

Franklin Gazette

A PERIODIC PUBLICATION OF THE FRIENDS OF FRANKLIN

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Friends of Franklin, c/o Dr. Larry Tise, Benjamin Franklin National Memorial, 20th and The Parkway, Philadelphia, PA 19103

"There has never been a good war, or a bad peace."

B. Franklin

From the Desk of Larry Tise

One might have thought from all of the activities surrounding the bicentennial of Benjamin Franklin's death in 1990 that 1991 might be a much quieter time for more commemorative activities. You couldn't tell it from where I sit. Things seem to keep on coming fast and furiously. There follows a few items of interest that actually deserve much fuller attention than we have space in this issue of the GAZETTE:

1. By Act 173 of the 1990 Pennsylvania General Assembly that portion of the funds (approximately \$1.6 million) left by Benjamin Franklin in his will to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania was appropriated for disbursement as Franklin specified it should be after 200 years. One half of the money was allocated in a lump sum to The Franklin Institute "to support educational and employment training programs." The other half was ordered to be disbursed to "Commonwealth Community Foundations" in Pennsylvania also for their use to support the same types of educational and training programs. All eligible community foundations may apply for a minimum grant of \$20,000 or a maximum of \$100,000. Community foundations are expected to add value to the sums they receive and are required to invest the original amount and other contributions at a minimum interest rate of 5 % per year. Earlier in the year, the City of Philadelphia had determined to entrust its share of some \$600,000 to the Philadelphia Foundation for similar purposes.

2. **The Pittsburgh Junta:** On January 15, I gave an address titled "In Quest of the Historical Franklin" at the annual banquet meeting of the Pittsburgh Junta. This was the 109th banquet for the group. Founded in 1882 among the leaders of Pittsburgh business, industry, and education, the group meets monthly when members must make presentations on assigned topics of current interest. Founded quite without knowledge of Benjamin Franklin's famous Philadelphia "Junto," the Junta in 1912 moved its annual meeting to the week of Franklin's birthday (January 17) and began to focus directly on the Franklin heritage. Limited to an all male membership of 35, the group, nevertheless, has twice heard stirring addresses by co-editor Claude-Anne Lopez. More information on the

(see "Larry Tise", Page 2 Column 1 and 2)

FRANKLIN'S BIRTHDAY IN PHILADELPHIA

January 17, Benjamin Franklin's birthday, was a notable day in Philadelphia. The day was filled with a tour of Franklin's historic Philadelphia and an evening event featuring the first annual Franklin Day Lecture at The Franklin Institute. About a hundred individuals--many of the Friends of Franklin and/or Franklin buffs--participated in the day of activities. Organized by the Benjamin Franklin National Memorial with co-sponsoring assistance from the Friends of Independence National Park, the day became a jubilee of commemoration and learning.

Tour participants gathered in the Benjamin Franklin National Memorial at 10:30 a.m. for the opening of a new permanent exhibit on Franklin in Memorial Hall. Titled "Benjamin Franklin--Humanitarian Genius," the exhibit seeks to portray that aspect of Franklin's life in which he made many contributions to the

welfare of humanity. That theme has also become the hallmark of the National Memorial's international awards program. Each of the three exhibit cases look at specific facets of the theme. The first looks at Franklin as printer and

entrepreneur and features the printing press of brother James on which Franklin first learned to print. The second interprets Franklin as scientist and inventor and features his electrical machine and Pennsylvania stove. The third presents Franklin as

citizen of Philadelphia and the world. The latter includes Franklin's armonica as well as many images of Franklin borrowed from such collectors and Friends as Phil Greenslet and Stuart Karu.

The tour group then moved to Philadelphia's grand Masonic Temple where librarian and Masonic historian

(See "Tour Continued", Page 4 Top)



Ralph Archbold, Claude-Anne Lopez and Christine Lafarge enjoy discussion and good dining at the evening event celebrating Benjamin Franklin's birthday

THE FRIENDS OF FRANKLIN MEETING

Following a day of touring, feasting, and lectures on Franklin The Friends of Franklin met on January 18 in the Board Room of The Franklin Institute. Members present reviewed the past accomplishments of the Friends and charted plans for the future of the organization. Highlights of the meeting's discussions include the following items:

1. The Friends of Franklin and The Benjamin Franklin Guild are now fully affiliated with the Benjamin Franklin National Memorial. Final steps to integrate these two groups into a single new organization are being taken at present. In that the Friends of Franklin recently received its 501(c)3 status, it will be maintained for the purpose of receiving funds to support the Franklin Papers editorial project at Yale University.

2. Friends treasurer, Frank Jones announced a new gift of \$12,500 from the Culpeper Foundation to support the Franklin Papers project. He also

presented the first check from this gift to Barbara Oberg, project editor.

3. Executive Secretary Dr. Larry Tise led discussions on various facets of the Friends organization and activities including plans for quarterly publication of the FRANKLIN GAZETTE, the evolution of the Friends group into a Benjamin Franklin Roundtable, the development of a subscription sales program for the Franklin Papers published volumes through the Friends, activities and programs of the National Memorial including plans for a conference on Franklin on April 17, 1991.

Noting the need to rotate board and officer positions in the organization, a nominating committee consisting of Claude-Anne Lopez of New Haven, Conn., William Carr of Washington, D.C., and Roy Goodman of Philadelphia was constituted to bring new slates to the next meeting of the organization on April 17 in Philadelphia.

Larry Tise

Junta may be obtained from Junta member Dr. John H. Miller, Carnegie Mellon University, 5000 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15213.

3. **Benjamin Franklin Becomes a Rotarian:** On January 17, Franklin Friend George F. Waters presented a check for \$1,000 to the Rotary Club of Rochester, Minnesota to make Benjamin Franklin a Paul Harris Fellow of Rotary International. Waters, recently retired as head of Waters Instruments, Inc., honored Franklin on his birthday and insured that Franklin's name will be noted among the charitable and educational programs of Rotary International.

4. **Franklin University Honors Franklin:** Also on January 17, Franklin University of Columbus, Ohio, decided to honor its namesake with an educational birthday party. Kelley Ballard, enthusiastic development and special events director for Franklin, organized the day complete with Newton Pippin apples for everyone on campus and other activities commemorating Franklin's contributions to humanity. Franklin, of course, introduced Newton Pippins and other varieties of apples and apple trees to England.

Franklin University, founded in 1902, has always specialized in career development training, especially for adults. It was a pleasure to work with such dedicated fans of Franklin toward this event. For more information, contact Kelley Ballard, Franklin University, 201 S. Grant Avenue, Columbus, OH 43215.

5. **The Pennsylvania Gazette** soon available on CD-ROM: We recently reported that The Franklin Papers project was putting its files of Franklin documents on CD-ROM, a powerful system of storage, indexing, and instant recall that will greatly facilitate research. Now John Nagy, a retired biologist from

Malvern, Pa., is producing a wonderfully-indexed version of The Pennsylvania Gazette covering the years from 1728 through 1800. Through a family company he calls Accessible Archives, Inc., (697 Sugartown Road, Malvern, Pa., 19355; phone 215-296-7441), Nagy is creating this massive index and retrieval system that will have such minute detail as names and places of all persons mentioned (over 1 million) in the Gazette, place names, advertisements, ships, subjects, and more. Through a computer clipping system with over 50,000 scanned images, users will be able to retrieve facsimiles of articles containing these items. At present he has indexed issues from 1728 through 1744. The index system will be offered in three installments (1728-1750; 1751-1775; 1776-1800) for purchase either separately or as a whole. The price has not been set either for the components or the entirety, but current thinking sounds reasonable.

6. **Was Franklin Left-Handed?:** The top question of the month came from a Philadelphia eighth grader. Was Benjamin Franklin right handed or left handed? A quick check of standard biographies turned up no index entries on "left," "hand," or "ambidextrousness." Willard Randall in A Little Revenge (p. 33), however, says that "little Bennie" was left handed. Other Franklin historians contacted so far either have no opinion or feel strenuously that he was most definitely right-handed. There are reports that a major study on this matter was commissioned by the National Park Service in some years past. Stay tuned in future issues for an update on this burning issue.

If you have questions, comments, or items of interest, please send them along to us. We do not have room for everything, but we will include as much as possible.

FRANKLIN AT YALE

The good news from Yale is that Vol. XXVIII of The Papers (Nov. 1778-Feb. 1779) has appeared and that Vol. XXIX (March-June 1779) has gone off to the Press. The staff is already well into the mysteries of the next one.

Of all the years of Franklin's life, the one we are covering at present, 1779, is the richest in documents. So rich that in spite of our manifold ways of diminishing the bulk of printed material, we can only cover four months of his existence in a fat volume. As of 1780 the number of letters will start tapering off.

Coming as it does after a period of indecision and discouragement, 1779 is a wonderful, dynamic year for Franklin and this translates into a higher than usual proportion of his own letters: two hundred out of the eight hundred or so for those four months. The reason for this spurt of writing is that he is finally rid of his burdensome and often carping colleagues on the Commission, finally the sole Minister Plenipotentiary to the French Court. All by himself, he tries to address the want of American consuls in the French ports and to deal with a serious financial crisis. We also see him plunging deeper into French society: a paper of his on the aurora borealis is read at the Academie des Sciences, he corresponds with Marat (Marat-the-physicist, not yet Marat-the-bloody-revolutionary), he becomes the Venerable of the Lodge of the Nine Sisters and even finds time, for the amusement of his friends, to compose his famous Morals of Chess. Knowing that he is now settled for some time, he sends off grandson Benny to pursue his studies in Geneva and activates his type-foundry and press at Passy.

On the international front, the big news is Spain's entry into the war.

IN HONOR OF A FOUNDER

In honor of one of their founders Pennsylvania Hospital is sponsoring an art contest for high school and college level students. "We have portraits of many of our early managers, but we are lacking a likeness of Franklin," commented Laura Feragen, manager of Media Relations. Instead of having an artist copy an existing painting of Franklin, Pennsylvania Hospital decided to hold the contest to recognize his achievements: "We are hoping that students will research Franklin and creatively portray his life in the artwork."

The Franklin in Action Art Contest posters, which indicate slightly different requirements for high school and college students, were mailed to art departments around the Delaware Valley. Entries will be brought to the hospital on February 15 for judging in March.

Awards will be presented at a reception and exhibition in the Great Court of Pennsylvania Hospital in March. A \$3,000 prize will be given to one college level student. High school students will compete for first prize of \$1,000, \$750 for second place, and a \$250 third prize. The winning artwork will be displayed at the hospital. Friends of Franklin Members are welcome to attend the reception and are encouraged to call Laura Feragen at 215-829-3971.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN ACTIVITIES AROUND THE WORLD

We continue to get indications and notes from all points of the globe that people are planning activities to commemorate Benjamin Franklin's life and career in one manner or another:

From ITALY: Professor Luigi Sampietro of Milan, Italy, tells us that he is planning a major conference on Franklin's life and influence to be held in Milan during the last week of May, 1991. He has invited notable speakers from Europe and America and is opening the conference to a broad participation. Interested individuals should contact Dr. Sampietro directly at the Università degli Studi Di Milano, Istituto di Anglistica, Via Festa del Perdono, 7-20122, Milano, Italy. Phone 02-3496674. Fax 02-58304482.

From FRANCE: From the Benjamin Franklin Bicentennial Committee of Lorient, France, we learn that the Lycee

Saint-Louis has adopted a major educational exchange project covering the period from September 1990 through April 1993 of studying the career and influence of Benjamin Franklin. During these years 360 students will focus on Franklin and the influence of the United States on the intellectual and political history of France. In April, 1993, the 360 students will travel to Pennsylvania where they will spend two weeks traveling the state and covering the territories trod by Franklin. The group is just now looking for a high school or junior college in America to participate in this venture by providing facilities and assistance at the time of the visit. Interested parties should contact J. Chartin, President, Comité de Lorient, 41, Rue de la Villeneuve, 56100 Lorient Cedex, France. Phone 97 64 31 29.

The Associate Editor would like to acknowledge that the article Le Docteur Franklin Remembered in France was not written by Dilys Winegrad but by Claude-Anne Lopez.

Also regrets to William Carr for omitting his book, The Oldest Delegate, from the last issue of the Franklin Gazette.

FOCUS ON A FRIEND:

WILLIAM G. CARR'S SUMMARY OF HIS BOOK THE OLDEST DELEGATE

The Oldest Delegate is the first detailed account of Franklin's unique role in the four months of the Constitutional Convention of 1787.

The book reaches conclusions somewhat different from the "conventional wisdom" on the subject; namely, that Franklin at the Convention was old, infirm, insecure, out-of-touch, and therefore generally ineffective -- a jocund, eminent Methuselah in his own sedan chair.

However, although he was fully occupied with his duties as President of Pennsylvania and as an active community leader, Franklin's Convention attendance was more regular and deeply involved than most of his younger colleagues.

Although some of his suggestions were ignored or rejected (as were those

of other delegates), the Convention approved seventy percent of all recorded suggestions he proposed or supported.

Benjamin Franklin successfully opposed the provision for the final Executive veto on all legislation, supported a narrow definition of treason that made dissent more secure, played a leading role in the crucial Committee on Compromise, argued successfully that impeachment be a remedy against improper conduct by the Executive, and opposed a Constitutional requirement of extensive property ownership as a qualification for voting in national elections or holding national office.

He also tried, though without success, to deny Congress the power to fix its own liberal salaries.

He was in good health, wrote his own speeches, and spoke extemporaneously as occasion required.

The volume reviews previous conclusions about Franklin's role, describes his relations to other delegates, discusses his views on some of the characteristic controversies of the meeting, and includes a chronology of Franklin's activities during the Convention and related events.

William G. Carr's interest in Franklin goes back over fifty years to the publication of Van Doren's great biography of Franklin. His interest in Franklin rekindled and deepened, after he retired from regular employment. He was invited by Frank Jones's suggestion in 1983 to become a member of the Board of Governors of the Benjamin Franklin Guild.

NEW CHILDRENS BOOKS RELATING TO BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

David A. Adler

A Picture Book of Benjamin Franklin.

New York: Holiday House, 1990. 29 pp.

A delightful biography which gives a well-written, straightforward account of Franklin's life. Adler takes young children through important milestones and accomplishments with finely executed illustrations by John and Alexandra Wallner.

Aliki

The Many Lives of Benjamin Franklin.

New York: Simon & Schuster, 1988. 32 pp.

Recounts the story of Benjamin Franklin's life and his many activities and achievements.

William G. Carr

The Postage Stamp Life of Benjamin

Franklin 1706 - 1790. Indianapolis:

Benjamin Franklin Guild, 1987. 24 pp.

An informative booklet about the many facets of Benjamin Franklin's life as illustrated and gathered in postage stamps.

James Henry Daugherty

Poor Richard. Connecticut: Grey

Castle Press, 1990. 159 pp. (Distributed by New York: Marshall Cavendish)

A large print reprint of the 1941 indexed biography of Franklin's life from his birth in Boston in 1706 through his years as printer, statesman, inventor, author, and reformer.

Margaret Davidson

The Story of Benjamin Franklin: Amazing American. New York: Dell, 1988. 92 pp.

A storybook style biography which entices young students to read about Dr. Franklin. Illustrated by John Speirs.

Eve Feldman

Benjamin Franklin, Scientist and Inventor. New York: Watts, 1990. 64 pp.

A juvenile biography focusing on Franklin's experiments, inventions, and improvements to everyday life.

Carol Greene

Benjamin Franklin: A Man with Many Jobs. Chicago: Childrens, 1988. 48 pp.

An easy to understand indexed biography about Benjamin Franklin's working life. Young readers will appreciate the accomplishments and failures of Franklin and will understand why he is considered one of the foremost citizens of history.

Chris Looby

Benjamin Franklin. New York: Chelsea House, 1990. 111 pp.

A well-researched look at Franklin's life for grade school children which includes a collection of images representing the Colonial period in which Franklin lived.

Milton Meltzer

Benjamin Franklin: The New

American. New York: Watts, 1988. 176 pp.

A well written story about Benjamin Franklin's triumphs and weaknesses for junior to high school readers.

Mary Pope Osborne

The Many Lives of Benjamin Franklin.

New York: Dial Books for Young Readers, 1990. 50 pp.

Another juvenile biography covering Franklin's boyhood, apprenticeship, and publishing career.

Robert R. Potter

Benjamin Franklin. New Jersey: Silver Burdett, 1991.

This book follows the life of the American renaissance man who achieved notable success as printer, statesman, inventor, author, and reformer.

Maggi Scarf

Meet Benjamin Franklin. New York: Random House, 1989. 64 pp.

A biography of Benjamin Franklin highlighting his inventions, his newspaper and almanac, his work on the Declaration of Independence, and his diplomatic trips to England and France on behalf of the colonies.

Benjamin Franklin Stamp Club Coloring Book.

[Washington, D.C.]: U.S. Postal Service, 1989. 48 pp.

In the great panoply of Franklin publications, there is something for everyone.



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Franklin Gazette

TOUR CONTINUED

John Platt described Franklin's career as Mason. Following lunch at the Temple the group divided into two separate parties. One party headed directly to Franklin's Grave in the Cemetery of Christ Church at Arch and Fifth Streets. Park Service historian David Dutcher gave a dramatic presentation on Franklin's last days. Then Philadelphia's Teacher of the Year, James Gallagher, who has been assigned to The Franklin Institute for the past 27 years as the Museum's onsite science teacher, described and conducted Franklin's experiment on the heat conductivity of different colors of cloth. Tour participants placed eight differently colored pieces of felt on a bed of snow (shaved ice) just as Franklin described in his letter to Mary Stevenson in 1760. When the second party arrived two hours later, it was noted that--just as Franklin predicted--the darker cloths under direct sun light melted a greater proportion of the snow.

The groups then alternately visited Franklin Court at Independence National Park, the American Philosophical Society, and the Library Company of Philadelphia. At each of these places the tourists were shown Franklin items and

curiosities not normally available to visitors. Archaeological collections from the site of Franklin's house were described and shown at Franklin Court. A park interpreter then performed a couple of musical pieces on a replica of Franklin's glass armonica.

At the American Philosophical Society host Roy Goodman and manuscript curators brought forth a variety of rare items including Franklin's traveling chess set, Franklin's personal copy of the first printed edition of the Declaration of Independence with his marginal comments and corrections of typographical errors, and the first ever air mail letter sent by William Franklin to William Temple Franklin on the first balloon crossing of the English Channel.

At the Library Company the tourists could trace the genealogy of original membership shares in the library from Franklin's day to the present. They could also see a number of books from Franklin's personal library each with its coded number indicating the shelf location given by Franklin himself. The tourists also stopped for refreshments at the First Bank of the United States prior to returning to The Franklin Institute.

In the evening, the rather tired tourists, joined by others, got a behind-the-scenes tour of the Institute's new Futures Center and a special showing of The Blue Planet in the new Omniverse Theatre. At a dinner for participants, there were toasts to Benjamin Franklin and to Franklin impersonator Ralph Archbold of Philadelphia whose birthday ironically falls precisely on Franklin's.

While the evening's program began just as participants heard the sad news of rocket attacks on Israel and Saudi Arabia, noted lecturer Claude-Anne Lopez held the group spellbound as she revealed for the first time major new items from a large batch of Franklin and Franklin-related papers recently made available to scholars by Franklin descendant, Governor Michael Castle of Delaware. The papers helped Lopez to confirm or revise a number of hypotheses she had long held about the lives of not only Franklin, but also daughter Sally and grandsons Benny Bache and William Temple Franklin. As in so many other instances, Ms. Lopez set a stirring precedent for future Franklin Day lecturers.

NEXT MEETING OF THE FRIENDS OF FRANKLIN

There will be a meeting of the membership of the Friends of Franklin on April 17 (the 201st anniversary of Franklin's death) at The Franklin Institute in Philadelphia. Plans currently developing for the day include a day-long conference on the current status of Franklin studies. We will be asking several knowledgeable Franklin scholars to help us assess areas of the Franklin story that have been simply overdone and those areas that open new opportunities or that have never been addressed (e.g., why are there now multiple biographies of William Franklin and Benjamin Franklin Bache and none of Sally Franklin?). We are already in contact with several scholars who can shed some good light on the odd pattern of the

Franklin scholarship. Time and format permitting, we may also open up some questions about the status of collecting Franklin memorabilia. Out of towners should arrive on the 16th and plan to leave on the 18th. More information will be provided to Friends of Franklin in the coming weeks.

Also mark your calendars for September 23. There will be a meeting of the Directors of the Friends of Franklin on that date in New Haven, Conn., at the offices of The Franklin Papers. Dedicated Friends who are not officers or directors will also be welcomed to this occasion.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

All individuals, institutions, scholars, students, collectors and others are invited to become members of the Friends of Franklin at the annual membership rates indicated below.

Institutional Member	\$1,000
Contributing Member	500
Franklin Friend	100
Annual Member	50
Subscription to Gazette	10

Send a check made payable to:

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