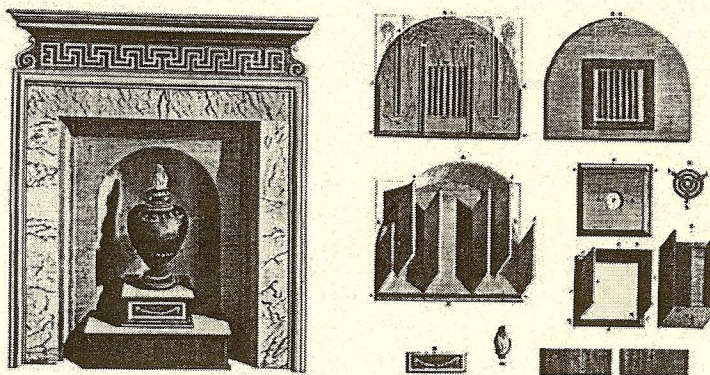
O! Had he been wise to pursue
The track for his talent design'd!
What a Tribute of Praise had been due
To the Teacher and Friend of Mankind.

But to covet political fame
Was in him a degrading Ambition;
A spark that from Lucifer came
And kindled a blaze of Sedition.

Let Candor then write on this Urn
Here lies the renowned Inventor
Whose flame to the skies ought to burn,
But inverted descends to the Centre.

The poem was extremely popular among the Tories, and circulated widely, reaching Franklin's sister Jane in Rhode Island by 1781 when she wrote that "Parson Odell" had been exercising "His Poetical Talant on yr Invention of the Chamber Fireplace". We don't know if she ever sent the poem to her brother, but she said she was sure it would make him laugh. Odell, once the middleman in the secret negotiation between Benedict Arnold and Major John André, was no longer laughing by the end of the war. His church back in New Jersey refused to have him return to the pulpit after the war was over, and he eventually emigrated to Nova Scotia.

Editor's note: For the best account of Odell, see Whitfield Bell, ed., *Patriot Improvers: Biographical Sketches of Members of the American Philosophical Society* (2 vols. to date, Philadelphia, 1997--), I, 429-440. Jane's letter to her brother is published in vol. XXXV, 157-60, of *The Papers of Benjamin Franklin*.



Franklin's stove, reproduced by courtesy of the American Philosophical Society.

Franklin and the Geneva Conventions

Burrus M. Carnahan¹

Since September 11, 2001, many heated debates have swirled around the 1949 Geneva Conventions. Does the Convention on Prisoners of War apply to the captured combatants being held at Guantanamo? Did the United States comply with the Convention on Civilians in its occupation of Iraq? When a Marine killed a wounded insurgent at a mosque in Fallujah, did he violate the Convention on the Sick and Wounded? Passionate arguments on all sides of these and similar issues have filled the American media.

What all sides have accepted without question is the fundamental idea behind the Geneva Conventions – that nations should agree on specific rules of humane treatment for prisoners of war and civilians before a war actually breaks out. The father of that fundamental idea was Benjamin Franklin.

Today we often hold a romanticized view of war in the eighteenth century – soldiers in powdered wigs and brightly colored uniforms marching into battle to the sound of fifes and drums, led by chivalrous officers who treated even their enemies as gentlemen. In reality, war in Franklin's time was as brutal as it has ever been, and Franklin was familiar with its horrors. As a militia officer and commissioner for the construction of forts on the Pennsylvania frontier, he had to deal with the indiscriminate warfare against civilians waged by both sides in the French and Indian War. After a massacre at the Indian settlement at Gnadenhutten, Franklin had the grisly task of reburying the victims.

For most of his life Franklin prided himself on being a loyal subject of the British Empire. He was therefore especially shocked when, during the American Revolution, British authorities encouraged their Indian allies to wage the same kind of indiscriminate war against American settlers, "the poorest and most innocent of all People," as he wrote to his English friend Jonathon Shipley in 1775. To Shipley, Franklin also vented his indignation over the behavior of regular British forces who, "without the least Necessity," looted and burned Charlestown, Massachusetts. "[S]ome sick, aged, decrepit and poor Persons who could not

be carried off in time perish'd in the flames," he wrote. The British government, he continued sarcastically, "may think this a means of disposing us to Reconciliation." Shipley had earlier expressed the hope that if war came, it would "be carried on as between Nations who had once been Friends, and wish to be so again." Franklin agreed with this sentiment, but concluded that so far the British government had been making war as if they had never been friends with America, "and never wish to be such while the World stands."

The later history of the Revolutionary War did nothing to change Franklin's mind. While serving as American commissioner to France from 1776 to the end of the War, he engaged in largely futile efforts to improve the treatment of American prisoners of war held in the United Kingdom. During the peace negotiations, Franklin adamantly insisted that Great Britain should pay reparations for the depredations her forces had committed. Only with difficulty did his two colleagues, John Adams and John Jay, persuade him to drop this demand.

It was during the peace negotiations that Franklin's restless and creative mind devised a new approach to restraining the inhumanity of war. Perhaps he recalled Jonathan Shipley's advice that nations should wage war remembering that they had once been friends, and hoped to be friends again when peace was restored. The best time for nations to decide on the rules that would govern their conduct in war was while they were still friends (or, like the British and Americans, trying to become friends again). In commercial treaties, European nations had begun to include provisions stating that if a war broke out between them, each party's merchants would have a reasonable time to settle their affairs and leave the other's territory. Why not extend this practice to protect all unarmed civilians on both sides? Why not start by including such humane rules in the peace treaty between England and the United States?

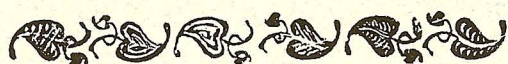
In the summer of 1782 Franklin raised this idea with one of his British counterparts, Richard Oswald, but received no

clear response. On January 14, 1783 he tried again, sending Oswald "a proposition for improving the law of nations, by prohibiting the plunder of unarmed and usefully employed people." His letter proposed that the peace treaty include an article stating that "[i]f war should hereafter arise between Great Britain and the United States, which God forbid, ... all fishermen, all cultivators of the earth, and all artisans and manufacturers unarmed, and inhabiting unfortified towns, villages or places, who labor for the sustenance and benefit of mankind, and peacefully follow their respective employments, shall be allowed to continue the same, and shall not be molested by the armed force of the enemy into whose power by the event of war they may happen to fall" If supplies were to be taken from enemy civilians, "the same shall be paid for at a reasonable price." Oswald again failed to respond. Franklin raised the idea with the British commissioners two more times before finally giving up.

In 1784, however, the Continental Congress took up Franklin's proposed article, expanded it to include protection for prisoners of war, and recommended that it be included in all future commercial treaties entered into by the infant United States. This expanded form of Franklin's proposal was included in a 1785 commercial treaty with the Kingdom of Prussia, and in the 1848 Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo, ending the war with Mexico. Twenty-five years later, the 1864 Geneva Convention was negotiated, the direct ancestor of all the current Geneva Conventions. Ultimately, however, the 1949 Conventions, and all modern human rights treaties, have grown from the seed Benjamin Franklin planted in 1783, when he drafted the first treaty provision to protect "unarmed and usefully employed people" in time of war.

*Editor's Note: The day-to-day discussions over the peace treaty to end the Revolutionary War, and Franklin's battle to permanently establish an international protection for non-combatants in future wars will be detailed in the forthcoming volume 38 of **The Papers of Benjamin Franklin**.*

¹Adjunct Professor of Law, The George Washington University; Foreign Affairs Officer, U.S. Dept. of State; Lt. Colonel, USAF (Ret.).



Benjamin Franklin's Popularity in 1777

The passage below is from the pen of Silas Deane, Franklin's fellow commissioner in France. It is excerpted from the *Yale Library Gazette*, II (1928), 63.

"It gives me Pleasure to reflect on the honor, and respect universally paid him by all orders of people in France; and never did I enjoy greater Satisfaction than in being the Spectator of the Public

Honors often paid him. A celebrated Cause being to be heard before the Parliament of Paris, and the house and Streets leading to it crowded with people, on the Appearance of Dr. Franklin, way was made for him in the most respectful manner and he passed thro' the Crowd to the Seat reserved for him, amid the Acclamations of the People. An honor seldom paid to their first

Princes of the Blood. When he attended the Operas and Plays, similar Honors were paid him, and I confess I felt a Joy and Pride, which was pure and honest, tho' not disinterested; for I considered it an honor to be known to be an American and his Friend."

Adams would *not* have written this.



Challenge Fuels Annual Fund Drive

The Friends of Franklin's annual fund campaign has just received a challenge from a Founding Member. If ten generous "Friends" donate \$1,000 each, he will match it! Think of it as a "birthday gift" to our beloved Ben!

The Friends need your support for this annual appeal which subsidizes administrative costs and Gazette expenses, helping to keep membership dues at affordable levels. We particularly need your help at this time, as the Tercentenary draws closer, to increase membership programs and activities. Annual fundraising appeals are essential for all non-profit organizations and we ask you to be as generous as you can.

Donations in any amount will be gratefully received and are fully tax-deductible. Please send all contributions to Kathy DeLuca, Friends of Franklin, Inc., P. O. Box 40048, Philadelphia, PA 19106.

Thank you in advance for your continued support of the Friends of Franklin.

CORRECTION:

In the last issue of the *Gazette* (vol. 15, number 1), we reported that Senators Rick Santorum and Arlen Specter announced the passage of a Senate bill authorizing up to \$10 million in federal funding for the repair and rehabilitation of the Benjamin Franklin National Memorial and the development of the Tercentenary exhibit, *Benjamin Franklin: In Search of a Better World*. In fact, this legislation (the "Benjamin Franklin National Memorial Commemoration Act of 2005") has nothing to do with the Benjamin Franklin Tercentenary, or the Tercentenary's exhibition, *Benjamin Franklin: In Search of a Better World*. Instead, the bill would authorize up to \$10 million to The Franklin Institute, to rehabilitate the Benjamin Franklin National Memorial and to develop an interpretive exhibit relating to Benjamin Franklin, to be displayed at a museum adjacent to the memorial.





In His Own Words:


On War: "An Army is a Devouring Monster"

On May 22, 1787, as the Constitutional Convention was opening in Philadelphia, Jane Mecom, Franklin's much-beloved younger sister, wrote a letter to her brother from Boston full of misspellings and passionate conviction; it is now among Franklin's papers at the American Philosophical Society. She was bursting with pride, having read frequently in the newspapers about Franklin's participation in the constituent assembly. This publicity, she says, "makes you Appear to me Like a young man of Twenty-five...full of grate [great] design for the Benefitt [of] mankind, and your own Nation in Perticular". Her letter, written in the aftermath of Shay's Rebellion, articulates both optimism for the new American republic and uneasiness over recent precedents. To her brother she spelled out her wishes: Franklin and his colleagues at the Convention should "put a Stop to the nesesity [necessity] of Dragooning, and Haltering," since these were "Odious means". ("Dragooning" referred to the Massachusetts legislature disarming and disenfranchising those associated with the rebellion for three years. Some of those captured were hanged, or "haltered.") Then Jane went on to express her hopes for the future: "I had Rather hear of the Sword being beat into

Plow-Shares, and the Halters used for Cart Roops [ropes], if by that means we may be brought to live Peaceably with won [one] another."

Franklin did not have much time to answer during the Convention's deliberations, but once it was through, he wrote her at length, and responded indirectly to her comments on the formation of American society, setting them in the context of the recently concluded Revolutionary War: "I agree with you perfectly in your Disapprobation of War. Abstracted from the Inhumanity of it, I think it wrong in Point of Human Providence, for whatever Advantages one Nation would obtain from another, whether it be Part of their Territory, the Liberty of Commerce with them, free Passage on their Rivers, &c &c.; it would be much cheaper to purchase such Advantages with ready Money, than to pay the expense of acquiring it by War. An Army is a devouring Monster, and when you have rais'd it, you have, in order to subsist it, not only the fair Charges of Pay, Clothing, Provision, Arms and Ammunition, with numberless other contingent and just Charges to answer and satisfy; but, you have all the additional Knavish Charges of the numerous Tribes of Contractors, to defray, with those of every other Dealer, who furnishes

the Articles wanted for your Army, and takes advantage of that want to demand exhorbitant Prices. It seems to me, that if Statesmen had a little more Arithmetic, or were more accustomed to Calculation, Wars would be much less frequent. I am confident that Canada might have been purchased from France, for a tenth Part of the Money England spent on the Conquest of it. And if, instead of fighting with us, for the Power of Taxing us, she had kept us in a good humour, by allowing us to dispose of our own Money, and, now and then, giving us a little of hers, by Way of Donation to Colleges, or Hospitals, or for cutting Canals, or fortifying Posts; she might easily have drawn from us much more by our occasional voluntary Grants and Contributions, than ever she could by taxes. Sensible People will give a Bucket or two of Water to a dry Pump, that they may afterwards get from it all they have occasion for. Her Ministry were deficient in that little Point of Common Sense; and so they spent 100 Millions of her Money, and after all lost what they contended for." Franklin's letter is at the Library of Congress.



FRANKLIN TIDBITS

Book Notes:

For an excerpt of Jim Lehrer's new novel, *The Franklin Affair*, tap into <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/7644364/>. If you have a young child in the family, a different kind of book might be in order. Dover Publications has just brought out a Benjamin Franklin coloring book.

News from Philadelphia:

The Self-Guided Tour of Franklin's Philadelphia is a big hit. In addition to such obvious landmarks as Independence Hall and Elfreth's Alley, the tour also includes such highlights as Fireman's Hall Museum and a French pastry shop (the literature alleges that Franklin developed a sweet tooth for the treats while in he was in Paris). For information on the tour tap into www.gophila.com.

Aspiring storytellers will be sitting on benches in the Historic District and announcing their stories by ringing a special "town crier's bell". The auditions for the Bensitute [named for our favorite Founding Father] have already been held, and in May the storytellers identified by the Once Upon a Nation initiative of Historic Philadelphia, Inc., begin their 3-week training program. Graduates of the institute will entertain audiences with little known stories from local history of women, African Americans, and the country's unsung heroes. The newly-minted interpreters will be trained by historians from the University of Pennsylvania, Haverford College, The McNeil Center for Early American Studies, and Colonial Williamsburg.

"Shaping Franklin": a new exhibit is planned at Stenton, the former home of Franklin's friend James Logan. Opening on Sept. 15, 2005, it will highlight young Benjamin Franklin's relationship with his mentor.

On Stage:

The world premiere of Tim Slover's "Lightning Rod" has been announced as part of the 2005-06 season of the Fulton Opera House in Lancaster, Pa. The commissioned piece imagines the story behind the bitter split over independence between father and son--Benjamin and William Franklin. It is part of Franklin & Marshall College's celebration of the Tercentenary, and will be staged April 27-May 12, 2006. The Opera House's playwright-in-residence, Barry Kornhauser, also plans a play on a Franklinian theme. This one will be designed for school-age children and is to be presented during the upcoming academic year. It is entitled "Spark: The Invention of Benjamin Franklin."

Under the title "Not Just Anyone Can be Ben Franklin" is an article about long-time Friend of Franklin Bill Meikle. Reporter Pamela Sacks interviewed Bill, Massachusetts' best known Franklin impersonator, about his work. Bill said "There is no act. I don't do Franklin. We roll the dice and make Franklin live." He also revealed that he was first tapped for the role in a 1980 movie on the history of firefighting. That opportunity to play Franklin led to intensive study on all subjects Franklin and to his appearance before countless audiences, including two spots on Public Television that won him Regional Emmy Awards. He calls his profession "Frankling". Read the whole article in the *Worcester Telegram & Gazette* (April 5, 2005).

Benjamin Franklin House in London is exploring a partnership with the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts. In an effort to identify actors for their "Historical Experience" program, the managers of the historic house museum on Craven Street plan to have visitors guided by "Polly Hewson". It is hoped that the RADA will help to recruit actors for the role of Franklin's beloved adopted daughter, the child of his London landlady.

Putting a Value on the Written Word:

A famous Franklin letter, written on May 30, 1787 to his sister Jane Mecom, was sold on Nov. 17, 2004, at Smyth's Autograph Auction in New York for \$69,000. The 3-page letter describes the renovations he was making to his house. Parts of this letter have been published in Smyth's edition of Franklin's writings and elsewhere, but the complete text will appear for the first time in print in a future volume of *The Papers of Benjamin Franklin*.

The Spirit of Benjamin Franklin:

In March the National Newspaper Association presented the 7th annual Community Newspaper and Postal Service Partnership Award of Excellence to Marion Narcisse, a 23-year employee of the Postal Service in Denham Springs, Louisiana. Postmaster General Jack Potter told the assembled audience that the award "honors the postal employee who has done the most to strengthen the partnership between the Postal Service and community newspapers." The nominations for the award sought to identify the Postal Service employee "who best exemplifies the spirit of Benjamin Franklin."

Good Reads

Philip Dray, *Stealing God's Thunder: Benjamin Franklin's Lightning Rod and the Invention of America* (Random House, August, 2005). See the spring 2005 issue of the *Franklin Gazette* for Phil's article on his new book.

Benjamin Franklin, Pennsylvania, and the First Nations: the Treaties of 1736-62. (University of Illinois Press, August, 2005). Originally published in 1938, this work has been reissued with a detailed introduction by Susan Kalter putting the treaties between the British colonies and the Indian nations into historical and cultural context. The dust jacket says that these treaties, published by Franklin, "reveal the complexity of Benjamin Franklin's perceptions of Native Americans, showing him in some negotiations as a promoter of the Indian word against the colonial one."

Ralph Frasca, "I am now about to establish a small Printing Office...at New Haven: Benjamin Franklin and the First Newspaper in Connecticut," *Connecticut History*, XLIV (Spring, 2005 issue).

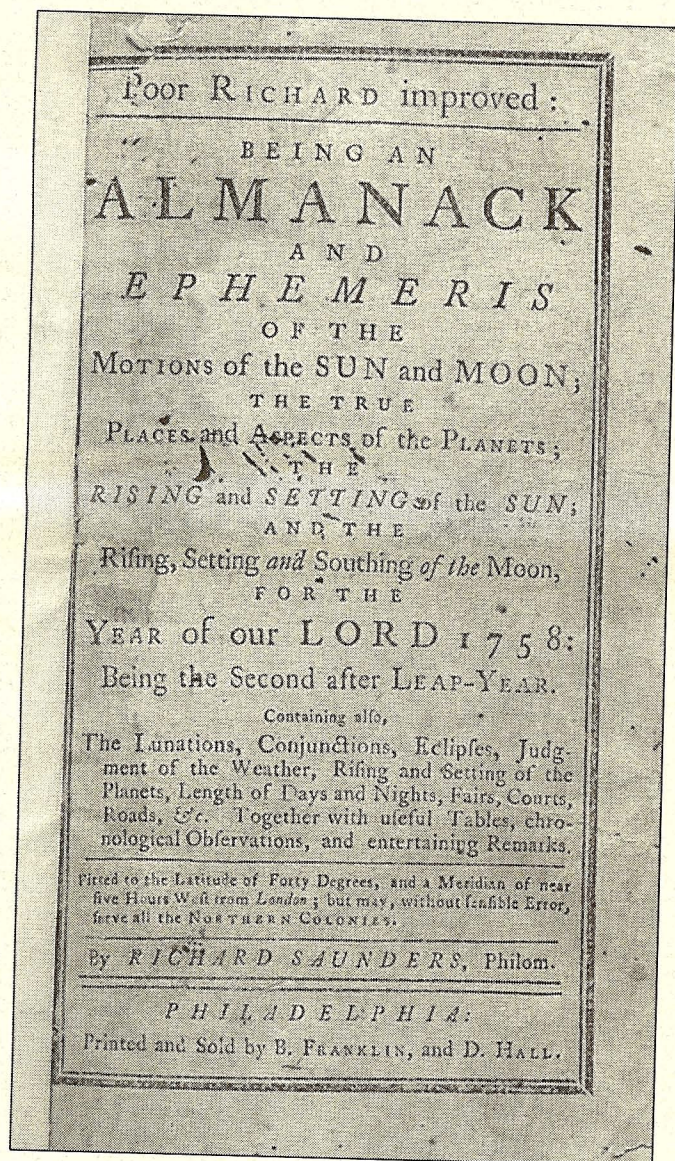
Mitch Cullin, *A Slight Trick of Mind* (Nan A. Talese, April, 2005). In this addition to the growing body of Sherlock Holmes tales, the protagonist writes an account of one of his cases that Conan Doyle only alluded to, that of a "mysterious young woman who played the glass armonica." The story featuring Franklin's invention gives readers insight into Holmes's "peculiar character" says *Publishers Weekly*.

And for our Francophone readers:

Daniel Vaugelade, *La Question américaine au XVIIIe siècle* (Paris: Editions PUBLIBOOK, April, 2005). Vaugelade, a teacher at the Lycée Camille Claudel, in Mantes, France, discovered an unpublished cache of letters of the Duke de La Rochefoucauld, a great friend of Franklin and a strong supporter of American independence. Through the lens of La Rochefoucauld's correspondence and life Vaugelade explores Franco-American relations during the 1770s and 1780s.

Fine Books and Manuscripts Featuring The Chester Woodward Collection of Frankliniana

Tuesday June 28, 10am
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Pictured:

Poor Richard improved: being an almanack and ephemeris for the year of our Lord 1758.... Philadelphia: B. Franklin & D. Hall, [1757]. Modern quarter polished red calf over marbled boards. First edition of Franklin's celebrated Preface, later reprinted as "The Way to Wealth." Estimate: \$15,000 - 20,000

Bonhams & Butterfields is proud to offer the remarkable collection of Benjamin Franklin imprints and related memorabilia gathered by Chester Woodward of Lawrence, Kansas in the 1950s, which includes the largest gathering of *Poor Richard* almanacs to be offered in a generation. As most of these early almanacs were used and discarded, these fragile specimens are among the rarest and most highly prized works of printed Americana in the 18th century.

The last major trove of these justly celebrated pamphlets offered at auction was the Bloch Collection held at Parke-Bernet Galleries in October 1954, which featured 14 examples, four of which were imperfect. In the past 30 years, only 23 examples of Franklin's original *Poor Richard* almanacs have sold at auction. The Woodward collection to be offered in June is therefore particularly rich in these fragile specimens, featuring 22 *Poor Richard* almanacs, including 15 examples bearing the Franklin imprint.

The core of the collection has descended directly through the Woodward and Darlington families from the 18th century, and most of the almanacs were discovered hidden in a barrel in the attic of the old family home in Chester, Pennsylvania. These remarkable examples are for the most part uncut, and many bear the ownership signatures of their original owners, demonstrating their unlikely survival over the intervening 250 years.

Preview

June 17 - 19, 10am to 5pm, Los Angeles
June 24 - 26, 10am to 5pm, San Francisco

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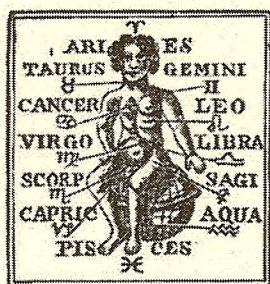
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

On-going – July 29, 2005

"Joseph Priestley, Radical Thinker." Exhibit at the Chemical Heritage Foundation, Philadelphia, PA. The exhibit mounted to commemorate the 200th anniversary of Priestley's death, brings together artifacts and images including some items originally owned by Priestley which interpret his life and work. Perhaps best known for his scientific work including the identification and isolation of oxygen, Priestley was also a well-known minister and helped to found the First Unitarian Society of Philadelphia.

Ongoing- February 2006

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

March 25-September 25, 2005

Franklin serves as host of the United States Pavilion at the World Exposition in Japan.

August 6, 2005

Friends' event in Southern California. See article entitled: "A Franklin California Bar-B-Q" for more information.

September 10-17, 2005

Friends of Franklin trip from Boston to Philadelphia. See "A Runaway's Journeys—BOSTON to PHILADELPHIA" for more information.

Sept. 15, 2005-Dec. 15, 2006

"Shaping Franklin" Exhibit at Stenton, former home of Franklin's friend James Logan, 4601 N. 18th St., Philadelphia. Have tea, tour Stenton and the exhibit Tuesday through Saturday, 1 to 4 PM. Fees: Adults \$5, Students and Seniors \$4. More information: <http://www.stenton.org/>

October 27, 2005

Symposium sponsored by Benjamin Franklin House: "Benjamin Franklin, Design and Innovation," 4:00-9:00 p.m. (including a buffet dinner) at the Royal Society of Arts, London. Contact BenjaminFranklinHouse@msn.com for reservations. Please note this corrected date.

Dec. 15, 2005-March 15, 2006

"Franklin's Poor Richard Almanacs" Exhibit at the Rosenbach Museum & Library, 2008-2010 DeLancey Place, Philadelphia. Tour the historic Rosenbach House and the exhibit Tues., Thurs., Fri., Sat. & Sun. 10-5 PM, and Weds. 10-8 PM. Fees: Adults \$8, Students and Seniors \$5. For more information: <http://www.rosenbach.org>

December 15, 2005

The special tercentenary exhibit, "Benjamin Franklin: In Search of a Better World," will open in Philadelphia on December 15, 2005. The exhibit will travel to Boston, New York, Paris, Denver and Atlanta before closing on January 20, 2008.

January 1-June 30, 2006

"Benjamin Franklin and China" Exhibit, Hollis Branch of Queens Borough Public Library, 202-05 Hillside Av., Hollis, N.Y. Discover how Franklin used Confucius' moral philosophy to cultivate virtue and how he borrowed Chinese technologies to improve the quality of life for people in North America. Open Mon. & Thurs. 1-8 PM, and Tues., Weds., & Fri. 10-6 PM.

January 17, 2006

Celebration! of Benjamin Franklin, Founder. Procession to Franklin's grave and luncheon in honor of Franklin's 300th birthday, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Contact Carol Smith, 856.429.8331 or cwsmith@verizon.net for more information.

Gala Opening Celebration of Benjamin Franklin House, London, to be held at The Banqueting Hall, Whitehall, London. Contact BenjaminFranklinHouse@msn.com for reservations.

February 17, 2006

The Princess and the Patriot: Ekaterina Dashkova, Benjamin Franklin and the Age of Enlightenment will be on view in Philosophical Hall, 104 S. Fifth Street from February 17 – December 31, 2006. Admission is free.

April 27-May 12, 2006

"Lightning Rod" by Tim Slover at the Fulton Opera House, Lancaster, Pa. Tickets may be ordered by phone (717) 397-7425 or on line. Tap into <http://www.atthefulton.org>

A Franklin California Bar-B-Q August 6, 2005

Friend Stuart Green has graciously opened his home and planned a fascinating day in Southern California for his Franklin Friends. The day commences Saturday afternoon in Long Beach at the California State University Library. Roman Kochan, the Dean of Library Services, will conduct an overview of their historic documents, including Silas Deane's 1777 address to the United States of North America and copies of original letters from persons in Paris to Dr. Priestley in 1798. Our next destination is the Rancho Los Alamitos State Historic Ranch and Garden. The ranch land was awarded by the king of Spain to Manuel Perez Nieto in 1790, and the original adobe structure built in the early 1800's still stands, transformed by successive owners into an 18-room ranch house. Today it serves as a living history museum and one of the few remaining sites representing the growth of Southern California from the era of its first occupation by Europeans. Our activities conclude at Friend Stuart Green's home in Los Alamitos as he invites us to view his collection of handwritten Franklin letters and documents. A convivial evening is in store for all as Stuart graciously plays host for cocktails and a sumptuous California Bar-B-Q at his home.

To make reservations, or for more information, please call Kathy DeLuca at 856-979-1613, or e-mail her at fof@benfranklin2006.org.

MEMBERS: \$25
NON-MEMBERS: \$35



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