

Franklin Gazette

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

**"Being now in the last Act, I begin to cast about
for something fit to end with"**

B. Franklin

From the Desk of Ellen Cohn

Franklin's press at Passy, which printed bagatelles for the delight of his friends and official documents for the American commission, has left surprisingly few traces by which historians can document its actual establishment and operations. In volume 29, the editors of the *Franklin Papers* will publish what is generally believed to be the first imprint of that press: an invitation to an Independence Day dinner to be given on July 5, 1779 (because July 4 fell on a Sunday). Only one copy of that invitation has survived, a blank form with spaces left for the name of the guest and the date. The date of printing must therefore be approximated by the date of the first acceptance, June 24.

From whence did Franklin procure his type? The font used in the invitation was purchased in October, 1778, from Jean-François Fournier, whom Franklin had met during his first year in France. Subsequent purchases were made from the more famous younger Fournier brother, Simon-Pierre, as well as several other lesser-known French founders. But Franklin's accounts also contain references to another type source which up until now has gone largely unnoticed: a type foundry established at the Hôtel de Valentino in the Spring of 1779.

The operation was headed by a master founder named J.F. Hémeri, who had presented himself at Passy in late February, 1779, shortly after Franklin had received official news of his appointment as sole minister-plenipotentiary. It was a time when the Doctor seemed to be bursting with plans for the future, and one of these was the establishment of a typefoundry at Passy which would not only supply his own press, but also furnish characters to American printers who up until the war had imported their type from England. Hémeri had worked for the Fourniers before assuming control of his own foundry in 1760. Franklin employed him as of April, 1779, along with two workers. Within a few months the staff grew to four, and by the end of 1779, to five members.

(see "Ellen Cohn," Page 3 Column 1)

1990: THE FRANKLIN YEAR

Some of the events scheduled to commemorate the
200th anniversary of his death and to celebrate his life.

In Philadelphia

An exhibition called "*The Intellectual World of Benjamin Franklin*," will run through May 20 at the **University of Pennsylvania's Arthur Ross Gallery and Van Pelt Library**. Several other exhibitions are planned or currently showing in the Philadelphia: At the **Rosenbach Museum and Library**, "*The All-Embracing Dr. Franklin*" (through May 27). At the **Library and Museum of the Masonic Temple**, "*B. Franklin: A Freemason for All Reasons*" (ongoing). At **The Library Company of Philadelphia**, "*Poor Richard's Books*," an exhibition of rare books from Franklin's personal library (March 23 to August 31).

On March 21, the **Friends of the Bryn Mawr College Library** will sponsor a talk entitled "*I Benjamin Franklin Printer: Colonial Philadelphia's Most Innovative Artisan*," by **C. William Miller**, author of *Benjamin Franklin's Philadelphia Printing*. Booked for lunch.

April 17 to 19 are the dates for "*Reappraising Benjamin Franklin*," a national conference organized by **Prof. Leo Lemay**. A three-day symposium focusing on Benjamin Franklin organized by seven cooperating Philadelphia institutions. More than sixty of the world's most knowledgeable experts on the life, career, and countless accomplishments of Benjamin Franklin will give addresses, panel discussions, and special presentations. This symposium, which takes place on the 200th anniversary of Franklin's death, will be the largest gathering of Franklin scholars, students, collectors and friends, ever staged. (See pp. 2-3 for details).

The **Painted Bride Art Center** is organizing "*The Electrical Matter: Opinions and Conjectures*," a series of video and sound installations and performing arts events to be presented next fall in Independence Park and other public spaces. Contemporary artists will explore new artistic horizons while commemorating Franklin's bicentennial.

At Yale

An exhibit, at the **Beinecke Library** (January 17-March 31) "*Preaching and Printing: Jonathan Edwards, Benjamin Franklin, and the Popular Mind*." Printer, propagandist, scientist, and bookseller, Benjamin Franklin reached out to the popular mind in diverse ways. In an age that saw the maturation of provincial British colonies into an independent American nation, the transformation of a fundamentally oral-aural culture into one influenced by and recorded in the printed word, and the development of a distinctive American culture — albeit still within a transatlantic framework — Franklin played a significant role.

A wide range of publications from his Philadelphia print shop and from his private press at Passy, along with manuscripts, letters, and books by the colonial preacher Jonathan Edwards, will be on display. The items in the exhibit are used to define broad areas of intellectual life in eighteenth-century America. Products of Edwards's study — sermons, notebooks, research notes — complement the products of Franklin's printshop — broadsides, job printing, almanacs, newspapers. Both Edwards and Franklin are shown in their pursuit of scientific knowledge, in their relation to the Great Awakening, and in the context of contemporary literature and education.

At Dartmouth

The **Dartmouth College Library** will mount, in April 1990, an exhibition of manuscripts and imprints to commemorate the bicentennial of Franklin's death. Among the manuscripts will be some related to Franklin's connection with the College.

In Trenton, N.J.

Martin Mangold, Vice-President of the Friends of Franklin, will perform his *Franklin cantata* on the evening of Saturday, April 28, at the **Trinity Episcopal Cathedral**. He will also speak on that occasion about Franklin's musical interests, the topic of his forthcoming book.

PROGRAM OF THE PHILADELPHIA CONFERENCE

Reappraising Benjamin Franklin: A Bicentennial Perspective

Tuesday, April 17, 1990

Registration, 8:30-10:00, Visitor Center, Independence National Historical Park.

Tuesday, First Morning Session, 9:00-10:15, Visitor Center.

Welcoming remarks — Hobart Cawood, Superintendent, Independence National Historical Park.

Topic: **Franklin and the Foundations of American Journalism.**
Chair: Professor Morris J. Vogel, Temple University.

Speakers:

9:05-9:35 Professor Robert D. Arner, University of Cincinnati. "Eat Not to Dulness, Drink Not to Elevation": Franklin's Journalistic Writings on Drunkards and Drinking."

9:35-10:05 Professor Ronald Bosco, State University of New York, Albany. "Franklin as Crime Reporter."

Questions: 10:05-10:15

Coffee break: 10:15-10:45

Tuesday, Second Morning Session, 10:45-12:00, Visitor Center.

Topic: **Franklin and the Foundation of American Journalism.**

Chair: Professor Stephanie Grauman Wolf, Philadelphia Center for Early American Studies.

Speakers:

10:50-11:20 Professor Norman Grabo, University of Tulsa. "Franklin: The Journalist as a Man of Letters."

11:20-11:50 Professor Jeffrey A. Smith, University of Iowa.

"Infamous Practices": Risk-Taking in Franklin's Journalism."

Questions: 11:50-12:00

Tuesday, Lunch, 12:15-1:45 (Box Lunch, First Bank Building).

Welcoming Remarks — Mrs. Susan Montgomery, Chairman, Friends of Independence National Historical Park.

Chair: Professor Hennig Cohen, University of Pennsylvania.

Speaker:

1:10-1:40 Mrs. Claude Lopez, Editor Emerita, *The Papers of Benjamin Franklin*. "Was Franklin Too French?"

Tuesday, First Afternoon Session, 2:00-3:15, Visitor Center.

Welcoming remarks — Mr. Thomas McCallum, Past Chairman, Friends of Independence National Historical Park.

Topic: **The Americanness of Franklin.**

Chair: Professor Richard S. Dunn, University of Pennsylvania.

Speakers:

2:05-2:35 Professor Jack P. Green, The Johns Hopkins University. "Franklin and the British Empire, 1750 to 1776: An American View."

2:35-3:05 Professor Gordon Wood, Brown University. "The Americanization of Benjamin Franklin."

Questions: 3:05-3:20.

Break: 3:20-3:45

Tuesday, Second Afternoon Session, 3:45-5:00, Visitor Center.

Topic: **Franklin as Humorist and Satirist.**

Chair: Professor Russell F. Weigley, Temple University.

Speakers:

3:50-4:20 Professor Daniel Royot, University Jean Moulin, Lyon, France. "Benjamin Franklin as Founding Father of American Humor."

4:20-4:50 Professor Stephen Fender, University of Sussex, England. "Franklin and Emigration."

Questions: 4:50-5:00

Tuesday, Reception and Dinner, 6:45-9:15pm, Franklin Institute.

Welcoming Remarks — Dr. Joel N. Bloom, Director, The Franklin Institute.

Chair: Dr. Larry Tise, Franklin Institute.

Speaker:

8:00-8:30 Professor Garry Wills, Northwestern University, "Benjamin Franklin."

Wednesday, April 18, 1990

Wednesday, Morning Session, 10-11:50, 6th floor (Rare Book Room), Van Pelt Library, University of Pennsylvania.

Welcoming remarks — Dr. Sheldon Hackney, President, University of Pennsylvania.

Morning topic: **Franklin and the Arts.**

Chair: Dilys Winegrad, University of Pennsylvania, Arthur Ross Gallery.

Speakers:

10:05-10:35 Professor Wayne Craven, University of Delaware.

"Portraits of Benjamin Franklin by American and English Artists."

10:35-11:05 Dr. Ellen G. Miles, National Portrait Gallery. "Portraits of Benjamin Franklin by French Artists."

11:05-11:35 Ms. Ellen R. Cohn, *The Papers of Benjamin Franklin*. "Franklin and Traditional Music."

Questions: 11:35-11:50

Wednesday, Lunch, 12:00-1:30pm, Faculty Club, University of Pennsylvania.

Chair: Dr. Edward C. Carter, II, American Philosophical Society.

Speaker:

1:00-1:30, Edwin Wolf, II, Librarian Emeritus, The Library Company of Philadelphia. "Benjamin Franklin's Library."

Wednesday, First Afternoon Session, 2:15-3:30, The Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

Welcoming remarks — Harrison M. Wright, Chairman, The Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

Topic: **Benevolence and Business.**

Chair: Professor Randall M. Miller, St. Joseph's University.

Speakers:

2:05-2:35 Dr. John C. Van Horne, The Library Company of Philadelphia. "Collective Benevolence and the Common Good in Franklin's Philanthropy."

2:35-3:05 Mr. James Green, The Library Company of Philadelphia. "Franklin as Publisher and Bookseller."

Questions: 3:05-3:15

Break: 3:15-3:30

Wednesday, Second Afternoon Session, 3:45-5:00, Historical Society of Pennsylvania and Library Company of Philadelphia.

Welcoming remarks — Dr. John C. Van Horne, Librarian, The Library Company of Philadelphia.

Topic: **Franklin as Scientist.**

Chair: Dr. Whitfield J. Bell, Jr., Executive Officer Emeritus, American Philosophical Society.

Speakers:

3:45-4:15 Professor J.L. Heilbron, University of California, Berkeley. "Franklin as an Enlightened natural philosopher."

4:15-4:45 Professor Heinz Otto Sibus, University of Oldenburg, West Germany. "Electricity Designed in the Mind: Contemporary Imagery in Franklin's Scientific Thought."

Questions: 4:45-5:00

Wednesday, Dinner. Registrants on their own.

Wednesday Evening Session, 8-8:45 Franklin Court.

Wednesday Evening Reception, 5-6:00, The Library Company of Philadelphia.

Chair: Doris Fanelli, Supervisory Curator, Independence National Historical Park

Speaker:

8:15-8:45 Professor Emeritus Esmond Wright, University of London, England. "Benjamin Franklin in France 1782-1783: Diplomacy by Effection."

Thursday April 19, 1990

Morning and Afternoon in Delaware
Reception on boat
Dinner in Philadelphia

9:10 Buses leave convention hotel for Newark, Delaware.

Thursday, Morning Session, 10:00-11:50, Clayton Hall, University of Delaware.

Welcoming remarks — E.A. Trabant, President, University of Delaware.

Topic: **Franklin's Character and Ethics.**

Chair: Professor Jack Ellis, University of Delaware.

Speakers:

10:05-10:35 Professor Emeritus A. Owen Aldridge, University of Illinois. "The Alleged Puritanism of Franklin's Religion and Ethics."

10:35-11:05 J.A. Leo Lemay, University of Delaware, "The Theme of Vanity in Franklin's Autobiography."

11:05-11:35 Professor Ralph Lerner, University of Chicago. "Dr. Janus."

Questions: 11:35-11:50

Thursday, Lunch, 12:00-1:30, Clayton Hall, University of Delaware.

Welcoming remarks — Dr. Helen Gouldner, Dean, Arts and Science.

Chair: Mr. Frank B. Jones, Chair, Benjamin Franklin Guild.

Speaker:

1:00-1:30 Professor Robert Middlekauff, University of California, Berkeley. "The Enemies of Benjamin Franklin."

Thursday, Afternoon Session, 2:15-4:00, Courthouse, New Castle.

Welcoming remarks — J.A. Leo Lemay.

Topic: **Franklin's Writings.**

Chair: Carol Hofferker, University of Delaware.

Speakers:

2:20-2:50 Professor Carla Mulford, The Pennsylvania State University. "Franklin on the American Indian."

2:50-3:20 Professor David Yerkes, Columbia University. "The Vocabulary of Benjamin Franklin."

3:20-3:50 Professor Michael Zuckerman, University of Pennsylvania. "Benevolence, Self-Interest, and Doing Good while Doing Well in Franklin's Autobiography."

Questions: 3:30-4:00

Thursday, Reception, 4-5:00pm.

Thursday, Closing Session, 5-5:45pm, Courthouse, New Castle.

Welcoming remarks — Dr. Hobart Cawood.

Chair: Dr. Doris D. Fanelli, Independence National Historical Park.

Speaker:

Dr. Barbara Oberg, Editor, *The Papers of Benjamin Franklin*, "The Impact of Franklin's Concluding Speech at the Constitutional Convention."

Concluding remarks — J.A. Leo Lemay

(continued from Page 1, Column 1)

Ellen Cohn

About one year after the foundry was set up, the first shipment of type was ready to be sent to America. In May, 1778, Gov. Jonathan Trumbull had requested characters for two Connecticut printers who sent Franklin a substantial sum of money for their purchase. Half the order had already been procured from the younger Fournier and shipped on board the *Alliance* in April, 1779. The other half was a font of *brevier* made by Hémerly; this font was ready in March, 1780, and shipped in July.

Also in July, 1780, Franklin and Hémerly compiled a list of the contents of the boxes of letters in use at Passy. There were thirty-four boxes in all, containing various styles and sizes of letters. At the end of the list, in Franklin's hand, is an entry calling attention to two boxes of "large Letters cast by me."

*Ellen Cohn, Associate Editor
Papers of Benjamin Franklin, Yale*

NEXT MEETING OF THE FRIENDS OF FRANKLIN

It will take place at the **Faculty Club of the University of Pennsylvania** on Monday, April 16, at 2 pm. The meeting will end with a reception for the participants at Professor Lemay's conference (which opens the following day). Those in attendance will have a chance to see the exhibition at Penn's Arthur Ross Gallery and at the Van Pelt Library.



University of Pennsylvania President Sheldon Hackney flanked by Stuart E. Karu and Sondra Myers at the opening of "The Intellectual World of Benjamin Franklin," 17 January, 1990, at the Arthur Ross Gallery of the University of Pennsylvania.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN NATIONAL MEMORIAL CALENDER OF EVENTS 1990

Ongoing

The Benjamin Franklin National Memorial is open seven days a week, 9:30 to 4:30 pm weekdays, noon to 5 pm weekends. Franklin Hall was designed and built in the early 1930s as the center of The Franklin Institute Science Museum. Built on a scale and in a style resembling the Jefferson and Lincoln Memorials, a 21-foot statue of a seated, contemplative Franklin was installed in 1938. In 1972, Franklin Hall was

designated by Congress as the official Benjamin Franklin National Memorial.

Sept. 6-16 (dates tentative)

Benjamin Franklin Pilgrimage to Europe

A twelve-day group tour to those places in England and France where Franklin lived and worked as well as to some of the renowned organizations that awarded him various medals, prizes, and degrees. This educational and recreational tour will be priced to cover the actual costs of transportation, lodging, and meals.

Nov. 7-10

Benjamin Franklin National Memorial Awards Convocation

The recipients of the Bower Award and Prize for Achievement in Science and the Bower Award for Business Leadership will participate in three days of public events, lectures, and a formal presentation ceremony.

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Claude-Anne Lopez, Editor

What's Doing in Franklin's World?

Polly Baker rises again . . .

A paperback edition of *Benjamin Franklin and Polly Baker: The History of a Literary Deception*, by **Max Hall**, will be published in the late spring by the University of Pittsburgh Press. The book will contain a new preface and new bibliographical note. (For phone orders: 1-800-2211.)

Libertas Americana . . .

Lester Olson of the University of Pittsburgh is writing a book entitled *Benjamin Franklin's Vision of America: Images of the Emerging Nation, 1754-1784*. It will focus upon the images that Franklin designed to represent those British colonies which became the United States: *JOIN, OR DIE* in 1754; *MAGNA BRITANNIA* in 1765; *WE ARE ONE* in 1776; *LIBERTAS AMERICANA* in 1783. He spent a week at the Franklin Papers last spring doing research on the 1783 medal and we were glad to help him locate more than forty previously unpublished documents.

Our Man in London . . .

Aaron Goldman's play based on Franklin's life was performed last September at the Georgetown Black Box Theater in Washington, D.C., and was well-received.

Franklin's Enemies . . .

Is the subject of a book in preparation by **Professor Robert Middlekauff** of the University of California, Berkeley.

The Lightning and the Scepter . . .

. . . or more exactly *Le Sceptre et la Foudre*, by **Claude-Anne Lopez**, will appear in Paris in late spring. Subtitle: *Les Amitiés françaises de Benjamin Franklin, 1777-1785*. The Yale University Press is bringing out a paperback edition of *Mon Cher Papa* early in 1990.

Benjamin in France

Last August, a long and glowing review of Vols. XXIII-XXVII of the *Papers of Benjamin Franklin* appeared in the widely-read magazine *Le Nouvel Observateur*. It was written by **Elizabeth Badinter**, co-author, with her husband, former Minister of Justice of France, of the best-selling biography of Condorcet.

Benjamin in England

We hear from **Douglas Whitley** of Springfield, Ill., that the Friends of Benjamin Franklin House have acquired the Freehold (absolute property) of the house on Craven Street, London, where Franklin spent fifteen years. They are now embarked on a fund-raising campaign to restore the property and turn it into a museum. Thanks for telling us the good news.

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

NEW FRIENDS OF FRANKLIN

Listed below are the names of "Franklinphiles" who have joined the Friends of Franklin since the Summer 1989 issue. If you would like to become a member, or just wish to subscribe to our newsletter, please complete the enclosed reply envelope! *Membership is open to all Franklin enthusiasts!*

Dick Hoefnagel, Etna, NH
Dr. John A. Romberger, Silver Spring, MD
E. Philip Krider, Tucson, AZ
Felix Oppenheim, Amherst, MA
Gerard Finkenbeiner, Rindge, NH
John R. Franklin, Annandale, VA
Kenneth R. Laurence, Bay Harbor, FL
Larry E. Tise, Philadelphia, PA
Lester Olson, Pittsburgh, PA
Max R. Hall, Cambridge, MA
Mme. Olivier Frapier, Paris, France
Phil W. Greenslet, Reisterstown, MD
R.R. Palmer, Princeton, NJ
Robert F. Carroll, Philadelphia, PA
Prof. Esmond Wright, London, England

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