

Franklin Gazette

VOLUME 5, NUMBER 3, FALL 1994

Friends of Franklin, Inc., c/o Larry E. Tise, The Franklin Institute, 20th & Benjamin Franklin Parkway, Philadelphia, PA 19103

FROM THE DESK OF LARRY E. TISE

It is just amazing how quickly our editorial deadlines roll around for the *Gazette* and for all of the other things we publish out of the offices of the Benjamin Franklin National Memorial. Nevertheless, I am convinced that we could go to twelve issues a year--instead of four--and still have enough stuff to fill 4, 6, or 8 pages. Now for all of the news that's fit to print about the world of Franklin.

1. *Preview of Franklin Television Biography*: In the last issue we told you that Arts and Entertainment Network was preparing an hourlong biography of Benjamin Franklin. Well, it was finished and on September 12 it was previewed in the Benjamin Franklin Hall of the American Philosophical Society. One by one and two by two they piled into the hall. Maybe two hundred or so came there to see the images of Franklin, our Claude-Anne Lopez, Whitfield Bell, and John Van Horne. Monty Markham, the narrator of the film, spoke. Adam Friedman, producer and director, spoke. Ted Carter of the APS tuned in. John Van Horne introduced the film and then after fifty-five minutes of really good quality stuff, the gathered throng clapped and cheered. It really was and is a good quality piece of work. It then premiered on A&E on September 15. Our hats off to A&E Network and to Perpetual Motion Films for a job well done.

2. *The Automaton That Checked Franklin*: Kenneth Finkel, compiler and editor of the *Philadelphia Almanac and Citizen's Manual for 1994*, came up with another Franklin oddity in this very nice, still new, Philadelphia publication. In one entry (pp. 160-61) he describes the career of an automaton (a robot type gadget) that became famous by playing chess matches against the likes of Benjamin Franklin and Napoleon Bonaparte. Fashioned by Baron Wolfgang von Kempelen, a Hungarian inventor, in 1769 for Empress Maria Theresa, the machine included a figure dressed in Turkish clothing and seated at a chess table. The Turkish wizard would take on all comers and is said to have played a match against Franklin himself. Franklin, of course, was a chess fanatic and wrote an early handbook for chess players titled "Morals Chess", (June, 1779).

LET - continued on page 6

Friends Find Franklin Remembered Indeed In DC

From the moment they arrived for the first session in the National Postal Museum on September 29, fifty Friends of Franklin found that Benjamin Franklin is indeed amply remembered in the nation's young capitol--Philadelphia, of course, being the elder seat of government. Malcolm Smith, Friends president, opened things and introduced our first speaker, Dr. William G. Carr, who presented his speech, "I am, too, Remembered in Washington" (see elsewhere in this issue). A tour of the new postal museum followed, wherein Franklin is remembered as the first postmaster general of the United States. A gourmet high tea followed across the street at Washington's most impressive Union Station. From a loft above the main hall of the station, Friends could be seen dining and imbibing in true Franklin style.

After that (you would think it could not be topped) the officers and board of the Friends repaired to the residence of Joan and Benjamin Franklin Kahn where there was more good food, hospitality, and, not least, a tour of the Kahn's Frankliniana



Statue of Franklin

collections. Busts, mannequins, china, coins, books, and much more delighted the visiting Franklinophiles. Following all of this the board tore itself away to

DC Tour, continued on page 2

Franklin, as Usual, on the Cutting Edge of Technology

by Claude-Anne Lopez

How he would have relished those electronic terms! How carefully he would have distinguished "to fax" from "a Fax"--he who capitalized all nouns. Software, hardware, floppy disc, diskette, on line, interface... they would have rolled off his tongue just as *battery* did in his day, or *positive* and *negative* electricity, all freshly coined by him.

One imagines Franklin's pleasure at the news that the Reading Room of the Library Company in Philadelphia is now equipped (shall we say graced?) with the CD-ROM (Compact Disk-Read Only Memory) version of the first twenty-nine volumes of his papers, edited at Yale. Yale, whose president, Ezra Stiles, was one of his good friends. The Library Company, one of his brainchildren. Working together two centuries after his death!

The idea originated with the Packard Humanities Institute, a non-profit organization run by David W. Packard in Los

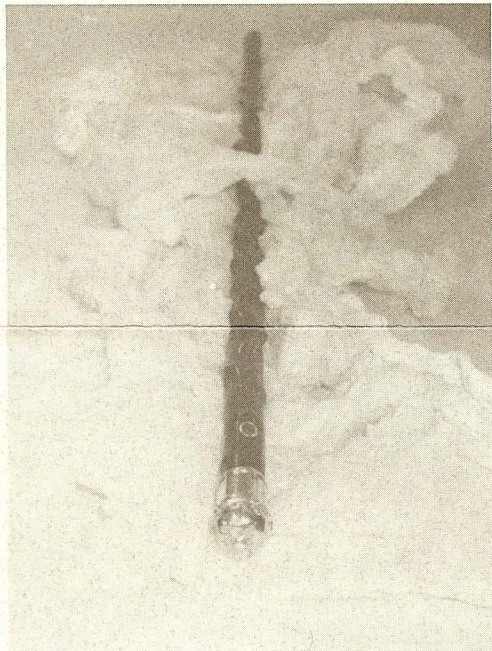
Altos, California, since 1987. In the beginning the Institute computerized classical texts--Greek and Latin literature, inscriptions, papyri--and biblical texts in a variety of languages.

Then, in 1988, came the Founding Fathers' Project whose first phase deals with Franklin and Washington. Barbara Oberg flew to California twice to plan the project with Packard. Steve Waite designed and coded the enterprise. Back in New Haven, Jonathan Dull, Ellen Cohn, and Marilyn Morris all contributed to the preliminary work of providing source identifications for the documents. Marilyn Morris and Karen Kauffman culled the typescripts to go to the Institute for electronic coding. Karen Duval and Kate Ohno, with the aid of several Yale students, have continued to key-in documents, most of which are in French. Karen Duval is also working on an elec-

Cutting Edge - continued on page 2

Washington Tour - continued from page 1

meet, during which it was determined that the Friends are more than solvent and are becoming more able than ever to undertake projects and programs on Franklin. The tour continued on Friday morning with guided tours of the grand Diplomatic Rooms of the U. S. State Department at 9 a.m. and of the James Madison Building of the Library of Congress at 11. Half of the group toured print collections and the other half the fabulous map collection.



Crab-Tree Walking Stick

Many versions of Franklin's Gulf Stream maps were out for inspection, as well as Johann Georg Kohl's unpublished history of the Gulf Stream from Columbus to Franklin. Over lunch the group heard from Jim Hutson, chief of the Manuscript Division at the Library of Congress and former member the staff at the Franklin Papers Project at Yale. Then followed a presentation by Friend Ormond Seavey, titled "Benjamin Franklin: Historian." Located at George Washington University, Seavey evaluated Franklin's faithfulness to the historical record and found him frequently a bit creative.

The busy, full day continued as Friends scampered to the National Museum of American History for a special tour of some highlights in the Museum and then for a private look at Franklin's fabulous crab-tree walking stick. Bequeathed to George Washington and later acquired by

the Smithsonian, the stick is both elegant and very well preserved. Since no one in the group had ever seen the stick before (including Yale editors), everyone was greatly impressed with the beauty of the piece.

Next came a private meeting and tour of the U. S. Capitol Building

featuring an inspiring encounter with Congressman Charles Rose (see article) and a delightful tour guided by Donnald K. Anderson, Clerk of the House. Everyone was impressed with the statue of a youthful Franklin (artist's name not available) just off the Senate Chamber. Friend Phil Krider, an expert on Franklin's lightning experiments, noted that Franklin's left elbow rested on a rather tall tree stump with a jagged crevice indicating that the tree had been struck by lightning.

If all of that was not enough for one day, the group next invaded Washington's exclusive Cosmos Club for reception, dinner, and a most impressive evening of Franklinian music orchestrated by Friend Martin Mangold. Although he had become a father for the second time just hours earlier, his enlightening performance got rave reviews from everyone present.

The D. C. Franklin fete continued on Saturday with a tour of the White House at the front of a throng of thousands lined up for public tours of the President's compact mansion. Franklin was present in portrait, bust, book, or furnishing in every room visited. Indeed, the Franklin presence seemed to loom over everyone else, even though he was not, of course, ever president of the United States.

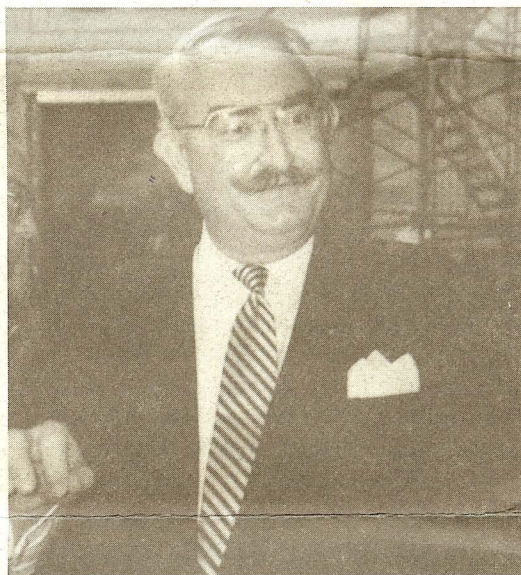
Next came the National Portrait Gallery where Friends were delighted with private tours of the museum's wonderful early American portraiture--complete with one of the three known copies of the famous Duplessis portrait of



Friends of Franklin gather for tour

Franklin, understood to be the most faithful rendering of Franklin's actual appearance. But the most popular among the Friends was another interesting portrait little known to Franklin students. This was "Men of Progress," painted by Christian Schussele in 1862. Depicting nineteen American inventors and scientists--all nineteenth century--as if they were meeting in a single hall, Schussele rounded out the painting with a portrait of Franklin in the background. A most impressive piece.

This extraordinarily well-organized and well-run tour--even the weather was perfect--finally came to an end at the Martin Luther King Memorial Library where



Clerk of the House of Representatives,
Donnald K. Anderson

Friend Frederick Dickson lectured the group--via video--about Franklin portraits and where Friends were given a special viewing of the new Arts and Entertainment biography of Benjamin Franklin.

That this conference/meeting/tour came off so beautifully--despite fifty Friends out making use of the Metro to move to so many points--was due to Roy Goodman, Program Chairman, and Washington Friends William Carr, Frank Kahn, Martin Mangold, and Deane Sherman; but also to the outstanding work of Kathleen DeLuca (recently Fau) of the National Memorial. Kathy, by the way, is developing a professional specialization in event planning and management.

Cutting Edge - continued from page 1

tronic index which will provide a standardized version of all identifiable proper names. This index will streamline a search for someone whose name has been spelled four different ways or who has been identified variously by a family name or an estate name.

With this new tool the Library Company, as well as the APS, the Library of Congress, the Newberry Library and many individual scholars now testing it in its Beta phase, have at their disposal, for the rapid retrieval of information, Franklin's *Autobiography* and almost

thirteen thousand documents, some of which do not appear in the Yale edition because they are letters from third parties to third parties. It takes about twenty minutes to search for a specific word or phrase through the twenty-nine volumes, which will soon be expanded since Vol. XXX has appeared some months ago and the Franklin team is busily reading proof of XXXI while pursuing the annotation of XXXII and XXXIII. The disk is usable on both MacIntosh and IBM compatible computers, with different software.

Friends of Franklin Tour of Washington, DC

September 29 - October 1, 1994

Congressman Charles Rose Warmly Greets Friends of Franklin

One of the special highlights of the Washington tour was an afternoon meeting with Congressman Charles Rose of the Seventh District of North Carolina. A self-proclaimed fan of Benjamin Franklin, Rose not only welcomed the fifty touring friends; he also challenged the group to make suggestions about how Benjamin Franklin, mistreated by Congress at the time of this death, might today be properly recognized. In addition

to issuing his very agreeable invitation, Congressman Rose also arranged for Donald K. Anderson, Clerk of the House of Representatives, to take the gathered friends on a personalized tour of the Capitol Building. Anderson, in turn, charmed the group with his lively and fascinating tales about past happenings in every nook and cranny of the Capitol. One of the most interesting aspects of the tour was that Anderson was twice interrupted by members of his staff to sign

bills that had been passed by Congress which were on their way to the White House. In Anderson's delightful words, "The President is merely the last person to sign an act of Congress into law; without my signature, the President would have no law to accept or to veto." Here follows a brief summary of the stimulating speech given by Congressman Charles Rose on Benjamin Franklin on September 30 at the Capitol:

I am delighted to welcome the Friends of Franklin.

Benjamin Franklin has been an inspiration to me--politically, creatively, and scientifically. I would like nothing better than to demonstrate to him what the House Information Service is doing with electronic communication.

Yet, for me to tell this group of authorities about Benjamin Franklin, would be like telling God about the creation of the world.

I consider Franklin today and look at what has become of the postal service he conceived. In his day it was possible to send a letter from Philadelphia to Washington by horseback in three days. Today it might take even longer. Ben Franklin, where are you now that we really need you?

Franklin never really got the Congressional recognition he deserved. Although he was, apart from George Washington, the best known of the Founding Fathers, the Congress did not respond adequately when he died at age 84. James Madison voiced a brief tribute and the House of Representatives voted to wear badges of mourning for a period of time. Here was Franklin, the innovative thinker who conceived the compromise that settled upon a proportionally determined House of Representatives and a Senate in which States were equally represented. Here was the thinker who provided for the power of Congress to impeach a President. Yet Franklin's death got minimal recognition by Congress. Why? It is important to note that the French National Assembly gave Franklin a far greater memorial than did the U.S. Congress. Therein was the explanation for the coldness of the Congress.

The French Revolution had become controversial. Franklin was not only a controversial personality but was personally associated with a controversial country. Americans were beginning to have doubts about the French Revolution.

After the House passed Madison's resolution of mourning, Sen. Charles Carroll of Maryland introduced a similar resolution in the Senate. The motion was opposed before it could be seconded. It was quickly withdrawn. A vote for Franklin, it seems, would have been a vote for the French Revolution even though Franklin's diplomatic career in France had been under the old regime.

In a notable lack of consideration for Franklin's service in France during the American Revolution, Congress voted him no reward. There was not even an expression of thanks for his eight years in Paris during which he brought France into our revolution on the American side. Congress even declined to settle the financial accounts covering his mission.

But Franklin, with his face greeting us from the \$100 dollar bill, had the last laugh. His image is preserved in the many American cities, counties, schools and other entities. Above all, Franklin had a sense of humor and might look at today's Congress and ask: who needs your recognition?

Nevertheless, I feel that Franklin deserved far better than what he received from the Congress. Accordingly, I will be open to every opportunity to make up for this embarrassing chapter in our history.

I commend you for your work and, above all, being true Friends of Franklin.

About Congressman Charles Rose

Charles Rose is anything but just a regular old member of Congress. As a matter of fact on September 29, 1994, just one day prior to meeting with the Friends of Franklin, the *Washington Times* proclaimed that Rose was ready, prepared, and armed to succeed Thomas Foley as Speaker of the House of Representatives. In a major article by Gordon S. Jones, president of the Association of Concerned Taxpayers, titled "In Line for the Throne of Tom Foley," the *Times* showed how Rose had worked behind the scenes for many years as chairman

of the important Committee on House Administration to win the admiration and support of members of Congress. The *Times*, in fact, predicted that Rose, "the folksy backslapper", would succeed Foley, "the patrician," whether or not Foley won reelection in his district. Born in North Carolina in 1939 and a graduate of Davidson College, (1961) and the University of North Carolina Law School (1964), Charles G. Rose, III was first elected to the House of Representatives in 1972. Through his position as Chairman of House Administration, Congressman Rose has revolutionized communications and television throughout the offices and halls of the House of Representatives. We are indeed lucky to have such a wonderful Friend of Franklin in Washington.

Friends of Franklin Tour of Washington, DC

DOES ANYONE HERE REMEMBER BENJAMIN FRANKLIN?

by Dr. William G. Carr

Smithsonian Postal Museum, September 29, 1994

1. Franklin is still remembered in the capitol city of the nation he helped to create.

2. He is not always remembered for the right reasons.

I shall try to deal quite briefly with the first proposition. Public monuments and commercial buildings alike show that Franklin is remembered in Washington. Yet, as far as we know, he never trod the streets of Foggy Bottom or climbed capitol Hill.

In the Capitol itself, under the great central dome, is a circular fresco, sixty feet across. There, the famed artist Brumidi more than one hundred years ago painted an allegory entitled "The Apotheosis of Washington." At about 7 o'clock on its immense circumference one can spot Minerva, the Goddess of Wisdom, giving instruction to three American scientists—Fulton, Morse, and Franklin. These are the only easily identifiable human figures in the entire painting.

The Capitol also contains, in the Senate wing, a life-sized statue of Franklin. Beneath his three-cornered hat his left hand strokes his chin as he puzzles why he occupies this strategic spot. He appears to be a diligent, good-natured tradesman with a first unmistakable hint of middle-aged embonpoint.

Let us leave the Capitol now without exhausting either its resources or ourselves. If we exit by the House wing we may note the medallion of Franklin in his study, installed with the massive bronze doors as recently as 1905.

Washington's Main Street, Pennsylvania Avenue, provides another large statue of Franklin in front of the old U.S. Postal Service building. He is depicted there as a man in his seventies dressed for attendance at the Versailles court of Louis Seize. The donor was a newspaper publisher, born in New Hampshire and educated at Harvard. Stilson Hutchins used part of his four-million-dollar estate to honor Franklin's talents, not as a diplomat but as another newspaper publisher. The statue was dedicated in January, 1889, by Mrs. H.W. Emory, Franklin's great-granddaughter.

Perhaps the most extensive artistic expressions of our debt to the genius of Franklin is provided by the local Potomac Electric Power Company. For its administration building the Company commissioned eighteen low-relief limestone panels depicting the history of electric power. Each panel is approximately five by nine feet. The sculptor was Danish-born Carl Mose who also created the statues of the Apostles for the Washington National Cathedral, the Civil War memorial at Fort Sumter, and the widely known sculpture, "The Pioneer Woman."

Unfortunately, Mose's excellent PEPCO carvings are rather difficult to see. After a now-forgotten dispute with the sculptor, the architect installed the eighteen panels high above the eighth floor windows. For a good look at them one must rise to that level in buildings across the street. Franklin appears there as a curious experimenter grasping the spool of his kite string in his left hand and a very large key in his right.

Many other reminders of Franklin can be enjoyed here. They include the bust in the "Eminent Men of Letters" pavilion of the Library of Congress; the pediment on the drafting of the Declaration of Independence at the Jefferson Memorial; Franklin's famous walking cane in the Smithsonian's History Museum; the bronze bas-reliefs around the National Academy of Science; the desk on which the Treaty of Paris was signed now in the Franklin Dining Room of the State Department; portraits in the Capitol, the White House, and elsewhere; the metal statue resembling the one at the University of Pennsylvania before the Institute of Printing near the King Street metro Station in Virginia; and the hundreds of Franklin likenesses on postage stamps in the National Postal Museum.

But I am already overdue for my second main proposition: whether Franklin is remembered for the right reasons.

The current debate about limiting Congressional terms is part of a wider concern about the use of public position for personal advantage. The records of the Constitutional Convention of 1787 suggest that, if more of the wise advice of Benjamin Franklin had been heeded then and since, much of the current skepticism about Congressmen and other Federal officials might now be diminished.

The octogenarian Franklin, oldest delegate at the Convention, spoke only rarely during the four months of meetings which produced the U.S. Constitution, but he called for restraint on the salaries of public officials at least four times during the prolonged debates on that subject.

On the general question of pay for public service, Franklin said, "Two passions have a powerful influence on the affairs of men. These are ambition and avarice; the love of power, and the love of money." Each of these two appetites, he observed, exerts great influence but, when they are united so that "a post of honor shall be at the same time a place of profit, {some men} will move heaven and earth to obtain it." The outcome, he predicted, might "divide the nation and distract its Councils."

Although moderate salaries may be set at first, Franklin warned, "Reasons will never be wanting for proposed augmentations, and there will always be a party for giving more to the rulers, that the

rulers may be able in return to give more to them."

On June 2, during the first full week of the Convention, when the pay and perquisites of the Executive were considered, the motion before the Convention provided that the national executive "receive punctually at stated times a fixed compensation for the services rendered." Franklin offered a sweeping amendment to defray only out-of-pocket expenses with "no salary, stipend, fee, or reward whatsoever."

Franklin was aware that an unsalaried executive might seem to some delegates "Utopian," as he called it, but he rejected the facile conclusion "that we can never find men to serve us in the Executive department without paying them well for their services." He then cited four examples of important service rendered with little or no financial reward: the County High Sheriffs in England, the judicial Counselors in France, committee members in Quaker meetings, and finally, "to bring the matter nearer home," the Revolutionary War services of General George Washington.

With Washington in the Chair looking on, probably with barely suppressed annoyance, Franklin noted that Washington had served the nation through eight years of war "without the smallest salary...through fatigues and distresses...and the constant anxieties peculiar to his station."

With such an inspiring example before us, Franklin asked the Convention, "Shall we doubt finding men in all the United States with public spirit enough to...see that our laws are duly executed?" He answered his own questions thus, "Sir, I have a better opinion of our Country."

Franklin's amendment was seconded by Alexander Hamilton more, he said, out of courtesy than conviction. It was not further discussed by the Convention nor even put to a vote.

Ten days later the convention considered a motion providing "liberal and fixed stipends" for members of the House of Representatives. Franklin took the floor again to question the term "liberal." If a second adjective were necessary he would prefer "moderate" but "fixed" alone would be even better.

Franklin's remarks were supported by James Madison who added that allowing members of Congress to regulate their own pay "was an indecent thing, and might in time prove a dangerous one." Two months later Madison still remembered his protest and repeated it, but the Convention was still not enough impressed to heed the combined objections of Franklin, or of Madison, or of Ed-

Remembering Benjamin Franklin - continued on page 5

Friends of Franklin Tour of Washington, DC

The Friends Are Going To *PARIS*, October 23-30, 1995

Mark Your Calendar

After a year of discussion and after a spate of successful tours of Benjamin Franklin's Philadelphia, New Jersey, Boston, Connecticut, Chicago, and Washington, D. C., the Friends of Franklin have decided that the time has arrived for us to take our show to Franklin's Historic Paris and France. We are announcing the tour here a year ahead because we would like those Friends (and potential new Friends) to work with us as we lay out final plans for activities, sites to be visited, day trips, and services provided. In fact, we would like for potential participants to indicate their interest by placing with us an initial, fully refundable deposit of \$100 toward the final cost of the trip so that we can focus our attention on those who are really interested. If you are interested and would like to be part of our discussions over the next six months as we finalize plans, please fill out the soon to be forwarded registration form and send it back to us.

Here are our thoughts:

1. The formal part of our tour will begin with an opening dinner on Monday, October 23 and will continue until a closing dinner on Monday, October 30, 1995.
2. We will spend four days touring historic and cultural places in Paris and there will be three side trips out of Paris.

Paris sites (tentative list): Passy (site of Franklin's home); Pantheon (graves of Rousseau and Voltaire); John Adams's House; Academy of Science (Franklin was member) and Academy of Medicine (Franklin was member); Masonic Hall (Franklin very active); American Embassy and Talleyrand House (replete with Franklin images, busts, and materials); Bois de Boulogne (Paris urban park with Bagatelle House); Place de Concorde (site of Franklin statue); Louvre (as royal palace and great art museum); Notre Dame; and more.

Paris tours: General orientation by motor coach; bateau trip on Seine; Passy area; and more.

Paris events: American and French speakers on Franklin in Paris and France, the American Revolution, and the French Revolution; presentations on Franklin in science and medicine in France; meetings with delegations at Academies of Science and Medicine; reception at Talleyrand House with (if available) American ambassador and our French guests; theatre nights (optional).

Day tours: Versailles and vicinity (1 day); Blérancourt Museum and Monet's Giverny (1 day); Franklin's route to Brittany (optional overnight tour).

Inclusions: Transfers from airport to hotel; seven nights double occupancy at a deluxe hotel; motor coach transportation to and from all sites and events and on day trips; entrance to sites visited; all breakfasts, opening and concluding dinners; and five lunches; one reception.

Exclusions: Transportation to and from Paris; optional events and tours; optional local transportation; optional tips; other meals.

Cost and Payments: Total cost of the tour is subject, of course, to items included and number of participants. Based on 20 participants, our estimate of total cost per person is \$1200, subject to final revision on or about May 15, 1995.

Registration: We are encouraging all interested persons to register for the tour immediately with the payment of a \$100 refundable registration fee. An additional \$600 fee will be payable not later than May 15, 1995. Billing for the balance of the tour will occur on or about May 15, 1995. Participants will have 30 days to review the program and final costs. After June 15, 1995, the initial registration fees of \$700 will become non-refundable except in the case of medical emergency. The balance will be due not later than August 1, 1995.

Remembering Ben Franklin - continued

mund Randolph, who would not even sign the Constitution, in part because, he said, of the lack of restraints on Congress to determine its own salaries and perquisites.

On June 26 Charles Pinckney of South Carolina proposed an amendment to allow no salaries to Senators. Franklin immediately seconded it. Looking over the delegates Franklin saw many younger men who would probably become Senators. He urged them as responsible delegates "to stand fair with the people" and to refrain from "carving out lucrative appointments" for themselves. As Franklin expected, about half of the delegates did become Senators, but the motion he supported was defeated.

On July 18 the Convention considered the salaries of Federal judges. Franklin cautiously supported the motion of Governor Morris to permit an increase in salary during the judges' relatively long tenures, *provided* that the demands on their time or the funds available also increased. The motion to permit such increases was then adopted by a 6-2 vote. The Constitution now provides for "a Compensation" which may not be diminished during the judges' continuance in office.

Franklin had more success with his proposals on other sections of the Constitution. For example, on June 4, 1787, Elbridge Gerry proposed to provide an almost complete Executive veto power on all legislation passed by the Congress. Franklin spoke in opposition twice that day -- a rare but sure sign of his strong disagreement. The Convention later adopted the now-familiar over-ride features of Executive veto power.

Another important success for Franklin was his opposition to extensive real estate ownership as the basis for qualification for voters and candidates in national elections. This issue was twice discussed at some length in the Constitutional Convention. Franklin's formidable opponents were Gouverneur Morris of his own Pennsylvania delegation and Charles Pinckney of South

Carolina. On both occasions Franklin took the floor without his usual neatly written notes or a copy for Madison's records. On August 7 he urged the delegates to reject rule by a landed oligarchy and to rely more on the admirable public spirit of the common people. On August 10 he made these observations even more explicit by his wry remark that some of the greatest rogues he knew were also the richest rogues.

Clinton Rossiter, writing some thirty years ago, described Franklin's unrehearsed remarks as the finest moments of that long hot summer. Franklin's policy of broad franchise for voters and candidates in national elections was approved by a Convention vote of 7 to 1 on August 7. By August 10 support for Franklin's position was so nearly unanimous that the issue was not even put to a recorded vote.

In summary, Franklin is remembered in Washington as a Grade A patriot, publisher, scientist, and diplomat. On enduring political leadership his record is mixed. With the great advantage of hindsight we may assign him good grades for the success of his positions on the Executive veto and on qualifications for voters in national elections. On controlling the incomes of public servants he did not fare so well. Perhaps the final assessment should be withheld and his grade on political persuasion be recorded as "incomplete."

Carr, William G. *The Oldest Delegate*. Newark: University of Delaware Press, 1990.

Goode, James M. *Outdoor Sculpture of Washington, D.C.* Washington: Smithsonian Institution, Publication #4829, 1974.

Madison, James. *Notes on Debates in the Federal Convention of 1787*. Athens: Ohio University Press, 1987.

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Franklin Gazette

LET - continued

3. The National Memorial and The Pantheon: While I was off bicycling in Italy back in August I took an afternoon to visit some of the great historic wonders of Rome. Among my stops was the great Pantheon, built by Hadrian in 120 A.D. This Pantheon, not to be confused with the other great Pantheon in Paris, was the inspiration for the Benjamin Franklin National Memorial here at The Franklin Institute built in 1934. From exterior columns to massive bronze doors, from scale to color, and from interior columns to vaulted ceiling the two structures are remarkably similar. Both also have an oculus opening in the center of the dome permitting natural light to stream into the room. Although built so far apart geographically and chronologically, one gets a very similar feeling while in either of

them. Hadrian, of course, built the original Pantheon as a temple to all of the gods. The National Memorial, making use of the same type of space, elevates Benjamin Franklin to mystical proportions. One of these days I want to come back to this subject of pantheons. Franklin would have seen the one in Paris under construction. That one served as a model for our U. S. Capitol building.

4. Important New Franklin Book: I had intended to write a review of Friend Nian-Sheng Huang's new book on Benjamin Franklin for this *Gazette*, but we ran out of room. But the book is so good and useful that I would hereby like to commend it to you even as I promise a review in the next issue. The book is titled Benjamin Franklin in American Thought and Culture, 1790-1990 and is available from the American Philosophical Society, P. O. Box 40098, Philadelphia, Pa. 19106 USA. The price of the

book is \$25.00 and there is no shipping charge for prepayments to addresses in the U.S. For orders outside the U.S., there is a handling and shipping charge of \$6.00. I have read the book from cover to cover and understand much more about Franklin's unique place in American culture as a result.

5. Benjamin Franklin and African-Americans: We have selected this as the topic of our next symposium to be held May 6, 1995, in Philadelphia. Just now we are rounding up speakers and special topics for the event. To be set up very much like our last two symposia on "Benjamin Franklin and His Enemies" and "Benjamin Franklin and Women," we welcome suggestions so that we can make this a great and meaningful event. Bring out those cards and letters. And sign up for the Friends trip to Paris!

New Members

Dorothea Behr	Leonard Marks
Edward Behr	Karl T. Molin
Jerome Brook	Sharon Molin
Timothy Conley	Carol O'Neill
James Gassaway	Gregg Orwollman
Myra Greenslet	Donald Petrie
Seymour Gluck	Dean M Shostack
Daniel Jouve	Jonathan W. Sloat
Lee Knepp	Jane Sloat
Dorothy Marks	Joan Whitley

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 17, 1995	Benjamin Franklin's 289th Birthday
May 5, 1995	Friends of Franklin, Inc. Board Meeting, Philadelphia
May 6, 1995	"Benjamin Franklin and African-Americans" Symposium The Franklin Institute, Philadelphia
October 23-30, 1995	Tour of "Benjamin Franklin's Historic Paris and France"

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 the Gazette	\$20
(Libraries and Educators only)	

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