

Franklin Gazette

Volume 6, Number 3, Fall 1995

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

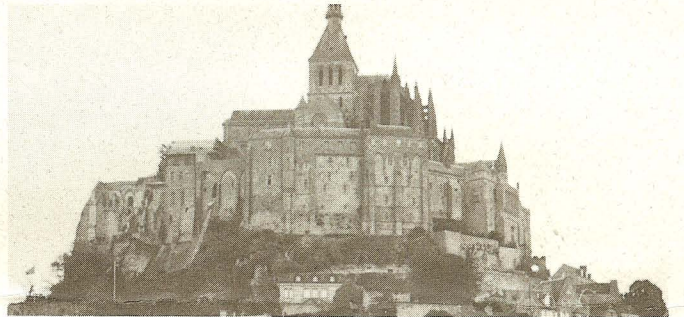


FRIENDS OF FRANKLIN STORM PARIS

Forty-five Friends of Franklin descended by mighty jets from all points of the globe to the City of Paris on or about October 23 to begin the most extensive tour ever sponsored by the Friends and the Benjamin Franklin National Memorial. They came from Kansas, Florida, Minnesota, Canada, Connecticut, Texas, Arizona, Kentucky, New Jersey, New York, Illinois and, of course, Pennsylvania to partake in seven days of visiting the haunts of Paris and France where the spirit of Franklin lives on even today. Everywhere, it seemed, there were statues, plaques, images, and scenes recalling the nine years Franklin lived and worked in and around Paris. Here is where he negotiated a treaty. Here he helped to write it. Here is where



The Confident Tour Planners: Christophe Barthe, Kathy DeLuca, Roy Goodman and Larry Tise



The Chapel at Mont St. Michel

he signed it. Here he considered matters philosophical and scientific. And, here is where he dined. From the first beginnings at the residence of the U. S. Ambassador through to the end at the home of Paris Friend, Daniel Jouve, this was an experience never to be forgotten.

In honor of this wonderfully successful venture, readers will find many pictures in this Gazette issue along with the recollections of a few participants in the tour. We also have prepared a one hour video of the tour that is available both to tour participants and to others who would like to see the places we visited and to hear some of the words that were pronounced in these historic settings.

FROM THE DESK OF LARRY E. TISE

Before launching into other matters of great interest in the world of Benjamin Franklin, I would like to thank a number of individuals who helped to make our tour of Benjamin Franklin's Historic Paris and France a great success. Daniel Jouve, our Friend in Paris, was a marvel. He provided every member on the tour with a copy of his newly published book, Paris: Birthplace of the U.S.A. He also guided portions of the tour, opened doors to private quarters where Franklin had been, but where visitors had not been allowed for many years and then had our entire contingent over to his house for a final dinner. Since his living room overlooked the Invalides, what better place could we have had a last gathering of our group of forty-five travelers. Let me also thank veteran Friend troupers Roy Good-

man and Claude-Anne Lopez who helped shape the program and who frequently stepped in to make another brief comment or to tell an additional story. Many thanks go to Christophe Barthe, Roy's new brother-in-law, our interpreter and assistant tour director. Nadezda Dominko, our intrepid Yugoslavian-born volunteer at the National Memorial, worked on every facet of the tour over the preceding year and then went along on the trip.

I also have to thank Kathy DeLuca of the National Memorial who tracked every detail of this tour for nearly a year and who, like myself, worked around the clock for days before the tour and on the trip itself. By the tour's end, She and I were tired, but proud tour directors!

Finally, let me thank the forty-five

Friends who took the tour, making it our most successful venture yet.

And now for what's going on in the rest of the world of Benjamin Franklin.

1. Jouve's Paris: Having now thanked Daniel Jouve for all he did to make our stay in Paris delightful, let me give his book a proper plug. Written by Jouve, edited by his wife Alice Jouve, and with art by Alvin Grossman, the title is Paris: Birthplace of the U.S.A. On the title page, there is a further subtitle that elaborates its purpose and function: A Walking Guide for The American Patriot. The little book itself of 103 pages contains entries on 23 places in Paris associated with the Founding Fathers of the United States.

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Benjamin Franklin's Historic Paris Tour

October 23-29, 1995

by George Selden

From Monday, October 23rd, through Sunday, October 30th, The Franklin Institute, The Friends of Franklin in Philadelphia and ten of the Friends of the Franklin Papers toured Benjamin Franklin's Historic Paris and France. Larry Tise and Kathy DeLuca planned and led nearly fifty of us on a truly memorable tour.

Monday--PARIS

Six of us, including the VanSlyck's and Twombly's started our tour with a celebration of the anniversary of Admiral DeGrasse's victory at Yorktown, sponsored by the French Society of Cincinnati. We saw Ambassador Pamela Harriman lay a wreath at the Admiral's statue near the Eiffel Tower and give a little speech in, I am told, quite adequate French. We all chatted with the Ambassador at the lavish luncheon and reception which was held at the Luxembourg Palace, home of the French Senate.

The Franklin Tour started right after the luncheon with a visit to the Ambassador's residence. The Ambassador told us she could not be there to greet us because she had to go to the office! It was a stately home which Tom Watson's brother fixed up while he was Ambassador to France in the seventies.

We visited the Place de la Concorde and the law offices where the 1778 Treaty of Amity and Commerce was signed. Our visit had been arranged by Daniel Jouve, a graduate of Harvard Business School and a leading Paris businessman. He reminded us that three men, Arthur Lee, John Adams and Benjamin Franklin, or "insurgents" of no country entered this room as "rebels" and emerged as the first American citizens. This treaty established America as an independent country and was an important facet of Franklin's career as an American Diplomat.



Some of the Franklinophiles at the Residence of the US Ambassador, Pamela C. Harriman



Arriving at the elegant Organization France-Amerique - Dorothy Marks and Larry Tise

Dinner in the Washington Room of the Organization France-Amerique and a talk by Claude-Anne Lopez completed our first day.

Tuesday--PARIS and PASSY

A bus tour of Passy and the City of Paris was led by Daniel Jouve. Daniel showed us a few of the many American statues in Paris, including Washington on a horse, Washington shaking hands with Lafayette, Benjamin Franklin, and the Franco-American Memorial to both World Wars.

A visit to the Turkish Embassy showed us what a rich mansion of the period was like in Passy. This turned out to be a tricky arrangement as apparently one person at the Turkish Embassy hung-up on Larry Tise at one point in the negotiations. Claude-Anne Lopez gave us a little talk about the building, including how the wife of one owner over-spent on a renovation and never had the pleasure of the residence.

We saw the Bourse de Commerce and afterwards enjoyed a fine lunch at Au Pied de Cochon, 6, rue Coquilliere. We learned about Franklin and Freemasonry at the elaborate and exotic Masonic Museum.



The tour of Paris begins by motorcoach - Ralph Elliot (l) and Sandy Fitzig (r)



Friends at the feet of Franklin at Trocadero



Professor Bernard Vincent discusses Franklin and Freemasonry

Wednesday--PARIS

We left the Hotel on foot for a walking tour and very friendly reception at the prestigious Academie des Sciences. Franklin had been a member and the Academie is housed in a handsome palace built by Cardinal Mazarin. It has a magnificent library.

We were told about Franklin and science by English-speaking members of the staff. Then, Professor Philip Krider of the University of Arizona at Tucson, gave us a fascinating presentation of Franklin's experiment with the kite. A beautiful luncheon was hosted by the Academie at the Restaurant Le Bélier at 13, rue des Beaux Arts.

The walking tour continued and we saw the place on the rue Jacob where the Treaty of Paris, ending the Revolution, was signed in 1783. Then on to the Pantheon and participants began to drop out. For some of us, this was a demanding trip.



Friends explore The Academie des Sciences Library



Claude-Anne Lopez (center) is flanked by staff members of the Academie de Medecine



Exploring the fabulous gardens of Claude Monet at Giverny



Larry Tise and Marie Claire Archbold at Giverny

Thursday--VERSAILLES AND GIVERNY

Went by bus to Versailles where we by-passed long lines of tourists to see the King's bedroom where Franklin was presented. Often wearing a hat and in plain clothes, Franklin exemplified the simple life-style of the New World.

Another great lunch at La Flotille Restaurant and off to Giverny to see the home and gardens of Claude Monet. There were still many flowers in bloom. I got a picture of Franklin's impersonator, Ralph Archbold, in full costume taking a picture of his charming teenage daughter, Marie Claire.

Friday--PARIS

We walked to the Academie Nationale de Medecine for a tour and a talk in French about Franklin and French Medicine. It was like being brought before a military tribunal with the five principals seated formally on a podium, glaring down on the rest of us. The presentations were spoken in French although apparently most of them spoke English. The translations were awkward. During the question period, one of the Franklin Friends quoted Franklin's saying from Poor Richard: "God Heals and the Doctor takes the Fee". This caused much "what did he say?" up on the podium. They take themselves VERY seriously.

The good doctors eventually warmed up and there was a lively discussion about Mesmer, the Austrian physician and author of "Mesmerize". Franklin was appointed to the committee which evaluated his work in magnetism and electricity. Mesmer was debunked but "mesmerize" is now part of our language.

Lunch at Le Procope Restaurant, where Franklin often ate, was followed by a ride on the River Seine on a Bateau Mouche. The six of us had dinner on the Ile St. Louis at a restaurant Patty and I visited while in Paris on New Year's eve eight years ago. It was wonderful!

This finished MY tour . . . The next morning I came down with a serious Bug and that was that!



Christophe Barthe begins a walking tour of Le Pont Des Arts



Hall of Mirrors at Versailles



Friends enjoy the splendor of The Chateau of the Marquise de Ravenel



The National Museum of Franco-American Cooperation

A Continuation by Larry E. Tise

Saturday--RETHONDES, BLERANCOURT, AND VIC-SUR-AISNE

In the early morning our bus took us an hour and a half northeast of Paris to the tiny village of Blerancourt. At Blerancourt is the National Museum of Franco-American Cooperation established in 1929 by Anne Morgan, daughter of J.P., to celebrate the historic cooperation between France and the United States from the American Revolution onward. It was a delightful museum with diverse things, mainly from the First World War, located in a pleasant country setting. We were accompanied throughout the day by Eugenie Angles, President of the American Friends of Blerancourt.

On the way to Blerancourt we stopped briefly at the traincrossing at Rethondes, deep in the French forest of Compiègne. There is located a reconstruction of the train car where Marshall Foch accepted the surrender of Germans in 1918. And it was the spot where Adolf Hitler danced a jig in 1940 with the surrender of French generals.

After Blerancourt came two of the great highlights of the trip. First came a tasty country meal at the Lion D'in Vic-sur-Aisne beside a warm wood fire in a huge fireplace. Since the day was damp and chilly, the fire was welcome as was the good food in a restaurant claiming to be the oldest in the world--1570.

From this delicious repast came the second great highlight. We went to the home of the Marquise de Ravenel, one of the mainstays at the Blerancourt. She and her husband, the Marquis de Ravenel, hosted us for coffee in their ancient chateau set picturesquely in the French countryside.



The extended tour to Normandy: Lee Knepp, Watkins Strouss, Franklin and Gloria Robinson, Seymour Block, Kathy DeLuca and Larry Tise. Not pictured: Nadia Dominko and Gertrude Block.



Beleaguered tour guides - wondering which direction to go. Kathy DeLuca and Larry Tise.

Sunday--BOIS DE BOULOGNE AND PARIS

We began the day on the bus again for a visit to The Invalides--the great French military museum and the chosen burial spot of Napoleon, his brothers, and various other generals. This impressive building, imposing in the Paris skyline with its bright gilt dome, was chosen to house the remains of Napoleon when they were brought back from St. Helena Island in the 1840s. The opulence and power of the site is truly overwhelming.

Next came the great Paris public park the Bois de Boulogne where we saw the grounds once the hunting place of the King, the site of gardens since the days of Franklin. It was there that Thomas Jefferson courted his Paris flame, Maria Cosway. The rose gardens, the orangery, and all else were impressive. Our special luncheon at the Bagatelle Restaurant came close to outdoing all of the other great repasts of the week.

We scattered in the afternoon to go to our favorite museum. I went to the Louvre. Others went to the Musée d'Orsay and the Pompidou Center.

In the evening, we found our way to the home of Daniel Jouve. Over yet another great meal--our first turkey of the week (in honor of Franklin, of course)--we had a love feast--all of us for Daniel Jouve and each of us for everyone else in the group. Like summer camp, we had come to know each other quite well; to laugh and joke (especially at the tour director); and to learn lessons at every turn. Each member of the tour took turns describing their most memorable part of the tour. Some called up Giverny; some the Louvre; some the bus rides; some Notre Dame; some Versailles; all with great memories.



Franklin Friends at the Academie des Sciences



Luncheon at Au Pied de Cochon

Monday--MONT ST. MICHEL AND DEAUVILLE

While most folk left this morning, nine of us marched out of Paris in the direction of Mont St. Michel, the great architectural wonder on the coast of Normandy. I played on the group one of my favorite tricks in France or Italy. Pick any town on the map, large or small, and I guarantee that if we go there we will find a great restaurant. The tourists picked a town on the map. We went there, we dined in style, and I looked like I knew something!

We started late and arrived at Mont St. Michel just before nightfall. The great abbey and swooping spires of this great manmade wonder of the world glistened in the late sun and came alive with light in the night. Our group scattered up the mountain checking the food and souvenir stalls and the inspiring architecture.

Finally, we arrived in the town of Deauville--a tourist mecca, but outside of tourist season; and right on the English Channel. We had this playful and interesting town to our selves.



Luncheon as guests of The French Foreign Service at the Restaurant Le Bélier (The Ram)



Franklin Friends in front of En Ce Batiment - Jadis Hotel

Tuesday--BAYEUX AND BACK TO PARIS

Our objective for the morning was to check out the precious town of Honfleur, a Normandy port from which many people left for America. It being fairly ritzy these days, we did not linger very long. For midday our goal was the town of Bayeux where the great Bayeux Tapestry has been exhibited from 1066 to the present. An eighty-five meter single tapestry, it tells in vivid color and lifelike embroidered pictures, the story of the conquest of England by William the Conqueror in 1066. In honor of being in Normandy, we went together, as a group, to lunch where we did the Normandy thing--we ate crepes where this wonderful species of food originated.

The Tapestry done in fine style, we headed back toward Paris traveling in our van as the French drivers went at speeds of 150 to 180 kilometers per hour. We laughed all the way. Back in Paris, our troupe bid each other good-bye a second time and, as I returned our van to the Avis rental offices, the tour of Benjamin Franklin's Historic Paris and France was at an end. A sad, but happy ending. The team of Tise and DeLuca revisited Le Procope--Franklin's haunt--to reflect on the trials, tribulations, and satisfactions of a trip long-awaited, but then history.

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Mrs. Claude-Anne Lopez, Co-Editor
Dr. Larry E. Tise, Co-Editor
Francine Britton, Associate Editor

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Franklin Gazette

LET - Continued

2. Franklin and American Prisoners of War in Britain: It has only recently come to my attention the extent to which Benjamin Franklin first laid out the parameters of how the United States would deal with other nations holding American service personnel as prisoners of war. Indeed, Friend of Franklin Sheldon S. Cohen, has just brought forth a new book Yankee Sailors in British Gaols: Prisoners of War at Forton and Mill, 1777-1783 (Newark: University of Delaware Press, 1995), 280pp. in which he details the story of two British prisoners during the American Revolution. A critical part of the tale is how Benjamin Franklin from Paris negotiated prisoner exchanges, relief for American prisoners, and even attempts to foster prisoner escapes. Although mainly about the prisoners, not Franklin, the book would still

seem to offer a good glimpse at our hero at work in yet another pioneering field. The book can be ordered from Associated University Presses, 440 Forsgate Drive, Cranbury, New Jersey 08512. Phone (609) 655-4770. The price is \$42.50. Congratulations, Sheldon.

3. Was Franklin a Philosopher? The famous Scottish philosopher David Hume once wrote to Franklin as follows: "America has sent us many good things, gold, silver, sugar, tobacco, indigo, etc.; but you are the first philosopher, and indeed the first great man of letters, for whom we are beholden to her." With such high recognition and praise, one would then expect to find Franklin listed in every book about philosophy. Not so says Steve Reeder in Nous, A Journal of Philosophy and Intellectual History. Reeder looked for Franklin in The Ency-

clopeda of Philosophy, Copleston's nine volume History of Philosophy, Reese's History of Philosophy, and Fisch's Classic American Philosophers. The first of these has one paragraph about Franklin as a philosopher and a one page biographical statement. The last three do not mention Franklin at all. Why is this? Reeder concludes that while Franklin was the Socrates of Philadelphia, he is not considered a philosopher because his thinking was not systematic and logical. Metaphysics, epistemology, and logic were not his cups of tea. Thanks to Gretchen Worden (Mutter Museum of the Philadelphia College of Physicians) for bringing this little bit of research to our attention in the Fall, 1995, issue of Nous. On that happy note, let me bid Friends of Franklin everywhere adieu. Keep those cards and letters coming.

NEW MEMBERS

SUSTAINING

David S. Joys, New York, N.Y.

FRIEND

Argentine Productions, Pittsburgh, PA

Christian Selden, Palm Bay, FL

Cristin Jouve, Hoboken, NJ

INDIVIDUAL

Lewis Andrews, Ph.D., Redding Ridge, CT

UPCOMING EVENTS

Friends of Franklin Board Meeting

May 3, 1996

"Benjamin Franklin and his Friends - In Science, Politics, Enterprise, and Life" 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

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