# Franklin Gazette

*Volume 6, Number 2, Summer 1995*

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


***"Glass and reputation are easily cracked."***
**B. Franklin**

## FROM THE DESK OF LARRY E. TISE

Just when I was thinking that Benjamin Franklin was getting an awful lot of great attention--what with a documentary on Arts and Entertainment and new books galore--I got in the space of twenty-four hours contacts from another producer who is making yet another documentary biography for Discovery Channel and a best-selling author who is starting out a four year project to do a great new book on Franklin and women. And in the last week we have gotten contacts from four publishers doing new books for children, all asking for illustrations and such things.

My favorite contact recently, however, was from a features writer in her Ford Bronco driving across Montana. She interviewed me for forty-five minutes over her car phone concerning Benjamin Franklin's life style. "What do you think old Ben would have thought about the trend toward vegetarian diets today?" she asked.

"And what would you think," said I, "if I told you that good old Franklin was himself a practicing and preaching vegetarian?" "Naw, can't be," she said. "You gotta be pulling my leg."

"And then he was always battling like us to keep down the belly line," I observed.

We next talked about turnips, turkeys, Scottish Kale, and Chinese Rhubarb. "Franklin could have sung the Prarie Home Companion's rhubarb pie commercials," I teased, with another titter crisscrossing the air waves between Montana and Philadelphia.

We got onto health subjects. First hospital in America. Lead poisoning theories. And, of course, the flexible catheter.

"Catheter! Come on now, what in the world did he use a catheter for back then," she roared.

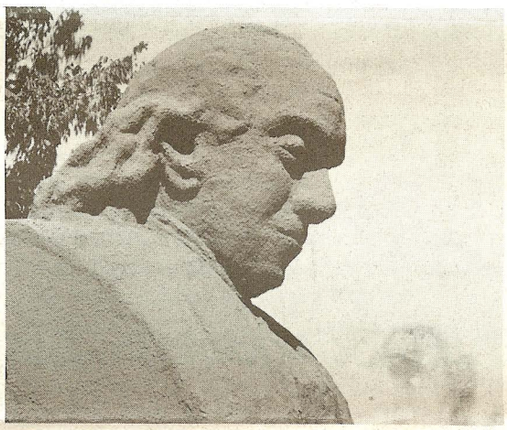
"Uh, same as today actually," said I.

At the end of the forty-five minute talk, I felt as if I had been riding on a bronco

*LET - continued on page 4*

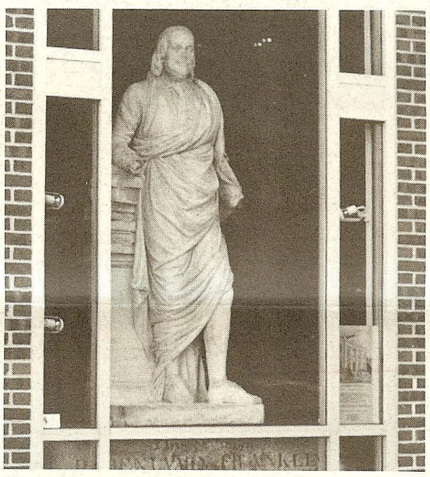
## Four Great Images of Benjamin Franklin in his Hometown of Philadelphia

by Larry E. Tise

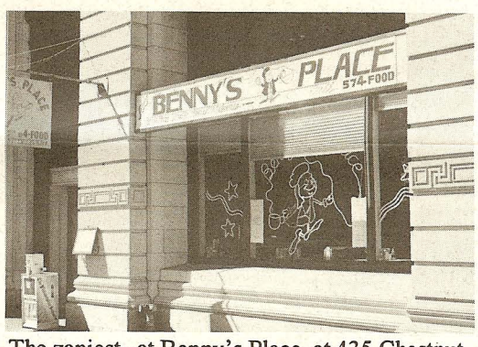


The ugliest--the "Penny Statue" of Franklin near the corner of Fourth and Arch Streets, made from thousands of pennies contributed by school children.

The newest--a modernistic bespectacled Franklin over the Vine Street connector and in front of the Franklin Wyndham Plaza Hotel on 17th Street at Two Franklin Plaza.



The oldest--at the Library Company of Philadelphia--long an adornment on the exterior of the Company's facade; recently reinstalled in a remodeled window of the Ridgway Building at 1314 Locust Street.




The zaniest--at Benny's Place, at 435 Chestnut Street--across the street from the American Philosophical Society and adjacent to the Society's spiffy new Franklin Hall.

As members of the Friends of Franklin know, Benjamin Franklin was during his life and since his death one of the most imaged individuals in world history. We have in the past invited Friends to take pictures of those images and send them to us--big, little, strange, ugly, and all the rest. When Argentine Productions came to town recently to begin their new documentary biography of Franklin, they asked about images of Franklin around Philadelphia. Out of curiosity, one Sunday afternoon I began a little voyage around Philadelphia to capture some of those images and found dozens. While it would be instructive to collect them all, I thought it might be fun at this stage to give you my four whimsical favorites.

# On the Trail of the Last Franklin

## Part XII
## The Helpful Jay, the Prickly Adams
by Claude-Anne Lopez

Even before Yorktown, Congress had selected a commission for the peace negotiations. Instead of the sole John Adams, it was now composed of five people: Franklin, Adams, John Jay, Thomas Jefferson and Henry Laurens. The latter two never made it to Paris, Jefferson because of the wife's illness and death, Laurens because he was captured on the way and sent to the Tower of London.

Of the trio that remained, Jay, languishing in Spain, feeling snubbed by the Court, was very happy to come to Paris and expressed his gratitude toward Franklin for managing to extend financial help both to Adams, then in Holland, and to himself: "You continue like the keystone of an arch, pressed by both sides and yet sustaining each." His postscript was probably inspired by Franklin's remark that, in the absence of an official secretary long promised to him, he only had his grandson to help him through the maze of financial matters, but that Temple luckily showed a growing ability in performing that task. Said Jay: "If the appointment of a secretary for the commissioners for treating a peace should become necessary and the choice be left to them, he [Temple] shall have more than verbal evidence of my regard for you and yours."

Temple's future now had one known asset, Jay's goodwill, and one unknown but ominous liability, the easily upset feelings of John Adams.

The anti-Franklin camp in Philadelphia loudly gave voice to worries about a Franklin-Adams coupling in the team: "Congress have very injudiciously, I fear...joined Dr. Franklin in commission with Mr. Adams," wrote Arthur Lee, "when they know that unprincipled old man had created difference with Mr. Adams and is endeavoring to ruin his reputation." Warming up to his subject, he warns of the suffering in store for Adams: "...it is as cruel as if they had stretched him upon an iron bed of torture, and left the old man at full liberty to glut himself with tormenting him."

*"He [Adams] hates Franklin, he hates Jay, he hates the French, he hates the English."*
*Jefferson to Madison, February 14, 1783*

Abigail Adams, for her part, predicted that while her husband would speak in a bold and firm language, Franklin would be "indecisive, fawning, flattering."

While Adams was still in Holland, Jay joined Franklin--somewhat hastily, indeed--in appointing Temple secretary of the peace commission. Couched in legal language resonating with whereases, the document, bound in rich dark blue leather with matching box, rests at the Franklin Collection at Yale. It expresses their trust in Temple's ability and integrity, and grants him the salary of one thousand pounds a year. The young man took the oath "on the holy Evangelists of almighty God" to do his duty faithfully.

The only missing touch was Adams' signature on the document, which, it was hoped, should not prove too difficult to obtain. Temple's relationship with Adams had always been marked by cordiality on the older man's part, of deference on the younger's. When Adams had left for Holland, Temple sent him careful explanations of his double-entry bookkeeping system, along with the necessary account books, concrete help which Adams had gratefully acknowledged. Whenever a worthy young man from Massachusetts was about to visit Paris, Adams would entrust him to Temple's care; under such guidance, the visitor may well have seen more of Paris-by-night than Paris-by-day, but there were no complaints.

Still, when Adams joined his fellow-commissioners in late October, 1781, and heard of Temple's appointment, he was simply furious. On his first night in Paris, he noted acidulously in his diary: "Franklin wrote to Madrid at the time when he wrote his pretended request to resign...and obtained a promise that William [i.e., Temple] would be made secretary." Jay, he added, was not too sure that Temple was well qualified. Unaware, of course, that one day his own grandson and editor, Charles-Francis Adams, would correct Jay's supposed misapprehension in a footnote, Adams launched into one of his fantasies of conspiracy: Temple, as he saw it, was fawning on Jay, Jay and Franklin would soon be hand-in-glove, and where would that leave him, honest John? "William has lately been very frequently with Jay, he lives in the same house with Jay..." The next logical step, which Adams took within days, was to complain to Secretary Livingston: "Dr. Franklin, without saying anything to me, obtained of Mr. Jay a promise of his vote for Mr. W.T.F. ..."

By the time 1782 came around, Temple had no choice but to procure the missing signatures on his three-months old commission. On January 10, he obtained Henry Laurens' seal of approval. The following day, he braced himself and called on Adams at his residence in Auteuil.

That visit turned out to be a stormy one. The interview has come down to us as Adams himself related it in his diary. Temple, we are told, announced that he wished to talk about a subject he did not often discuss, namely himself. He produced his commission and asked Adams to ratify it.

One can imagine Adams' mounting rage as he read the document and looked across the table at this blonde young man, bland and polite, polished and elegant, far too elegant, a dandified version of his grandfather, a handsome fellow already famous for his way with women, the very embodiment of the nerve and luck of all those Franklins who fornicated to their hearts' content and then imposed their bastards upon the world, breaking the rules and getting away with it, enjoying life as he, Adams, had never dared, yet not paying the price. This time they would pay the price.

"I told him that I considered myself as directly affronted in this affair, that, considering that I came out to Europe, without any solicitation of mine, single in the commission for peace, and considering that Congress had done me the honor to place me at the head of the new commission, I had a right to be consulted in the appointment of a Secretary to the Commission; but that, without saying or writing a word to me, Dr. Franklin had written to Mr. Jay, at Madrid, and obtained a promise from him..."

One can also imagine Temple standing there, embarrassed, shuffling from foot to foot, nodding agreement at first, when the complaints had nothing to do with him, trying in vain to interject a word when his grandfather was accused of twisting Jay's arm.

But Adams was not to be stopped. He expostulated that John Thaxter, who had sailed from America with him as his private secretary and had suffered for his country's cause, had a far better right to the job than Temple. Yet, he added, if his opinion had been asked, he would not have named Thaxter but another gentleman whose identity he did not reveal. In conclusion, he refused to sign the commission not "out of any disrespect" for Temple in particular, but on principle.

How to calm that irascible ego, soothe that raw, aching vanity? Where were the words that would go to the heart of a not heartless but deeply tormented man?

Temple tried to appeal to Adams' compassion, to make him understand that the ordeal would not last long now, for the old Doctor was on his way out. "He told me how his grandfather was weary; that he had renewed his solicitation to Congress to be relieved; that he wanted to be with his family at Philadelphia,

Temple - continued on page 6

# Benjamin Franklin and the Law of Libel - Part II

by Ralph G. Elliot

The Incident

Their differences in politics had clearly caused a rift between Smith and Franklin, a rift widened by Franklin's role as Agent of the Assembly in opposing Smith's petition before the Privy Council. Smith's attacks upon Franklin became rather bitter and pointed during this period of time. In October of 1758, Smith wrote an article in The American Magazine in which he strongly implied that Franklin had taken credit for electrical experiments that in fact had been the work of another, Ebenezer Kinnersley. He also declared that Franklin had lost his popularity at home, largely because of his luxurious living style in London. None of these calumnies had any effect, however, until 1762.

On February 22 of that year, Oxford University voted to confer on Franklin an honorary Doctor of Civil Laws, whenever he might be able to come to Oxford to accept it. Franklin did so on April 30, and in a colorful ceremony he was presented with his doctorate, and his son, William, was presented with an Honorary Master's degree. Evidently while at Oxford, Franklin learned that three years earlier, in 1759, Smith had written a letter to Oxford designed to prevent Oxford from conferring a degree on Franklin (something Oxford evidently had been thinking of doing in 1759).

Smith, who had returned to England in April of 1762 and learned that Franklin was now about to receive a degree from Oxford, wrote another angry letter to the President of St. John's College at Oxford, seeking to prevent the conferral of the degree. While we do not have copies of these letters, they evidently repeated assertions about Franklin's thefts from Ebenezer Kinnersley, casting doubt upon his academic integrity. Franklin was given a copy of at least one of these letters and, furious, demanded a face-to-face meeting with Smith. The confrontation occurred at the home of Franklin's friend, William Strahan. Franklin produced a copy of Smith's letter and proceeded to refute it, point by point. Smith agreed that he had been misinformed, and promised to write another letter withdrawing his charges. Strahan attempted to have Smith write the letter then and there, but Smith demurred and, predictably, the letter of recantation was never written. Franklin returned to Philadelphia, arriving November 1, 1762; and in a letter the following March to his old London friend, Mary Stevenson, summarized his view of Smith:

"I do not wonder at the Behavior you mentioned of Dr. Smith towards me, for I have long since known him thoroughly. I made that Man my Enemy by doing him too much Kindness. Tis the honestest Way of acquiring an Enemy and since 'tis convenient to have at least one Enemy, who by his Readiness to revile one on all Occasions may make one careful of one's Conduct, I shall keep him an Enemy for that purpose; and shall observe your good Mother's Advice never again to receive him as a Friend."

The Libel

Here, then, was the libel. William Smith had made written statements of purported fact about Benjamin Franklin and communicated them to people at Oxford who were contemplating granting an honor to Franklin with the purpose of dissuading them from doing so. The accusations were false and they were defamatory. And they injured Franklin at least to the extent that Oxford delayed voting to confer a degree on him for three years after receiving the 1759 letter from Smith (who was, after all, one of their own, having on March 27, 1759, received his own Honorary D.D. degree). Could Franklin have sued for libel? If so, what would he have had to prove in order to prevail? And if he had been living today and the same thing had occurred, what would he have had to do to win a libel case in court?

To be continued in the next Gazette.

# How Would You Like to Try One of BF's Favorite Recipes?

## A Chopped Pâté, for Instance?

by Claude-Anne Lopez

### Chopped Pâté

3 pounds of mutton fat, finely chopped
2 pounds of currants, well washed and dried near the oven
Fifty apples, cored, peeled, and finely chopped
1/2 pound of the best sugar, finely grated
1/4 of an ounce of nutmeg
1/4 of an ounce of cloves, all of this finely chopped

Combine all in a big pot, stir, add half a glass of brandy and half a glass of Malaga wine. Transfer all of this to a ceramic container. Cover your platter with a layer of dough, cover that with a layer (not too thick) of the mixture, then a layer of thinly sliced lemon, another layer of the chopped mixture and one of thinly sliced orange peel. On top of this a light layer of the mixture, and the juice of an orange or a lemon. One more layer of dough and put the whole thing in the oven.

### A Sauce for boiled duck or boiled rabbit

After your ducks or rabbits have been boiled, you should take some onions, peel them, and boil them in a large quantity of water; change the water and let them boil another two hours. Throw them into a sieve to drip. Chop them and put them in a frying pan with a small quantity of flour to which you should add a little milk or cream and a good piece of butter. Stir over the fire until the butter has melted. Pour the whole thing over your ducks or rabbits.

### Oven-baked rice pudding

Boil a pound of rice until tender. Get it as dry as possible without squeezing it. Add a good piece of butter and sugar to taste. Add a little nutmeg, mix well, pour the whole thing in a previously buttered dish, with some raisins if desired. Cook in the oven.

Other recipes include milk-fed piglet, oyster sauce, apple pudding, beer made from spruce. As indicated in a note, all these recipes come from an English Cookery that Franklin caused to be translated into French.

# LET - continued

myself; that I had just had the ultimate Cartalk ("Click and Clack" on NPR) experience with another of those western talking, innocent voices.

"You know," she said--sounding over the phone as if she had become dreamy-eyed--"I can't believe that one of our Founding Fathers can seem so real. It's almost as if he was living in our own time.

Now, on to the news that's news:

1. Franklin's Paris Landlord: Just as we are about to set off for our tour of Franklin's Paris and France, there came notice from Friend Thomas J. Schaeper of St. Bonaventure University, that his biography of Jacques-Donatien Leray de Chaumont (1725-1803)--better known as Franklin's landlord in the Paris burb of Passy--is about to see the light of day. Titled France and America in the Revolutionary Era, the book is described thusly in a neat flier: "This is the first detailed account of the life and career of Chaumont whose chief claim to fame was the fact that from 1777 to 1785 Benjamin Franklin lived in his home in the Parisian suburb of Passy. Basing his work on documents from two dozen archives in the United States and France, Schaeper demonstrates that Chaumont was far more than merely a landlord. Prior to the American Revolution he had become one of the most powerful and respected businessmen of the Old Regime. For personal as well as patriotic reasons he aided the American insurgents and worked with a large number of persons. By looking at the activities of this intriguing individual the author is able to offer many new insights into both American and French history in the eighteenth century." Copies of the book may be ordered for $65 plus $3 postage from Berghahn Books Inc., 165 Tabor Avenue, Providence, RI 02906. Phone (401) 861-9330. Fax (401) 521-0046. Congratulations, Tom!

2. International Printing Museum: We just heard again from our faithful correspondent, Friend Kent Johnson, "aka Benjamin Franklin," at the International Printing Museum at Buena Park, California. I was most happy to read his kind words, "I have thoroughly enjoyed the information I have received with my membership with the Friends of Franklin." And I must say I enjoyed seeing a couple of items in his package of things printed at his museum. The Achievements of Benjamin Franklin compiled by the same Kent Johnson is a very nicely done little booklet listing 53 amazing accomplishments of Benjamin Franklin. And, then, the newsletter of the Museum The Wayzgoose Gazette (vol. 4, no. 4, Winter 1994-95) contained a brief, easy to read, neatly printed biography of Franklin, complete, of course, with a photograph of Kent Johnson as Benjamin Franklin (a pretty decent likeness). At the risk of flooding Kent and his museum with requests for these items, I suggest that Friends send a self addressed stamped envelope (9" X 12") to Kent's attention at The International Printing Museum, 8469 Kass Drive, Buena Park, CA 90621. Phone (714) 523-2070. Thanks, Kent.

3. What Counts 2: Do the same if you would like to have a poster on Benjamin Franklin's 13 virtues as recounted by newly-joined Friend Michael L. Loren in his book What Counts, covered two issues ago in the Gazette. Michael will settle for a letter sized stamped and self-addressed envelope. He wrote us to say, "I loved the article about my book. I thought it was very well done." Michael L. Loren, M.D., 17500 Medical Center Parkway, Independence, MO 64057. Phone (816) 478-1500. Thank-you, Michael.

4. More Franklin Shows: Friend Dan Kalenak of Odessa, Texas, got in touch with Michael Loren and invited him to become a Friend. Dan, I assume, also does a Franklin show. At least his business card sounds like it: "Thank you 'America' for the Declaration and Constitution for Life, Liberty & Happiness: An American Show & Expo. Remembering our American heritage. Presented live by Dan Kalenak." If you want to know more, contact Dan at 1315 N. Kelly, Odessa, TX 79763. Phone (915) 332-5890.

5. Franklin on the Information Super Highway: Vice President Al Gore sometimes cites Benjamin Franklin as "the patron saint of American networking" when he argues that there should be "open access" through cable and telephone networks. However, in an article in Civilization: The Magazine of the Library of Congress (March-April, 1995, pp. 48-53), author Walter Isaacson argues that Gore is wrong about Franklin. Indeed, depicting Franklin as the original American "Info Highwayman," Isaacson argues that our hero was "a creative and competitive entrepreneur with an instinct for profits" and not for open access at all. "He would have fit right in with John Malone, Ted Turner, and Barry Diller at a cable-industry trade show," Isaacson concluded in lines adjacent to a full-page illustration of a self-satisfied Franklin in his leather apron and his printshop with a computer screen and keyboard just behind his left arm.

6. The Minnesota Bump Again: The Minneapolis Star Tribune should have known better than to print a story by staff writer Robert Franklin stating that "the bump on the state's northern border is the result of a surveyor's error in the 1840s." Because that piece of wrongheaded lore, like a blip in the night sky calling for Batman, brought out Friend George Franklin Waters, self-described "Keeper of the Franklin Lore," to do battle for truth and justice. Just persuasively as he told Friends gathered in Chicago two years ago, he fired off a volley to the editors about their erring writer Franklin that the bump was indeed a "shrewdly negotiated" provision of the 1783 Treaty of Paris providing that "our northern border would extend up the Boundary Waters to the 'most northwestern point' of the Lake of the Woods" protecting those waters for all future American citizens. The editors of the Star Tribune--mildly, meekly, and with all due shame--wrapped themselves in loin cloths, rested a day on Minneapolis dung heaps, and published ten days later Waters' learned truths. George sent us copies with all of the evidence and, on the editorial page, in large black letters, our man wrote the taletell message, "F. of F. Strikes Again!!" Thanks, George.

7. "Biblioteca Franklin": Buck Scott is a very astute, humorous, and lively Friend of The Franklin Institute. Former trustee, he is a faithful attendee at Franklin Institute events. He also has an eagle eye for things Franklin. Recently in the remote City of Chihuahua, in the State of Chihuahua, in Mexico, Buck came face to face with the "Biblioteca Franklin de Parral." He did a little research and found the origins of this great state library: El 27 de septiembre de 1876, ocho ricos caballeros que formaban parte de la intelectualidad de Parral, giraron una circular a 61 distinguidos senores." Four days later they reconvened to vote to establish a high school, a library, and to begin printing a periodical. When their wishes were known, suddenly "La Sociedad Franklin establecera una biblioteca popular que se denominara 'Biblioteca Franklin.'" From whence came this Mexican "la Sociedad Franklin" to create yet another living memorial on the Mexican frontier to our hero? Buck Scott is hot on the trail, writing letters to Chihuahuans in search of Mexican Franklinians still said to be hard at work spreading culture and learning across the earth. Thanks, Buck.

8. "Who Is This Man?": That is the title of a beautiful brief biography lovingly written by Wallace I. Terhune about our Friend Bill Carr and published in Tapestry, the monthly publication of the Parkplace Retirement Community in Denver, Colorado. The story tells of Bill Carr's long life (94 years) in promoting education, in heading the National Education Association, and in leading the movement in 1946 to create UNESCO. But it also talks about Bill's continuing barrage of "pithy, humorous, philosophical punch lines." And it is indeed true. Back in May, while spending a week in Colorado, I went by to see Bill--just to make sure that he was well-settled in. I happened to visit two days before his 94th birthday. He was in great spirits, toured me all over Parkplace--the gyms, the gardens, the pool rooms, the pools. Everywhere we went, he was greeted with happy smiles, animated gestures, and jesting words, making it clear that he is now presiding well at yet another institution in his richly filled life. And what was he doing for entertainment? He had just launched into a new project of preparing a comprehensive index to all major topics written about by our hero, Benjamin Franklin. Right on, Bill. His address: Parkplace, 111 Emerson Street, Denver, CO 80218. Listed in Denver phone directory as William Carr.

Keep those cards and letters rolling in.

# Letters. . .

July 19, 1995

Letters Editor
Scientific American, Inc.
415 Madison Avenue
New York, NY 10017

Gentlemen:

Regarding the article "Protecting the Greenback" in the July 1995 issue, it should be of interest to your readers that in the 1776 bill you showed the skeletonized sassafras leaf imprint was an invention of Benjamin Franklin.

As a printer, Franklin printed paper money for several of the American colonies. Determined to defeat counterfeiters, he used various methods. One was to introduce detectable numerals in the paper when it was manufactured. A trick of the counterfeiters was to increase the value of the bills by changing the numbers on them, as for example to make a 10 shilling note from a 1 shilling note. To deter this scheme on Pennsylvania bills Franklin purposely misspelled Pennsylvania in different ways on bills of different denominations so one could easily see whether the value had been altered.

To make it difficult for the engravers who did the counterfeiting Franklin used various kinds of unused type and ornaments not generally available to them. Along this line, he invented the method for producing a lead plate from a natural leaf, which further confounded the counterfeiters because a natural leaf was extremely hard to copy by engraving. Making a paper print of a leaf was done centuries earlier by Leonardo da Vinci but the problem was to make a lead plate with the leaf impression so that multiple copies could be made, otherwise the actual leaf would be bruised and ruined after several copies. This was Franklin's secret invention, which was thought up in 1736 and used on paper bills from 1737 until the Revolutionary War.

Incidentally, the warning "To Counterfeit is Death" shown on the 1776 New Jersey bill, also originated with Franklin and is shown with the leaves and ornamental lion on the 1759 20 shilling note Franklin printed for Delaware.

For more information on Franklin and early American printing see papers by Eric P. Newman, Numismatist, St. Louis, Missouri.

Sincerely,

S. S. Block
Professor

P.S. It seems quite appropriate that the treasury's new anticounterfeiting bill will be the $100 note with the likeness of Benjamin Franklin.

---

Dear Editors:

Something in the Gazette of Spring 1995 has me puzzled. On the fourth page, near the bottom of the first column, you quote Bartlett's Familiar Quotations on the provenance of the sentence "They that can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety." Would it not have been better to consult The Papers of Benjamin Franklin on the matter?

As you say in your column, an edition of Bartlett attributes the passage to Franklin in a document called Historical Review of Pennsylvania in 1759. But The Papers VIII:361, says that although BF was long and closely concerned with the Historical Review he wasn't the author.

Franklin apparently composed the passage in question, or one almost exactly like it, several years earlier. In The Papers, VI:242, you will find his version, as follows: "Those who would give up essential Liberty, to purchase a little temporary Safety, deserve neither Liberty nor Safety." It appears in a document which the editors of The Papers dated November 11, 1755, and which they headed "Pennsylvania Assembly: Reply to the Governor." It was drafted by a committee of the Assembly which included Franklin. His authorship of the sentence about liberty is attested in a footnote on page 242, "This sentence, frequently quoted, is used here by BF for the first time."

I suppose that all this could be considered quibbling. I think it's more important than quibbling. My point is that The Papers of Benjamin Franklin being assembled over nearly half a century at great expense and with magnificent scholarship, exists for our use and is apt to be a better source on things Franklinian than the likes of Bartlett.

Max R. Hall, Cambridge, Massachusetts

Editor's Reply: Thanks for this excellent bit of sleuth work, Friend Max. You've done it again. At least this time we did not print "pubic" when we meant "public," which you also once had the occasion to point out. Actually, the reference to Bartlett's came directly from a staffer for Congressman Todd Tiahrt. But thanks for setting the record straight. I hope Gazette readers will always wait until the next issue for errata before they accept anything we write as gospel. [LET]

## DRESS OF THE FOUNDING FATHERS AND MOTHERS

Extract from a Letter Sent by Williana Wilkinson Lacy (1806-1846), Raleigh, N. C., to Her Daughter, Bessie Lacy (1832-1900), Edgeworth Seminary, Greensboro, N. C., 4 August 1845, with a Batch of Flannel Underwear

"All great people you know have had to do so [had to adjust their clothing to the climate]. Jefferson dressed by a Thermometer every morning. Washington too was not inattentive to such matters--and Benjamin Franklin would wear his blue yarn stockings, horrifying all the Parisian ladies rather than subject himself to cold, or bad feeling. Great women too, as well as great men, became wise by the possession of nervous sour stomachs, and head aches--poor Madam de Stael had her morning gowns--and Miss Hanna Moore spent many a day, with her head bound up, unable to do anything but dot her Is and cross Ts."

Submitted by Mary Kelley, Professor of History, Dartmouth College, from a letter located in the Drury Lacy Papers, at the Southern Historical Collection, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

## The Ben Franklin Book of Easy & Incredible Experiments: A Franklin Institute Science Museum Book - *Hot off the Press*

Talking about exciting new books--The Franklin Institute has worked with John Wiley & Sons, Inc., to bring forth an exciting new book principally for young people who would like to try their own hand at doing some of Benjamin Franklin's scientific experiments. Published in 1995, the material for the book came from the staff of The Franklin Institute who daily demonstrate these experiments at the Institute's Science Museum and in science kits that travel all over America. Beginning with a brief biography of Franklin, the book quickly turns to an explanation of "using your head" to observe, innovate, and invent. There follow major chapters on "exploring the weather," "exciting electricity," "making music," "paper and printing," and "exploring light and sight." And, of course, there is information about the programs, activities, and purposes of The Franklin Institute.

These profusely illustrated and easy to follow books can be ordered through any retail bookstore or ordered from John Wiley & Sons, Professional Reference and Trade Group, 605 Third Avenue, New York, N. Y. 10158-0012 for $12.95. ISBN 0-471-07638-4. You and your teenagers will love it.

Franklin Gazette

*A publication of the Friends of Franklin, Inc.*
*The Benjamin Franklin National Memorial, The Franklin Institute*
*20th & the Parkway*
*Philadelphia, PA 19103-1194*

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

*Volume 6, Number 2, Summer 1995*

# Temple - continued

etc. ..."
In vain. That day, the only pity Adams would feel was self-pity. "I told him I was weary too, and had written an unconditional resignation of all my employments in Europe; that an attack had been made on me by the Count of Vergennes, and Congress had been induced to disgrace me; that I would not bear this disgrace, if I could help it; that I would wear no livery with a spot upon it; that the conduct of the American cause in Europe had been a constant scramble for offices, and was now likely to be a new and more passionate scene of factions for places; that I would have nothing to do with it..."
Temple may have thought he saw an opening there, a chance to be ingratiating. He ventured to suggest "that Congress would have now a number of places and would provide for Mr. Thaxter; that they would undoubtedly give me [Adams] full satisfaction..."
But Adams now launched into that favorite locus of all of America's Founding Fathers, Franklin included, that their first wish was to return to their families, a theme so often repeated, even today, yet never true.
At this point Temple made a terrible mistake. He showed Adams the resignation letter his grandfather had written to Congress on March 12, 1781, or rather the paragraph that pertained to his own qualifications for employment. Adams knew about the letter, of course, but had not seen its very words. They acted as a red rag to a bull. He dismissed Temple without the coveted signature and brooded: "This letter and other circumstances convince me that the plan is laid between the Count de Vergennes and the Doctor to get Billy made minister to this Court, and, not improbably, the Doctor to London."
What a pity that Adams did not have enough self-confidence to trust his destiny, to know in his bones that the much-desired embassy to St. James would be his and his alone, that he would become President of the United States, that his dear John Quincy, enjoying an early start in the diplomatic life with Francis Dana in St. Petersburg--would be President too, that Franklin, formidable as he appeared, would be in his grave within a few years and that Temple represented no threat to any member of the Adams family. But all he could see, through the cloud of his misery on that January day, was that Billy would be "minister to this Court."

To be continued.

1. Fawning was spelled fauning. A Freudian slip?

## NEW MEMBERS

**ASSOCIATE**

Prof. Louis Kuslan, Hamden, CT
Barbara P. Moore, Woodbridge, CT
Edward B. Twombly, Jr., Mystic, CT
Margaret V. Vested, Stonington, CT
Charles Lard, West Hartford, CT
William F. Brown, Hamden, CT
Peter Van Slyck, Niantic, CT

## UPCOMING EVENTS

"Benjamin Franklin's Historic Paris and France"
October 23 - 30, 1995
Friends of Franklin Board Meeting
May 3, 1996
"Benjamin Franklin and his Friends" Symposium
May 3 & 4, 1996

## 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 Members** | **$1,000** |
| **Institutional Members** | **$1,000** |
| **Sustaining Friend** | **$100** |
| **Franklin Friend** | **$50** |
| **Individual Member** | **$30** |
| **Subscription to the Gazette** (Libraries and Educators only) | **$20** |

Send checks made payable to:

**THE FRIENDS OF FRANKLIN, Inc.**

Dr. Larry E. Tise
Benjamin Franklin National Memorial
20th Street and the Parkway
Philadelphia,PA 19103-1194