

# Franklin Gazette

Volume 16, Number 1, Spring 2006

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

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

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"If you would reap Praise you must sow the Seeds, Gentle Words and useful Deeds." *Poor Richard*, May, 1753.

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## Message From the President

By Roy E. Goodman

A plethora of events on January 17 commemorating Franklin's 300th birthday took place in Philadelphia and elsewhere. Candles were lit at the National Constitution Center, in conjunction with the exhibition *Benjamin Franklin: In Search of a Better World*. Check [www.benfranklin300.org](http://www.benfranklin300.org) for events and future venues of this exhibit.

A procession left from the Library of the American Philosophical Society to Franklin's grave at the Christ Church Burial Ground, sponsored by the Celebration! Benjamin Franklin, Founder, followed by Claude-Anne Lopez's luncheon talk, *Another Birthday* at the Downtown Club in Philadelphia. This year's theme, Still Celebrating! Franklin at 300, honored Claude-Anne and Benjamin Franklin Reinauer, II, founder of Celebration!, with the prestigious Franklin Founder awards.

In Lancaster, Pennsylvania, Walter Isaacson, gave the keynote address at Franklin & Marshall College, which began its 300th commemoration festivities, *The Franklin Experiment* on January 19. The opening of my exhibition, *Cents & Sensibility: Benjamin Franklin & Popular Culture* at the Phillips Museum of Art and the exhibition co-curated by Sherry Bufano at the Lancaster County Historical Society, *The Common Wealth: Benjamin Franklin & the Building of Community* drew many visitors of all ages to these central Pennsylvania venues.

I'm pleased that all of our Friends will be able to virtually tour my exhibits and view the catalogs through the wonders of technology. After all, Franklin belongs to the world, and while Philadelphia lays claim to him, the geographical range of the Friends is spreading around the world. The catalog will be available through the Friends of Franklin website:

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

A Philadelphia Franklin Descendants weekend, April 7-9, co-organized by the Friends of Franklin and many of his descendants, will be a unique gathering that I will report on in the next issue of the *Gazette*.

Friends George Waters, Rochester, Minnesota and David Rhees of the Bakken Museum and Library in Minneapolis plan to honor Ben Franklin's role in determining the northern U.S. border by placing a marker in "boundary waters" leading to the Lake of the Woods, in August. Minnesota's great Mesabi and Vermillion iron ranges, so crucial to our efforts in supplying ore during World Wars I & II, have a direct link with Franklin.

This fall, Friends will visit Stuart Karu's *Images of Benjamin Franklin-As*

*Seen by Himself and Others: A Tercentenary Celebration* at New York University's Bobst Library. While in New York, we'll visit, Dr. David Wang's *Benjamin Franklin and China* exhibit at the Hollis Branch of Queens Borough Public Library.

The Friends trip to London and Paris, (see details in this *Gazette*) offers our members a superb opportunity to visit English and French Franklin sites.

Ellen Cohn, Editor of the *Papers of Benjamin Franklin*, is pleased to announce that the digital version of the Franklin Papers is now available for all to consult at [www.franklinpapers.org](http://www.franklinpapers.org). This is a product of a fifteen-year collaboration between the Franklin Papers and The Packard Humanities Institute, of California.

I'd say these are some wonderful birthday presents-Happy Birthday, Ben from all of your Friends!!



Claude-Anne Lopez  
Photo by Michael Stickney



## Franklin Gazette

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## Tercentenary News

### **Ben Franklin Coffeehouse Challenge**

The Benjamin Franklin Tercentenary and Starbucks Coffee are partnering to present the Ben Franklin Coffeehouse Challenge in the Greater Philadelphia and Central Pennsylvania regions. This Challenge is an exciting opportunity to recreate Franklin's special brew of civic generosity, in which community discussion and collective action generate creative and innovative solutions to shared public concerns. 2006 Ben Franklin Coffeehouse Challenge participants will be bringing Franklin's legacy to life in modern times. The Ben Franklin Coffeehouse Challenge offers civic-minded individuals and neighborhood residents, as well as members of existing groups such as civic and non-profit groups, hospitals, universities and corporations, a unique opportunity to come together and make a difference in their communities. *If you have an issue in your community that needs attention or if you want to learn how to "Organize a Challenge in Eight Easy Steps" in your neighborhood, please visit [www.benfranklin300.org/chc](http://www.benfranklin300.org/chc) or call Nicola Twilley at (215) 545-3870.*

### **The Autobiography Project**

Franklin is known as a scientist, diplomat, statesman, civic leader, printer – even as a flirt! But among his many interests and accomplishments, Benjamin Franklin was a successful writer – a skill he practiced daily, and valued very highly. His *Autobiography* is a classic: it's been reprinted hundreds of times, in hundreds of languages, and continues to inspire people all over the world with its original telling of the American Dream. In fact, thousands of Philadelphians are reading it right now: the *Autobiography* is the 2006 *One Book, One Philadelphia* selection, and the Free Library has organized countless book groups, lectures, and reading guides to help people engage with all of the book's themes. For The Autobiography Project, the Benjamin Franklin Tercentenary and One Book, One Philadelphia invite today's Philadelphians, fresh from reading about one of the city's most famous sons, to write their own memoirs – using no more than 300 words!

The Autobiography Project will kick-off on April 5, 2006 with a special event at Philadelphia's 30th Street Station, where some well-known Philadelphians will share their stories to get the project started.

Throughout the project, selected stories will be published in *The Philadelphia Inquirer* and *Daily News*, as well as on bus shelters throughout the region. After all, as Franklin warned us: "If you would not be forgotten, As soon as you are dead and rotten, Either write things worth reading, Or do things worth the writing."

More information will be available at [www.benfranklin300.org](http://www.benfranklin300.org) in late March 2006.

### **Reinterpreting Benjamin Franklin: A Collaborative Multimedia Project With Middle School Students**

The Benjamin Franklin Tercentenary, has joined with the Rosenbach Museum and Library, the University of the Arts, and NightKitchen Media to design, develop and produce an innovative educational program using two Franklin-based exhibitions—the Tercentenary's "Benjamin Franklin: In Search of a Better World" and the Rosenbach's "Benjamin Franklin's Poor Richard: Anatomy of an Almanac."

Following a visit to both exhibitions by all ninety students from The Philadelphia School's sixth, seventh and eighth grades, 16 students out of the original 90 recently elected to participate in a three-week mini course on Franklin. This course is designed to challenge students to use the objects found in the two exhibitions to design and curate an online exhibition, expressing their own vision of Franklin's life and legacy, to share with fellow middle school students around the country. The "remixing" or reinterpretation of the two exhibitions will draw not only on students' knowledge of Franklin's values and achievements but also on basic analytical, digital design and curatorial skills. Students will learn the fundamental principles of exhibition design as well as become proficient with standards-based online communications tools, including blogging, podcasting and image-sharing software.

Our ultimate goal is to deepen students' appreciation of Franklin in a way that mirrors his own innovative and collaborative spirit. And because this program holds great potential as a new way to help middle school students learn curricular content through the development of multimedia programs, we also hope this program will serve as a model museum education program for fellow museum educators and teachers to recreate in their own institutions.



## A Message from Claude-Anne Lopez:

My Cup Runneth Over...

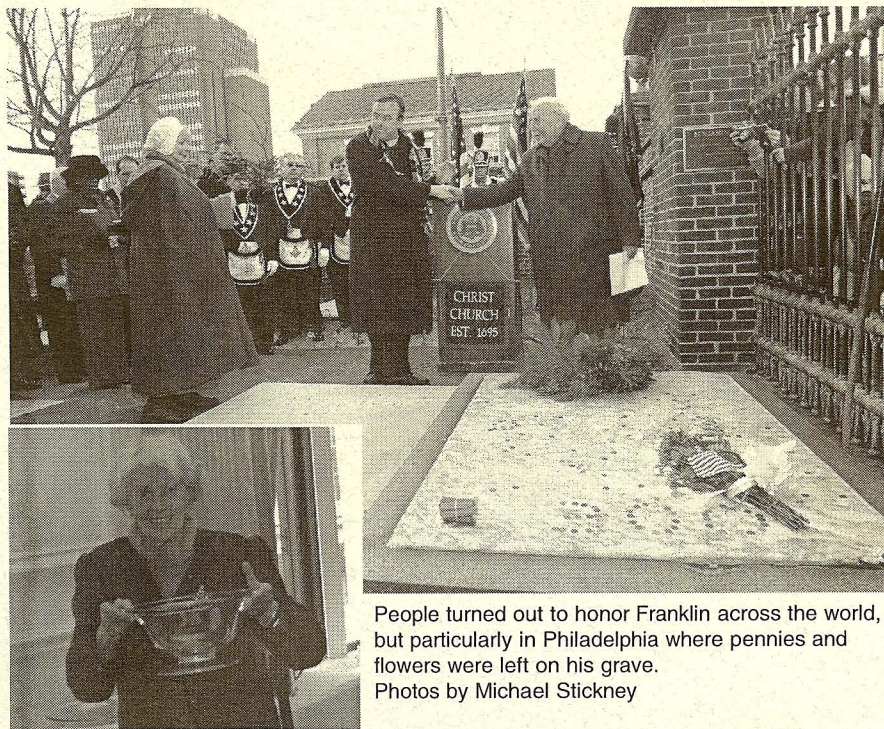
From the Friends of Franklin (whose earthly incarnations are Kathy DeLuca and Roy Goodman), a lovely bust of our hero by Robert Toth. And at the 300th birthday celebration, a beautiful wax profile by D. Weaver of Swiss Vineyards, Indiana Territory.

From the Friends of Franklin incarnated this time by Stuart Karu, co-founder of that celestial group, a charming miniature of G.W. Lundeen's statue of Franklin sitting on a bench, ready to chat with tourists and passersby. It appeared in the course of a delicious Belgian (of course) dinner after last April's symposium in Washington.

From Franklin Celebration! a magnificent crystal bowl with an inscription that modesty prevents me from reproducing.

Well, my friend, we are finally living together. Whatever will the Parisian ladies say?

Thanks and love to all,  
Claude-Anne



People turned out to honor Franklin across the world, but particularly in Philadelphia where pennies and flowers were left on his grave.

Photos by Michael Stickney

## One Hundred Years Ago: The Celebration of Benjamin Franklin's Birth in Boston

*Editor's Note: Claude-Anne Lopez's cousin, Sam Rubin, found a copy of the remarks made by Boston Mayor John F. Fitzgerald at Symphony Hall on January 17, 1906. Thanks to Sam we pass it on to you.*

It is fitting that Boston should commemorate the birth of Franklin because Boston was the scene of that memorable event. That he did not forget his birthplace and the home of his boyhood is evident from his liberal bequest of funds for the benefit of his former townsmen—one of them long devoted to the award of prize medals in our public schools, the other soon to be consecrated to some great measure of social improvement. This great benefactor of our city and of his race was one of seventeen children—the son of a poor soap-boiler and himself by occupation a printer. He made the most of his opportunities—perhaps I ought to say he made his opportunities—and became rich, wise, powerful and famous. But riches, wisdom, and power were merely instruments which he used to benefit his fellowman. He beheld the pomp of courts, the glories and frivolities of London and Versailles, with unmoved composure, and wore the homespun garments woven by his wife into the presence of ministers and kings. He was our first great Democrat—his whole biography a perfect illustration of the simple life.

We do not think of Franklin as a patriot or statesman mainly, although he bore a part second to none but Washington in the creation of our Union. He was delegate to the Continental Congress, Minister to Paris throughout the war of Independence, and a member of the convention which framed the Constitution. But he did not owe his reputation to these activities, or to any part which he took in public life or the wars of the young colonies. In the group of brilliant soldiers and statesmen whom the need of that great hour awakened to high achievements, he stands a figure apart, calm, reflective, and mature. He belonged, in fact, to an earlier generation. In the year of the sign-

ing of the Declaration of Independence, Franklin was a venerable sage of seventy. Washington himself was but forty-four, Jefferson thirty-three, and Hamilton nineteen. The others had their reputations to make; Franklin was already successful in commerce, a household word in literature, renowned throughout two continents in science and invention. And, although he added to the luster of his fame by his conduct in the trying period that followed, still it is not as a diplomat that he is remembered today. We think of him in his more characteristic pursuits, as the inventor of the lightning-rod, the founder of a public library, the organizer of a fire department, the industrious experimenter in all directions that promised practical advantage to his fellowman.

If Franklin were alive today, it is easy to believe that, with all the changes in our civilization, he would yet devote himself to the same ends and in the same spirit. I doubt if he would strive for that sort of success which puts some men of our day on pinnacles elevated to such dizzy heights that they seem separate from the rest of humankind. Franklin's nature was social, his ambition involved service. In these days of feverish and reckless speculation, the youth of our city could not have a better model than this printer's apprentice who by frugality and industry rose out of want and made himself the third figure in our national history, surpassing even Washington and Lincoln as a philosopher and a practical humanitarian, and falling behind them mainly in the fact that he never knew the responsibilities of leadership before the whole nation. Of them also it might have been written, that they took away the scepter from tyrants; but of Franklin alone it can be said that he drew down the lightning from heaven. He cannot be called, like Washington, first in war or first in the hearts of his countrymen; but he may dispute even with the father of his country himself the honor of being first American in the arts of peace.



# 230 Years Ago to the Day: ANOTHER BIRTHDAY PARTY!

by Claude-Anne Lopez



*Editor's Note: For those Friends who could not be at the Celebration! Benjamin Franklin Founder luncheon on the 300th anniversary of his birth, here is Claude-Anne Lopez's talk, based on an excerpt of her latest project, a fictionalized diary of Franklin's grandson, William Temple Franklin. If you'd like to read more of the diary, tap into the Independence Hall Historical Association's web site, and go to "A Tale of Benjamin Franklin's Family in the Days Leading up to the American Revolution: Temple's Diary" <http://www.ushistory.org/franklin/temple/index.htm>*

January 17, 1776

Grandfather turns seventy today. Aunt Sally intends to carry on her mother's tradition: Deborah never failed to celebrate her husband's birthday, even during his long absences from home. And now, to the great excitement of Benny, age 6, and Willy, almost 3, we are getting ready.

The platter of choice for the festive table used to be, I'm told, Grandfather's favorite cheese, a big wheel of English Stilton, but that is impossible these days of non-importation of British goods, so Aunt Sally and Aunt Jane have been outcooking each other in a stupendous variety of muffins, biscuits, cakes, and, of course, Indian pudding—each aunt producing her own recipe, Boston versus Philadelphia. The feast is to take place on the third floor, in the music room. I must admit that I hardly set foot in that room because it has been discovered, by one and all, that I have absolutely no musical ability. I sing out of tune, I cannot tell one melody from another, my aunt and uncle's efforts to teach me a little something have been totally frustrated, while all of them delight in performing solo or together.

Aunt Sally, as always, gave me the background of Grandfather's favorite room in the house.

Soon after he came back from his



Friends of Franklin gather after Claude-Anne Lopez's talk in the Ben Franklin's Ghost exhibit at Lights of Liberty where they presented Claude with a wax engraving of Franklin  
Photo by Michael Stickney

first political mission to London, in 1762, he and Debbie started to build what would be their first house, "a good house contrived to my mind," as he put it. The best architect in Philadelphia was chosen—a friend of theirs—but, as often happens, he took so long that the house was far from finished when Franklin sailed off once more across the Atlantic in late 1774.

Deborah wrote him one day that William, his son the Governor, did not like the blue room on the third floor, to be known as the music room. From London, Franklin immediately answered: "I suppose the blue room is too blue, the wood being with the same color with the paper, and so looks too dark. I would have you finish it as soon as you can, thus. Paint the Wainscot a dead white; paper the walls blue, and tack the gilt border round just above the surbase and under the cornish. If the paper is not

equal colored when pasted on, let it be brushed over again with the same color; and let the papier maché musical figures be tacked to the middle of the ceiling; when this is done, I think it will look very well."

And now, to Franklin's roles as scientist, political writer, diplomat, printer, etc. etc., we can add "and ...interior decorator, even from afar!"

Since I am inept at music, I am put in charge of pouring the refreshments and

shown the family's precious, secret recipe of: ORANGE SHRUB which I shall now reveal to you, my descendants:

"To a gallon of rum, add two quarts of orange juice and two pounds of sugar. Dissolve the sugar in the juice before you mix it with the rum. Put all together in a cask and shake it well. Let it stand 3 or 4 weeks and it will be very fine, fit for bottling. Pass the thick through filtering paper and put into a funnel, that not a drop may be lost."

(Between us, I must confess that I filled a little glass with this fragrant brew and swallowed it when no one was looking. It was AWFUL! It burned my tongue, my throat, my stomach, and all the way down to my feet. Don't try it, descendants!)

Grandfather comes back early in the afternoon from his committee



meetings in Congress and proceeds straight to the music room to tidy up the scores and lyrics he brought back from England: *the catch songs*, about which Mrs. Stevenson told me with a wink that they are always humorous and often use naughty words (all sung by male voices, of course), and the glee songs, vocalized by at least three men. These have more to do with romance and are all the rage in present-day London. Grandfather belonged to several singing clubs in England and it should give him pleasure to hear them sung by American voices today.

But the real object of his pride will be, as always, his latest brainchild, the glass armonica.

—"Why do you spell it without an h, Grandfather? It looks funny."

—"Because it is my tribute to the Italians who have done so much for music, but have no h in their alphabet. The glass armonica is my favorite invention."

—"More than the lightning rod? More than the stove? More than..."

—"More than any other, I tell you. Because it gives me and a whole lot of

other people—including the ladies—a great amount of pleasure. Even Mozart has started to compose for it. To be honest, Temple, I must tell you that it is not entirely my invention. People have known for centuries that you can produce melodious sounds by rubbing a moistened finger around the rim of a glass, and also that you can modify that sound by using more or less liquid inside the glass. No, I was not the first inventor, but I made big improvements, for instance by replacing the early system of drinking glasses arranged on a table. I use instead a rotating spindle on which nesting glass bowls of increasing size can each produce a specific note. People rave about the sound of that instrument: they call it warbling, they call it celestial. I'm still tinkering with it in my few spare moments. Your aunt Sally already plays it quite well."

Why, oh why did I have to fall into such a musical family? I wonder.

When the guests arrive, they are taken on a guided tour of the music room. They marvel at the armonica, of course, and at the elegant harpsichord, after which they admire a viola da gamba, a harp, a Welsh harp (smaller model), a set of tuned bells, a spinet, and a splendid Chinese gong.

We hear solos, duets, trios, with Uncle Richard revealing his talent on the viola da gamba. Warmed up by the orange shrub I am liberally passing around, the guests join in many a drinking song, some going back to the youth of this aging group, some just imported from London. Surrounded by his old friends, Grandfather is beaming. Could it be that what he particularly loves about singing is the conviviality it creates, a glowing comradeship in which he basks?

And to top it off, after the candles have been lit, they sing his absolute favorites, the traditional Scottish songs, so sad and so moving in their simplicity. The grand climax is *So Merry As We Two Have Been*, at which point aunt Jane joins in, with tears running down her wrinkles. But no, there is one more to come, the song that Aunt Sally calls "My Father's Love Song to my Mother."

And here it is, sung by Ellen Cohn, who is not only the editor of the Franklin Papers at Yale, writing headnotes, footnotes, appeals for grants, and a variety of articles about Franklin, but also knows how to sing *A Capella*. The title of the song is *My Plain Country Joan*, and feel free to join her in the refrain.

## I Sing My Plain Country Joan

Of their Chloes and Phillisses Poets may prate  
I sing my plain Country Joan  
Now twelve Years my Wife, still the Joy of my Life  
Blest Day that I made her my own,  
**My dear Friends**  
**Blest Day that I made her my own.**

Not a Word of her Face, her Shape or her Eyes,  
Of Flames or of Darts shall you hear;  
Tho' I Beauty admire 'tis Virtue I prize,  
That fades not in seventy Years,  
**My dear Friends**  
**That fades not in seventy Years.**

In Peace and good Order, my Household she keeps  
Right Careful to save what I gain  
Yet cheerfully spends, and smiles on the Friends

I've the Pleasures to entertain  
**My dear Friends**  
**I've the Pleasures to entertain.**

Am I laden with Care, she takes off a large Share,  
That the Burthen ne'er makes me to reel,  
Does good Fortune arrive, the Joy of my Wife,  
Quite doubles the Pleasures I feel,  
**My dear Friends**  
**Quite doubles the Pleasures I feel.**

Some faults we have all, and so may my Joan,  
But then they're exceedingly small;  
And now I'm us'd to 'em, they're just like my own,  
I scarcely can see 'em at all,  
**My dear Friends**  
**I scarcely can see 'em at all.**



# *Franklin Abroad: The Americans at Passy and the Chalut Family Circle*

*By Philippe Alasseur*

At the beginning of the reign of Louis XVI, Farmer General Geoffroy Chalut de Vérin was one of the richest men in Paris. He divided his time between his townhouse on Place Vendôme, a country retreat bordering the famous gardens of Saint-Cloud, and an official residence at the court of Versailles. His wife, Elisabeth Varanchan, sister of another Farmer General, not having produced a child, the couple adopted a little girl from the foundling home, Marie-Catherine Desroches, soon nicknamed Lucile.

The Abbé Jean Chalut, brother of Geoffroy, had at his disposal a private apartment in the Place Vendôme townhouse. The Abbé Chalut's life-long companion was a certain Abbé Arnoux. They lived together, alternating between Paris and a country house in the small village of Passy. Their intimacy was such that they often sent communal letters. Very much a part of Parisian literary society, they frequently kept company with a third abbé, Mably, a noted historian and economist, the brother of Condillac, of the Académie française.

In 1777 the two abbés found themselves with new neighbors in Passy: representatives of America, sent by the thirteen colonies to try to convince France to support their revolt against England. They had chosen to establish themselves in what was still the country, half-way between Paris and Versailles.

At their head was Benjamin Franklin, who, barely off the ship, tried to procure funds for the insurgents by negotiating the sale of American tobacco to the Farmers General [who, under French law, held the monopoly on the tobacco trade]. Within two months he had a settled agreement on volume and price. Geoffroy Chalut, a member of the finance committee, in charge of, among other things, the purchase of foreign tobacco, was of necessity involved in the outcome of the negotiation.

Direct contact was very quickly established between the ambassador of the young American republic and

the Farmer General, the two abbés playing the role of intermediaries. On January 6, 1778, the feast of Epiphany, Chalut invited Franklin and his two colleagues, [Silas] Deane and Arthur Lee, to dinner. This was during the negotiation of the Franco-American Treaty of Alliance to which Louis XVI affixed his signature the following month. On the invitation of Elisabeth they dined together again on March 1st. Cordial relations developed, reinforced by small kindnesses. The two abbés gave Franklin a cane to take on his walks, and Geoffroy Chalut released 40 bottles of rum, addressed to Franklin, but detained at the custom house, with a wry note to allow duty free entry for reasons of health ["bon sans payer de droits, puisque c'est pour sa santé"].

Scarcely arrived, a new American representative, John Adams, was taken under the wing of the two abbés who came to pay a neighborly call early one morning. They discovered that he wished to improve his limited understanding of French, and they offered to guide him in his selections, pointing out which grammars and dictionaries to buy, and which authors to read. A little taken aback by these two figures, Adams wondered for a moment if they were spies of the French court. He knew, however, that Chalut was the brother of a Farmer General and, moreover, a Knight of Malta and a Knight of the Order of Saint-Louis. It was thus prudent to make good use of this seventy-odd-year-old veteran, older than his friend Arnoux, who was yet in his early fifties. And even if the abbés had been told to spy on him, the American found them so congenial and cultured that he wrote that evening in his diary that such spies might make excellent friends.

The traces of this friendship and a true intimacy are found in a new invitation extended by the Abbé Chalut on his brother's behalf to Franklin in May, 1778.

"Madame de Chalut sends warm greetings and little Lucile sincerely wishes to embrace you even though

she does not care to be an American, but perhaps she will change her mind. She is still grateful to you for having wished to win her over. Abbé Arnoux is here and sends his respects. Mr. Adams and the dear young fellow will be of the party." The "dear young fellow" was probably William Temple Franklin, Franklin's grandson. Where the abbé mentions eight-year-old Lucile, one suspects a reference to a childish response to which Franklin would have responded in a teasing way. The dinner took place Place Vendôme on May 19 and was followed by a visit to the Opéra, where Chalut had a box.

Geoffroy Chalut belonged thus to the small coterie of Americanophiles in Paris, where high nobility such as the La Rochefoucauld, Noailles, and Lafayette families gathered alongside such leading lights as Turgot and Condorcet. The two abbés were among the most active of this group, exchanging a stream of quick notes (the equivalent of the phone calls and e-mails of today) with the American representatives, mainly Adams. These notes were for scheduling get togethers, passionate discussions on literature, economics, and political science. Benjamin Franklin would later laughingly refer to these rendez vous as "the Auteuil Academy of Belles Lettres".

As the years went by the dinners continued. Often it was Geoffroy Chalut who hosted the others, in Paris or in Saint-Cloud. Any pretext would do; a concert by Italian musicians, the celebration of the victory at Yorktown, or simply the pleasure of getting together. Adams' diary records the November, 1782 occasion on which 12 guests met at table; Adams himself, Benjamin Franklin and his grandson, businessman Matthew Ridley, Grand (undoubtedly the banker for the American tobacco business), his wife and niece, the two abbés, Geoffroy Chalut, Lucile ("the Farmers Daughter is about 12 Years old and is I suppose une Enfant trouvée."), and an unnamed young man. Gatherings included French and



# FRANKLIN TIDBITS

## Named for Franklin:

St. Andrews University (Scotland), which awarded Franklin an honorary degree, has established a Franklin Centre.

Alachua County Florida declared Jan. 17, 2006 "Benjamin Franklin Day". This was facilitated by Friend of Franklin Professor Seymour Block.

## Franklin's Words Writ Large and On Line

In the continuing protest over domestic eavesdropping, a group of protesters displayed a huge banner with the words, "Those who would sacrifice Liberty for Security deserve neither." Members of the group attired in black hoods held up the banner. The moment was captured by a photographer; see the Feb. 6, 2006 issue of *Newsweek*, p. 40.

The *Frankly Franklin* blog is a production of the Athens Legal News: [www.athenslegalnews.com/franklin](http://www.athenslegalnews.com/franklin). Like the *Gazette's* "In His Own Words" column it publishes transcriptions from Franklin's own writings on a variety of topics.

Another idea that might well have intrigued Franklin is cafe-related: the presentations organized by the Cafe Scientifique on pressing issues of the day in cities around the world. They feature some of today's most

provocative thinkers on science, technology, and social issues. If there is no local chapter in your hometown see the British web site for Cafe Scientifique for suggestions on how to organize one yourself: <http://www.cafescientifique.org/>. Through the same web site you can read the recent *New York Times* article on the movement, which even includes junior cafes scientifiques in schools.

**Franklin On Stage:** Friend Bill Meikle, the face of Franklin in the Boston area was interviewed on National Public Radio's *All Things Considered* broadcast. It was aired on Jan. 2. To listen tap into [www.npr.org](http://www.npr.org)

Tom Brennan, whose acting abilities have been praised by such luminaries of the stage and screen as Steven Sondheim, Polly Bergen, Blythe Danner, Treat Williams and Judith Ivey, has put together a one-man show entitled "B. Free Franklin: Reading from the Writings of Ben Franklin". Brennan, whose roles have ranged from Adlai Stevenson in the JFK miniseries to roles in "Fatal Attraction" with Michael Douglas, is no stranger to the stage either. Contact him through Solo Drama, 303 North Mountain Ave., Upper Montclair, NJ 07043

Get your tickets now for Tim Slover's

"Lightning Rod" at the Fulton Opera House, Lancaster, Pa. Order by phone: (717) 397-7425 or on line: <http://www.atthefulton.org>.

## Read about Franklin On-Line:

Preview Mark Skousen's new book, *The Completed Autobiography*: [www.humaneventsonline.com](http://www.humaneventsonline.com)

Joyce Chaplin writes in the January issue of *Common-place* about her attempt to understand Franklin's work on the Gulf Stream by hopping on board a sail-powered research vessel. The article is called "Overboard": <http://common-place.org>

Did you miss the 300th Birthday Celebration in Philadelphia? Read Josh Kornbluth's (the creator of "Benjamin Franklin Unplugged") version of the great day under the date of January 18: <http://blogs.kqed.org/joshkornbluth>

You can see Steven Colbert of the *Colbert Report* (Comedy Central) interview Friend Ralph Archbold in his Franklin persona by typing Benjamin Franklin into the search engine on the show's web site: [http://www.comedycentral.com/shows/the\\_colbert\\_report/videos/most\\_recent/index.jhtml](http://www.comedycentral.com/shows/the_colbert_report/videos/most_recent/index.jhtml)



## **Benjamin Franklin: London and Paris** **Thursday, October 26 – Sunday, November 5, 2006**

If you haven't signed up for our 300th Birthday excursion, there's still time! Friends are scheduled to travel with us on this combination tour of some of the highlights of our previous London and Paris visits. For those who attended both of those tours and have signed up for this one too, we have some exciting new places to visit.

Our group flight departs from Philadelphia (our gateway city) on Thursday, October 26 and arrives at Gatwick London. Those who wish to fly directly from their home towns to London will have that option as we will have a cost for the land package only as well as one that will include all air and transport. The group flight will return to the US on Sunday, November 5th from Charles de Gaulle Paris but our tour will officially end on Friday, November 3. Those who wish to remain for the extra evening will have that option and will have Saturday, November 4th as a free day in Paris. Details will be arriving in your mailbox shortly.



## ADRIAN SASSOON

A Very Rare Porcelain Cup & Saucer, circa 1785, showing Benjamin Franklin.

Made at the French Royal Porcelain Factory at Sèvres with dark blue ground and enamel 'jewels' on stamped gold foils. Gilded by E.-H. Le Guay. The cameo-style portraits depict Benjamin Franklin as well as Louis XVI and Marie-Antoinette of France & Frederick the Great and Elisabeth Christine of Prussia. Commemorating the Treaty of Amity and Commerce between Prussia and the United States of America, signed by Franklin in Passy on 9th July 1785. Simpler 1770's Sèvres cups & saucers painted with Franklin's portrait are in the Philadelphia Museum of Art, Art Institute of Chicago, Hillwood, Washington DC, and in the Wallace Collection, London. This is the only example known with lavish 'jewelling' and the depiction of royalty.

Available for sale, viewable in New York by appointment. Please contact [email@adriansassoon.com](mailto:email@adriansassoon.com)

## *The Memoirs of Benjamin Franklin*

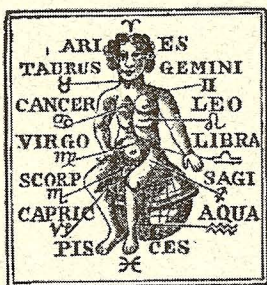
Commonly known as *The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin*, this limited edition is being published by the Arion Press in celebration of the three-hundredth anniversary of Franklin's birth. The book will be the first use of an historic American typeface, shown here, as recreated by the press in digital form and named Aitken in honor of Robert Aitken, the famous printer of the American Revolution, and his daughter Jane. The original metal type, known simply as Roman No. 1, was cut and cast in Philadelphia by the Binny & Ronaldson typefoundry about 1800 and was used by Jane Aitken for the printing of the first American translation of the Bible, by Charles Thomson, in 1808. The book is 192 pages in length and is bound in full brown goatskin with titling in gold. The paper is Somerset Book, an English mouldmade paper, of all-cotton fiber. The edition is limited to four hundred numbered copies for sale. Due spring, 2006. To receive a prospectus or reserve a copy, please contact:

### THE ARION PRESS

1802 Hays Street, The Presidio, San Francisco, California 94129

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### 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 28 - April 23, 2006

Exhibit "Ben Franklin's Curious Mind," Bruce Museum, 1 Museum Dr., Greenwich, Conn. 10-5 Tues.-Sat.; 1-5 Sun. <http://www.brucemuseum.org>

### February 17, 2006 - December 31, 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. Admission is free.

### April 8, 2006 - June 30, 2007

"The Medical World of Benjamin Franklin" at the College of Physicians, 19 S. 22nd Street, Philadelphia, PA. Call 215-563-3737.

### April 17, 2006

Masonic funeral service for Benjamin Franklin. The procession will leave from the American Philosophical Society at 11:00 a.m. and proceed to Christ Church for a Masonic funeral service at 11:30 a.m. Luncheon at the Masonic Temple and tours of the Temple will follow. The public is welcome to join the procession or take part in further events. For more information call: 215-988-1909.

### April 19, 2006

"Ben Franklin Day: Celebrate his 300th Birthday!" Old South Meeting House, Boston. Born in Boston across the street from the Old South Meeting House, Ben Franklin was baptized at the Old South and his family worshipped here for many years. Visit the pew his family rented (No. 11) and learn about his life as a boy. 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM. Location: Old South Meeting House museum. Free with museum admission.

### April 23, 2006

"Franklin Alive!" at Marian Court College, 35 Little's Point Road, Swampscott, 3:00 p.m. This interactive program, open to the public without charge, is appropriate for adults and students nine years of age and older. More: Telephone: 781-595-6768

### 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>

### May 3, 2006

Lecture by Stacey Schiff at the John Jay Homestead Historic Site, Katonah, NY. For reservations, please call 914-232-8119.

### May 5-7, 2006

Philomel presents, "Franklin's France," the last in a series of programs honoring Franklin's tercentenary. For more information call 215-487-2344 or check the web site: [http://www.philomel.org/fs\\_calendar.htm](http://www.philomel.org/fs_calendar.htm).

### May 13-July 30, 2006

"In Pursuit of Genius: Jean-Antoine Houdon and the Sculpted Portraits of Benjamin Franklin" at the Philadelphia Museum of Art: [www.philamuseum.org](http://www.philamuseum.org)

### May 16-Dec. 16, 2006

"Franklin and the Book," exhibit at the Library Company of Philadelphia.

### May 31, 2006

Glass armonica concert will be given at the John Jay Homestead State Historic Site, by Cecilia Brauer, as part of the celebration of Franklin's 300th birthday at 7:00 p.m., 400 Jay Street, Katonah, NY. Call 914-232-5651 for more information.

### June 4, 2006

"Patriot's Day" at the John Jay Homestead, Katonah, NY from 11:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Family fun day with stunt kite flying, fire department demonstrations, 18th century magic shows, meeting Franklin in person, a post office scavenger hunt, food and much, much more. For more information call 914-232-5651 or visit [www.johnjayhomestead.org](http://www.johnjayhomestead.org).

### June 6, 2006

"Ben Franklin and His Education: Creating Oneself." Stacy Schiff together with J.A. Leo Lemay, New York Historical Society, 6:30 p.m. For more information: <http://www.nyhistory.org/programs.html>.

### June 22 - 24, 2006

"Benjamin Franklin and Russia," a conference sponsored jointly by the St. Petersburg Center for the History of

Ideas, Russian Academy of Sciences, Saint Petersburg Scientific Center, the Joint Council on Humanities and the Historical and Cultural Heritage, Institute of International Connections and Herzen State Pedagogical University of Russia. For more information e-mail: [franklin2006@mail.ru](mailto:franklin2006@mail.ru)

### October 26 - November 4, 2006

Friends of Franklin trip to London and Paris.

## Ongoing:

"Benjamin Franklin: In Search of a Better World," is on view in Philadelphia at the National Constitution Center through April 30. It will open in St. Louis on June 8, and later travel to Houston, Denver, Atlanta and Paris, closing at the end of March, 2008.

### Through May 31, 2006

"Educating the Youth of Pennsylvania: Worlds of Learning in the Age of Franklin" at the University of Pennsylvania Library, Philadelphia.

### Through June 17, 2006

"Benjamin Franklin in His Own Words" at the Library of Congress.

### Through November, 2006

Exhibit "Ben & Me: Keeping an American Hero's Legacy Alive Today" National Liberty Museum, 321 Chestnut St., Philadelphia 10-5 daily <http://www.libertymuseum.org>

### Through December 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/>

### Through January 17, 2007

"Ben Franklin at the New York Historical Society." Exhibit that features paintings, sculptures, ceramics, textiles and other artifacts interpreting Franklin's life. For more information: <http://www.nyhistory.org/programs.html>.

Don't forget to check the Tercentenary website [www.benfranklin300.org](http://www.benfranklin300.org) for listings of additional events as well as the Boston website [www.benfranklin-boston.com](http://www.benfranklin-boston.com) for more events and information.



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