

Franklin Gazette

A PERIODIC PUBLICATION OF THE FRIENDS OF FRANKLIN

VOLUME 3, NUMBER 2, SPRING, 1992

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

"A Brother may not be a Friend, but a Friend will always be a Brother."

B. Franklin

From the Desk of Larry Tise

Theoretically, I am supposed to be working half time on a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Humanities writing a book that I am calling The American Counter-revolution. And I have three very good associates here in our office who are charged in part over the next twelve months with making sure that I work on that as well as on all of the multifarious programs and projects of the National Memorial. Along those lines, this issue's column will focus on things we have been hearing from our readers.

Here are some snippets included in our mail:

1. From Marian Carson, Philadelphia

I loved the current Gazette! Your editors really can write!

2. From Nian-Sheng Huang, Highland, California

It is so nice to receive the latest issue of Franklin Gazette. I read its articles with great interest, and would like to thank you for your very kind description and enthusiastic support of my current project. The more I study Franklin, the more humble I feel and realize how much I need friends for insight and encouragement.

3. From Patricia Kohn, Wyncote, Pennsylvania

Want to let you know of my progress in the search for information on my Ben Franklin statue with its electric static generator. Thanks to all your help I am now getting it repaired and restored.

Mr. [Phil] Greenslet was very helpful in giving me an approximate price . . . He also sent me a picture of the statue that is in the archives of The Franklin Institute.

Meanwhile I had contacted Roy Goodman at the Philosophical Society. Mr. Goodman was most helpful. They have the same statue at the society, exactly the same, but 4" bigger.

I then called Linda Ellsworth at the Conservation Center for Art and Historical Artifacts [Philadelphia]. She suggested I speak to Andrew Lews at the Phila. Museum of Art . . . who said that since mine was white metal, it was probably zinc and very difficult to solder. . . I have finally taken it to Eberhardt's on Walnut St. and they are going to restore it at a reasonable price.

Many thanks for all your help. Everyone I contacted was so helpful & pleasant that it made my quest a fun experience.

4. From Charles C. Hargis, Brecksville, Ohio

I read in the Friends newsletter that you're collecting data about Franklin statuary. So I'm enclosing extra photos I have of a beautiful bronze statue that was erected just a few miles from my home in 1990.

THE FRIENDS OF FRANKLIN MARCH ON: THE APRIL MEETING AND TOUR

It was April; so it had to be time for the Friends of Franklin to meet and to tour some of the sites associated with the historic Benjamin Franklin. On Friday, April 24, twenty-eight hardy souls braved the warm, muggy day to

cover six fascinating institutions. They came from far and wide for the experience—Washington, Chicago, Minnesota, Boston, Baltimore, Bloomington, New Haven, Wilmington, and even Philadelphia.

After coffee and juice at The Franklin Institute under the gaze of Franklin's gigantic National Memorial statue, the explorers got aboard a trolley for a short ride to the Mutter Museum of the Philadelphia College of Physicians. Established in 1787 and with a vast collection of medical and anatomical artifacts (including the liver of the original Siamese Twins—who were born in Siam, but who lived in North Carolina long enough to become tobacco farmers and authentic tarheels

before their untimely deaths minutes apart), museum director Gretchen Worden charmed the entire group with story after story during a trek through the vast museum. Then to the Philadelphia Museum of Art where an entire

room of furniture, portraits, porcelain, and other items derived from Franklin's historic environs—though not Franklin himself.

The trolley

chugged the cheery Franklin fans next through an interesting West Philadelphia neighborhood to nearly hidden Bartram's Garden—an authentic historic landmark almost unchanged from Franklin's days. Martha Wolf, the director, and Helen DiCaprio made sure that before the group left they were well fed and highly educated about the Bartrams, historic plantings, and the generous Franklin collection. Several of the Friends made a serious investment in historic gardening by



April tour participants stand in front of the Proprietary House in Perth Amboy, NJ

(see "Board Meeting, Continued," Page 2 Bottom)

HONORING DISCOVERY

by Larry E. Tise

During this year of the Columbian Quincentenary, we can justly celebrate the scientific discoveries of Christopher Columbus (even if not all of the social implications of his voyages to America). As he played out his theory that the Indies lay due west from Spain, he came across another phenomenon that piqued his curiosity. On just his first voyage to what would be a whole continent unknown in Europe, Columbus began documenting and theorizing about a gigantic flow of water, warmer temperatures, and sea life from southwest to northeast in the Atlantic Ocean. As long as he voyaged to America, he merely experienced this mighty phenomenon without understanding its nature and permanence.

It was not until nearly three hundred years later, as Benjamin Franklin traveled frequently across the Atlantic,

that this natural flow of water was charted and understood. It was partly Franklin's scientific curiosity and partly his hope to make American skippers the most efficient in the world that drove him to chart the Gulf Stream. While the stream was known to veteran sailors, it was chiefly Franklin's ingenuity and efforts that made the course and direction of the stream available to all American ship masters. Indeed, even on his last trip across the Atlantic in 1785—at age 79 and suffering from severe disabilities he prepared and carried out a plan of scientific recording of the Gulf Stream that included the charting of latitude, longitude, water and air temperatures, wind directions and courses, and magnetic readings. His drive to discover and to analyze was unquenchable.

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

(see "Discovery, Continued," Page 4 Bottom)

Larry Tise, Continued

The statue is located in front of the Executive Plaza One office building, 6450 Rockside Woods Blvd. South, Independence, Ohio. The street runs off Rockside Road, just east of the Rockside/I-77 interchange. I copied the following information off the statue:

G. W. LUNDEE 4/21

LOVELAND, COL 1989 C

Ben is reading a copy of the U.S. Constitution. The building owner, I learned, is not a BF fan; he just thought BF is suitable because the building is in the city of Independence (where, I might add, the new city hall is a replica of Independence Hall!). . . A few years ago, a friend sent me a post card from Philadelphia showing a very similar statue located there. But the location or sculptor wasn't indicated. I'd like to know where it is and see it.

5. Two other letters inform us of new projects that are underway to let the world know about Benjamin Franklin. One letter is from an advertising firm developing ads for a major line of luggage. The idea is to make use of a descendant of a famous person to label a particular piece of luggage. Vicki Revere is used in an ad for a Paul Revere bag. Clint Clemens represents his multi-great uncle Mark Twain. Charlie Crockett rehearses memories of his multi-great grandfather Davey Crockett. The firm, of

course, is in search of a Franklin descendant. We gave out names and numbers. So look out, you may be getting a call.

Probably the best bit of news came in a letter from Yuri Rasovsky, project director for "The Craven Street Project." This group, with assistance from Friends Claude-Anne Lopez, Leo LeMay, and others, is developing five one hour episodes for the British Broadcasting Company on Benjamin Franklin's years in London. The group American Dialogues is producing the programs with funds from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Sounds like great stuff!

And now, about The American Counterrevolution--how does Franklin fit in, you might ask? The book will open at Benjamin Franklin's funeral where he is being venerated by some and maligned by others. He is praised for his sagacity and shrewdness as a diplomat in getting France to support the American war for independence. But he is, likewise, damned for cavorting with French women and the hated Court of Louis XVI. The debate expands in the months and years that follow and soon all of the great ideals for which Franklin lived and fought begin to slip out of the hands of Americans . . . More later. [LET]

GOOD NEWS FROM THE NEH!

The National Endowment for the Humanities has awarded Yale University a three-year grant of \$225,000 for the support of the Franklin Papers. This grant is a resounding affirmation of over 35 years of scholarship by the Franklin editors and gives a clear signal that this prestigious government agency deems the completion of this comprehensive edition of Franklin's papers of vital importance to work in the humanities today.

The Endowment offers an additional \$220,000 in a dollar-for-dollar match. As Frank Jones announced, \$142,000 in gifts and pledges has already been raised toward this goal. Let's raise the rest to carry us over the top!

Are you interested in writing an article about Franklin to appear in the Gazette? Please send your writings to Berrie Torgan. Deadline for the Gazette are as follows: Summer - July 6, Fall - Sept. 3, Winter - Nov. 10, Spring - Feb. 12. [BT]

BOARD MEETING, CONTINUED

buying their own Franklinias-- a small flowering tree named by John Bartram after Franklin. Various wagers could be heard among the purchasers as to whose Franklinia would live the longest and thrive the best and as to whether a northern climate could sustain the delicate plants that Bartram originally found in Georgia.

Next came the Historical Society of Pennsylvania and a spate of manuscripts and artifacts directly from Franklin's own hands and Peale's elegant portrait of Philadelphia's most historic figure. And then to Fireman's Hall on Second Street where our energetic host fireman eschewed any comments on Franklin to the band of Franklin experts. He claimed to know virtually everything about firefighting; little about history.

Last stop was again The Franklin Institute where the weary travelers sipped wine, nibbled cheese, and scarfed popcorn as they viewed a special showing of Meredith Martindale's 1976 documentary Citizen of Two Worlds. This was still not enough, however, as new Franklin Friends president Malcolm Smith led a two-hour discussion of Franklin matters back at the Korman Suites, the host hotel.

Saturday morning rolled around quickly. The second day was devoted to Franklin's historic New Jersey. A group of 15 set out in a van driven by cracker-jack chauffeur and sometimes carpenter, Larry Tise. After a short delay in gathering up all of the now sagging tourists, the van sped across the Benjamin Franklin Bridge on the way to historic Perth Amboy, site of the Proprietary House of East Jersey. This was the house where William Franklin lived while he served as the Royal Governor of New Jersey. It was here that he was arrested by American troops due to his loyalist leanings. And it was here that his still young

wife lived for a short while--spurned by Americans and especially by her father-in-law--our good Dr. Franklin. While she grieved there alone, Franklin, walked, rode, or coached right by the house on his way to the Conference House across the way on Staten Island. It was there that Franklin, John Adams, and Edward Rutledge met with Lord Admiral Howe in 1776 to talk peace. Both the Proprietary House and the Conference House are undergoing considerable restoration. The Proprietary House Association, a non-profit group working on that publicly owned property for years, hosted the tour group for lunch.

On the way from one historic house to the other the group stopped by historic St. Peter's Episcopal Church, where they were instructed and entertained by lively Rector Rod Croes. From the last stop at the Conference House the weary travelers headed back to Philadelphia--across Franklin Bridge--to The Franklin Institute, homing station for the tour.

...AND THE BUSINESS MEETING

Early on the morning of April 24, the directors of the Friends of Franklin, Inc., met in the Board Room of The Franklin Institute for the annual business meeting. A financial report presented by Treasurer Pearl Grika showed an end of year balance of \$6,767.16--a considerable improvement over the 1990 balance of \$1,420 when the Friends became associated with the Benjamin Franklin National Memorial. A membership report submitted by Ralph Archbold (not present) showed that the permanent paid membership was at 100. An activity report presented by Larry Tise, Executive Secretary, showed the growing number of activities sponsored by the Friends and the National Memorial.

Outgoing Friends President Frank Jones presented the most exciting report of the meeting. In his capacity as chairman of the Friends' Fundraising Committee, Frank reported the considerable success his Committee was having in raising funds to support the Papers of Benjamin Franklin. He reported that cash and pledges amounting to \$142,000 had been received against a July 1, 1994, goal of \$220,000.

Other reports were given by Claude-Anne Lopez on the current status of the Papers and by Malcolm Smith on a mission statement for the Friends.

The final item of business was the election of officers and directors. The results follow:

President: *Malcolm Smith, Chicago*

1st Vice President: *Deane Sherman, Washington, D.C.*

2nd Vice President: *William Glenn, M.D., New Haven, Conn.*

Executive Secretary: *Larry E. Tise, Philadelphia*

Secretary/Membership: *Ralph Archbold, Philadelphia*

Treasurer: *Pearl Grika, Philadelphia*

Directors:

Stuart Karu, Kennebunkport, Maine

Barbara Oberg, New Haven, Conn.

William Carr, Washington, D.C.

Martin Mangold, Hyattsville, Md.

Doug Whitley, Springfield, Ill.

Joan Challinor, Washington, D.C.

Roy Goodman, Philadelphia

Phil Greenslet, Reisterstown, Md.

Frank B. Jones, Bloomington, Ind.

Incoming President Smith gave a rousing speech to conclude the meeting on his hopes and aspirations for the Friends this year and in the future. [LET]

II. Relations with Harvard

by Max Hall

Part I, published in the last issue, was about the astonishing flood of academic honors that came to Benjamin Franklin around the middle of his life, although his formal education had been limited to about two years. How was this possible? What were the personal traits that enabled this unschooled man to make his scientific discoveries and to get the attention of the intellectual elite of Europe and North America? The answer: his curiosity and his writing ability.

Nothing more illustrates the change in Franklin's status than his relations with Harvard College, only a few miles up the Charles River from where he spent his first seventeen years.

Franklin seemed headed for Harvard in 1714 when he was eight years old. His father, a Boston maker of candles and soap, wanted him to be a preacher and therefore enrolled him in the Boston Grammar School to learn Latin. Benjamin later recalled that he advanced rapidly but that in less than a year his father, having many other children and being concerned over the ultimate expense of a college education, withdrew him and put him in a school for writing and arithmetic.

At age ten, leaving school forever, Benjamin ached to become a seaman, but instead helped in the candle-making and then was apprenticed to his brother, a printer. All this time, and through his teens, Benjamin was reading almost everything he could lay his hands on--sermons and books of polemical theology; a big set of little books on popular history; Plutarch's Lives; Defoe's Essay upon Projects; Cotton Mather's Essays to Do Good; Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress; Swift, Pope, Addison, Steele, Locke; books on arithmetic, geometry, navigation, English grammar, logic, and so on and on. Carl Van Doren considered him almost as wholly self-taught as if he had never gone to school--"the most insatiable and acquisitive young mind in America was on the hunt for knowledge and would have found it in a desert." Perhaps true, but he would not have been

the same person without Swift, Addison, Steele, Bunyan, and the rest.

At sixteen, precocious Benjamin, in the fourth of his Silence Dogood letters for his brother's newspaper, published a scornful attack on Harvard College. One cannot help reading some envy between the lines. Mrs. Dogood (Franklin's pseudonym) recounted a dream about visiting the college and concluded thus:

"I reflected in my mind on the extreme folly of those parents who, blind to their children's dullness, and insensible of the solidity of their skulls, because they think their purses can afford it, will needs send them to the Temple of Learning, where,



Harvard, awarding Franklin an honorary A.M. degree in 1753, gave him this diploma. Note "Benjaminem" in middle of document. Photo courtesy of The American Philosophical Society.

for want of a suitable genius, they learn little more than how to carry themselves handsomely, and enter a room genteelly (which might as well be acquired at a dancing-school), and from whence they return, after abundance of trouble and charge, as great blockheads as ever, only more proud and self-conceited."

For the next thirty years, during which Franklin rose as a printer, journalist, and community leader in Philadelphia, we have no record of any links between him and Harvard. Then crash! Lightning struck, and the old college hugged Franklin to its breast. In the summer of 1753 he was in Boston for a couple of months, partly, it seems, to escape the

Philadelphia heat. Hearing of his presence, the President and Fellows of Harvard College, headed by President Edward Holyoke, on July 23 took the following action:

"Voted, That whereas Mr. Benjamin Franklin of Philadelphia hath made great improvements in philosophic learning and particularly with respect to electricity, whereby his reputation hath been greatly advanced in the learned world, not only in Great-Britain, but even in the Kingdom of France also, we therefore, willing to do honor to a person of such considerable improvements in learning, do admit him to the degree of Master of Arts in Harvard-College."

The affair then proceeded with a rush. The Overseers concurred July 24. The diploma was hastily prepared July 25, saying in Latin what the President and Fellows had said in English. President Holyoke handed it to Franklin on July 27, folded into a handsome tin box about eight inches long and emblazoned with the college arms. This was Franklin's first honorary degree. It was also the first authentic honorary degree that Harvard gave anybody, according to Samuel Eliot Morison, though some think that two or three earlier degrees should also be considered honorary, beginning with President Increase Mather's doctorate in theology in 1692.

After that, Franklin and Harvard got along just fine. He formed a friendship with Professor John Winthrop (1714-1779), whom Morison has called "the first important scientist or productive scholar on the teaching staff of Harvard College." Franklin subscribed four pistoles (four pounds eight shillings) to the college library, expecting others to join him in building up a fund. He donated books and electrical apparatus. And when he was in London he supervised the making of telescopes and other scientific instruments for Harvard.

(Part III. His Curiosity in the next Gazette)

FRANKLIN WITHOUT A MASK

by Deane Sherman and William Carr

Some literary critics cast an aura of mystery around Benjamin Franklin as a wearer of disguises or masks which present an assumed personality, not Franklin's own.

But on April 28, 1992, Mrs. Claude-Anne Lopez of the Franklin Papers, speaking before a packed Lunch Forum at the Cosmos Club of Washington, challenged the well-worn stereotype. There were moments in Franklin's life, she said, when the great patriot wore no mask at all but expressed his real feelings with poignant vulnerability.

She illustrated her case by two of Franklin's letters. The first, a private letter, was written August 11, 1762 to "Polly" Stevenson on the eve of departure for home after his five-year mission to England. Franklin's son, William, was about to marry Elizabeth Downes although his father would have much preferred Polly as his daughter-in-law. Franklin blamed Elizabeth for the rift

with his son over colonial issues. For Polly, Franklin wrote, he had "so sincere an affection, so perfect an esteem" that "he once flattered himself said she might become his own in the tender relation of a child." This, said Mrs. Lopez, is "a letter of absolute, pure sadness."

In his public life, Franklin faced another dismal moment when on September 10, 1783, he wrote to his diplomatic colleagues, John Adams and John Jay. It was one week after the Treaty of Paris had been signed. Franklin knew that in America mischievous rumors were circulating that during the Treaty negotiations Franklin had treasonably connived with the French court to the disadvantage of American interests. "Having now spent fifty years of my life in public office," he wrote, "I have one ambition left -- to carry the character of fidelity to the grave with me."

How difficult it must have been, said Mrs. Lopez, for the proud Franklin in his

late seventies to write such a letter. At such times, she would like to say:

"Yes, you were brighter and smarter than most of us. History would not be the same without you. But there comes a time when you must admit that life is a bit too much. I wish I could just touch your hand across the centuries and tell you we are all alike."

Mrs. Lopez' address celebrated the receipt by the Club of 30 volumes of the Franklin Papers. The collection will be augmented to some 45 volumes when the series is completed a few years hence. The donor of the Papers, B. Franklin Kahn, also presented to the Club a miniature replica of the famous "Franklin Bench" at the University of Pennsylvania and a copy of Houdon's Bust of Franklin. The latter will be placed in the Club Foyer facing a similar Bust of Washington over the opposite fireplace. The Papers will be available for the use of scholars and readers in the Club Library.

by Dick Hoefnagel, Dartmouth College Library, New Hampshire

When it came to the writing of poetry, Benjamin Franklin was his own firm critic. Witness the following passage in the *Autobiography*, referring to his youth: "I now took a fancy to Poetry, and made some little Pieces.... They were wretched stuff.... my Father discourag'd me... telling me Verse-Makers were generally Beggars; so I escap'd being a Poet, most probably a very bad one.... I approv'd the amusing one's self with Poetry now and then, so far as to improve one's Language, but no farther."

It therefore comes as a surprise that, when a Franklin scholar as well known as Paul Leicester Ford published *The Prefaces, Proverbs, and Poems of Benjamin Franklin* originally printed in Poor Richard's Almanacs for 1733-1758 (New York and London, 1890), he implied in the title that Franklin was the author of the poems. Further inquiry reveals a stunning misreading by Ford. In the preface to *Poor Richard, 1747* (Vol. III, p. 100 of the Yale edition), Franklin had written, concerning the Verses on the Heads of the Months: - "I need not tell thee that not many of them are of my own Making," but Ford, both in the introduction to his volume (p. 16) and in the text of the 1747 Preface (p. 168), omitted the second *not*, causing Franklin to say: "I need not tell thee that many of them are of my own Making." An omission all the more inexplicable in view of Franklin's next sentence: "If thou hast any Judgment in Poetry, thou wilt easily discern the Workman from the Bungler. I know as well as these, that I am no Poet born; and it is a trade I never learnt, or indeed could learn. If I make Verses, 'tis in Spight-of Nature and my Stars, I write. Why then should I give my Readers bad Lines of my own, when good Ones of other People are so plenty?"

This elicits from Ford: "Perhaps then Poor Richard should not be made responsible for all these poems [a total of nearly three hundred] but I have been able to identify but one or two pieces as from other pens, and suspect that they must most of them be referred to one which had so little feeling that it [sic] could write of it as a trade to be learnt." It becomes increasingly difficult to see how Ford could write as he did in view of what Franklin declared in *Poor Richard, 1748*; after another try at poetry with less than pleasing results, he uttered this self-denigrating lament: "Souse down into Prose again, my Muse; for Poetry is no more thy element, than Air is of the Flying-Fish; whose Flights, like thine, are therefore short and Heavy."

Biographers of Franklin, editors of his work, and others who cite Ford's edition, have evidently not noticed Ford's misreading. We do not know which of the few extant copies of *Poor Richard, 1747* Ford used in the preparation of his edition. Thanks to the cooperation of Dorothy M. Bridgwater and curators of collections containing such a copy (The Rosenbach Museum & Library, The American Antiquarian Society, The American Philosophical Society, The Boston Public Library, The Library Company of Philadelphia, and The New York Public Library), it has been ascertained that the second *not* is present in all of them.

Unaware of the misreading, since he did not have the original text to compare with Ford's, Wilfred P. Mustard in, *The Nation* (LXXXII, March 22, April 15, 1906, pp. 239, 279) improved upon Ford's "one or two pieces as from other pens" by identifying a number of principal sources of the poems in *Poor Richard*.

Not until fifty years later did a comprehensive summary of literary sources used by Franklin for the proverbs,

aphorisms, etc., become available, Richard H. Newcomb's *Sources of Benjamin Franklin's Sayings in Poor Richard* (unpublished doctoral dissertation, University of Maryland, 1957). Chapter V deals briefly with "The Poetry in Poor Richard's Almanack." The author points out Mustard's misreading of Richard's 1747 Preface without realizing its dependence on Ford's own misreading. Thus he states on pp. 165-66 that it leads to a misinterpretation of what Poor Richard actually wrote about the originality of his verses: "...the impression left by Mustard's letters quite the opposite of what Poor Richard obviously intended is that Franklin contradicted himself and was therefore guilty of something akin to plagiarism."

Ironically, it was one of Ford's close friends who put his finger on the probable cause of the misreading. Ford has dedicated his edition to "Lindsay Swift fellow-worker in the vineyards of Franklinian literature." Some years later, this same Swift was to describe his friend's working habits:

"One who did not know Mr. Ford, on entering [his library] and beholding for the first time the Sierras of books, fronted by foothills of unfinished work, sales catalogues, letters and other detritus, might well suppose him to be one of the most careless of mortals. Cerebrally Mr. Ford is multiparous. He can be busy with a play, a story, a biography, and with editing some historical work during the same interval of time.... I do not now [1898] discern what at one time I feared I might --carelessness, or an effect of haste, in the large mass of results to which this author has already put his name."--("Paul Leicester Ford at Home: The Man of Affairs and the Man of Letters, *The Critic* XXXIII (O.S.) November 1898, pp. 239-245.)

DISCOVERY, CONTINUED

From the *Log of Christopher Columbus, 1492*:

23 September: I sailed NW and sometimes NW by north, and sometimes on my original westerly course, making about 66 miles. I saw a dove, a tern, another small bird, and some white birds. There is a lot of weed and I have seen more crabs in it. The crew is still grumbling about the wind. When I get a wind from the SW or west it is inconstant, and that, along with a flat sea, has led the men to believe that we will never get home. I told them that we are near land and that is what is keeping the sea smooth. Later, when the sea made up considerably without wind, they were astonished. I saw this as a sign from God, and it was very helpful to me. Such a sign has not appeared since Moses led the Jews out of Egypt, and they dared not lay violent hands on him because of the miracle that God had wrought. As with Moses when he led his people out of captivity, my people were humbled by this act of the Almighty. Soon thereafter a wind arose from the WNW, and the sea grew rougher. The crew was relieved. The men tried to catch some fish but

could not get any to bite at the hooks. Eventually they harpooned several.

Benjamin Franklin to Anthony Todd, Esq., 1769:

29 October: Whales are found generally near the edges of the Gulph Stream, a strong current so called, which comes out of the Gulph of Florida, passing northeasterly along the coast of America, and then turning off most easterly, running at the rate of 4, 3.5, 3 and 2.5 miles an hour. [Since whalers] cruise along the edges of the stream in quest of whales, they are become better acquainted with the course, breadth, strength, and extent of the same, than those navigators can well be who only cross it in their voyages to and from America At my request Captain Folger hath been so obliging as to mark for me on a chart the dimensions, course and swiftness of the stream from its first coming out of the gulph where it is narrowest and strongest, until it turns away to go to the southward of the western islands, where it is broader and weaker

and to give me withal some written directions whereby ships bound from the Banks of Newfoundland to New York may avoid the said stream; and yet be free of danger from the banks and shoals above mentioned. As I apprehend that such chart and directions may be of use to our packets in shortening their voyages, I send them to you, that . . . so much of the chart as is contained within the red lines may be engraved, and printed, together with the remarks . . . or at least that manuscript copies may be made of the same for the use of packets. [This] . . . would besides be of general service.

Benjamin Franklin to M. St. Jean De Crevecoeur, 1784:

I send you a copy of a chart of the Gulf Stream, which is little known by European navigators and yet of great consequence; since in going to America they often get into that stream and unknowingly stem it, whereby the ship is much retarded and the voyage lengthened enormously.

4. The Go-Between

by Claude-Anne Lopez

The sixty-nine-year-old Franklin and his fifteen-year-old grandson Temple landed in Philadelphia on May 5, 1775. William was on hand to greet both his father and his new-found son and heir. It must have been heaven for the adolescent: the tumultuous welcome given the old Doctor; the stately good looks and elegant manners of his father, the governor; the warm embrace of his pretty stepmother, Elizabeth, already overflowing with maternal feeling; the impressive proportions and expensive furnishings of the gubernatorial mansion in Perth Amboy, called the Proprietary House, in which William and his wife had settled only a few months previously. (They had lived in Burlington the ten preceding years but, with discontent in the air, preferred an East Jersey location close to William's political allies, the proprietors.) Four floors, sixteen fireplaces, large rooms, big staff-- what a change after Elphinstone's boarding school and Mrs. Stevenson's friendly but cramped lodgings in London!

Best of all, everybody fawned on this new relative, the only hope for carrying on the name since fate had disposed of every other young male Franklin in his generation. Back in Philadelphia in the fall, he met the Baches--the moody, rather ineffectual Richard, still struggling to make ends meet; the good-humored Sally who would evoke, one day, the jolly times they had; and her two little boys playing soldier with their sticks.

All his life on the periphery, Temple was suddenly center stage. He went dancing. He long treasured the dried nosegay of his favorite partner, the popular Peggy Shippen--eventually to become Mrs. Benedict Arnold.

But his bliss did not last long. Over the summer, the rift between Franklin and his son had grown wider as William's loyalty to the Crown remained unshaken. As of early November, the two men stopped communicating except through the boy, now torn between his two heroes.

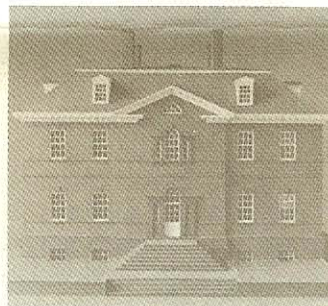
He was enrolled in the College of Philadelphia and constantly admonished by his father to work more and better: "I am very anxious to have you a good scholar, and particularly you should make yourself Master of the Latin, Greek and French languages, and be well versed in Mathematics. Without you should possess a competent Knowledge of these, my Intentions for your future Advantage will be entirely frustrated." Temple was also instructed to take night classes in German.

He dutifully sent an outline of his schedule. The roll was called at 8 a.m., followed by prayers. Mornings were taken up with Latin and Greek or geography, afternoons with mathematics, "of which I begin to understand something." Classes ended at 5, the students reassembled, prayed, and went home to do translations and write compositions in Latin or themes in English on such topics as Virtue and Honor (a misty essay of his "Whether Space is a Real Being" has survived). Suspecting that his father would notice there was an unaccounted-for gap between 11 and 3, Temple hastened to assure him that it was devoted to "learn-

ing my tasks in Euclid." And he added, somewhat wearily: "I will now leave it to you to judge whether you think there is any time left unoccupied either for Dancing or Fencing."

Tension grew between the Philadelphia Franklins and the Perth Amboy Franklins. As Temple shuttled between them, his unspoken distress may have found an expression in the fact that even for a boy of fifteen, he was particularly disorganized. His shoes, his socks, his linen always seemed to remain in the last place he visited, and the family correspondence in those historic days was largely devoted to bringing him and his belongings together.

On January 5, 1776, William's residence was surrounded by an armed detachment and he was confined to Perth Amboy. In limbo, neither governor nor private citizen, neither captive nor free,



A Model of the Proprietary House

he was desperate for a link with the world. Temple was his only link, an unreliable, irritating one. Why did he take so long to bring copies of Tom Paine's Common Sense? Of the replies to it? And the brown stockings from Germantown, what had happened to them? What about the bottled mustard, the ruffles for Elizabeth, the edgings for the ruffles, the asthmatic elixir, the pearl dentifrice, the snuff? "If you are not punctual in obeying my Orders, I must find some Person that will." There was a fight over the boy's allowance. More money, he was told, would be the ruin of his constitution. The trivial mixed with the tragic, as always in times of crisis.

History was moving at a fast pace now. On June 15 William was put under house arrest, his salary halted, no visitors allowed, not even Elizabeth's doctor. On the 21st he was led to Burlington for a hearing and found guilty. Franklin, recently returned from his fruitless mission to Canada, distanced himself from his son's fate, not even mentioning his name. Congress, on June 24, resolved that William be sent to Connecticut under guard and entrusted to Gov. Trumbull. His last words, before leaving, were for his son. He advised him to be dutiful and attentive to his grandfather, and to "love Mrs. Franklin, for she loves you, and will do all she can for you if I should never return more. If we survive the present Storm, we may all meet and enjoy the Sweets of Peace With the greater Relish."

Temple indeed rushed to his stepmother's side and listened to her complaints, which ranged from anxiety over her husband's fate to fury about green apples strewn by soldiers over the orchard.

As August passed, Franklin became increasingly uneasy at the thought of Temple so far from him and so close to the British, who were just across the water in New York. He worried that the youth might all too gallantly embrace the role of protector of a lady in distress, especially when the lady was his unhappy and coquettish stepmother. Indeed, when Temple saw Elizabeth's misery over the impossibility of getting letters through to her husband, he proposed to go in person to his father in Connecticut. As soon as Franklin heard of his plan, he objected vigorously. But Temple persisted. Suspecting his grandfather was really afraid he would take intelligence to his father, he assured him he was the last person to know any secrets. This provoked an angry reply: "You would have been more right if you would have suspected me of a little tender Concern for your Welfare, on Account of the Length of the Journey, your Youth and Inexperience, the Number of Sick returning on that Road with the Infectious Camp Distemper, which makes the Beds unsafe, together with the loss of Time in your Studies, of which I fear you begin to grow tired. I rather think the Project takes its rise from your own Inclination to a Ramble and Disinclination for returning to College, joined with the Desire I do not blame of seeing a Father you have so much Reason to love." Franklin was surprised that Elizabeth should have approved such a piece of knight errantry so out of keeping with her "usual Prudence."

Franklin had his way. Temple did not go to Connecticut. But he did not go back to college either. Six days after the scolding, he received a hurried note from his grandfather: "I hope you will return hither immediately and that your Mother will make no Objections to it, something offering here that will be much to your Advantage if you are not out of the Way."

The something that offered was a journey infinitely riskier than the one that had just been vetoed, a mission to France. There is no indication that Franklin ever consulted William about taking Temple to Paris. William accepted the fait accompli in good grace: "If the old gentleman has taken the boy with him, I hope it is only to put him in some foreign university."

But there never was to be a foreign university. Temple, as it turned out, was to devote all his time and energy to helping his grandfather and the revolutionary cause. The father he had admired so much would be nothing more than a handicap to his future. The splendid mansion, so carefully designed and expensively decorated, would never house another New Jersey governor. The stepmother who had shown him tenderness was to die a year later in New York, while her husband still languished in the Litchfield jail. After fifteen bizarre years in England and seventeen tumultuous months in America, Temple was about to open, for eight and a half years, the French chapter of his life. Without his parents, once again, his fate out of his own hands, once again. How could he develop a sense of self?

To be continued...

Franklin Gazette

A publication of The Friends of Franklin
The Benjamin Franklin National Memorial, The Franklin Institute
20th and The Parkway
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1194

Mrs. Claude-Anne Lopez, Co-Editor
Dr. Larry E. Tise, Co-Editor
Berrie Torgan, Associate Editor

Vol. 3, Num. 2, Spring 1992

FUTURE FRIENDS EVENTS

Franklin's Boston Tour has been moved to **OCTOBER 2 AND 3**. A registration form will appear in the summer issue of the *Gazette*. The tentative schedule for Boston is as follows:

Friday, October 2

Before 5:00 p.m.
Arrive at Hotel
5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Friends of Franklin meeting

6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Dinner at The Harvard Club's Bartlett room

Saturday, October 3

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Ben Franklin's Boston Walking Tour with Bill Meikle. This historic tour includes sites where Franklin was born and later lived, the old Church Square and Town House, the Town Dock and Dock Square, the Old State House, Peter Faneuil's Hall, the Mill Pond where he played and swam, his brother's printery, the Common, and the Old Granary Burying Ground. The tour concludes at Ye Olde Union Oyster House, just around the corner from the second home where Franklin lived as a child at the corner of

Union and Hanover Streets. Then return to the Meeting House to hear the award winning auditory exhibits of the Boston Tea Party and a Puritan Worship Service following luncheon.

6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Maison Robert for dinner which is located on the site of Franklin's old school and behind King's Chapel. On its patio is a portrait statue of Franklin, erected in his honor by Boston printers. [BT]

FRANKLIN DESIDERATA

Do you have Franklin odds and ends that you would like to sell? Are you looking for a particular item to add to your collection? The Friends of Franklin announce a new incentive for membership - free advertising in the *Gazette*. If you would like to advertise please contact Larry E. Tise and we will place your item in the *Gazette*. The fee for non-members advertising is \$5 per item. [BT]

Roy Goodman (215-440-3408) has copies of The Medical Side of Franklin, by Pepper for \$20.00 and a Franklin perfume bottle, complete with the fragrance, by Avon for \$5.00. He is looking for Frances Barbour's Concordance of the Sayings in Franklin's Poor Richard published in 1974 by the Gale Research Group in Detroit.

Do you have a favorite Franklin site that you would like to share with our members? Do you have any fun ideas for a conference or group event relating to Franklin? Please write to Berrie Torgan before the Summer *Gazette* deadline, July 6.

NEW MEMBERS

SUSTAINING

Louise D. Bodine

FRANKLIN FRIEND

Dr. John H. Hodges
Dr. Michael Lewis

INDIVIDUAL

Elisha Atkins
John L. Brooks
Henry S. Kingman

SUBSCRIBER

Edna C. Miller
Shulamith Oppenheim
Claus A Pierach

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

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.

Life Member	\$1,000
Institutional Member	\$1,000
Sustaining Friend	\$100
Franklin Friend	\$50
Individual Member	\$30
Subscription to Gazette	\$20

Send check made payable to:

THE FRIENDS OF FRANKLIN
Dr. Larry E. Tise
Benjamin Franklin National Memorial
20th and The Parkway
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1194