

Franklin Gazette

A PERIODIC PUBLICATION OF THE FRIENDS OF FRANKLIN

VOLUME I, NUMBER 1, SUMMER 1989

Friends of Franklin, c/o Dilys Winegrad, 100 College Hall, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA 19104-6380

"He that would catch fish must venture his bait"

Poor Richard, 1757

A Word From The President

Without a doubt, Benjamin Franklin was one of the most remarkable men in American history. His contributions to the founding of our nation were invaluable and far-reaching, and his wisdom has withstood the test of time. His legacy is enormous, and on the eve of the bicentennial of his death, a group of over 30 admirers of Franklin met in Philadelphia on October 21, 1988, with the purpose of forming an organization to honor Dr. Franklin and to share their diverse and mutual interests. Collectively, there was a fascinating range of interests represented among individuals from all walks of life. Dr. Franklin would have been proud.

The consensus of our meeting was to organize ourselves as the *Friends of Franklin*, and that our primary purpose would be to promote the legacy of "the good Doctor." Several fine ideas came from this meeting on ways to do this, and

(See "President," Page 3, Column 1)

A Note About The Out-of-Print Volumes

Five volumes are not available right now: I, VIII, XIII, XVIII, and XXII.

The goal is to reprint 250 copies of each volume, in the same format and using the same materials as the original printings, at a total cost of approximately \$35,000.

If we can find half the needed amount, The National Historical Publications and Records Commission will match 50% of the total cost. Costs increase by 5% per year.

Whenever we receive outside subventions and grants of at least one thousand dollars, we most happily acknowledge the donors, public and private, somewhere in the book's front matter, or on the jacket. For instance, we receive regular private subventions for the *Works of Jonathan Edwards* and the Yale Edition of the *Works of Samuel Johnson*.

MARY ALICE GALLIGAN, YALE PRESS

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE FRANKLIN PAPERS

The Franklin Papers owe their existence to President Harry Truman's love of history. He felt that every document pertaining to the Founding Fathers was part of our national heritage and should be preserved, in the most careful and scholarly way, for future generations.

The first vast undertaking to be launched was The Papers of Thomas Jefferson at Princeton University. Franklin came next, initially helped by a grant from Henry Luce of *Time* and *Life*. Others followed: the Adams family at the Massachusetts Historical Society, George Washington and James Madison at the University of Virginia.

The Franklin project, whose logical abode should have been Philadelphia, seat of the American Philosophical Society where most of our documents are to be found, was located at Yale University because of the existence there of the unique Mason Collection of books and prints. William Mason, a Yale alumnus (Class of 1922), devoted his life and considerable financial resources to the gathering of a huge quantity of background material, not only on Franklin, but on America, Britain, and France in the

eighteenth century. Having promised to keep his collection together, Yale housed it in an impressive series of rooms on the second floor of the Sterling Library (impressive, yes, but not air conditioned). The Franklin Papers, thus, are *at* Yale, but not *of* Yale. The University provides us with a locale and the utilities; it handles our finances, but does not in any way contribute to our budget. Ours is known as the Yale edition, because the Yale Press, using Franklin's very own Fournier type, publishes our volumes, 27 of them so far, at the current rate of about one every 18 months.

The work started in 1953 under the editorship of Leonard W. Labaree, professor of colonial history. Almost 30,000 documents were assembled from a great variety of sources, including some sent from the Soviet Union.

By the time Prof. Labaree retired, the first 14 volumes of the Yale edition (covering the years 1706 to 1767) had appeared as well as a sampler, *Meet Dr. Franklin*, and an annotated version of the *Autobiography*.

(See "History," Page 3, Column 3)

Our Financial Situation

The Franklin Papers began in 1954 with a gift of \$400,000 by Henry R. Luce to Yale University and a donation of \$175,000 from the American Philosophical Society. Yale's contribution since that time has been to house the project, and the APS awarded a yearly sum until 1984, when its Historical Publications Fund was depleted. The project is currently sustained by a combination of public and private resources. The National Historical Publications and Records Commission (created with the National Archives in 1934 and reinvigorated under directives by Presidents Truman and Eisenhower) has provided up to \$70,000 for the past several years. From 1981 to 1988, the remainder of our support came from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the Pew Freedom Trust, through the conduit of Founding Fathers, Inc., a consortium of the five priority projects in American history: the Adams family,

Franklin, Jefferson, Madison, and Washington.

We are presently at a funding crossroads. The coffers of the Founding Fathers will be exhausted by the end of the current fiscal year, June 30, 1989. Two major steps to solve this difficulty were undertaken: we entered into a contract with the Packard Humanities Institute to put all our texts into a CD-ROM edition and received from them some accompanying general editorial support; we submitted a proposal on behalf of the five Founding Fathers projects to the Mellon Foundation for renewed support. We have just learned that the Mellon effort has been successful and that we will have a two- to three- year respite. Nonetheless, this will not alleviate our long-range need for a stable source of funding, which would allow us to complete the volumes uninterrupted by triennial fiscal crises.

BARBARA OBERG, EDITOR
THE FRANKLIN PAPERS



The Staff of The Franklin Papers

I received my degree in Library Science from Simmons College, Boston, and an M.A. in History from Yale. During my more than forty years at Yale University, I catalogued the Franklin Collection that had been presented to the University in 1936. After retiring from the Reference Department as Assistant Head, I joined the staff of the Franklin Papers, while serving as librarian of the collection. I retired in 1984, but continue to do research on a part-time basis, specializing in the identification of minor English and American persons. I still supervise the Collection and, thanks to my long and intimate acquaintance with it, answer questions concerning its contents.

DOROTHY W. BRIDGWATER,
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

I have been a full-time member of the Franklin Papers since 1979. My particular field of interest concerns the letters from American sea captains and merchants, as well as inventors, scientists, doctors, printers, and musicians. I have annotated some of Franklin's scientific writings and have had the prime responsibility for moving the Franklin Papers into the computer age.

ELLEN R. COHN, ASSOCIATE EDITOR

I received my Ph.D. from the University of California at Berkeley and taught at the University of Texas at Austin before joining the Franklin Papers in 1977. My interests are in American and European diplomatic and naval history. My published works include *Franklin the Diplomat: The French Mission* (Transactions of the American Philosophical Society, vol. 72, part 1, Philadelphia, 1982) and "Benjamin Franklin and the Nature of American Diplomacy," *International History Review* 5 (1983), 346-363. My latest book is *A Diplomatic History of the American Revolution* (New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 1985).

JONATHAN R. DULL,
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

I have enjoyed overseeing the publication of five volumes of the Franklin Papers. Although I claim not to have a favorite from among the scholarly editions published by the Press, there is no denying that when a new Franklin manuscript arrives on my desk, the pleasures of my job increase greatly. Throughout the challenges of moving a long-established edition into the age of computer typesetting, of maintaining the

high standards of printing and binding while costs escalate ever higher, I have often been refreshed by a few minutes' reading in the nearest Franklin volume at hand.

I welcome learning about new Franklin enthusiasts and will be happy to answer questions about availability and costs of the volumes. My address at the Press is 92A Yale Station, New Haven, Connecticut 06520. Phone inquiries will reach me at (203) 432-0917.

MARY ALICE GALLIGAN,
EDITIONS EDITOR
YALE UNIVERSITY PRESS

I received my M.A. degree from Trinity College, Hartford, CT. My special interest is in religious thought in colonial New England (my thesis was entitled: "The Millennium and the Quest for Order in New England Puritan Thought: 1700-1800"). At the Franklin Papers, I transcribe documents, do some proofreading, reference checking, and general clerical work. I also supervise the Franklin collection books.

KAREN KAUFMAN,
EDITORIAL ASSISTANT
(Karen left the Papers on July 1 to attend graduate school.)

Classics was my major at the University of Brussels. I joined the Franklin Papers shortly after their inception, in the mid-fifties, as a transcriber of French, Italian, and Latin. Since French becomes important only in the latter part of Franklin's life (as of 1777), and my work, chronologically so far ahead, kept me isolated from my colleagues, I undertook to put into some kind of logical order the huge mass of undated documents.

In 1966, the Yale Press published my first book, *Mon Cher Papa: Franklin and the Ladies of Paris*. In 1975, I wrote, in collaboration with Eugenia Herbert, *The Private Franklin: The Man and His Family* (Norton).

I served as historical consultant to the National Park Service during the construction of Franklin Court in Philadelphia and, at their request, wrote the history of the building: *A Good House Contrived to My Mind* (1977).

After the death of Prof. Willcox, I served as acting editor for Vols. XXV-XXVI and as editor for XXVII. Now that Barbara Oberg has succeeded me in that position, I am semi-retired, still editing some French documents and trying to drum up support for our collective enterprise.

CLAUDE-ANNE LOPEZ,
SPECIAL CONSULTANT

I joined the Franklin Papers last May, after serving as research assistant at the Bentham Project, University College, London. My Ph.D. dissertation at the University of London dealt with monarchy as an issue in English political argument of the 1790s. Currently, I am transcribing, proofreading, and annotating letters from Franklin's correspondents in Britain.

MARILYN MORRIS,
ASSISTANT EDITOR

I became editor of the Franklin Papers in September 1986. My mentor and dissertation director (University of California, Santa Barbara) observed that in Benjamin Franklin, I had finally found the perfect focus for my eighteenth-century transatlantic persuasion. Before coming to Yale, I was the editor of the Albert Gallatin Papers and adjunct associate professor of history at Baruch College of the City University of New York.

At the Franklin Papers, I try to keep up with everyone else, coordinate the efforts for Vol. XXVIII and subsequent ones, and sustain the project. I plan to concentrate on Franklin and the peace negotiations of 1782-83, on Franklin at the Constitutional Convention, and on Pennsylvania and national politics from 1785-1790.

BARBARA OBERG, EDITOR

My doctorate is from Yale in European history. I have been at the Franklin Papers since the late sixties, originally working with Claude Lopez to chart the French period (1777-85). I have made a specialty of sea captains and mercantile agents. I published two articles based on material drawn from the Franklin collection. One, on Franklin and the American prisoners of war held in England during the Revolution, appeared in the *William and Mary Quarterly* in April 1975; the other, an essay on French officers seeking commissions in the American army, appeared in the *Proceedings of the Western Society for French History*, IV.

CATHERINE M. PRELINGER,
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Now that you know our specialties, please feel free to write us if you have any questions. Our address is: Papers of Benjamin Franklin, 230 Sterling Library, Yale University, New Haven, CT 06520.



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At the Friends of Franklin Meeting

George Waters captured on film our historic first meeting held at the University of Pennsylvania on October 21, 1988. The room was alive with the spirit of Dr. Franklin and we also enjoyed a terrific musical performance by Marty Mangold and Gordon Myers from *The Franklin Cantata*, a work in progress by Marty.

1. Seated clockwise: Bob Daniels, Doss Brown, William Glenn, David Morgan, Frank Jones, Bill Carr; in far left corner Laura Bedard, Dan Traister; at head table Mark Lloyd, Stuart Karu, Marty Mangold; John Farrior, Nian-Sheng Huang, Lovell Elliott, Aaron Goldman, Nancy Doonan.

2. Left to right: Claude Lopez, Dr. Franklin (a.k.a. Ralph Archbold), Deane Sherman.

3. Left to right: Aaron Goldman, Nancy Doonan, Jeff Smith, Claude Lopez, Dr. Franklin, Deane Sherman, Bob Daniels, Doss Brown, David Morgan.

("President," from Page 1)

it was agreed that the most important mission the group should first undertake would be to support the monumental project that has been ongoing at Yale University—the publication of the *Franklin Papers*. This project is critically important to documenting the legacy of Franklin, and since their funding is dangerously close to coming to an end, there is an urgent need to identify means of permanent funding. If the *Papers* were to run out of funding, it would be an almost impossible task to resurrect the project at a later date. Our goal is twofold: first, to find funding to reprint the out-of-print volumes of the *Franklin Papers*, and second, to assure completion of the project.

The *Friends* met again in April of this year, and we made further progress in organizing ourselves—not an easy thing to do since our membership is from various parts of the country. We formed three major committees—Membership, Communications, and Major Projects—each charged with meeting specific objectives. And, thanks to Dilys Winegrad and Dan Traister, we now have a permanent home at the University of Pennsylvania.

This, our inaugural newsletter, is primarily devoted to the *Franklin Papers*, and I urge you to read on. While we do not view ourselves as a fundraising group, we hope that Franklin fans from all over the world will join us in an effort that will reflect his ever-so-American idea that the collective enterprise surpasses anything the individual can do. We welcome your interest and participation.

STUART E. KARU

UPCOMING EVENTS

Several big events are scheduled for 1990, the bicentennial year of Franklin's death.

On February 22-24, Yale will host a National Conference on Benjamin Franklin and Jonathan Edwards, both seen as men of the Enlightenment. Professor David Levin, of the University of Virginia, will give the keynote address; the themes to be investigated are civic virtue, deism, and republicanism, among others.

The occasion will be highlighted by an exhibition on the two men at the Beinecke Library through January and February. Friends of Franklin will be most welcome.

On April 17-19, a symposium entitled "Reappraising Benjamin Franklin: A Bicentennial Perspective" will be held in Philadelphia. It is being organized by Prof. Leo Lemay, of the University of Delaware, and promises to be a memorable event, with twenty-seven speakers (three of them from the *Franklin Papers* staff), discussions, receptions, a boat ride, and a chance to visit many historic spots. Among the sponsors: Independence National Historical Park, The Friends of Independence National Historical Park, The Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, the Library Company of Philadelphia, and several other institutions. For information, write to Prof. J.A. Leo Lemay, Dept. of English, University of Delaware, Newark, DE 19716.

From January 17 to May 20, the University of Pennsylvania will hold an exhibition of Franklin's most important works together with art and artifacts relating to the disciplines and areas of knowledge that are, in many ways, his "brainchildren." Our president, Stuart Karu, has identified the rare books in his own remarkable collection and in the Library's Curtis Collection that would best illustrate the scope of Franklin's interests and his influence down the years.

Mark your calendars for the next meeting of the Friends of Franklin. The date and time will be announced later; but the meeting will be held in Philadelphia to coincide with April 17-19, 1990 Franklin Symposium mentioned above.

("History," from Page 1)

Franklin was in London by this point, embroiled in the Stamp Act controversy.

Prof. William B. Willcox, who had taught English history at the University of Michigan, took over. He guided the work through Franklin's last years in England, the beginning of the Revolution, the ill-fated trip to Canada, and the beginning of the mission to France.

When Prof. Willcox died in 1985, Claude-Anne Lopez, whose research and writing had centered on the French period, saw Vols. XXV and XXVI through the press and, with the help of the team described in this newsletter, edited Vol. XXVII, the last to have appeared.

Barbara Oberg arrived in 1986, and it is hoped that she will see the work to its completion. The quantity of material preserved for the years that Franklin spent in France (1777-85) is so rich that even with various new ways of abbreviating and condensing, we can only include about four months of his life from this period in each (fat) volume. The total projection is for fifty volumes, give or take one or two. The original optimistic projection had been for fifteen!

Vol. XXVIII, which is at the press, ends on a note of triumph for Franklin. He was officially informed, on February 12, 1779, that Congress had appointed him sole Minister Plenipotentiary to France. This meant that he was finally free of his contentious colleagues Arthur Lee and John Adams. We celebrated on February 12, 1989, with a pleasant buffet-supper.

CLAUDE-ANNE LOPEZ

Appearing in Vol. XXVIII of The Franklin Papers

29 th Dec. 1778.	24.-
Two embroidered silk bags	10.-
Wool bag, with small bag 6" x 4"	21.-
2 small ivory boxes with glass lids	8.-
2 small Boxes of Dr. Franklin	12.-
2 Horn Boxes	40.-
1 Set of Tea things & Tea board	72.-
Small spinning Wheel	60.-
Almanachs	3.14.
3 rd 2 Medallions of Dr. F.	24.-
2 small Boxes of Dr. F.	12.-
To the Friends of Franklin	1.14.
To Mr. Brillon	3.6.
To Mr. Brillon's Servants	48.-
(Total 13 Louis 11.14.4)	323.4

Benjamin Franklin Papers, Van Pelt Library, University of Pennsylvania

1. Some of these presents seem destined to young girls, perhaps the Brillon daughters, Cunégonde and Aldegonde, and the Le Veillard daughter, Geneviève. The "Small spinning Wheel" is reminiscent of BF's gift to his sister Jane some fifty-two years previously, when he advised her that "the character of a good housewife is far preferable to that of being only a pretty gentlewoman." see i, 100. The list is in his grandson's hand.

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Claude-Anne Lopez, Editor

Franklin's shopping list for New Year 1779, with our annotation(1).

News From Members

Dr. William G. Carr, from Washington, DC., informed us that *The Oldest Delegate*, his account of Franklin's role in the Constitutional Convention, has been accepted for publication by the University of Delaware Press. Congratulations!

The Yale Press plans to publish *Mon Cher Papa* by **Claude-Anne Lopez** in paperback, in 1990. In Paris, a book based on it and as yet untitled, will appear at about the same time.

The Franklin Papers are grateful to **Dr. Richard Hoefnagel** for his serendipitous discoveries in the Special Collections at Dartmouth College. A number of interesting new documents have come from his persevering search.

Jeff Smith's manuscript, *Franklin and Bache: Envisioning the Enlightened Republic*, has been accepted for publication by the Oxford University Press. Jeff is on the faculty at the School of Journalism and Mass Communication at the University of Iowa.

Please send us news about yourselves and your Franklin discoveries! Send information to Claude Lopez, 41 Richmond Avenue, New Haven, CT 06515.

Friends of Franklin Membership

Listed below are the names of our founding membership—a remarkable group of “Franklinphiles”! Among our membership are scholars, historians, physicians, educators, lawyers, librarians, descendants, musicians, actors, playwrights, and collectors. If you would like to become a member of the Friends of Franklin, or just wish to subscribe to our newsletter, please complete the enclosed reply envelope. *Membership is open to all Franklin enthusiasts!*

Stuart E. Karu—President, Kennebunkport, ME

Martin C. Mangold—Vice President, Hyattsville, MD

Frank B. Jones—Treasurer, Bloomington, IN

Daniel Traister—Secretary, Philadelphia, PA

Ralph F. Archbold, Philadelphia, PA

Paul W. Baimford, Minneapolis, MN

Laura A. Bedard, Berwyn Heights, MD

Whitfield J. Bell, Jr., Philadelphia, PA

Edwin C. Bliss, Mountain Ranch, CA

Ann and Jackson Boswell, Arlington, VA

Mrs. Linn P. Brown, Jr., Philadelphia, PA

Howard B. Burchell, St. Paul, MN

Andrea Carandini, Rome, Italy

William G. Carr, Washington, D.C.

Robert F. Carroll, Philadelphia, PA

Edward C. Carter II, Philadelphia, PA

Joan R. Challinor, Washington, D.C.

Robert J. Daniels, Elkins Park, PA

Nancy L. Doonan, Cambridge, MA

Mrs. Pierre S. du Pont, IV, Rockland, DE

Durand Echeverria, Wellfleet, MA

A. Lovell Elliott, Barnstable, MA

Jean Griffin Elliott, Toronto, Ontario

John M. Farrior, Shepherdstown, WV

Madame Olivier Frapier, Paris, France

William W.L. Glenn, New Haven, CT

Aaron and Cecile Goldman, Washington, D.C.

Roy E. Goodman, Philadelphia, PA

Bruce Granger, Norman, OK

James N. Green, Philadelphia, PA

Mrs. Mai Duane Harper, New York, NY

Joseph H. Hennage, Alexandria, VA

Nian-Sheng Huang, Ithaca, NY

Benjamin Franklin Kahn, Bethesda, MD

Roger G. Kennedy, Washington, D.C.

Linda M. Kruger, Montclair, NJ

Catherine Lafarge, Bryn Mawr, PA

Laurie Kahn-Leavitt, Boston, MA

J.A. Leo Lemay, Wilmington, DE

Claude-Anne Lopez, New Haven, CT

David B. McCosker, Irvine, CA

Dorothy Medlin, Rock Hill, SC

William M. Meikle, Arlington, MA

Robert Middlekauff, Berkeley, CA

David T. Morgan, Montevallo, AL

Gordon Myers, Trenton, NJ

J.W. Schulte Nordholt, Wassenaar, Netherlands

Barbara Oberg, New Haven, CT

Robert R. Radcliff, Wilmington, DE

Thomas J. Schaeper, St. Bonaventure, NY

Deane M. Sherman, Rockville, MD

Floyd M. Shumway, New Haven, CT

David W. Smith, Toronto, Ontario

Jeffrey A. Smith, Iowa City, IA

John C. Van Horne, Philadelphia, PA

George Franklin Waters, Rochester, MN

Douglas Whitley, Springfield, IL

Dilys Winegrad, Philadelphia, PA

Clarence Wolf, Philadelphia, PA

Edwin Wolf 2nd, Philadelphia, PA

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