

# Franklin Gazette

Volume 17, Number 4, Winter 2007

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*"The Doors of Wisdom are never Shut." Poor Richard, August 1755.*

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## Message From the President

By Roy E. Goodman

The opening of the two Paris Franklin exhibitions in early December at Musée des Arts et Métiers and Musée Carnavalet comes amidst a warming of Franco-American relations. Franklin, in a sense, has returned home to greet his French minions and reintroduce himself to audiences less familiar with his achievements, and his pivotal role in forging the United States.

It was my good fortune to have attended the Paris openings as well as a reception at the U.S. Embassy. The Friends were well represented. Our French members Daniel Jouve and wife Alice Higgins Jouve, have always been extremely helpful in assisting and supporting Franklin events throughout France. Daniel's piece in the Fall, 2006 *Gazette*, sketches Franklin's place among the French. Phil Krider, whose fine chapter on Franklin's science for the American exhibition catalogue, offered scientific commentary on both shows. Exhibit designers, Barbara Charles and Bob Staples, and Franklin Tercentenary Executive Director, Rosiland Remer, Curator Page Talbott, and Curator of the Frankliniana Database, Connie Hershey are to be commended for seamlessly coordinating the finale of events with two international exhibits.

Thanks too, for the many fine publications of

Friends of Franklin authors and especially the editors of the **Papers of Benjamin Franklin**. Their scholarship documents Franklin's interactions with European scientists, diplomats, and savants, within the complex context of eighteenth century events.

Indeed, the Digital Edition of **The Papers of Benjamin Franklin** (sponsored by the Packard Humanities Institute) is proving extremely useful in promoting Franklin studies throughout France. The gratification expressed by members of the French press, teachers, and the public was overwhelming.

Of course, for the general populace abroad, Franklin introduced America to those curious about the new world and the establishment of a remarkable new Republic. Hundreds of editions of Franklin's writings in almost every language issued forth from presses around the globe, contributing to a better

understanding of the values, foibles, and character of both Franklin and his fellow Americans.

Once again, Franklin beckons those in "Search of a Better World." Pursue paths of progress, often difficult in this ever-changing, fast-paced world. Ben's wisdom offers much substance that we Friends of Franklin readily espouse. There's no better holiday gift than this. A peaceful and healthy 2008 to all!



"Sketch of Franklin made with electricity on silk." by I. Bianchi. Courtesy of The American Philosophical Society.



## Franklin Gazette

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

## *Friends' Renewal Drive & Trip*

### **2008 Membership Renewals**

2008 Membership renewal notices were mailed in December to members with a renewal date of December 31. Franklin Members may renew on-line at [www.friendsoffranklin.org](http://www.friendsoffranklin.org). All members may renew by fax with credit card payment or by check, 856-854-0773. Renewals should be sent to The Friends of Franklin, Inc., P.O. Box 40048, Philadelphia, PA 19106. Please review renewal forms to update your information and include your email address so we can send you electronic news and updates. Thank you for your continued support of The Friends of Franklin.

### **Benjamin Franklin: The Netherlands & Belgium**

Our next international Franklin excursion will take place from

**September 1 – 10, 2008.** Friends will have a chance to see the cities Franklin visited with his son, William, and have the opportunity to meet those who study Franklin and his contemporaries—those scientists and people of the Enlightenment who he had the pleasure of meeting during his stay. Our host hotel in The Netherlands is the Park Plaza Victoria Amsterdam. In Belgium, the host hotel is the Radisson SAS Royal Hotel Brussels. Full tour packages (includes air and transport to and from airports) and land only packages will be available. The tour is limited to 45 people. Initial deposits of \$200 per person (fully refundable) are due by January 15, 2008. Itinerary and tour information will be sent to all members in late January. Questions should be directed to Kathy DeLuca at 856-833-1771.

## *Franklin Math Puzzlers*

*Compiled by Aziz S. Inan*

*Editor's note: Here is the latest Franklin math puzzle presented by Aziz Inan and the solution to the problem posed in the Fall issue.*

### **Problem # 5. Calculate the Number of pages in the first edition of *Experiments and Observations on Electricity*.**

The first edition of Ben's book entitled *Experiments and Observations on Electricity* published in London in 1751 has  $x$  numbered pages where  $x$  falls short of one hundred by the sum of its digits. What is the number  $x$ ?

Here is the answer to problem #4 posed in the fall 2007 issue:

**Problem # 4. Who am I?** I'm related to Ben Franklin who died at age 84. Coincidentally, the product of the four digits of my birth year also

equals 84. Interestingly enough, I also had my birthday  $x$  in the year which equals  $x$  times 84. Who am I and what year was I born?

**Answer:** I'm Benjamin Franklin's daughter, Sarah (Sally) Franklin Bache, and I was born in 1743.

**(Solution:** Let the birth year be  $y$ . Since  $84 = 1 \times 2 \times 6 \times 7 = 1 \times 3 \times 4 \times 7$ , the possible solutions for  $y$  are 1267, 1276, 1347, 1374, 1437, 1473, 1627, 1672, 1726, 1734, 1743 and 1762. Since Benjamin Franklin lived in the eighteenth century, only four of these years fall into this century. The correct answer is  $y = 1743$  and the unknown person is Benjamin Franklin's daughter, Sarah (Sally) Franklin Bache, who was born on September 11, 1743 and had her 21<sup>st</sup> birthday in the year  $21 \times 84 = 1764$ . She died in 1808 at age 64.)



# Franklin Abroad

## Benjamin Franklin and Brazilian Independence

Caitlin Fitz

Benjamin Franklin's fame throughout revolutionary-era North America and Europe is common knowledge to contemporary scholars and schoolchildren alike. Less well known is the way in which South Americans of the time viewed Franklin. To be sure, Franklin was primarily a denizen of the North Atlantic. As a young man, he was an ardent British nationalist who turned against George III only on the eve of revolution. He then became a leading advocate of independence, while in his old age he confessed that France was "the country that I love the most in the world."

But Franklin's reputation extended below the equator as well, as evidenced by journalists, intellectuals, and political leaders of early nineteenth-century Brazil. For example, a leading economic thinker of the lusophone world, José da Silva Lisboa, referred to "the celebrated FRANKLIN" in an 1810 treatise. In particular, Silva Lisboa cited several of Franklin's essays, including his *Information to those who would remove to America*, as a key source of information on U.S. political economy. Impressed with North American economic and demographic growth, he argued that "the Government of North America provides the most rational example of manufacturing policy" and urged Brazilians to consider basing their economy on a similar combination of agriculture and simple manufactures. For Silva Lisboa, Franklin's published works therefore offered an important source of information regarding the revolution of 1776 and the republic that it spawned.

Silva Lisboa was a monarchist, but his republican counterparts also used Franklin's work as a way to learn more about the United States. In 1817, for example, republicans and other dissidents in the northeastern province of Pernambuco revolted against the Portuguese monarchy. As they attempted to construct an independent government, they drew on Franklin's French edition of key founding documents of the United States: the state constitutions of each of the states, the Declaration of Independence, and treaties made with France, Holland, and Sweden. Published in Paris in 1783, *Constitutions des treize Etats-Unis de*

*l'Amérique* was intended to inform the world about the recently independent nation. Its appearance in Pernambuco was particularly striking given that Franklin's collection of the original state constitutions in this book apparently interested the rebels more than the federal constitution itself, which perhaps struck them as too centralized. Franklin's work in publicizing the structure of the North American republic and its component parts thus helped U.S. political ideas to filter through Brazil.

Newspapers of the independence era also referred to Franklin when they wanted to reassure their readers that Brazilians could achieve political independence without sacrificing stability. As Rio de Janeiro's *Sentinel da Liberdade* put it in October of 1823 (one year after Brazil's emperor had declared national independence): "It is certain, that Metternichs, Pitts, and Castlereaghs, and Franklins do not walk on our streets. But remember who these Statesmen were, before they acquired names. One of them was a simple Bookseller [sic], and another a sardonic man imprisoned for debts. Thus, *Senhor* Editor, do not say that good men are lacking...." For the anonymous author of this piece, Franklin's rise from obscurity to fame (even if some of the details were incorrect) was a reason to hope that similar men might soon emerge in Brazil. As Rio's *Reverbero Constitucional Fluminense* had put it in 1822, "opportune occasions always make *Franklins*, *Penns*, and *Wasinghtons* [sic] appear."

The *Reverbero Constitucional Fluminense*, for its part, displayed an awareness of Franklin's scientific and literary accomplishments as well. As the editor put it in April of 1822, apparently paraphrasing Turgot: "Franklin, who could snatch the lightning from the clouds with his hands, could snatch the Sceptre, with which the Sovereign Colossus of Europe had sworn to crush the Americans." Two months later, this same newspaper began an article on native people in Brazil by quoting Franklin in the original English: "Savages we call them, because their manners differ from ours, which we think the perfection of civility; they think the same of theirs." Clearly, this editor

was familiar with the broad scope of Franklin's life and writings.

Word of Franklin also spread into at least some areas of the arid Brazilian northeast. In January of 1824, for example, a group of rural Pernambuco residents protested the increasingly absolutist Rio monarchy and instead envisioned a province of "free men, philanthropists, lovers of Order, and emulators of a Franklin." Familiarity with Franklin, therefore, extended to at least some planters of the rural interior, even though it was concentrated in the port cities.

To be sure, the Brazilians who wrote of Franklin in their newspapers, economic treatises and political documents were elites, not commoners. Their familiarity with Franklin's accomplishments was exceptional rather than representative. After all, literacy rates in Brazil were lower than they were in the United States, and it was particularly hard for a printer like Franklin to acquire fame in Brazil, which had no printing press until 1808 (when the Portuguese monarchy fled Napoleon and took refuge, along with the royal press, in Rio). Indeed, there is no evidence that Franklin's reputation in Brazil spread very far beyond the lettered elites who controlled the formal channels of political and economic power.

While Silva Lisboa and the editor of the *Reverbero Constitucional Fluminense* knew Franklin's work reasonably well, therefore, it seems more likely that Franklin's biggest influence in Brazil was symbolic. For Brazilians who knew of him, Franklin embodied the revolution of 1776 and the possibility of independence (an independence, they understood, that had not disrupted North America's standing racial and socioeconomic order to the degree that had independence in Haiti). Franklin symbolized the ability of native-born Americans to reach great intellectual heights, at least if they happened to be white men. And to some, Franklin's rise from obscurity kindled the hope that Brazil, too, might be home to a burgeoning generation of political leaders who could guide that nation into a similarly prosperous independence.



# *Out of the Mud and into the Garret, the Paper Mill, and the Tailor Shop:*

## **The Unusual Provenance of the Papers of Benjamin Franklin**

*By Valerie-Anne Lutz, American Philosophical Society*

Benjamin Franklin founded the American Philosophical Society, which holds between 60 and 75 percent of Franklin's known papers. Yet Franklin did not donate his papers directly to the Society. In the 18th century, men such as Franklin might leave their collections of books to a library, but their personal papers were often left to family members. Franklin was no exception. When he died in 1790, he left his papers to his grandson, William Temple Franklin. Had Franklin left his papers directly to the APS or another institution, they may have remained largely intact. The actual story is quite different.

A few months after Franklin's death, Temple put out a call in the *Pennsylvania Packet* for letters or other papers written by his grandfather. Temple wanted to publish an edition of his grandfather's papers as quickly as possible and hoped to acquire not only letters that Franklin had sent to others, but also papers lost during the Revolution:

"The subscriber, to whom Dr. Franklin bequeathed all his Papers and Manuscripts, and who is preparing to give his Works to the Public, takes this method of informing those who may have knowledge of any of the above-mentioned Papers, and will communicate the same to him, so that he may thereby be enabled to recover any of them, or who may themselves procure any of them, and deliver them to him, shall be thankfully and generously rewarded, and no questions asked. He likewise requests those persons who may have any Letters or other Writings of Dr. Franklin, that may be deemed worthy of the public eye, to be so kind to forward them as early as possible, that they may be inserted in the Doctor's Works. Those also who may have any Books or Maps, belonging to the Library of the late Dr. Franklin, are desired to return

them without delay to the Subscriber, who is about to embark for Europe."

When Franklin left for France in 1776, he had left the bulk of his papers at Trevoe, the Bucks County country estate of his good friend and former political ally, Joseph Galloway. After the British evacuated Philadelphia, the Loyalist Galloway fled to England. Shortly thereafter, Trevoe was raided and seized by the Continental Army. At some point during either the evacuation or the seizure—depending on who is relating the story—Galloway's fireproof vault was broken into and its contents, including Franklin's papers and papers of the colonial government of Pennsylvania, were scattered around the grounds.

In May of 1777, Franklin had inquired about his papers, writing to his son-in-law Richard Bache:

"...what became of the Chest of Papers I put into Mr. Galloway's Hands as one [of] my Executors? It was directed to my Son, with the Key in a Letter of the same Direction to be delivered after my Decease. The Chest contain'd all my political Correspondence and some valuable Manuscripts. Did you remove my Library and Instruments, and where are they?"

Bache reported the bad news on July 14: "Your chest of papers left with Mr. Galloway I am told was broke open at Trevoes and the papers scattered about. I shall go up thither today or tomorrow to look after them, if I can pick any of them up, shall take care of them." For whatever reason, Franklin did not receive further information until October 1778, when his daughter Sarah, perhaps overly optimistically, told her father that "The lid was broke open and some few taken off the top..."

Benjamin Vaughan, then working on a published edition of Franklin's writings, wrote with concern to Franklin in April of 1779 that he had heard from

Galloway that many of Franklin's papers had been destroyed: "I am infinitely concerned to tell you that Mr. Galloway informed me that 'the rebels had got at your papers & many of his own; & destroyed them; but that he would write me an account, as I should probably feel it more satisfactory, for your information, as to the particulars.'"

Franklin confidently reported to Vaughan the following month that Galloway must have been mistaken, as his daughter Sarah had told him that relatively little had been lost:

"Mr. Galloway's Information about my Papers has not been well founded. My Daughter writes me, that after that Gentleman's Departure, they were brought back to my House at Philadelphia: that the Chest had been indeed broke open, & some of the Papers from the Top were found scattered about the Floor, but these being gathered up, it was thought that very little had been lost. I shall like however to see the Account he has promis'd you..."

Over a year passed, and Franklin still had not received further information; Bache either did not respond immediately or his letter was lost in transit. Franklin wrote again in June of 1780, a bit perturbed: "You have never given me a particular account of the State in which you found my Papers that were entrusted to the Care of M. Galloway." He was particularly concerned about "8. Volumes of manuscript Collections concerning Agriculture, manufactures, Commerce, &c which I much valu'd" and his letterbooks.

Bache had responded a week earlier, the letters apparently crossing in the mail, telling Franklin that he'd written previously regarding the state of Franklin's papers, but that the letter must have been lost. "After the Enemy had evacuated the City, I found upon inquiry, that the Trunk had been left at





APS Library, 3rd Floor of Philosophical Hall c. 1890–1935.  
Courtesy of the American Philosophical Society.

Trevoes, I went up thither, & found that it had been broke open, & emptied, the papers scattered, some in the house & some out of doors, many of the latter having su-ffered from the Weather; I collected all that I could find, put them in the Trunk, & had them brought home, but the Manuscript books you speak of, are missing, & I suppose, so are many other valuable papers..."

For quite some time, Franklin continued to hope that the letterbooks and other manuscripts might be recovered. In September 1781, he urged Bache to ask Galloway's neighbors whether they might know of their whereabouts:

"Among my Papers in the Trunk which I unhappily left in the Care of Mr. Galloway, were eight or ten quire or 2 quire Books of rough Drafts of my Letters, containing all my Correspondence when in England, for near twenty Years. I shall be very sorry if they too are lost. Don't you think it possible, by going up into that Country, and enquiring a little among the Neighbours, you might possibly hear of and recover some of them."

Nearly three years later, Galloway sent the family a copy of Franklin's will, previously thought to have been lost. At that point, Franklin asked his son William whether he had the rest of the missing papers: "I hope you have got

them. If not, they are lost." Although Bache had rescued what he could, the letterbooks and additional writings about which Franklin had inquired were never found, and for the rest of his life, he bitterly regretted having entrusted his papers to Galloway.

Though Temple received copies of some letters and papers belonging to his grandfather, most from the London years remained missing. Only two letterbooks from that era survive. The Craven Street letterbook from 1772–1773 is now at the American Philosophical Society, and another letterbook dating from 1773 is now at the Library of Congress.

Before his departure for London, Temple gathered the papers that he considered most significant for his planned edition of his grandfather's works and left the remaining papers with his good friend George Fox at the Fox family's country estate, Champlost, where they would remain largely undisturbed for the next forty years. The Fox family kept the papers in a garret above a stable and reportedly took relatively little interest in them other than returning a portion of the papers to the Bache family.

Scholars were aware of the papers' existence, but for whatever reason the papers were not used for any of the several editions of Franklin's works that

appeared in the first three decades following his death. Meanwhile, Temple's edition of Franklin's writings was not published for many years after his departure for London. In the preface to an 1806 collection, Marshall and Vaughan implied that Temple had accepted a bribe from the British government in return for not publishing his grandfather's papers, but it is more likely that Temple delayed publication during the lifetime of his father because of his father's Loyalist sympathies and the troubled relationship between the three generations of Franklins—and perhaps partly because of his own lack of focus. Marshall predicted, a bit prematurely, that his own edition "may be all that is ever published of the works of the great man."

Publisher William Duane married Margaret Bache Duane, the widow of Franklin's grandson Benjamin Franklin Bache. He began publishing a multi-volume edition of Franklin's writings in 1808, but, at Temple's request, postponed further publication pending Temple's completion of his own edition. Temple's work was finally published in 1817 and Duane published his remaining volumes the following year.

In the early 1830s, historian Jared Sparks learned from his friend Henry D. Gilpin of the large cache of papers held by the Fox family, now headed by Charles Pemberton Fox and his sister Mary Fox. He visited with Fox and examined the papers, finding them of much interest. Several years later, in April of 1837, Sparks returned to Champlost with Fox to retrieve two trunks of papers, which they brought to Philadelphia. After completing his ten-volume *Works of Franklin* in 1840, Sparks urged the Fox family to donate Franklin's papers to the American Philosophical Society. The papers were deposited in July of that year and the donation was finalized in September.

Not all of the papers from the Fox estate found their way to the American Philosophical Society. Twenty-two years after the donation to APS, the Fox family was cleaning a large quantity of family papers out of the garret and, to help fund her purchase of a new carpet, Miss Mary Fox sold the papers to a local paper mill. As the papers were being carted away for pulping, a Fox family houseguest, Mrs. Holbrook, protested that such valuable papers as Franklin's should not be



destroyed. The Fox family generously offered the papers to her, but not before one barrel already had left for the paper mill. Mrs. Holbrook left the papers to her son, George O. Holbrook who, with the encouragement of physician S. Weir Mitchell, sold the collection to the University of Pennsylvania in 1903.

Another large cache of Franklin papers surfaced in 1936, when the family of Franklin descendants Franklin and Nannie Bache offered a collection of over 1,100 Franklin items to the American Philosophical Society for \$75,000. The purchase was not without controversy; numerous members of the Society argued that such a large sum of money should not be spent for something that was essentially a "sentimental" purchase. Tipping the scales in favor of the sentimentalists, however, was an extremely generous bequest from the R.A.F. Penrose estate that the Society had received in 1932. The Society did eventually purchase the collection, which became the second-largest collection of Franklin papers in its library.

But what happened to the papers that Temple took with him to London? After he died, the papers passed to his widow and their whereabouts were unknown for several years. In 1840, the same year that the Foxes donated the largest collection of Franklin's surviving papers to the American Philosophical Society, a British officer made a curious discovery on the top shelf of a tailor's shop located below Temple's former lodgings in London: a large quantity of papers by Benjamin Franklin. The tailor apparently had found the heavy paper particularly well suited for making patterns.

The British officer attempted to sell the papers, but with no success, as many people believed that all of the material already had been published and that this was no more than printer's copy. It is also likely that, even a half century after his death, Franklin was still considered a controversial figure in England. Henry Stevens finally purchased the papers in 1850, but soon thereafter gave them as collateral for a debt. They remained unavailable to researchers until 1883, when they were purchased by the Library of Congress, where they remain to this day.

As more of Franklin's papers have left private hands and have been

donated to or purchased by institutions, items separated long ago have been brought together. In a recent example at the American Philosophical Society, researchers from the Papers of Benjamin Franklin project matched one

also in the online Papers of Benjamin Franklin, which features full-text versions of almost all letters and essays, searchable by author or recipient, date, and keyword. [<http://franklinpapers.org>]



APS Library in the Drexel Building c. 1934.  
Atlas moved the materials into this new space in 1934.  
Courtesy of the American Philosophical Society Library.

part of a letter from Benjamin Vaughan to William Temple Franklin in the papers donated by Charles Pemberton Fox in 1840 with another portion of the same letter found within the papers purchased from the Bache family in 1936. And of course all of the known Franklin Papers are being brought together not only in published form but

It's possible that Ben Franklin might be puzzled—and perhaps even a bit irritated—that so many of his writings, even those never intended for public consumption, are so widely available, but it's also just as likely that such broad dissemination of his work would be quite pleasing to Ben Franklin, printer.



# In His Own Words:

## *Benjamin Franklin in Defense of America, Part II*

As you may recall, in the fall 2006 issue of the *Gazette* we told you about an anonymous essay that James Madison recognized as coming from Franklin's pen. It was a 1759 letter to the editor that was written in response to two opinion pieces in the same newspaper. The first was purportedly from a British-born soldier criticizing New Englanders and New Yorkers encountered in America. We reprinted part of Franklin's rebuttal in the last issue of the *Gazette*. Here is the conclusion, beginning with Franklin's response to the soldier in Abercrombie's army, and concluding with his answer to another letter attributed to an officer who served with Brigadier General Forbes. As Franklin observes here, both letters were probably written by the same person. William Franklin speculated that the author was Dr. Adam Thomson, a Scottish physician then living in New York.

[To the Printer of the *London Chronicle*, May 9, 1759]

"Your *gentleman writer* thus *decently* goes on. 'The most substantial men of most of the provinces are children or grandchildren of those that came here at the King's expence, that is, thieves, highwaymen, and robbers.' Being probably a military gentleman, this, and therefore a person of nice honour, if any one should tell him in the *plainest* language, that what he here says is an absolute falsehood, challenges and cutting of throats might immediately ensue. I shall therefore only refer him to *his own account in this same letter*, of the *peopling* of New England, which he says, with more truth, was by Puritans who fled thither for shelter from the persecutions of Archbishop Laud. Is there not a wide difference between removing to a distant country to enjoy the exercise of religion according to a man's conscience, and his being transported thither by law as a punishment for his crimes? This contradiction we therefore leave the *gentleman* and *himself* to settle as well as they can between them. One would

think from his account, that the provinces were so many colonies from Newgate [prison]. The truth is, not only Laud's persecution, but the other publick troubles in the following reigns, induc'd many thousand families to leave England, and settle in the plantations. During the predominance of the parliament, many royalists removed or were banished to Virginia and Barbadoes, who afterwards spread into the other settlements: The Catholics shelter'd themselves in Maryland. At the restoration, many of the depriv'd nonconformist ministers with their families, friends, and hearers, went over. Towards the end of Charles the Second's reign and during James the Second's, the dissenters again flocked into America, driven by persecution, and dreading the introduction of popery at home. Then the high price or reward of labour in the colonies, and want of Artisans there, drew over many, as well as the occasion of commerce; and when once people begin to migrate, every one has his little sphere of acquaintance and connections, which he draws after him, by invitation, motives of interest, praising his new settlement, and other encouragements. The 'most substantial men' are descendants of those early settlers; new comers not having yet had time to raise estates. The practice of sending convicts thither, is modern; and the same indolence of temper and habits of idleness that make people poor and tempt them to steal in England, continue with them when they are sent to America, and must there have the same effects, where all who live well owe their subsistence to labour and business, and where it is a thousand times more difficult than here to acquire wealth without industry. Hence the instances of transported thieves advancing their fortunes in the colonies are extreamly rare, if there *really is* a single instance of it, which I very much doubt; but of their being advanc'd there to the gallows the instances are plenty. Might they not as well have been hang'd at home? We call Britain the *mother* country; but what good mother

besides, would introduce thieves and criminals into the company of her children, to corrupt and disgrace them? And how cruel is it, to force by the high hand of power, a particular country of your subjects, who have not deserv'd such usage, to receive your outcasts, repealing all the laws they make to prevent their admission, and then reproach them with the detested mixture you have made. 'The emptying their jails into our settlements (says a writer of that country) is an insult and contempt, the cruellest perhaps that ever one people offered another; and would not be equal'd even by emptying their jakes [outhouses] on our tables.'

"The letter I have been considering, Mr. Chronicle, is follow'd by another, in your paper of Tuesday the 17th past, said to be *from an officer who attended Brigadier General Forbes in his march from Philadelphia to Fort Duquesne*; but wrote probably by the same gentleman who wrote the former, as it seems calculated to raise the character of the officers of the *certain northern latitude*, at the expence of the reputation of the colonies, and the provincial forces. According to this letter-writer, if the Pensilvanians granted large supplies, and raised a great body of troops for the last campaign, it was not obedience to his Majesty's commands, signified by his minister Mr. Pitt, zeal for the King's service, or even a regard for their own safety; but it was owing to the 'General's proper management of the Quakers and other parties in the province.' The withdrawing of the Indians from the French interest by negotiating a peace, is all ascribed to the General, and not a word said to the honour of the poor Quakers who first set those negotiations on foot, or of honest Frederic Post that compleated them with so much ability and success. Even the little merit of the Assembly's making a law to regulate carriages, is imputed to the General's 'multitude of letters.' Then he tells us, 'innumerable scouting parties had been sent out during a long period, both by the General and Colonel Bouquet, towards





Fort Duquesne, to catch a prisoner, if possible, for intelligence, but never got any.' How happened that? Why, 'It was the *Provincial troops* that were constantly employed in that service,' and they, it seems, never do any thing they are ordered to do. *That*, however, one would think might be easily remedied, by sending *Regulars* with them, who of course must command them, and may see that they do their duty. *No; The Regulars are afraid of being shot by the Provincials in a Panick.* Then send all Regulars. *Aye; That was what the Colonel resolved upon.* 'Intelligence was now wanted (says the letter-writer). Col. Bouquet, whose attention to business was [only] very considerable [that is, *not quite so great* as the General's, for he was not of the *northern latitude*] was *determined* to send NO MORE Provincials a scouting.' And how did he execute this determination? Why, by sending 'Major Grant of the Highlanders, with *seven* hundred men, *three* hundred of them Highlanders, THE REST Americans, Virginians, and Pensilvanians!' No *blunder* this, in our writer; but a *misfortune*; and he is nevertheless one of those '*acute sharp*' men who are '*fit for learning*!' And how did this Major and seven hundred men succeed in catching the prisoner? Why, their '*march to Fort Duquesne was so conducted that the surprize was compleat.*' Perhaps you may imagine, gentle reader, that this was a surprize of the enemy. No such matter. They knew every step of his motions, and had, every man of them, left their fires and huts in the fields, and retired into the fort. But the Major and his 700 men, *they were surprized*; first to find no body there at night; and next to find themselves surrounded and cut to pieces in the morning; two or three hundred being killed, drowned, or taken prisoners, and among the latter the Major himself. Those who escaped were also *surprized* at their own good fortune; and the whole army was *surprized* at the Major's bad management. Thus the *surprize* was indeed *compleat*; but not the disgrace; for *Provincials were there* to lay the blame on. The *misfortune* (we must not call it *misconduct*) of the Major was

owing, it seems, to an unnamed and perhaps unknown *Provincial* officer, who, it is said, 'disobeyed his orders and quitted his post.' Whence a formal conclusion is drawn, 'That a Planter is not to be taken from the plow and made an officer in a day.' Unhappy *Provincials!* If *success* attends where you are joined with the Regulars, they claim all the honour, tho' not a tenth part of your number. If *disgrace*, it is all yours, though you happen to be but a small part of the whole, and have not the command; as if Regulars were in their nature invincible, when not mix'd with Provincials, and Provincials of no kind of value without Regulars! Happy is it for you that you were present neither at Preston-Pans nor Falkirk, at the vain attempt against Rochefort, the rout of St. Cas, or the hasty retreat from Martinico. Every thing that went wrong, or did not go right, would have been ascribed to you. Our commanders would have been saved the labour of writing long apologies for their conduct. It might have been sufficient to say, *Provincials were with us!*

But these remarks, which we only suppose may be made by the provok'd provincials, are probably too severe. The generals, even those who have been recall'd, had in several respects great merit, as well as many of the officers of the same nation that remain, which the cool discreet part of the provincials will readily allow. They are not insensible of the worth and bravery of the British troops in general, honour them for the amazing valour they manifested at the landing on Cape Breton, the prudence and military skill they show'd in the siege and reduction of Louisbourg, and their good conduct on other occasions; and can make due allowance for mistakes naturally arising where even the best men are engag'd in a new kind of war, with a new and strange enemy, and in a country different from any they had before experienc'd. Lord HOWE was their darling, (The assembly of the Massachusetts-Bay have voted a sum of money for erecting a monument in Westminster-Abbey, to the memory of that Nobleman, as a testimony of their veneration for his virtues. A proof that

their sense of merit is not narrow'd to a country.) and others might be nam'd who are growing daily in their esteem and admiration. There are also among the regular officers, men of sentiments, concerning the colonies, more generous and more just than those express'd by these letter-writers; who can see faults even in their own corps, and who can allow the Provincials their share of merit; who feel pleasure as Britons, in observing that the *children* of Britain retain their native intrepidity to the third and fourth generation in the regions of America; together with that ardent love of liberty and zeal in its defence, which in every age has distinguish'd their progenitors among the rest of mankind. To conclude, in all countries, all nations, and all armies, there is, and will be a mixture of characters, a medley of brave men, fools, wisemen and cowards. National reflections being general, are therefore unjust. But panegyrics, tho' they should be too general, cannot offend the subjects of them. I shall therefore boldly say, that the English are brave and wise; the Scotch are brave and wise; and the people of the British colonies, proceeding from both nations—I would say the same of them, if it might not be thought vanity in Your humble servant, A NEW ENGLAND MAN."

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# FRANKLIN TIDBITS

**Franklin on stage:** A new play featuring Franklin premiered in Seattle Oct. 25-Nov. 17. *Franklin and Figaro* by local playwright Kristina Sutherland is set in 1776 and opens as Franklin arrives in France, triggering "a wave of whispers, shrieks, and sighs especially among the upper-crust society of Madame du Deffand's salon." The story also follows Pierre Beaumarchais, the author of *The Marriage of Figaro*, who, as the playwright announces, "runs guns for Franklin's American Revolution in the pursuit of liberty, fraternity, and cold hard cash."

**Caught Reading:** Baseball player Johnny Damon is the latest celebrity to "get caught reading" in the campaign to promote literacy. The book is Walter Isaacson's *Benjamin Franklin: An American Life*. You can enjoy the image in the November issue of *Men's Health*.

**Franklin in the Comics:** The web comics, that is. The ghost of Benjamin Franklin is a major character in the webcomic, "A Girl and Her Fed".

**Did Franklin Drink Here?** There is a house for sale in Burlington, N.J. whose owner claims that it is the oldest brewery in North America. The house, on High

and Pearl streets, was built on the site of a brewhouse that dates back to at least 1693. Just around the corner was the print shop of Isaac Collins, where Franklin is said to have printed N.J.'s first colonial currency. The sale of the house was publicized on Craigslist. See Don Russell's story in the June 29 issue of the *Philadelphia Daily News* for details.

Edward M. Griffin, in an article in the July issue of on line journal *Common-Place*, writes about Mary and Catherine Byles, the daughters of Franklin's friend Dr. Mather Byles. Even into the mid-nineteenth century the Misses Byles were showing off the tea table that had held Franklin's tea cup on the occasion of his last visit to their father. Byles was a staunch Loyalist, but Franklin continued to correspond with him despite their divergent political views. Read Griffin's "Stubborn Loyalists: Calling on the Daughters of Dr. Byles" for more details.

**Frankliniana for sale:** The Bauman Rare Books fall sale catalogue lists four Franklin items; lot 21 is a quarto edition of the 1769 edition of *Experiments and Observations*, lot 22 is Franklin's autograph letter signed to Samuel Rhoads of Jan. 26, 1756, lot 23 is

from Franklin's own press, a copy of *The Charters and Laws of Pennsylvania and the City of Philadelphia* (1742 [i.e., 1743]), and lot 24 is a copy of his collected writings, published in London in 1779, *Political, Miscellaneous and Philosophical Pieces*. For the full text of the catalogue click on <http://www.baumanrarebooks.com/news/american.asp>.

**Teaching Franklin:** George Boudreau has put on line instructional materials that he's used in courses on Franklin. Tap into: <http://www.teachingfranklin.org>.

**Gift Suggestions for Fans of Franklin:** For collectors of ephemera, there are two 12-inch figures of Franklin; one, from the Leaders of the World collection, is fully posable. A second, from Timecapsule Toys, talks. According to the manufacturer it is "highly detailed and accurate" and boasts "hand-tailored and period-correct clothing, authentic accessories, a biographical pamphlet, and comprehensive historical timeline." From the ubiquitous Ebay, we find a political button sure to turn up on the chests of protesters throughout the nation. It bears an image of Franklin with his words superimposed, "Those willing to forfeit liberty for security, will have neither."

## READING FRANKLIN

Eve T. Bannet, *Empire of Letters: Letter Manuals and Transatlantic Correspondence, 1688-1820* (Cambridge University Press, 2005).

Joyce Chaplin, "Pastimes: Benjamin Franklin Slept Here," *Common-place*, vii (July, 2007). Harvard professor Chaplin visits 36 Craven Street, London, in search of traces of Franklin. Read it on line: <http://common-place.org/pastimes/200707.shtml>.

James Delbourgo, *A Most Amazing Scene of Wonders: Electricity and Enlightenment in Early America* (Harvard University Press, 2006).

Napoleon Hill et al., *The Prosperity Bible: Landmark Writings on the Incredible Prospering Powers of the Human Mind* (Tarcher, Nov., 2007).

Craig W. Horle, Joseph S. Foster and Laurie M. Wolfe, eds., *Lawmaking and Legislators in Pennsylvania: A Biographical Dictionary, vol. 3, 1757-1775* (Harrisburg: Commonwealth of Pennsylvania House of Representatives, 2005).

Pamela Walker Laird, *Pull: Networking and Success since Benjamin Franklin* (Harvard University Press, Oct., 2007).

Lorraine Smith Pangle, *The Political Philosophy of Benjamin Franklin* (Johns Hopkins University Press, Aug., 2007). Steve Forde says that this book compares Franklin to Socrates and the publisher's description claims that Franklin made his greatest impact on politics; the author discusses Franklin's thoughts on "citizenship, federalism, constitutional government, the role of civil associations, and religious freedom."

Paul C. Pasles, *Benjamin Franklin's Numbers: An Unsung Mathematical Odyssey* (Princeton University Press, Oct., 2007) Underwood Dudley says "Here's a book like no other, in which the life and times of Benjamin Franklin are viewed through a mathematical lens. It is at once lively and scholarly, and contains much fascinating material that will be new to mathematicians, historians, and everyone else. Did you know that the success of the American Revolution may have depended on magic squares? Paul

Pasles tells us why. Don't worry—the book is equation free." Friends will recognize Pasles as a contributor to past issues of the *Gazette*.

*Poor Richard's Almanack* with a new introduction by Paul Volcker (Skyline Publishing, Sept., 2007). Humorist Dave Barry says "If you want the brutal truth, I did not expect to get much useful information out of *Poor Richard's Almanack*. I wondered, what could Benjamin Franklin—a guy who has been, no offense, dead for more than two hundred years—possibly have to say that would be relevant to a resident of today's dot.com world? Plenty, as it turns out."

Mark Shulman, *The Wicked Wit of Benjamin Franklin* (Gramercy, Sept. 2007).

Friend Dave Wang directs us to new work he's posted on his blog: "Ginseng, the Herb that Helped the United States to Enter the International Commerce" and "Tea, the Leaves that Triggered the American War for Independence." Both essays can be accessed through the following link; items 068 and 067. <http://foundingfathersandchina.blogspot.com>



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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Through March 2008.** "Ben Again!" A Private Collection of Franklin Memorabilia from the collection of FOF President Roy E. Goodman. This collection of pop culture items bearing Franklin's image will be on display at Morven Museum & Garden, 55 Stockton Street, Princeton, NJ 08540. Call 609-924-8144 or see [www.morven.org](http://www.morven.org) for more information.

**January 17, 2008.** Celebration! Of Benjamin Franklin, Founder. Annual event commemorating Franklin's birthday with a seminar, procession to his grave and luncheon. This year's event celebrates "Women in Science." Honorees are Dr. Ruth Patrick, one of the world's leading limnologists and ecologists, who discovered a scientific method for assessing pollutants in water and Dr. Virginia Lee, an internationally recognized authority on Alzheimer's, Parkinson's Disease and other neurodegenerative disorders. Dr. Susan Branson will be speaking at the morning seminar; "American Women and Enlightenment Science." Dr. Lee will also be speaking at the morning event, "Neurodegenerative Disease Research in the

Spirit of Benjamin Franklin." Dr. Patrick, whose first husband, Charles Hodge IV, was a direct Franklin descendant, will be speaking at the luncheon. The morning seminar is free as is the annual procession to Franklin's grave. Tickets for the luncheon are \$65 per person. Contact Carol Smith, 856-429-8331 for more information or reservations.

**September 1 – 10, 2008.** Friends of Franklin tour to The Netherlands and Belgium. Contact Kathy DeLuca for more information: 856-856-833-1771.

### Ongoing:

The tercentenary exhibit "Benjamin Franklin: In Search of a Better World," opened at its last stop in Paris, at the Musée des Arts et Métiers (<http://www.arts-et-metiers.net/>), and the Musée Carnavalet. At the Musée des Arts et Métiers the show is called "Benjamin Franklin: Homme de science, homme du monde" [Man of Science, Man of the World], and will feature many of the artifacts from the American exhibition, as well as additions from MAM's outstanding scientific instrument collection. The exhibit closes March 30, 2008. At the Musée Carnavalet ([www.carnavalet.paris.fr/](http://www.carnavalet.paris.fr/)) is "Benjamin Franklin: Un Américain à Paris". Full of artifacts from museums throughout France, it will focus on Franklin's time in Paris and will include 30 items from the American show. The Carnavalet exhibition will close on March 9, 2008. Catalogues for both exhibitions will be available through the museums.

**Through August 10, 2008.** Two exhibits: *French Founding Father: Lafayette's Return to Washington's America*, and *A Son and His Adoptive Father: The Marquis de Lafayette and George Washington* The New-York Historical Society, 170 Central Park West, N.Y., N.Y.

## Featured Book from Diane Publishing

"Benjamin Franklin Bache & the Philadelphia Aurora", by James Tagg. Hardcover, 431 pages, 1991, Univ. of PA Press. Original list price \$41.95, special price for Friends \$20.00 plus \$5.00 shipping (total \$25.00).

The first modern biography of Benjamin Franklin Bache, the grandson of Benjamin Franklin. Between 1793 & 1798, Bache was the nation's leading political journalist & a sharp critic of the Federalists. As editor of the *Aurora*, the most important radical newspaper of the 1790s, he lived at the center of most of the political storms of that decade. A primary target of the Sedition Act, Bache was indicted for

federal common law seditious libel before that act took effect. Tagg establishes the ideological & psychological framework of Bache's later radicalism by carefully examining Bache's childhood with his grandfather, his education in Geneva, & his adolescence in Philadelphia.

Send check or credit card information to: Diane Pub. Co., P.O. Box 617, Darby, PA 19023. Or e-mail: [hbaron@dianepublishing.net](mailto:hbaron@dianepublishing.net). Or call 800/782-3833. You must identify yourself as Friends of Franklin to receive this special discount. A portion of the proceeds of each sale is returned to the Friends of Franklin.



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