

Franklin Gazette

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Friends of Franklin, c/o Dr. Larry E. Tise, Benjamin Franklin National Memorial, The Franklin Institute, Philadelphia, PA 19103

The Proof of gold is fire, the proof of woman, gold; the proof of man, a woman.

from Poor Richard's Almanack, 1733

FROM THE DESK OF LARRY E. TISE

It seems that every time the moment rolls around to put out another *Gazette*, my little cubby hole in which I collect Franklin stuff for this column is just about full to the brim. Here are a few of the many fugitive items.

1. Franklin's House in London. We recently got a letter from Stephen D. Sinnot, Hon. Managing Director of the Franklin House on Craven Street in London, indicating that the Friends of the Benjamin Franklin House are reorganizing and relaunching their efforts to secure funds to restore the only remaining Franklin residence in the world. Things were kicked off on December 2 with a reception at Sotheby's preceded by an address by Baroness Margaret Thatcher. In addition, Mrs. Anne Prescott Keigher has been designated Project Manager, and



36" x 48" Oil painting by Scott Snow

Alan Hamerman chief fundraiser. A new prospectus for the capital campaign has been prepared as well. Friends of Franklin will undoubtedly be asked for contributions since we responded positively to Sinnot's request for a listing of our members. Sinnot's address: Bepton Boxes, near Midhurst, West Sussex GU29 0LY, United Kingdom. Phone 0730 81 3479.

2. Craven Street. Speaking of "Craven Street"--the five part radio series that is--executive producer of the program, Yuri Rasovsky, blew into Philadelphia during November and at the home of historian Richard Dunn explained how the program came about. With amazing enthusiasm both for Franklin and for the radio as the most graphic medium available today, he provided a group of some thirty historians and graduate students with a scintillating

Franklin Papers Enter Electronic Age

By Margaret K. Powell

Reprinted from Nota Bene

The Benjamin Franklin Collection, located on the second floor of Sterling Library (at Yale University), houses the offices of the Papers of Benjamin Franklin (an ongoing editorial project) and a splendid library of Franklin materials. These volumes, together with the earlier books and manuscripts in the Beinecke Library, make up the largest gathering of printed Franklin materials in the world. The collection was begun early in this century when William Smith Mason, Class of 1885, started buying books by and about Franklin. These included his original writings and printings, previous editions of his works, manuscripts, biographies of Franklin and his associates, and histories. Mason also acquired an impressive array of complementary materials on Franklin's interests, his contemporaries and the eighteenth century generally, including topics as diverse as balloons and animal magnetism. The collection also docu-

ments Franklin's printing career in America and Europe and the pamphlet wars surrounding the American Revolution. After Mason gave this trove of 15,000 books and pamphlets to Yale in 1935, librarian Dorothy W. Bridgwater described them as "a special library of American history from the French and Indian war to 1800."

The editorial project, which began in the 1950's, was in part a response to President Truman's directive to "make available to our people the public and private writings" of major national figures. Yale and the American Philosophical Society (the nation's oldest learned society, founded by Franklin) established joint sponsorship in 1953, and the edition was formally announced in 1954. The first volume of *The Papers of Benjamin Franklin* was published in 1959, under the editorship of Leonard W. Labaree, Professor of History at Yale, and Whitfield J. Bell, Jr., Professor of His-

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New Light on Benjamin Franklin's Attitude Toward Judaism

By Jonathan Dull

One of the most persistent and unfortunate lies told about Benjamin Franklin is that he was the author of an anti-semitic prophecy. In his superb book, Benjamin Franklin and Nature's God (Durham, N.C.:Duke University Press, 1967, p. 204), Alfred Owen Aldridge traced this untruth to a 1934 pro-Nazi periodical.¹ Aldridge, however, was able to uncover little positive evidence about Franklin's attitude, beyond a 1788 contribution to a subscription undertaken by the Congregation Mikveh Israel of Philadelphia. Recently, however, we have uncovered a tantalizing clue that Franklin's religious tolerance extended to Judaism.

The evidence comes from an unexpected source, a December 22, 1779, letter from Franklin to Count Andreas Peter von Bernstorff, the Foreign Minister of Denmark. (This letter will be published in full in volume 31 of the Franklin Papers.) During the preceding summer the squadron of John Paul Jones had sailed

around the north of Scotland, making a number of prizes. (A few weeks later it would encounter a British convoy, leading to the famous battle between the Bonhomme Richard and H.M.S. Serapis.) One of Jones's captains had directed three prizes to Bergen, Norway, which at that time was part of the Danish monarchy. Unfortunately the prize captains were imprudent enough to enter port flying American colors and thereby giving ammunition to the local British consul. He lodged a protest against this violation of Danish neutrality, leaving the Danish government no choice but to turn over the ships to the British. Franklin responded with a protest of his own (less successful, unfortunately) to the Danish foreign minister, citing the greatest Swiss expert on international law, Emmerich de Vattel. The passage is interesting enough to cite in full: "They [the American captains] confided in the Hospitality of Denmark, and thought themselves and their Property safe when

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How A Franklin Letter Was Discovered

While visiting the James Monroe Museum and Memorial Library in Fredericksburg, Virginia, Vice-President Deane Sherman heard about the Franklin letter found, along with many other manuscripts, in Monroe's desk. She asked curator Lee Langston-Harrison to tell her the story of the discovery and here it is, in his words. The Gazette thanks him for permission to publish it: "With regard to the story that the guides tell about the discovery of letters and documents in the 'Monroe Doctrine' desk...it is a legend steeped in family tradition rather than documented fact. I will try to synopsize the story as it was passed to me (in 1986).

"Seventy-five years after President Monroe died, his great-great-grandson, Laurence Gouverneur Hoes, (a six-year-old living with his parents in Washington, D.C.) damaged the Louis XVI 'Directoire' style desk. Though forbidden to play near the historic piece, the little boy disobeyed and climbed onto the folded-down portion of the desk. The entire piece fell forward, and while the boy was not harmed, one of the legs of the desk was broken. His mother, very unhappy about the incident, 'warmed his bottom' to impress upon him how important it was to listen to his elders. It was a lesson well learned!

"A local cabinet maker worked on the desk, and discovered three secret compartments filled with old papers. Upon closer inspection, it was determined that these were letters and documents from famous Americans, most dating from the late 18th century to the first quarter of the 19th. Though some were folded, all of the letters were in mint condition.

"The collection, consisting of approximately 200 items, has papers signed by (General) George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, James Monroe, Alexander Hamilton, Benjamin Franklin, Edmund Randolph, General Lafayette, William Crawford, Horatio Gates, John Marshall, and others. Examples from the 'desk collection' have been on view in the Museum over the last 65 years, and while the documents are now safely stored in the Ingrid Westesson Hoes Archives at the Museum, researchers can request to see and work with the papers."

P.S. The letter in question appears with annotation on pages 85-6 of volume VIII of the Yale edition of The Papers of Benjamin Franklin. It is in the hand of Franklin's son William. The address sheet, however, and one insertion are in Franklin's own hand.

Here is the text of Franklin's letter:

Sir

London June 3, 1758

Yours of the 1st. of April I received, with a Bill enclos'd for 25 Sterling, which when paid I shall dispose of as the Directors of the Union Library Company desire: but it will fall far short of discharging Mr. Keith's Account, who says the Orders he has receiv'd for Books will amount to about 100, and seem'd surpriz'd that a larger Bill was not sent. I told him the Company might possibly be unacquainted with the Prices of some of the Books, and had not imagined they would come to so much Money; but that if he sent them he need not doubt the Honour of the Directors, in taking care to make him a speedy Remittance; for it was the Custom in our Company, (and I suppos'd it might be the same in yours) in case a Parcel of Books amounted to more than the Subscription Monies in the Treasurer's Hand would discharge, a Number of the Subscribers advanc'd one or two Years Payment of their Subscriptions and by that Means ballanced the Account immediately with their Correspondent in England. I advis'd him also to call on Mr. Titley who perhaps long before this has receiv'd Mr. Clifford's Order: I never ask'd Mr. Titley for the Money for the Microscopes and other Optical Glasses, because I was not sure they would be acceptable; but I sent them per Budden, and hope they got safe to Hand. Please to present my Respects to the Directors, and assure them of my Readiness to Serve the Company in what I may. I am, Sir, Your very humble Servant

B Franklin

To Mr. Kirke

Addressed: To / Mr Kirke / Treasurer of the Union Library / Company / Philadelphia

[Memorandum]: In answer to this Letter, remark G. Keith has not writ any Letter, to the Directors. That our Estimate was chiefly taken from the Monthly Review. That we have rec'd the Microscope &c.

Write to Keith

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN AND THE EXPANSION OF THE AMERICAN EMPIRE

Andrew Cayton
Miami University

Editor's Note: *The following are taken from Andrew Cayton's notes for his presentation to the Friends of Franklin, October 2, 1993 in Chicago, IL.*

My major point is that several of the enduring themes of American expansionism - security, economic development, social stability, the importance of a strong relationship between a central government and private entrepreneurs -- took shape in Franklin's lifetime. The intellectual, political, economic, and social considerations of mid-eighteenth century American gentlemen (of which Franklin was an outstanding representative) established the precedents by which Americans would conquer, settle, and develop the North American Continent in the 1800s. I will emphasize the importance of looking at American history from a long chronological perspective and stress continuity between the 1700s and 1800s.

I will begin by describing a meeting between the Reverend Manasseh Cutler and Benjamin Franklin in Philadelphia in the

summer of 1787. They spent the better part of a day together, largely in a discussion of botany. But they had much more in common than science.

Cutler was the leader of a group of Revolutionary war veterans called the Ohio Company of Associates, which was in the process of purchasing one and a half million acres from the United States government. The stockholders intended to establish a colony on the Ohio River. Their hope was to create a settlement that would serve as the commercial and political center of trans-Appalachian America. They also hoped to make a great deal of money off of land speculation and live the lives of leisured gentlemen. To these ends, they worked hand in hand with the United States Congress. That body passed the Northwest Ordinance of 1787 at the same time as the land sale to the Ohio Company. The Ordinance created a political and social structure for the Northwest Territory (essentially the modern Midwest).

Together, the Ohio Company and Congress had very specific ideas about their plans for western development. These ideas were commonplace in the late 1700s. Benjamin Franklin was among the first to articulate them. He did so in the 1750s and 1760s when he planned or dreamed of settlement and speculation in the Ohio Country.

I will talk about similarities in these plans in the areas of:

1. Physical security - issues of other Europeans and Native Americans. Establishing beachhead settlements, laying claims to territory, demonstrating and securing American power/influence in a region.
2. Economic development -- 18th c. gentlemen understood history as a cyclical rather than a linear process. In addition to believing that there are relatively predictable laws of human nature, they saw human beings as progressing through

American Empire continued on next page

William Temple Franklin: In Limbo

Part VIII

by Claude-Anne Lopez

Early in 1780, Franklin and Temple learned--with much relief, one guesses--that John Laurens, Jr. had turned down the post of secretary to the American embassy in France. For the time being, at least, Temple could keep his job but with the troubling awareness that its continuation depended way more on political winds than on his performance.

Still, it was good news and there was much to do.

Temple's most important task was to keep the accounts, both the family's and the public's. The books that have come down to us are no models of accounting, to be sure, and suffer from many overlaps, but the attention to detail and the use of the double-entry system made a good impression on no less than John Adams. Tedious hours had to be spent sifting through an avalanche of bills of exchange, verifying them one by one and turning down a good proportion.

Another time-consuming matter to keep track of was the private press that Franklin set up at Passy almost as soon as he became sole Minister Plenipotentiary, finally empowered to run the mission by himself and reasonably certain that he would remain in Paris for a long time. The press's staff consisted of a M. Hemery who ran it and of various helpers, whose identities appear only as Woman (sometimes Madelon), Boy (variously referred to as *Garçon* or *Gar*), one more proof of eighteenth-century indifference toward the lower classes. The press entailed many expenses for the purchase of types and other equipment, wood, blankets, and Temple recorded them all. He also countersigned the passports, filled out the blank spaces, and supervised the production of various official documents.

He was assisted in his tasks by a young Frenchman named Nicolas Gellée who must have contributed to Franklin's abhorrence of the prevalent system of recommendations. Nobody entered a job with warmer support--his father wrote, his bishop wrote, his friends wrote--and few ever complained as much or kept such a grudge against their employer. Gellée felt underpaid and undervalued since the "interesting" work went to Temple, he did not pay his tailor's bill, and eventually left under a cloud. Thirteen years later, in the course of the French Revolution, Gellée announced his plan to publish a work directed against Franklin, with compromising revelations about Vergennes. If he did so it has left no trace.

The family accounts--which we publish in each volume of the Yale edition--offer a fascinating glimpse into Franklin's life, the suits he ordered (one of them rather coarsely described as "merde d'oie" i.e. between brown and green, according to French dictionaries), the domestics' livery, the books and newspapers he read, his use of the public baths, the parties he gave and those he

attended, since the guests brought along their own menservants to wait on them at table and paid for the help's dinner.

The dinner parties must have been wonderful, ample compensation for all the drudgery. Temple was almost always invited, as a courtesy to his grandfather and because of his fluency in French. And he was there just in time to witness the last incandescence of the European Enlightenment. He saw the great chemist Lavoisier repeat Priestley's experiments on various kinds of air; he witnessed Marat's investigation of the nature of fire--and a very polite Marat it was, a far cry from the firebrand of the Revolution; he was personally blessed by Voltaire, whose words on the occasion, *God and Liberty*, became the motto on Temple's ring.

He met philosophers and economists, Condorcet and Turgot, he met generals and men of letters, the wealthiest and the smartest that Paris had to offer. He personally delivered Franklin's ambassadorial credentials to the King, since his grandfather had been felled by the gout at his hour of triumph. It was enough to swell any young man's ego.

But there was much, too, to deflate it. His father, especially, whose life had taken a new turn since he had been exchanged and set free in New York, and who cast a shadow more ominous than ever over Temple's future. On May, 1779, Franklin had heard from a friend in England that "Governor Franklin is to go into the Jerseys, insinuate himself into the good graces of some of the leading people and then be supported by the Army when he sees proper to hoist the King's standard." In spite of his wife's death and of the loss of his worldly goods in a huge fire, William Franklin was buoyant, delighting in the thought that his loyalties, finally, were not divided. Operating on half his previous salary, he breathed fire into the ranks of the loyalists and urged a hard policy toward the rebels. The best course for Temple was to keep very quiet and that is what he did. Writing to his aunt Sally, the Governor's step-sister, on March 18, 1780, he said: "It gives me infinite satisfaction to hear that my father enjoys his health. I have never wrote to him since I left Philadelphia for several reasons. I certainly might have done it without injuring the American cause, but I thought it might give suspicions: and I was desirous of avoiding them. I have not however been exempt; but they have as yet had no effect." Indeed, the insinuations made in Congress against Temple may well have persuaded Pennsylvania to cast the only dissenting vote on Franklin's appointment as plenipotentiary.

So there was William Temple Franklin at twenty: handsome, well turned-out, an excellent dancer, amiable but somewhat vain and shallow, eagerly flattered by almost everybody in Paris, unfairly suspected by many in Philadelphia, totally dependent on his grandfather's reputation and increasingly interested--is it a surprise?--by women.

To be continued in the next Gazette

American Empire

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several well-defined stages. While they wanted a society that would move beyond the primitive (i.e. hunting/gathering) and the pastoral (i.e. agricultural), they did not want one that was too highly developed (i.e. overcrowded, dependent on non-household manufacturers). A society of cities and manufacturers was one tending to corruption and decline. The trick was to find some way to achieve and prolong an economic state that balanced agriculture and commerce, that would give men incentives to work hard and care about their larger community, without tipping the scales toward what they feared Europe was becoming: a world of lazy, dependent people with huge gaps between rich and poor.

3. Social stability -- Franklin and Cutler shared 18th c. assumptions about social

organization. The importance of marriage and families. The importance of an hierarchical model of society in which different people had prescribed and useful roles. At the top society would be governed by gentlemen (people who by definition did not work with their hands, who lived off the labor of others). Gentlemen who would live off the profit of their landed estates and the sale of land. Speculation was rampant in late 18th c. America less because of the pursuit of profit than of a kind of leisured, ordered life.

4. Government and entrepreneurs -- For both Franklin and Cutler, a central government (whether it be the British Crown or the federal government) was of critical importance. A reciprocal relationship existed between governments and speculators/developers; they needed each

other. The latter secured the west for the former, provided labor and capital; the former offered legitimacy and legal justification. Entrepreneurs operated in the name of governments and governments legitimized entrepreneurs. The strength of each depended on the strength of the other.

American westward development in the 1800s followed these general principles. Well into the twentieth century, the economic and social structures of the old Northwest/Midwest fulfilled the expectations of eighteenth-century gentlemen such as Benjamin Franklin and Manasseh Cutler. The world we live in today is to a very real extent a reflection of their dreams and fears about the future of North America.

FROM OUR MEMBERS

A Journey to Canada

by J. Watkins Strouss

The week after Labor Day, I took a journey by train to Montreal, Canada, to spend a week in that fair, French city. Part of my motivation was to visit Château Ramezay in the old city, which was built in 1705. It served as headquarters during the American occupation in 1775-76, and was where Benjamin Franklin stayed when he negotiated with the French Canadians in a failed attempt to have them join the colonies in their war against the British. My first day in Montreal I did, indeed, visit the Château and finally found reference to this "American occupation" with a brief mention of Generals Richard Montgomery, Benedict Arnold and of Benjamin Franklin. I also saw a reproduction of an "anonymous" portrait of Franklin, with the comment that when the Americans departed, they left the Chateau a mess.

I left, somewhat disappointed, presuming that would be my only Franklin encounter in Montreal. I was quite mistaken.

Towards the end of my stay, I finally visited the Museum of Fine Arts and the Musée des Beaux-Arts. Having gone through the permanent collection, which had few American artists represented, I went down to the restaurant, and on the stairs came upon a book encased in plastic. The book, in French, published in 1871 by Camille Flammarion, explains and illustrates Franklin's lightning rod. A bit of copper wire emanates from a picture, with a tiny kite attached, making the illustration of Franklin and his kite experiment three-dimensional. On the walls to either side, in French and English, is a letter by Franklin about this experiment published in the Pennsylvania Gazette for 1752. This piece, titled "Le cerf-volant de Benjamin Franklin (Benjamin Franklin's Kite)" is an art work by Robert Racine, who resides in Montreal where he was born in 1956.

It was exhibited as part of "L'Art Prend l'Air, cerfs-volants d'artistes," involving

other kites but no further explicit incorporation of Benjamin Franklin's work. The museum did offer a "kite-making" class as part of this special exhibit, which I took part in, to the best of my ability (artistic and linguistic) and did come out with a kite that flies.

I thought surely this would be my final Franklin discovery in Montreal. Again I was mistaken. While walking along Rue St. Denis, I browsed through a used book store (with all the books being in French, this being Montreal). I came across a three-volume history of the French Revolution, including material about Benjamin Franklin and the American Revolution as well, by French historian Claude Manceron, published in Paris in 1974. I considered this purchase overnight, and came back to the store the next day to bring home this French view of America.

Thus ends my tale of unexpected encounters with Franklin in Montreal.

Some further notes on Ben Franklin's journey to Montreal:

Benjamin Franklin started his journey on March 26, 1776, and reached Montreal on April 29. The delegation appointed by Congress consisted of Franklin, Samuel Chase, Charles Carroll, and Father Carroll. In point of fact the French Canadians tolerated British rule and, in any event, had been poorly treated by the American garrison in Montreal.

It was an arduous journey, mostly by water, up the Hudson River, across Lake George and finally Lake Champlain. Franklin was seventy and in failing health, suffering from large boils, swollen legs and fatigue. In fact he left Montreal on May 11 and reached Philadelphia on May 30, accompanied by Father Carroll, leaving behind Charles Carroll and Chase to pursue the negotiations. It would appear Franklin

did not engage in any negotiations with the French Canadians, seeing such efforts as futile. He only wrote a few letters about this journey, leaving it to the Carrolls to keep the official journals.

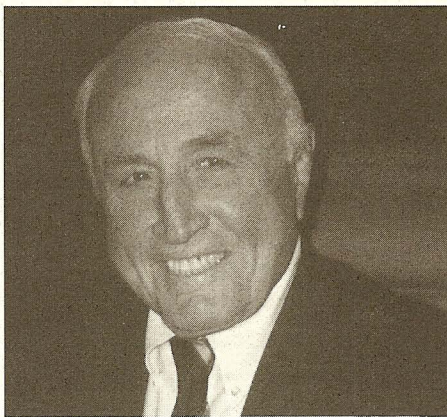
Sources: Yale edition of The Papers of Benjamin Franklin, xxii, passim. Carl Van Doren, Benjamin Franklin; Ronald Clark, Benjamin Franklin, a Biography.

GEORGE WATERS ON "BENJAMIN FRANKLIN'S IMPORTANT ROLE IN MINNESOTA'S HISTORY"

Editor's Note: The following is a brief summary of Friend of Franklin George Waters classic presentation before gathered Friends at The University Club of Chicago, on October 1, 1993. Since his presentation was accompanied with a vast array of slides and humorous quips, the following only hints at the substance of the presentation.

Intrigued by John Gunther's assertion in INSIDE U.S.A. that Benjamin Franklin knowingly let the Treaty of Paris negotiators misinterpret available maps to save the northeast "arrowhead" portion of Minnesota for young America, I decided to investigate this claim and determine its truth. Yes, the available 1750's Mitchell map used in negotiations did indicate that today's border nub, Lake of the Woods was the headwaters of Lake Superior. But yes, the later map of colonial explorer Jonathan Carter clearly showed that the St. Louis River, flowing considerably to the south through Duluth, was the true headwaters of Lake Superior, and the Lake of the Woods watershed actually flowed into Hudson Bay. Carter had consulted with Franklin about this map in Lon-

don in 1769. Franklin happily let the British go for the more northerly "Lake of the Woods" boundary waters' border.



George Waters

This well-known Lake of the Woods "bump" in Minnesota's top border was the northern most point in the United States until Alaska became a state in 1959. The Arrowhead region saved by Franklin's ploy gave to our country the rich Mesabi and Vermillion iron ranges, vast tracts of white pine and spruce for lumber, wondrous canoeing, camping, skiing and resort areas, and the international, inland seaport of Duluth. It also brought the Lake Superior North Shore Drive on which is located the Waters family's summer chalet. For all of this, I say, "Thank you, Ben Franklin!!."

FRANKLIN FRIENDS STORM CHICAGO

For two beautiful days--the first two days of October--a group of forty faithful Friends of Franklin and other hangers on gathered in Chicago to examine every possible angle of "Benjamin Franklin's Old Northwest." And despite the fact that everyone knew Franklin never got very much west of Harrisburg, Pa. (although he speculated in western lands he never saw), we came quickly to the conclusion that there was much to learn about Franklin in the architecturally stunning Windy City. And the weather conspired with sun and warmth to make our visit and concluding tour of the city's design gems a delight to remember forever.

Things got underway early on October 1 in the luxurious quarters of the Field Museum where Friends' President Malcolm Smith welcomed everyone to his hometown. Then Gregory Dowd of the University of Notre Dame gave a hefty and insightful lesson on Franklin and American Indians. It seems that Franklin shared the eighteenth century penchant among white Americans to view native Americans as noble the further away they lived and as savages the closer they resided. But, true to our faith that Franklin in the end was the wisest of all, he rose above some of the mire of his contemporaries. Next came a tour of the fabulous research collections of the Field Museum, led by our most helpful host, Will White, Director of Public Programs there.

In the afternoon we pushed on to the Newberry Library, one of the world's great independent research libraries. There Charles Cullen, President of the Library, regaled us with stories about Franklin, Jefferson, and libraries. From his prior experience with the Jefferson Papers, he knew aplenty to tell. James M. Wells, Custodian Emeritus of the John Wing Foundation on the History of Printing, next gave one of the most impressive talks on the history of printing anyone had heard complete with hundreds of print samples from the

Newberry collection to illustrate every point he made. If that was not enough, we then toured the rich facilities of the Newberry with state-of-the-art everything from computer finding aids, vast reference collections, maps galore, and conservation labs to care for all.

Our evening dinner at The University Club of Chicago turned out to have one of the most entertaining, interesting, and instructive talks heard by the Friends of Franklin. Friend George Waters held the group between laughter and tears as he explained how Benjamin Franklin was responsible for causing Minnesota to have a tiny nub on its northern border extending into Canada, thereby disrupting the smooth U.S. border west of Lake Superior to the Pacific Coast. It was so good that we are putting a little chunk of it in this *Gazette*. Thanks George.

Next day back in the handsome Founders' Room of the Field Museum, Andrew Cayton of Miami University held forth with an inspired explanation of the social, moral, and historical outlook of the Old Northwest--inspired in part, of course, by Benjamin Franklin. As it turns out the predominant outlook of the area is a form of moral, intellectual, and social superiority over the moral decay and degradation of the perpetual East and of urban environments. Cayton stimulated an endless stream of questions from a mighty happy audience.

Following a wrap-up discussion and contemplation of future things for the Friends led by Cayton, Tise, Waters, and Will White, we headed off for a tour by bus that included various historic districts; the Loop, Hyde Park, the Gold Coast, and Frank Lloyd Wright's magnificent Robie House. An evening dinner just for our group at La Strada's Top of The Plaza sans speeches capped off another fine Friends tour. Our appreciation to Malcolm and Muriel Smith, Will White, Roy Goodman (program chair), and Kathy Fau (logistics and money) for a memorable event. [LET]

Electronic Age

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tory at Dickinson College. Using a type face developed from Franklin's printing work in Passy, France, successive editors have brought out 30 volumes to date. According to its current editors, the edition is expected to become complete in 46 volumes.

Aside from Yale's holdings, most of Franklin's papers are owned by a group of Philadelphia institutions - the American Philosophical Society, the University of Pennsylvania, and the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. By far the greatest single group of papers in these Franklin archives comes from his nine-year ministry to France (1776-1785), and it is this period that the current volumes address. Editing the welter of material from Franklin's residence in France has entailed persistent detective work to establish dates, identify minor figures, and determine the political and social context of letters and other documents. The volumes resulting from such careful scholarship open up a rich vein of material on Franklin himself while making accessible much new evidence about America's first mission in France.

In the 1980s the Franklin Papers joined other national editorial projects to form Founding Fathers Papers, Inc. In addition to winning significant grants, Founding Fathers Papers has embarked on a joint venture with Packard Humanities Institute to create a CD-ROM edition of the papers of John Adams, Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, and George Washington, beginning with Franklin and Washington. The Franklin section of the project is well underway, and preliminary versions of the electronic edition have shown that it can easily incorporate more material than can the increasingly selective process of book publication. In a related development, the Library has recently acquired Franklin's newspaper, *The Pennsylvania Gazette*, on CD-ROM, which both reproduces the actual images from the newspapers and present the text in searchable form. The search and retrieval capabilities of both these new editions hold great promise for Franklin's editors and readers alike.

The Editors of the *Gazette* would like to thank *Nota Bene* for allowing us to reprint this article.

BF & Judaism

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under the Roof of his Danish Majesty. But they find themselves stripped of that Property, and the same given up to their Enemies, on this Principle only, that no Acknowledgment had yet been formally made by Denmark of the Independance of the United States. Which is to say, that there is no Obligation of Justice towards any Nation with whom a Treaty promising the same has not been previously made. This was indeed the Doctrine of ancient Barbarians, a doctrine long since exploded, and which it would not be for the honor of the present Age to revive; and it is hoped that Denmark will not by supporting & persisting in this Decision, obtained of his Majesty apparently by Surprise, be the first Modern Nation that shall attempt to revive it. 'Les Anciens, (says Vattel, in his excellent Treatise entitled *Le Droit des Gens*) ne se croient tenus à rien envers les Peuples qui ne leur étoient unis par un Traité d'Amitié. Enfin la Voix de la Nature se fit entendre aux Peuples civilisés; ils reconnurent que tous les Hommes sont Freres.'

The French passage can be translated as follows: The Ancients did not believe themselves bound in any way toward the people who had not concluded a Treaty of Amity with them. Finally, the voice of Nature made itself heard to civilized people and they recognized that all Men are Brothers.

What is interesting for our purpose is that when we researched the quotation we discovered that it consisted of three sentences. Franklin quoted the first sentence and the third, but silently suppressed the middle one, which read, "Les Juifs surtout mettoient une partie de leur ferveur à hair toutes les Nations; aussi en étoient-ils réciproquement detestés & méprisés." [The Jews especially invested part of their fervor in hating other nations; consequently they were, in turn, detested and despised].²

As is so often the case with Franklin's writings we do not know why he wrote precisely what he did. The suppression of the second sentence--hitherto unnoticed by scholars--could hardly have been an accident, however, and gives us a glimpse into the mind of that often elusive thinker, Benjamin Franklin.

1. It was based on the so-called "*Protocols of the Elders of Zion*," a fabrication by the czarist police in 1903, as explained in *The New York Times* of Nov. 28, 1993.

2. Emmerich de Vattel, *Le Droit des Gens; ou, Principes de la Loi Naturelle Appliqués à la Conduite & aux Affaires des Nations & des Souverains* (2 vols. in 1, Leiden, 1758), p. 117 of first pagination.

Mrs. Claude-Anne Lopez, Co-Editor
Dr. Larry E. Tise, Co-Editor
Wendy Ellis, Associate Editor

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Franklin Gazette

depiction of how a radio producer gets at the heart of his subject. Although some Friends of Franklin who have heard the series have told me that they do not particularly care for it, Rasovsky's rendition of making the series will forever be memorable to me. Rasovsky would like for the Friends to work with him in further distributing the tapes for the series. We are thinking about it, but would welcome the assistance of any of our entrepreneurial Friends. For more information, contact Yuri at Hollywood Theatre of the Ear, 1870 N. Vermont Avenue, #548, Hollywood, California 90027, (818) 546-2574, fax (818) 551-0720.

3. **Bernard Fay.** In the process of researching my current book project, **AMERICAN COUNTERREVOLUTION**, I have made some considerable use of a couple of Franklin books by Bernard Fay, especially his rather strange book titled **REVOLUTION AND FREEMASONRY, 1680-1800** (Boston: Little, Brown & Co., 1935). Fay, it turns out, had quite an amazing career above and beyond his extensive scholarship on Franklin. I have been attempting to col-

lect enough information to do a short piece for a future issue of the *Gazette*. But I have not been able to find out what happened to him after the Second World War. I would appreciate hearing from anyone knowing anything about that phase of his life or if anyone knows the whereabouts of an obituary. He was born in 1893 and was a French citizen, although he traveled frequently to America and both attended and taught at Harvard.

4. **I. Bernard Cohen.** A great long while ago in the *Gazette* we mistakenly created a first name for our beloved Professor I. Bernard Cohen, Victor S. Thomas Professor (emeritus) of the History of Science at Harvard University. Professor Cohen, an authority on Benjamin Franklin and his science, assures us that his "full legal name is and always has been" just as presented above. Sorry about that.

5. **Franklin Illustration Available.** Scott Snow, 1537 South Main Street, Salt Lake City, Utah 84115, a professional artist and illustrator, recently sent us a rendering of a new Franklin portrait that attempts to interpret many facets of the historical character. Saying that he spent two years

researching the project and making every element of it as historically accurate as possible, Scott now would like to sell the image for appropriate uses or perhaps the actual portrait itself. The painting is oil on canvas and is 36 by 48 inches unframed. We include a copy of the image in this issue of the *Gazette*.

6. **Franklin the Nutcracker.** As we compile this issue of the *Gazette* in the midst of a festive holiday season and as millions of children scamper with their parents to witness some performance of Peter Ilich Tchaikovsky's *The Nutcracker*--declared by Garrison Keillou this year as a story of open perversion in every respect--, all the world can rest assured that they can now purchase their own limited edition Benjamin Franklin Nutcracker. Available, of course, at Wanamaker's in Philadelphia, this Franklin nutcracker comes complete with kite and key, bifocal glasses, and a copy of *Poor Richard's Almanack*. A 1993 limited edition from Steinbach of Germany, it stands 17 inches tall is "totally made by hand" and handpainted. Oh, yes, the item sells for \$220 in Wanamaker's Christmas catalogue.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Franklin Institute Awards Convocation April 6-9, 1993
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Friends of Franklin Meeting April 8, 1993
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Franklin Symposium April 9, 1993
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Franklin Tour September 30 - October 1

Membership Categories

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Dr. Larry E. Tise
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