

# Franklin Gazette

Volume 6, Number 4, Winter, 1995

Friends of Franklin, Inc., c/o Larry E. Tise, The Franklin Institute, 20th & Benjamin Franklin Parkway, Philadelphia, PA 19103-1194

"IN THIS WORLD, NOTHING CAN BE SAID TO BE CERTAIN EXCEPT DEATH AND TAXES"  
B. FRANKLIN, 1789

## From the Desk of Larry E. Tise

### Special Report on Events and Happenings in the World of Benjamin Franklin

Things are really hopping in the world of Benjamin Franklin. New television specials, books, even a Hollywood movie--supposedly-- and much more. Best news of all is that a new, very old group has come along to fight the good fight to save Franklin's London house. Here are the scoops!

1. Discovering "The Real Ben Franklin": On February 29, that milestone date that only happens occasionally, David Hartman, producer and former host of Good Morning America, brought forth on The Discovery Channel a spanking new one hour documentary biography of Benjamin Franklin. Three actors--boy, young man, and the mature wrinkled Franklin--played the part. There was a little nudity--the boy swam naked, being pulled by a kite. There was drama--four Pennsylvania leaders writing poetic tributes to Franklin on the night he died, of course, amidst a thunderstorm. There was adventure--Franklin aboard a ship charting the Gulf Stream. There was humor--Franklin rising from behind a table after he almost electrocuted himself. There was science--how Franklin really flew his kite. There was war--the Paxton boys, the French and Indian War, and the Revolution itself. There was peace--Franklin quelling the Paxton boys and negotiating with France and England. There was romance--Deborah and the French ladies. There was humiliation--Franklin in the pit at the House of Commons and how Franklin became alienated from son William and daughter Sally. And there was great wisdom--rendered by Franklin authorities Whitfield Bell, Claude-Anne Lopez, John Van Horne, and others. The producers even let me pontificate a little about Franklin.

David Hartman, who hosts the Discovery Channel's series Rediscovering America, is to be congratulated on

producing a very illuminating biography. So are Argentine Productions, headed by Peter Argentine, of Pittsburgh. All of us--and there were many (Roy Goodman, Claude Lopez--even Nobel Chemist and Friend of Franklin, Dudley Herschbach)--were amazed at the careful and exhaustive research Argentine Productions and David Hartman himself put into this project.

One delightful by product is that Hartman and Argentine have agreed to give a workshop for Friends of Franklin and other folks too on making this documentary at The Franklin Institute on May 3, 1996. Their workshop will be the opening session of our two day symposium on "Benjamin Franklin and His Friends." You will find information on this event elsewhere in this Gazette. Y'all come!

Thanks David and Peter for a great show. By the way, The Discovery Channel will be playing the biography many times. Just check their listings or tune in.

2. Good News from Craven Street in London. I just got back from a very short visit to England visiting the publisher of The Journal of The Franklin Institute. While there I went by to take a look at Franklin's sad house at 36 Craven Street, a wonderful house in lamentable condition--as we have pointed out in these pages time and time again. But, as will be noted in the accompanying photograph, while the

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*A Parisian Friend of  
Franklin: André Morellet  
by Dorothy Medlin*

High as the eagle flies  
He has soared into the skies  
Mastering the thunder  
Which split the clouds asunder  
With glass in hand, a toast "Chin-chin",  
We sing the praise of Benjamin.<sup>1</sup>

In the summer of 1779 André Morellet<sup>2</sup> sang a song which he had written for a dinner at Auteuil in Franklin's honor (apologies to Morellet for this halting translation of the third stanza). Four years later, for the Fourth of July fête at Passy, he wrote a musical celebration of the signing of the preliminary articles of peace, paying tribute to Louis XVI, d'Estaing, Washington, Rochambeau, Lafayette, Vergennes, Adams, Jay, the American<sup>3</sup> Congress, and especially to "Benjamin, Le Solon Americain". In song, in letters, and in his posthumously published Memoirs, Morellet expressed "tender and respectful devotion"<sup>4</sup> toward his famous American neighbor.

Franklin and Morellet had first met in England in April, 1772. Although neither spoke the other's language fluently, they discovered that they shared a love of music and similar views on freedom of trade.

Another subject of mutual interest was the "Pennsylvania fireplace". Morellet purchased Franklin's very own "cheminée" for 12 guineas and sent it from London to Jean Charles Philibert Trudaine de Montigny, who had it installed at his country house. Similar French models were subsequently designed for Morellet, his friend Jean Deviance, and members of the Royal Family.<sup>5</sup>

By the time Franklin was sent to France in 1776 to represent the Congress of the new United States, Morellet had published French translations of works by John Hawkesworth and John Gregory.<sup>6</sup> He obligingly translated a number of pieces for

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Franklin -- Thomas Ruston's letter on finance and banking, Samuel Cooper's defense of d'Estaing, Franklin's "Explanation of a Medal Struck by the Americans in 1782", Benjamin Rush's "Account of the Life and Death of Edward Drinker", Franklin's letter on the Society of the Cincinnati,<sup>7</sup> Franklin replied on his translator's judgment, as he wrote to Cooper in May, 1781: "The Translator, l'Abbé Morellet, advised the suppressing of some few Passages, conceiving that Expressions too strong in a Friend's Praise rather injure than serve him [...]. As the Abbé [...] is a very sagacious Man, I submitted to his Advice".<sup>8</sup> When Morellet warned that the critique of the Cincinnati "might displease some people whom you do not want to offend," Franklin assured him that it would not appear "till after my decease [...]. You see how much I confide in your friendship and discretion".<sup>9</sup> Indeed, the French version of Franklin's letter on the Cincinnati was first published in July 1790, three months after his death.

Franklin's Departure, in July 1785, left "a great emptiness" within his circle of French friends. Morellet treasured Franklin's tapestried armchair (he had it inscribed "Benjamin Francklin hic sedebat"), the little cabinet with a drawer full of nails which Franklin had left him, and the warm memory of pleasant contacts with a dear friend: "His conversation was exquisite: a perfect good nature, a simplicity of manners, an integrity of character which could be seen in the smallest things; an extreme indulgence, and above all, a sweet serenity which easily turned into gaiety; such was the society of this great man".<sup>10</sup>

Morellet welcomed occasions to cite practical sayings from "Poor Richard". In a little essay on "The Traveler and the Milkmaid" ["Le Voyageur & la Laitiere"], published in the Journal de Paris 8 March 1795, he described a conversation with a 19-year-old milkmaid who was returning home to Saint-Gratien as he traveled on foot from Paris toward Montmorency. From their discussion of prices, he learned that she worked hard but earned little. As they parted, he tried to offer her some consolation and cheer with the maxim: "At the working man's house hunger looks in but does not enter" ["La faim regarde à la porte de l'homme laborieux mais elle n'ose pas y entrer."] One of the anecdotes which Morellet recorded in his unpublished "Ana" is Franklin's comparison between George III and Molière's comic character Georges Dandin (who belatedly realized his own stubborn stupidity): "After the peace and the independence of the United States had been assured by the signing of the preliminary articles, Mr. Franklin, delighted and satisfied, often said: 'You got what you asked for, King George', alluding to the line 'You got what you asked for, Georges Dandin.'"<sup>11</sup>

1. Comme un aigle audacieux il a volé jusqu' aux cieux, \Et dérobé le tonnerre \Dont ils effrayoient la terre. \ Le verre en main, \ Chantons notre Benjamin Morellet's "Chanson faite pour un dîner donné à M. B. Franklin, sur l'air: Lampons, lampons, &c." first appeared in the Mercure de France, 9 November 1779, p. 57-59.

2. Morellet (1727 - 1819), whose Prospectus d'un nouveau dictionnaire de commerce had been published in 1769, was a frequent guest at the home of Anne Catherine de Ligniville d'Autricourt, Mme Helvétius, in Auteuil, not far from Franklin's residence at Passy.

3. "Chanson pour la fête de l'anniversaire de l'indépendance et de la paix de l'Amerique Célébrée chés M. Francklin le 4 juillet 1783", to be sung to the same tune as the 1779 song (APS, BF 85, v51, 78).

4. Before 1780 Morellet's letters to Franklin generally ended formally ("votre très humble et très obéissant serviteur"). A closer degree of friendship is indicated in subsequent correspondence, as in Morellet's letter of 18 December 1781, announcing the birth of his grand-nephew, Charles Paul Marmontel: "Si vous venés à Paris venés afin que je vous presente la mere et l'enfant et que je vous renouvelle mon tendre et respectueux devouement" (Lettres d'André Morellet, ed. Dorothy Medlin, Jean-Claude David and Paul LeClerc, Oxford, 1991 -), Lettre 202.

5. Mémoires inédits de l'abbé Morellet [...] sur le dix-huitième siècle et sur la Révolution, 2nd ed. (Paris, 1822), 1:202-205.

6. Hawkesworth, An Account of the Voyages Undertaken [...] by Commodore Byron, Captain Wallis, Captain Carteret and Captain Cook, 3 vols. (London, 1773), translated with Jean Baptiste Antoine Suard; Gregory, A Father's Legacy to his Daughters, 4th ed. (London, 1774).

7. The unpublished manuscript of the first piece is in the Bibliothèque Municipale de Lyon (ms. 2529). No copy of the second translation is known. For the bilingual text describing the 1782 medal, see Luther Livingston, Franklin & his Press at Passy (New York, 1914), 178-80. The manuscript of the Rush translation is at the APS, BF85, v49, 59b. For details about the Cincinnati essay, see Durand Echeverria, "Franklin's lost Letter on the Cincinnati", Bulletin de l'Institut Français de Washington, New Series, no. 3 (December 1953), 119-126.

8. APS, Bache Collection.

9. 16 March, 1784 ( APS, BF85, v40, 89a). For Morellet's letters about this translation, see Lettres d'André Morellet, 234 and 235.

10. Morellet's Mémoires, 1:295, 299; Morellet to Franklin, 31 July 1787 (Lettres d'André Morellet, 285).

11. Selected and edited for Jean-Claude David in "Une Source pour l'histoire du dix-huitième siècle: le Vocabulaire philosophique de l'abbé Morellet", Etudes sur le XVIIIe siècle, Volume hors serie 4, ed. Henri Plard, Morale et vertu au siècle des lumières (Bruxelles, 1985), P. 105.

For the comic context of the passage by Molière, see Georges Dandin, I, vii: "Vous l'avez voulu, vous l'avez voulu, Georges Dandin, vous l'avez voulu, cela vous sied fort bien, et vous voilà ajusté comme il faut; vous avez justement ce que vous méritez."

Last May, the Board Members of the Friends of Franklin met in Philadelphia and decided our Fall 1996 Tour would be held in Williamsburg, Virginia. Exact dates for the tour have not yet been set, but it will be around the same time as in the past few years (either late September or sometime in October.)

The Board will meet again in Philadelphia when we gather for our annual Benjamin Franklin Symposium ("Benjamin Franklin and His Friends", May 3-4.) When they meet, they will decide on the location for our Fall 1997 tour. In anticipation of that meeting, we would like your feelings and comments on where the next two tours should take place. The information returned will be compiled and presented to the Board Members.

Please take a few moments to check your choice or make other suggestions, keeping in mind the Benjamin Franklin connection:

## FALL 1997

London & England \_\_\_\_\_

Edinburgh & Scotland \_\_\_\_\_

Montreal, Albany &  
Upper New York State \_\_\_\_\_

Other Suggestions: \_\_\_\_\_

## FALL 1998

Arizona (Lightning  
Connection) \_\_\_\_\_

Central Pennsylvania \_\_\_\_\_

New England (Rhode Island,  
Parts of Massachusetts, including  
Nantucket) \_\_\_\_\_

Other Suggestions: \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE FAX YOUR CHOICES TO  
KATHY DELUCA AT 215-448-1364 OR  
MAIL TO: FRIENDS OF FRANKLIN,  
20TH AND BENJAMIN FRANKLIN  
PARKWAY, PHILADELPHIA, PA  
19103-1194. THANK YOU.



# A SIMPLE DINNER SET WITH A COMPLICATED BACKGROUND

## BY CLAUDE -ANNE LOPEZ

At first sight the folder dated June 3, 1780, looked like any of the hundreds of documents that cross our desks as we prepare the edition of Benjamin Franklin's correspondence at Yale, my colleagues and I: a two-page account of items to be dispatched to Franklin's residence in Passy, a Parisian suburb, along with a one-page letter advising him about the modalities of transportation; and the total sum he was expected to pay, 333 livres tournois and 3 sols. On the fourth and last page is the notation, in Franklin's hand: Acct. of Pottery 333 l.t. 3.0.

Pottery? Not war matériel, for once, or any of the vast multitude of items Congress ordered its Minister Plenipotentiary to send from France? No, pottery in fairly large quantity: soup tureens, twelve dozen plates, platters of various shapes and sizes, oil cruets, butter dishes, plenty of dessert equipment, glassware and buckets, plus all it takes to serve tea. The date makes sense. Just one month before the annual July 4th celebration of American Independence, it was a good time to order one's own crockery instead of using a caterer to furnish it as had been done in previous years, with rather high charges for breakage. By 1780, Franklin knew it would take some more years for the American Revolution to reach its goals and, as importantly, he was finally free of his ever-critical colleagues, his country was recognized by France as a sovereign nation and he had been named sole minister plenipotentiary. It was his decision, and his alone, to entertain foreign diplomats in any way he wished.

Under those circumstances, the document obviously deserves a closer look. Where did it come from, this first set of dishes ordered for America's just-born Foreign Service, provided one feels allowed to apply that name to the operation run by one aging minister and two young secretaries, equipped with only a small printing press? It did not come from Sèvres, nor from Limoges. It came from the little town of Montereau, sixty miles south-east of Paris, famous only for a political assassination on its bridge in the XVth century, and for the gracious confluence of the Seine and the river Yonne in its midst--hence the name Montereau-faut-Yonne, meaning: in the fault (disappearance) of the Yonne," given it in the document in question.

The real surprise comes from the stationery's letterhead. Under a fancy design of branches and a crown decorated with fleurs-de-lys, it reads: "MANUFACTURE (crossed out: ROYALE) DE FAYANCE ANGLOISE, Des Sieurs CLARK and Compagnie,

établie à Montereau-faut-Yonne, en vertu d'Arrêt du Conseil du 15 Mars 1775, sous la dénomination de QUEENS WARE, ou Marchandises de la Reine."Not only does Clark & Co. sound English, but "fayance angloise" is astonishing and the man who signed the invoice was called Mackintosh. Why on earth would Franklin be buying British in the midst of the American Revolution?

In the absence of any documentation either at the White House or the State Department, I wrote to the director of the ceramics museum of Montereau, M. Jacques Bontillot. He was delighted at this find which would become one of the highlights of his museum, but regretted having to tell me that no Montereau piece from the 1780's was still in existence. Furthermore, he said, the manufactory, which had been active until 1955, had now totally disappeared, including its archives. The only information he could give was that the making of Queen's Ware had started in 1775 with capital provided in equal parts by partners called Holker and Garvey, the latter being the brothers Robert and Anthony Garvey, born in Ireland.

Still, this provided one important clue: the name Holker. John Holker (1719-86), a personal friend of Franklin, and his son Jean (1745-1822) played an important role both in the history of French manufacturing and in Franco-American relations since Jean, became the very first French consul in the United States. John Holker, a Jacobite settled in Rouen (Normandy), was the key figure in an important group of English and Irish émigré merchants whose activities often had to do with what we today call industrial espionage. They "debauched" (the opposite word of the French verb embaucher, to hire) English workmen whose knowledge of advanced technology was far superior to that of their French counterparts, and lured them to France with the promise of better wages. The French government, eager to catch up with its perennial rival, offered these men a bonus if they converted to Catholicism and a nice dowry if they married a Frenchwoman.

The specialist of this fascinating facet of history is Professor John Harris, of the University of Birmingham, England. His field of interest is the "borrowing" of textile technology<sup>1</sup> but we talked ceramics during my visit to Birmingham; he opened his files for my benefit and has been generously sending information ever since. English-style pottery had been made on a small scale in Montereau since 1748, with ups and downs due to local rivalries--not to competition from abroad, since the importation of British ceramics was

forbidden.

In 1774, Jean Holker, who had recently taken charge of the Montereau works, convinced the French Superintendent of Finance, Trudaine de Montigny, that it would be a good idea for France to enlarge its production of a new line of pottery goods for which a market already existed. Trudaine quickly granted him his patronage and a company was founded, directed by William Clark of Newcastle and George Shaw of Burslem, both defectors from England.<sup>2</sup> By the end of 1774, they were petitioning the government, through Trudaine, to facilitate their expansion since the Montereau clay had proved perfect for the making of Queen's Ware, allowing a still whiter product than the one to be found in England, and the market for it was growing throughout Europe. Their list of demands included exemption from a number of taxes, exemption from military duty for their children and special gratifications for ten years. Those conditions were all accepted by March 14, 1775--hence the heading of the letter Franklin received five years later, minus the word Royale to qualify the manufacture, probably because the royal patent had expired by then.

The Queen's Ware which was becoming so popular--known in France as faience fine--had been perfected during the 1760's by Josiah Wedgwood; one of its innovations was that it replaced the original tin glaze by a transparent lead glaze. Known at first as creamware, it had been named Queen's Ware after Wedgwood had obtained Queen Charlotte's patronage. Its success was such that soon it was "to be found in every inn from Russia to Spain"<sup>3</sup> and provoked the eventual collapse of traditional earthenware-making techniques in England, France and Holland. Its advantages were a refreshing neoclassical simplicity after a surfeit of rococo, easier handling because of lighter weight, and greater resistance to chipping; its drawback, in some people's eyes, was that it opened the way to industrialization.

What could have been Franklin's reason for choosing this particular line? The pleasure of harming British industry by using a "pirated" product seems obvious, especially if one adds to it the satisfaction of pleasing the French in the process and the Holker family in particular. Madame Holker, mother of the co-founder and financier of the enterprise, sent Franklin pots of apple jelly from her

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## LET - Continued from Page 1

house is still in a deplorable state of disrepair, there are rumblings that help is on the way. On the very morning I arrived to see the house, December 2, 1995, before my very eyes there went up a notice on the front door, reading as follows:

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**THE CITY OF WESTMINSTER**  
 Development Proposal  
 Your Comment Is Invited  
 36 Craven Street London WC2.

*An application has been made to carry out the following development at the above property:*

**DEMOLITION OF REAR WC [water closet] EXTENSION TO GROUND 1ST, 2ND, & 3RD FLOORS. REFURBISHMENT & CHANGE OF USE FROM OFFICES TO BENJAMIN FRANKLIN MUSEUM WITH ASSOCIATED ADMIN. OFFICES [etc., etc., etc.]**

What is behind all of this is a new (actually very old) group of people who are most welcome indeed. Since I last reported on Franklin's very important historic London House, the Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce (RSA) has entered the picture as the lead organization in seeking to restore the house and to convert it into a museum. The new chairman of the project is Peter Cowling, Director of the Royal Society of Arts. The new director of the project for the RSA is Dr. Geoffrey Botting, a relative newcomer to the RSA, but an experienced hand in things financial. For those not familiar with the RSA, it is very similar to the American Philosophical Society in many respects. Indeed, it was inspired by the creation of the APS by Benjamin Franklin and his associates. And while Franklin lived in London, he was an active member of the RSA working on its various committees. This is promising news for the Franklin house, since the RSA is a most responsible organization, located close by on John Adam Street, and is very experienced in making this type of space work. In recent years the RSA has restored its own building and has many public and private functions there every day. The total cost of the project will be approximately \$3 million--much of which they hope to raise in the United States. But that is all right. The main point is that someone is taking charge who can and will actually get the job done. I have already offered the assistance of the Friends of Franklin, Inc., in doing whatever we can to help.

3. Book: **BENJAMIN FRANKLIN AND HIS ENEMIES:** It is finally out. That long awaited book we have heard about for years, written by Robert Middlekauff just came off the press from the University of California Press. In its 255 page expanse, Bob--another Friend of Franklin--covers a lot of territory, proving that Franklin had a

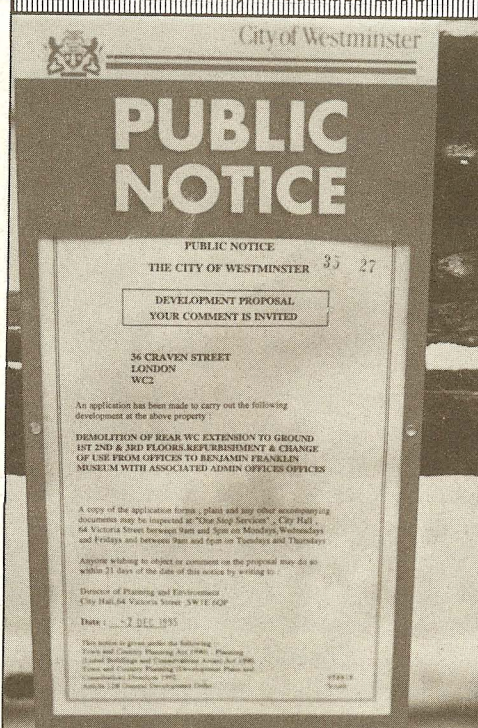
pendant for drawing fire from many quarters. Sometimes pure hatred. Politically he grabbed for power endlessly, fighting the owners of Pennsylvania and the General Assembly. He fought the Quakers. He could be quite irrational at times even as he espoused reason. He alienated British politicians and statesmen. He could not stand fellow commissioners in France, Arthur Lee and Ralph Izard. Nor they him. And he was down right uncivil to fellow minister John Adams while they lived just blocks apart in Paris. Bob Middlekauff writes well. Even though this is a scholarly book, it is very enjoyable and illuminating reading. Both Friends and enemies of Franklin can get copies from The University of California Press for the price of just \$22.00--that's cheap for books these days. Or it can be ordered with ISBN: 0-520-20268-6 from bookstores. The order phone number at California is (510) 642-4562 or fax is (510) 643-7127. Address: UC Press, Berkeley 94720.

On that happy note let me bid Friends of Franklin everywhere adieu.

Keep those cards and letters coming!



Craven Street, December 1995



Public Notice, December 2, 1995

## BOOK REVIEW OF "AN EMBARRASSMENT OF MISPRINTS" WRITTEN BY MAX HALL

REVIEWED BY FRANCINE BRITTON

My mother always said "never put anything in writing that you wouldn't want to see on the front page of a newspaper." But what happens when the embarrassing rhetoric makes its way into a public forum and it truly wasn't your fault? What happens when the error doesn't get fixed, caught or obliterated and gets carried forth as printed public fodder. In Max Hall's, "An Embarrassment of Misprints" over 100 "note" and "news" worthy mistakes are brought to light. Hall's collection is a wonderful, sometimes historical, always humorous display of disastrous literary faux pas' dating back to the Bible and including present day news media and some of the finest publishing institutions. An inveterate typo watcher, Max Hall learned early on the value of proofreading and not always trusting the accuracy of what we see in print. He knows that even if the author was correct, the typesetter may not have been and vice versa. Typo's can and often do result in confusing, hilarious and horrifying results. Hall's book chronicles typo and misprint history in twelve chapters, carefully divided into categories such as Calamitous Omissions, Accidental or Deliberate?, Embarrassing Insertions, The Most Dangerous Word and even Benjamin Franklin's Errata. In "The Most Dangerous Word" chapter (the word is "not"), Hall points out what happens when a newspaper omits the word "not" from the verdict of not guilty. In the case of the infamous "Wicked Bible" not is omitted in the Commandment "Thou shalt not commit adultery" and instructs readers to go ahead and commit adultery. There are many other examples of the havoc this little word has caused not only to printers and publishers but to the unsuspecting reader and in some cases, the victim of the omission or insertion. The chapter "Pub(1)ic and Other Vulnerable Words" lists the common and often embarrassing results of omitting or inserting one "little" letter and cites: public becoming pubic; bowl turning into bowel; stares becoming stars; window turning into widow; expect becoming except; naval turning into navel; and of course recital becoming rectal. The results of these printed mistakes range from the graduating class receiving gold embossed certificates from the NAVEL academy to a three foot sign announcing a RECTAL today. Benjamin Franklin's contributions to errata were heartily

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## DINNER SET - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Normandy estate, all was very cordial between them. And then, Franklin was in his mid-seventies at the time, a very busy man, a widower who probably did not want to devote much time to the choice of a dinner set. He may well have remembered the request his daughter Sally had made, seven years previously, when he was still living in London, of a Queen's Ware set for their family's use in Philadelphia. She thought the raised pattern all around the border, decorated with sprigs, was particularly elegant and, in the absence of indication to the contrary, I would imagine that was the one he chose.

Wedgwood did not take the French stratagems lying down. In his Address to the Workmen in the Pottery on the Subject of Entering into the Service of Foreign Manufacturers,<sup>4</sup> published three years after Franklin's purchase, he pointed out the misadventures those workmen could expect if they listened to the siren's song of foreign entrepreneurs. He turned his wrath on George Shaw (Clark's partner in Montereau) and exclaimed that the wages this man, by the way a deserter from the army, was promising his prospective dupes were six times higher than those paid to French workers. The catch of course was that as soon as local apprentices had learned the tricks of the trade, those splendid wages would be replaced by low ones that "would afford but miserable subsistence to Englishmen, brought up, from their infancy, to better and more substantial fare than frogs, hedgehogs, and the wild herbs of the fields." It would be too late then to think of going home, for the wily French had ways of blocking such a move, leaving them outcasts in a strange land. Anyway, how could Englishmen be such traitors to their country? The appeal ended with the promise of fifty guineas reward for anyone who caused the apprehension of a vile seducer. Luckily for their long-standing friendship, Wedgwood

does not seem ever to have become aware of Franklin's patronage of Montereau. He had made a medallion of Franklin in profile back in 1766, they remained on the best of terms, and eventually became partners in the fight for the abolition of slavery.

When it comes to trying to figure out what Franklin's service looked like, the best advice comes from the Musée die Ceramique-Sevres in the person of Mme. Maddy Aries: at this point, she told me, it is practically impossible to distinguish the production of the manufactory of Pont-aux-Choux, which had flourished some years previously in Paris, from that of Montereau which employed the same raw materials and many of the same English workmen. Several products of Pont-aux-Choux, with rims in relief probably quite similar to America's first "diplomatic" dinner set, are on display at the Museum.

Whereas Jefferson, as soon as he took over Franklin's post in Paris, ordered fine chinaware that reflected his own elegance and taste, Franklin, the printer, the man of the people, had symbolized his country with dinnerware that was pure white, simple, and not expensive.

Claude-Anne Lopez The Papers of Benjamin Franklin Yale University.

1. See John Harris, "Industrial Espionage in the Eighteenth Century," in John Harris, *Essays in Industry and Technology in the Eighteenth Century: England and France* (Hampshire, England, and Brookfield, Vermont, 1992), pp. 168ff.

2. Archives nationales, Paris, F 12 1 497 A.

3. Donald Towner, *Creamware* (London and Boston, 1978), p.13.

4. Printed by J. Smith in 1783. Newcastle, Staffordshire. The Quotation is on pp. 11-12.

Mr. Doug Amidon sign carver and artist is selling his famous wooden sculpture of Benjamin Franklin (carved in the late seventies) for \$5,000.00 It is one of his finest works and sure to appreciate. Please direct any inquiries to: Mr. Kevin Crocker, PO Box 1354, Manomet, Maine 02345

In Memoriam  
William George Carr  
1901-1996

Died March 1, 1996  
The Most Faithful  
Friend of Franklin

## "Benjamin Franklin and His Friends"

The Franklin Institute  
Friday & Saturday,  
May 3 & 4, 1996

This symposium focuses on a perennially overlooked aspect of Franklin's life the small group of individuals Benjamin Franklin considered to be trusted friends, collaborators, and colleagues. Although interpreted as a genius able to maneuver his way successfully through careers in business, science, and diplomacy, Franklin actually depended heavily upon lifelong friends. These individuals supplied him with information, advice, counsel against the exercise of his sometimes fiery temper, and support in his efforts to have his scientific research recognized.

Co-sponsored by the Benjamin Franklin National Memorial of The Franklin Institute and the Friends of Franklin, Inc., a non-profit organization associated with the National Memorial in promoting the study and understanding of Benjamin Franklin's life and legacy.

Friday, May 3

6:00-7:30 p.m. Benjamin Franklin and His Friends: A Symposium  
Musser Choices Forum

*The Trials, Tribulations, and Thrills of Making a Documentary Movie on the Life of Benjamin Franklin*

David Hartman, Host of Discovery Channel's *Rediscovery of America* and former Host of *Good Morning America* and Peter Argentine, Argentine Productions, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

The producers of the Discovery Channel documentary biography of Benjamin Franklin first aired February 29, 1996, describe why and how they made their movie and show segments that had to be deleted to achieve historical accuracy and a 52-minute program.

Saturday, May 4

9 a.m.-3 p.m. Symposium (continued):  
Benjamin Franklin and His Friends  
Stearns Auditorium

Speakers:

"Benjamin Franklin and His Junto Friends"

George Boudreau, Fellow of the Philadelphia Center for Early American Studies and Department of History, Indiana University

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Volume 6, Number 4, Winter 1995

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Philadelphia, PA 19103-1194

The Benjamin Franklin National Memorial, The Franklin Institute  
20th and the Parkway  
A publication of the Friends of Franklin, Inc.

# Franklin Gazette

## Symposium - Continued

### "Benjamin Franklin and His Natural History Correspondents"

Alan Armstrong, Library Research Associate,  
American Philosophical Society

### "Benjamin Franklin and His Visionary Friends: Paine, Priestley, Rush, etc."

Jack Fruchtman, Department of Political  
Science, Towson State University

### "Benjamin Franklin and the Scientists of Continental Europe"

Timothy Conley, Department of English,  
Bradley University

## Max Hall... Continued from Page 4

confessed by Franklin himself in his own autobiography. Being a mischievous soul and also a printer, Max Hall wonders whether or not Franklin's misprints were truly unintended. As America's first important humorist Franklin seemed to take much delight in typo's whether his own or that of others. In the October 2, 1729 issue of The Pennsylvania Gazette (the first), a story was written about Jonathan Belcher's voyage to London to protest paying the high salary Governor William Burnet was demanding. Upon arrival in London, Belcher received word that Burnet had died unexpectedly. Hearing the news, Belcher lobbied and obtained the governorship for himself. Franklin's paper reported that Belcher "had the Honour to Kiss his Majesty's Hand" after which Belcher and some gentlemen trading with New England "died elegantly at Pontack's." Pontack's was a place for elegant and formal dining! One of the many examples Hall puts forth of how the young printer kept them laughing.

Max Hall's An Embarrassment of Misprints is a fast, funny read, a lesson to us all and a credit to my dear mother's wise words. An Embarrassment of Misprints is published by Fulcrum Publishing Co. in Golden, Colorado and can be obtained through your local bookstore or ordered directly from the publisher.

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3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. -May 4, 1996

"Benjamin Franklin and His Friends - In Science, Politics,  
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May 3 & 4, 1996

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