

Franklin Gazette

Volume 7, Number 1, Spring, 1996

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

"If you would not be forgotten, as soon as you are dead and rotten, either write things worth reading, or do things worth the writing." B. Franklin

From the Desk of Larry E. Tise

What a Spring this has been for folk interested in the historic Benjamin Franklin! Franklin stuff and Franklinophiles are popping out all over at a rate that even this faithful Franklin Gazette cannot succeed in gazetting all the things that need to be gazetted. Mortals that we are, we can merely make a stab at covering the high spots.

**Thus on with this column
Cram-packed, duly solemn
That will surely appear
Less gazette than gazetteer.**

1. Franklin in Japan: It was a fine day in February when, after a couple of calls about the visit, Kazuo Majima, Member of the House of Councillors (equivalent of the U.S. Senate), arrived at The Franklin Institute. The mission of this distinguished leader of the government of Japan was first to visit The Franklin Institute; secondly, to become a member of the Friends of Franklin, Inc.; and, thirdly--and most important--to announce that he was in the final stages of translating the sayings in all of Poor Richard's Almanacks into Japanese. What a pleasant visit this was with this distinguished individual. Out we came with a few of our original Poor Richard's from the collections of The Franklin Institute; a facsimile of the first edition; and, etcetera. Councillor Majima was duly impressed to lay hands on these items. He was even more astonished when I related to him the story of Benjamin Franklin's descendants in Japan. He had no idea that Franklin's great, great grandson had gone to Japan; married a Japanese woman with the approval of the Emperor of Japan; and procreated half Japanese children--one of whom, Agnes Irwin, came back to Philadelphia to

FRIENDS OF FRANKLIN ELECT NEW OFFICERS AND SET SIGHTS FOR EXPANSION AND INTERNATIONAL INFLUENCE

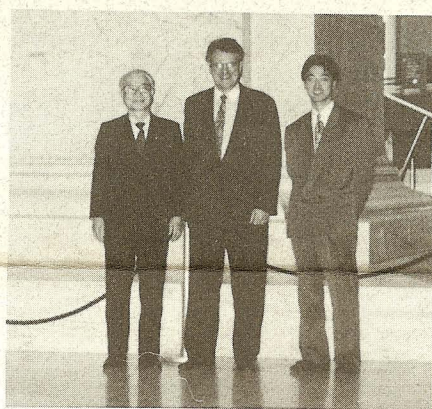
The Board of Directors of the Friends of Franklin, Inc., met at The Franklin Institute in Philadelphia on May 3, 1996, and proceeded--in a jolly and revolutionary mood--to elect a whole new slate of officers and to set plans for expanding the organization and preparing it to carry a big stick in the world of Benjamin Franklin. After reviewing various glowing reports about the finances, publications, and the recent successful tour of Franklin's Historic Paris, the Directors elected its second successive

president from the burb of Franklin's Historic Chicago. Incoming president is Douglas Whitley, who actually lives and works out of Batavia, Illinois. He is also President and CEO of Ameritech Illinois--the statewide Bell company. Doug is a lifelong Franklin buff who uses every opportunity to learn more about Benjamin Franklin or to visit places where Franklin lived and walked.

The Board of Directors at the same time voted to thank and honor outgoing President Malcolm Smith, retired President of Macromatics, and resident of Highland Park, Illinois. Smith during his three year term has done much to raise funds for the support of The Papers of Benjamin Franklin. He used a succession of birthdays, anniversaries, and other events to encourage friends and associates to make contributions to the Papers project at Yale University.

In addition to choosing a new president the Friends of Franklin set its sights much higher than the low key operation it has been almost from the creation of the organization in 1989. The Board approved a variety of projects to expand the membership both in numbers and across the world to include individuals, organizations, and corporations that commemorate Benjamin Franklin. It also voted to expand the activities of the organization to include services to descendants of Benjamin Franklin, to assist The Franklin Institute in a campaign to attract greater attention to the National Memorial, and to begin making plans toward the 300th commemoration of the birth of Benjamin Franklin in 2006.

To accomplish this the Board of Directors has slightly expanded and extended outward with new directors from Connecticut, Kansas, France, and even Philadelphia. A full listing of new officers and directors appears on page 4:



Kazuo Majima and his translator. Our Japanese visitors pose with Dr. Larry E. Tise, in Franklin Hall at The Franklin Institute.

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When Franklin Was Fooled and What Barbara Found

by
Claude-Anne Lopez

On Christmas Eve 1782, an acquaintance of Franklin who lived in Vienna sent him news that "a very ingenious Gentleman Mr. Kampl, Counselor of his Imperial Majesty's Finances for the Kingdom of Hungary" was proposing to embark on a two-year tour of France, the Low Countries and England, along with his family consisting of a wife, two sons and two daughters. The trip's purpose was to show off the gentleman's mechanical inventions and improvements for which there was not much encouragement to be found in Central Europe. To meet his expenses, this Mr. Kampl planned "to exhibit the figure of a Turk, as big as life, playing at chess with any player; and answering, by pointing at the letters of an alphabet, any questions made to him." Franklin's correspondent had twice seen this mechanical Turk in action but could not discover what made it work. "Was there nothing but the organisation of his arm, hand, and fingers, besides the motions of his head, that alone would entitle him to no small admiration."

Such an introduction could not fail to pique Franklin's curiosity, what with his own passion for chess and for mechanical cleverness. The smart inventor's name, which appears variously as Kemple, Kempel, Kempl, and Kampl, was really Wolfgang von Kempelen -- or Kempelen Farkas Lovag in his native Hungarian. Born in 1734, he became famous for his designs of fountains and palaces as well as for his talents as engineer and organizer.

Von Kempelen arrived in Paris in the spring of 1783. On May 28, he wrote to Franklin, in excellent French, to apologize for the delay in showing him, as promised earlier, the chess-playing automaton. The reason, he said, was that he needed a little more time to perfect another very interesting machine he wanted the Doctor to see. This was undoubtedly his extraordinary "speaking machine" that simulated the human vocal system and took him twenty years to perfect whereas his money-maker, the champion Turk, had been built in six months.

That Turk must have been quite a sight in his Turkish dress with a large turban on his head. He sat on a chair fixed to a table mounted on wheels, the table itself equipped with several doors. The Turk leaned his right arm on the table and held a pipe in his left hand; he played with that hand, after removing the pipe. A chess-board of eighteen inches was affixed to the table which contained wheels, levers, cylinders and other pieces of mechanism, all of them

publicly displayed before the game. The Turk's vestments were then lifted over his head, and the body was seen full of similar wheels and levers, with a little door in his thigh, also opened to the public. The whole contraption was wheeled around the room before the doors were shut and the play began, with the automaton always making the

Mr. Kampl planned "to exhibit the figure of a Turk, as big as life, playing at chess with any player..."

first move. At every motion the wheels were heard and the Turk examined the chess-board, shaking his head twice when he checked the queen, three times for the king.

The moment for appearing in Paris had been perfectly chosen since a chess club had just been opened near the Palais Royal, under the protection of Monsieur, the King's brother, who was a member.

We don't know whether Franklin accepted von Kempelen's invitation to meet him at his lodgings on the rue d'Orleans or whether a game took place between the real American and the fake Turk, but we do know that Franklin was impressed, very impressed. The proof

of his enthusiasm has been adduced from a letter that the minister from Saxony to the Court of St. James, Count Johann Mauritius von Brühl, himself a celebrated chess player, wrote to Franklin on October 8, 1783, in order to thank him for having introduced von Kempelen to chess aficionados in England.

Franklin's letter has been presumed lost for well over a century. Not any more. During her stay in the British Isles last December, Barbara Oberg discovered it at the Scottish Record Office in Edinburgh.

It reads:

Passy near Paris
Aug. 22. 1783

Sir,

M. de Kempel, the ingenious Author of the Automaton that plays Chess, will have the Honour of putting this Line into the Hands of your Excellency; and I beg leave to recommend him to your Protection, not merely on Account of that wonderful Machine, but as a Genius capable of being serviceable to Mankind by more useful Inventions which he has not yet communicated. With great Respect, I have the honour to be, Sir, Your Excellency's most obedient & most humble Servant B. Franklin His Excellently."

Count Brühl, Minster of Saxony

That very day, Franklin also wrote along the same lines to his young friend

See When Franklin Was Fooled... Page 6

Williamsburg Update

The Friends of Franklin will travel to Williamsburg for their annual Benjamin Franklin tour which will take place November 6-10, 1996. "Benjamin Franklin's Historic Williamsburg and Virginia" will include five days of exploration, education, entertainment and excitement as we follow the trail of Benjamin Franklin.

Bob Wilburn, President of Colonial Williamsburg Foundation; Ronald Hoffman, Director of the Institute for Early American History and Culture; Thad Tate, Director Emeritus of the Institute; Dean Shostak, Armonicaist for Colonial Williamsburg (and Friend of Franklin); Kay Domine, Archivist of the College of William & Mary; and, Harrison Ruffin Tyler, great-grandson of U.S. President John Tyler have been our local advisors and hosts in the planning of this exciting event.

Our headquarter hotel will be the Williamsburg Woodlands which is located at the Visitors' Center in a park-like setting with rooms overlooking wooded grounds and gardens. The cost of the tour will be \$750 per person double occupancy and \$900 per person single occupancy. The tour includes five nights hotel accommodations at the Woodlands, admission fees to all places visited as a group, Colonial Williamsburg pass with unlimited admission to all exhibits, guides throughout the tour, bus transportation to Yorktown, Jamestown, and Sherwood Forest Plantation, admission to lectures and special programs as outlined in the itinerary, three receptions, four lunches and two dinners, and all gratuities and taxes at meal functions.

The itinerary for the tour is as follows:

Day 1—Tuesday, November 5

Our adventure begins with Friends of Franklin flocking into Williamsburg from all points of the compass and gather around the registration table at the Williamsburg Woodlands, meeting old friends and new acquaintances who will be with us over the next few days. Dine on your own this evening. And rest. But remember Franklin's aphorism on these activities: "Sleep without supping, and you'll rise without owing for it."

Day 2—Wednesday, November 6

After orientation remarks we'll get our bearings on Williamsburg from an experienced Colonial Williamsburg hand. Then on to Williamsburg's reconstructed colonial Capitol, an ornate reproduction of the historic building where Franklin surely argued politics with other subjects of the British king. We will learn the current topics of debate. Lunch will be at historic Shields Tavern. You'll have time to explore historic Williamsburg a bit on your own before we gather at the town printing office and the colonial post office for demonstrations and discussions of the true purpose of Franklin's visits to Williamsburg—to scout the printing business and establish more efficient postal services. In the evening, we will be entertained, wined and dined by our principal host of the tour Colonial Williamsburg Foundation and its genial President, Robert Wilburn, formerly of Pennsylvania where he was Secretary of Education in the Thornburgh administration before heading the Carnegie Institute in Pittsburgh.

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Benjamin Franklin and The Law Of Libel - Part III

by Ralph G. Elliot

The Law of Libel in 1762

Whether Franklin had sued in England in 1762, or had waited until he returned to Pennsylvania to sue in 1763, the law of libel would have been the same. For all of it was based upon common law, and the common law was set forth in the multi-volume Commentaries on the common law written in the middle of the 18th century by Sir William Blackstone, an eminent English jurist. Blackstone identified two forms of defamation affecting a person's reputation. If the words were spoken, the action was slander; if written, the action was for libel. If Franklin had sued Smith for libel, he would have had to allege that Smith published false statements of fact about him, and that he had been injured. He would have sought damages for the injury done to him. The falsity of Smith's charges would have been presumed; Franklin would not have had to prove they were false. "Truth" was recognized as a defense; and in order for Smith to escape a judgment for damages, he would have had to prove that what he had said was true.

Since the particular statements Smith made about Franklin essentially charged him with dishonesty and taking credit for the work of another in the very scientific experiments on which his reputation was based, the libel would be deemed one per se so that in order to win the case, Franklin would not have had to prove any particular damage to have happened as a result of the libel, but could collect damages merely upon the probability that damages might occur.

Clearly on their face, Smith's charges against Franklin defamed his character and imputed to him lack of skill and integrity in the scientific profession in which he was engaged and in which he had published his Experiments and Observations on Electricity between 1751 and 1754. There was even evidence (though Franklin doubtless did not know it) that Smith had admitted a desire to harm Franklin in publishing the charges. In a letter to Richard Peters, President of the College of Philadelphia on August 14, 1762, Smith wrote:

"...Dr. Franklin is gone from hence to embark at Portsmouth, but in what temper I cannot say. He and I were not in the best of Terms, nor the worst. He heard when down at Oxford, of a letter I had sent three years ago there to prevent his having a Degree, which he took in great Dudgeon; tho' as we stood then, and his doing all he could in support of the Assembly in oppression and prevent my obtaining Redress, he could not expect that I could say any Thing in his Favor. At Mr. Strahan's Desire we met at his House and the Matter of the Letter over; but explaining did not mend the Matter much on either Side. As to (Franklin's) not being careful to distinguish between the particular Discoveries of each (of his colleagues); this perhaps was not always practicable; it being sometimes impossible to recollect in whose Breast the Thought first took Rise, that led to a Series of Experiments, which at length issued in some unexpected important Discovery. But had it been always practicable to distinguish between the particular Discoveries of each, it was altogether unnecessary; as, I believe, none of Mr. Franklin's electrical Friends had the least Thought of ever appearing as Competitors for any of the summarizing the situation during the years that followed 1745: Honours that they have beheld, with Pleasure, bestowed on him, and to which he had an undoubted Right, preferable to the United Merit of all the Electricians in America, and, perhaps, in all the World."

By this letter, Smith admitted that the reason he had written the 1759 letter was to prevent Oxford from conferring a degree upon Franklin, certainly an injury to Franklin.

Thus it is that, assuming Smith would have difficulty proving the truth of his allegations, Franklin stood a very good chance of winning any libel action against Smith he might have brought. This would be especially so, of course, had Franklin sued Smith in England, because the only way Smith could have proven the truth of what he said (assuming it was true) would have been to bring Ebenezer Kinnersley all the way from America to testify that the experiments and discoveries were his and

**If words were spoken,
the action was slander;
if written, the action
was for libel.**

**EXTRA! EXTRA!
READ ALL
ABOUT BEN!**

Benjamin Franklin

1706-1790

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Friends of Franklin, Inc. update...
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Among others reelected to terms on the Board of Directors was Frank Jones of Bloomington, Indiana. The Board noted that Jones's project to produce a chronology of Benjamin Franklin's life for publication by the Friends of Franklin was nearing completion. In view of the fact that Kendall/Hunt Publishing Company, publisher for the Friends, was due to bring the small book out on or about June 15, 1996, the Directors voted a rousing applause for Jones and his persistence with the project.

**SPECIAL NEWS
ON WHAT
FRIENDS FUNDS CAN DO**
by Larry E. Tise

In addition to his efforts on the "chronology" project, Frank Jones multiplied the good contributions of another Friend in a most interesting and pleasing manner. It went like this:

Stuart Karu of Kennebunkport, Maine, founder and first president of the Friends of Franklin, decided earlier this year to make a generous contribution of \$15,000 to The Papers of Benjamin Franklin. Thank you, Stuart.

Frank Jones, hearing of the gift, called Stuart and said, "Would you mind calling your gift a challenge gift to be matched by other Friends?" Stuart said, "go ahead." Thank you, Frank and Stuart.

Frank wrote the members of the Board of Directors saying that Stuart had made a challenge gift and would the directors ante up. George Waters did. Deane Sherman did. And so did William and Amory Glenn and Malcolm and Muriel Smith and even Frank Jones himself. Thank you, George, Deane, etc.

And, like magic, what was in the beginning nothing and became \$15,000 is on the road to becoming \$30,000.

And, I will bet that Barbara Oberg will take some NEH money and make what was nothing into \$60,000.

And, that is precisely why we have the Friends of Franklin, Inc. Thanks to one and all.

**FRANKLIN'S PLAYFUL AND
INSATIABLE CURIOSITY**
by Francine Britton

As an icon, Benjamin Franklin is the exemplar of a down to earth attitude, sensible conduct, canny politics and diligence. Surprisingly few people appreciate his playful and insatiable curiosity. However, among his peers Franklin was known to be quite antic, at times obsessive, always whimsical and great fun. His letters to friends convey this humorous zest for living and his utter joy in science and discovery.

Although much of Franklin's scientific knowledge and works are well known and accessible to the public, much of what has become known as his "philosophical amusements" are not. They were done by Franklin for the sheer fun of it.

Letters from close friends and relatives recall the times when they were privy to the iron fence he would wire up to make sparks fly along the rails and excite his invited guests. He would entertain them with one of his favorite toys, an electrical spider; in bragging to his friends, he mentions the crowds that came to his house to see this and many other such toys and how he delighted in playing tricks on them. In his last years, Franklin liked to show visitors a glass model in his study that demonstrated the circulation of blood throughout the human body. This display was narrated with a keen sense of amazement and theatrics. His electrostatic devices, such as those in the Harvard Collection of Historical and Scientific Instruments that give off electrical shocks by rubbing a glass globe against silk continue to delight young and old alike with "shocking experiences" much as they did in Franklin's day.

When Benjamin Franklin first took up "electricity", it was merely as an irresistible toy. Several years of playful experiments were needed prior to inventing the lightning rod. Franklin's "thunder house" is an example of such playfulness. A three dimensional mahogany model of a house (10"x6"x8") built with a removable roof and collapsible walls was equipped with a lightning rod. A wooden block was inserted to break the circuit. Within this small house was a small container filled with gunpowder. When the circuit was completed, an electric charge would go through the lightning rod with no effect on the little house. However, when the circuit was broken, the sparks would ignite the house with a convincing and entertaining result or so Franklin thought.

Franklin's public clearly enjoyed his showmanship. It can be said that part of his enormous popularity during his time in France stemmed from his ability to tame lightning as well as his revolutionary patriotism. Indeed, he was so popular among the French with his joie de vivre that his image adorned everything from medals to chamber pots. Turgot's famous praise of Benjamin Franklin might be recast as: "Snatching the lightning from the sky enabled him to take the scepter from tyrants!"

As supreme utilitarian Franklin was always striving for useful and sensible ways of doing things, replacing the usual barriers separating science from the general culture. A practical and whimsical attitude coupled with the scientific devotion that Franklin adhered to has apparently gotten lost along the way. We ought to make his accessible and fun approach to science a part of everyone's daily life instead of confining science to segregated courses.

Anyone and everyone can and should repeat and enjoy Franklin's simple experiments and experience the logic and legacy of his life. His fine example of the many rewards of an inquiring mind would also help students, young and old alike, understand how science reshapes the world in the present, past and future. In our goal oriented times, we could all do with the lesson taught by Franklin's curiosity...the rewards of inquiry pursued simply and only for its own sake.

This article was adapted from a lecture first presented at the Academy of Arts and Sciences and from "Ben Franklin's Scientific Amusements" written by Dudley R. Herschbach in the Nov./Dec. issue of Harvard Magazine.

From the Desk of...
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found a very good girls' school bearing her very name. He was even more impressed to get the name of Yukiko Irwin, one of those descendants who lives in New York City and who is a member of the Friends of Franklin, Inc. And finally Councillor Majima's eyes popped out when we walked to Franklin Hall at the Institute and got a picture of the gigantic Franklin statue there. Welcome Councillor Majima to the Friends of Franklin. We are pleased to have you among our group.

2. **Franklin in Germany:** And then a few weeks later I got a call from one Manfred Gross, M.D., who had just arrived from Berlin on a similar mission. Dr. Gross is Professor and Chairman of the Department of Audiology and Phoniatrics at the BENJAMIN FRANKLIN MEDICAL CENTER of the Free University of Berlin. His task was to collect materials, illustrations, stories, and objects to mount an exhibit on Benjamin Franklin at a Franklin Hall in his medical center. He came over to the Franklin Institute and looked through a trove of things we have on hand. He took

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not Franklin's. Whether Kinnersley would have so testified, however, is at least subject to some doubt.

In addition to his private lawsuit for damages, there was another remedy available to Franklin for libel, though the remedy would not enrich him in any way. The common law recognized a cause for action for libel as a criminal matter by indictment. The law recognized that libel was a public offense, for, as Blackstone wrote, "every libel has a tendency to the breach of peace, by provoking the person libeled to break it: which offense is the same (in point of law) whether the matter contained be true or false." If, therefore, Franklin had persuaded the authorities to indict Smith for criminal libel, Smith would not have been allowed, even if he had been able, to present the truth of his statements as a defense. If he offered evidence that what he had written was true, the criminal law of libel would not have recognized it as justification for printing the libel unless he further proved that he published the statements from good motives and for justifiable ends (something which, in light of the admissions he made in his letters to Peters, it is difficult to believe he could have proven).

The Law of Libel in 1995

Had William Smith written the same libel about Benjamin Franklin in 1995, the result might have been quite different. For Benjamin Franklin was a public official and, even more clearly, a public figure; and in 1995 in the United States (though not necessarily in the United Kingdom) the rules of the law of libel are governed by the status of the plaintiff who is suing. Had Franklin sued Smith in the United States in 1995 for the letters Smith had written, Franklin, as a public figure, would have had to have proven that Smith wrote what he did either knowing that his statements were false or with "reckless disregard" of whether they were true or false - that is, with a high degree of awareness of their probable falsity. As this burden of proof implies, too, it would be Franklin's burden to prove that what Smith wrote was false; Smith would not have to prove that what he wrote was true. It would be for Franklin, therefore, to find Kinnersley, bring him to court, put him on the stand, and have Kinnersley testify that the discoveries Franklin claimed to have made were in fact made by Franklin and not by Kinnersley. Whether Franklin could have persuaded Kinnersley to say these things - whether, indeed, these things were true, we, of course, cannot know.

Unless Franklin could prove that Smith's statements were false and that when he made them Smith either knew they were false or

knew that there was a high probability that they were false, Franklin could not win his libel suit no matter what his damages might have been and even though the charges injured Franklin at the very core of his professional scientific reputation for integrity. In the United States since 1965, the law of libel has come under the umbrella of the First Amendment; and the courts have recognized that the press and other writers when writing about public officials or public figures (at least in their public figure capacity) must not be so chilled in their speech by fear of libel suits that they are deterred from saying what they believe to be true.

Public officials and public figures, conversely, are understood by the law to have essentially assumed the risk of greater public observation of them and comment about them as the price for the celebrity they have willingly sought; and because the injury that libel creates is to their reputation, and because they have greater access to the media by which to get their side of the story before the public, the law requires of them a higher burden before they can use a damage action in libel to help restore their reputation.

Thus it is that if Franklin had sued Smith in 1995 in the United States, the question of his winning the case may very well have been in doubt. For while Smith may have had malice in his heart and may have wanted to injure Franklin by what he wrote, he may very well have believed that what he wrote was true; and the key is not whether the writer was out to injure the subject, but whether the writer knew that the instrument he was using was, or probably was, a false charge.

Interestingly enough, the law of libel in England in 1995 remains in many respects as it was in 1762. In England, there is not a higher standard of proof for public officials or public figures as there is in the United States. In England, too, falsity is still presumed, and the defendant is required to plead and prove the truth of what he wrote. Thus, had Franklin sued Smith in England in 1995, the result might very well have been the same. England, of course, does not have the First Amendment as the United States Constitution does. England does not have the tradition of freedom of the press or freedom of speech that the United States has enshrined in its Constitution as a right each individual possesses. The differences in the law of libel between the United States and England are a direct result of the constitutional right our Bill of Rights accords each individual citizen. In 1995, that right would have served to protect William Smith.

Williamsburg Update... Continued From Page 2

Day 3—Thursday, November 7

More of Williamsburg in the morning. Hook up with some Friends to compare notes at the Courthouse of 1770, Bruton Parish Church, the Public Hospital or enjoy watching the craftsman. We will have some special demonstrations and behind the scenes opportunities in many of these places. Lunch this day at the place of your choosing. In early afternoon, we will bus to Yorktown to see where Lord Cornwallis surrendered to victorious George Washington in a battle that was engineered in large measure by Benjamin Franklin in far away Paris. Franklin got the French fleet to race across the Atlantic and impede Cornwallis' retreat to the sea. At Readouts 9 and 10, at the Moore House, and in the Nelson House you will hear the inspiring story. And then, in Surrender Field, you will feel the tug and pull of the glory there won—victory and the launching of a free and independent American republic! Back to Williamsburg for a brief rest which will prepare us, in turn, for another feast at the King's Arms Tavern and an evening of outdoor drama as it is done so well in the South.

Day 4—Friday, November 8

Early on Friday, we will bus to Historic Jamestown for another glimpse at the birth of the nation. We will tour the historic site and then inspect a vast archaeological investigation known as the Jamestown Rediscovery Project. See how archaeologists carefully excavate and analyze historic remains while in the process of digging the neatest holes in the world. Then proceed to the archaeology laboratory where excavated shards are examined, documented, cleaned, and pieced back together. Just before lunch time we will bus to nearby Sherwood Forest Plantation, the residence of President John Tyler and generations of Tylers from time immemorial. Lunch will be served with grace and style in the Tippecanoe Room. We will be welcomed by present owner of Sherwood Forest, Harrison Ruffin Tyler, and will tour the place. During our visit, we will have a variety of presentations on plantation life in early America and will learn why our patron saint Benjamin Franklin did not approve much of America's plantation system. You will have some free time after we bus back to Williamsburg for another grand reception where we will get to know some of the folk at Williamsburg's noted Institute for Early American History and Culture.

Day 5—Saturday, November 9

Saturday morning we will spend at America's second oldest institution of higher learning—the College of William and Mary. Sessions will be in the historic Wren Building, architecturally perhaps the greatest public structure in America remaining from the eighteenth century (move over Independence Hall). This is the place where Benjamin Franklin was given an honorary master's degree by the College of William and Mary. We will learn more about the crucial role played by the College in educating a whole generation of leaders, including Thomas Jefferson, who joined with Franklin and others to conceive a nation built on liberty, freedom, and equality. And we will visit the College archives to see some of the documents and artifacts that illustrate this revolutionary generation. After a luncheon at the College we will proceed back to the heart of Colonial Williamsburg for a tour of the Governor's Palace. Then you will be free to roam and shop and explore on your own until 5:00 p.m. At that time, we will have a unique visit to the fabulous St. George Tucker House (the place is rarely opened to groups) where there will be a special reception for our group and entertainment by Friend of Franklin, Dean Shostak performing, of course, on Benjamin Franklin's contribution to music—the glass armonica. At a lavish Farewell Dinner following, we will eat well—truly high on the hog—and will be entertained by Benjamin Franklin (Ralph Archbold) and Thomas Jefferson (Bill Barker) as they explore the close relationship between these two most revolutionary of Americans.

Day 6—Sunday, November 10

No trip into the history of the Old South would be complete without an examination of the rich history of African-American music, religion, language, and lore. We will spend some of our Sunday morning hearing about all of this and maybe even chiming in on a spiritual or two. We will then finish off our tour with a homecoming spread for lunch that is sure to please. All activities will cease with the last farewells to Friends remaining at 1:30 p.m.

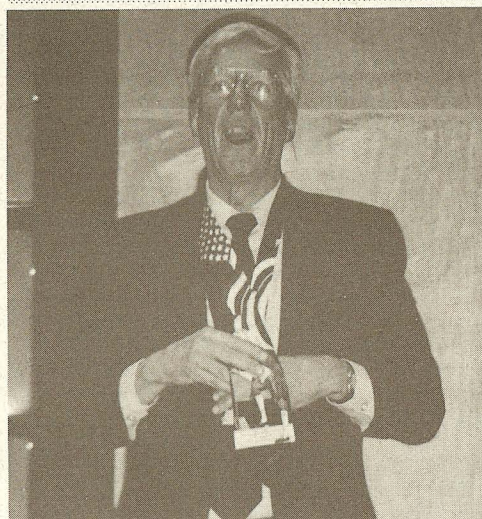
For more information or to receive a tour brochure, please call Kathy at 215-448-1181 or e-mail your request to kdeluca@fi.edu.

**From the Desk of....
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catalogues, made photographs, ordered books, and eventually left the Institute well-stocked to embark on his exhibit. I was most curious about his Benjamin Franklin Medical Center which is also celebrating its 50th anniversary. It seems that the place was created just after the Second World War with funds provided by the Benjamin Franklin Foundation of New York City. With this information I decided to do some checking about this new source of funds. It was not in the Foundation Directory. Nor could I find it in any other listing of foundations. When I went back to Dr. Gross with this absence of information the only additional light he could shed on it was that the foundation had been operated by someone named Eleanor Dulles. In checking on that name I found in Who's Who that Eleanor Lansing Dulles (1895-) was a most distinguished diplomat from a family of distinguished diplomats. A 1917 graduate of Bryn Mawr College here in Philadelphia, she served with distinction in the U. S. State Department during and after the Second World War. She had also been involved in relief and reconstruction work in France and Germany after both the First World War and the Second World War. She wrote many books on reparations and reconstruction. But a couple of tell-tale bits of information also appear in her Who's Who write up. She was with the State Department located in Vienna, Austria, between 1945 and 1949. And she was honored with an honorary doctorate from the Free University of Berlin in 1957 and with the Ernst Reuternplaquen of the City of West Berlin in 1959. Very interesting! Obviously she was an early Friend of Franklin! Dr. Gross has promised to send us a report on his exhibit.

3. **Franklin's Paine:** Talking about globe-trotting, there next was Benjamin Franklin's mentee (BF was the mentor), Thomas Paine. June 8 was Thomas Paine day in Philadelphia as organized beautifully by Margaret Downey, President of the Thomas Paine Memorial Committee, and with a lot of assistance from Drew Devitt, Founder of The Thomas Paine Foundation of Media, Pennsylvania. This is the third year for what is becoming a most interest-

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David Hartman modeling the N. Rockwell Franklin Tie! To order see page 7.

**When Franklin Was
Fooled...
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and editor in England, Benjamin Vaughan.

No more mention of the "ingenious" Hungarian is to be found among Franklin's papers after that. And yet the Turk kept earning money for his master, at five shillings a demonstration, even though doubts about the genuineness of his thinking process were raised in London as early as 1784. An eccentric and cantankerous writer by the name of Philip Thicknesse -- whose claim to fame is that he was Gainsborough's patron for twenty years -- suspected a trick. The complicated machinery shown to the spectators before the chess game, he wrote, was meant solely "to misguide and delude the observers." The same held true for the various activities carried out by the assistant who periodically wound up the automaton, locked and unlocked a cabinet, all of this while a gifted child or dwarf concealed himself within the counter and followed the game thanks to a looking glass fixed to the ceiling.

The Turk, nevertheless, pursued his colorful career well into the nineteenth century. It is said that Napoleon played against him and lost in 1809. He became known as "Maelzel's chess-player" after the name of his new owner, the Bavarian inventor of the metronome, who purchased him in 1804 from the late Kempelen's son. Maelzel brought him to New York in 1826, and exhibited him in Boston, Philadelphia and Baltimore. The excitement was intense and the press coverage enthusiastic.

Yet, Edgar Allan Poe, who saw the automaton in Richmond, Va. commented in a piece called Maelzel's Chess-Player that it was impossible to assume that the chess-player was a pure machine performing without any immediate human agency. And he concluded: "The only question is of the manner in which human agency is

brought to bear."

It was not until 1834 that the full extent of the deception was revealed by a Frenchman, Mouret, who had been in the employ of the exhibitor. His revelations, published in Paris in the Maga-sin Pittoresque, did not reach America for a few years. Meanwhile, Maelzel had died at sea, while crossing from Cuba to Philadelphia, deeply in debt in spite of some great inventions of his own, such as an automated trumpeter who played military music and an automatic orchestra of many instruments.

All this equipment came into the possession of Dr. John Kearsley Mitchell, a professor of medicine in Philadelphia. He published a long paper in the first issue of The Chess Monthly, in which he explained how the hidden human player kept abreast of the game: "On the under side of the chest there appeared a chess-board, directly beneath that upon the upper surface, upon which the game was played. Each square was excavated so as to make the board between the opposite squares very thin. The squares were numbered from one to sixty-four, under each of which hung a little lever, well balanced, to which was attached a small disk of iron. These disks, when attracted by magnet placed on top of the box, swung up into the excavations and remained there quietly until liberated by the removal of the magnets..." The installation within the machine of a seat gliding on rails eventually allowed a man of normal size to hide himself with a modicum of comfort.

Dr. Mitchell finally deposited his turbaned Turk in the Chinese Museum of Philadelphia where he stayed fourteen years, abandoned in a dusty corner, until 1854 when he was destroyed by fire, along with the museum. So forgotten was he that not the slightest notice was taken of his disappearance. And yet, as Henry Ridgely Evans observes, "the first chess club ever founded in Philadelphia owed its existence to the excitement caused by the performances of the Turk." And he had fooled no less than Benjamin Franklin.



Claude-Anne Lopez with guest speakers David Hartman (The Discovery Channel) and Peter Argentine (Producer, Argentine Productions).

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ing annual event to remember the many contributions of Thomas Paine to liberty, freedom, and equality in the modern world. This year's festivities included a luncheon at City Tavern replete with appearances by Mayor Rendell and Ralph Archbold in his role as Benjamin Franklin. Rendell declared that the "age of reason" had been forgotten in Harrisburg and Washington, D. C.--as there was no "common sense" left either in legislature or Congress. There followed a parade to Independence National Park's Visitor Center where veteran role player Hans Peterson did a great one hour rendition of the life and passions of Paine himself. This was a live version of a program televised by PBS affiliate KUED in 1994 and which was aired on Philadelphia's WHYY on June 2, 1996. Park historian, Joe Chauncy, concluded the day by taking the group on a walking tour of Paine's Philadelphia.

It all made me feel, as I told the group,

that I had been on the trail of Thomas Paine--even as I had been working these past seven years on the life and achievements of Benjamin Franklin. Indeed, as I thought about it, just during the past twelve months I had chased down the place where Paine lived in London next to Mary Wollstonecraft as he wrote his treatise on The Rights of Man and she wrote The Rights of Woman. Then in October when we went on our tour of Benjamin Franklin's Historic Paris, our hotel was just a short half block from the famous Palais du Luxembourg (now home of the French Senate) where Paine was held as prisoner for nearly a year during the height of the Reign of Terror. I jogged around the place every morning contemplating how virtually everyone arrested with Paine was guillotined. He was miraculously spared when prison guards overlooked the mark on Paine's door indicating that he was to be executed. Then in March I had a chance to visit Paine's impressive cottage at New Rochelle, New York. This is where Paine lived at the time of his death. And it was there that he was

buried until William Cobbett, better known as Peter Porcupine, took up his bones and proceeded to lose them when he arrived in London in 1818. Thomas Paine was a very important American and universal being.

Let me encourage Friends of Franklin to join in efforts to recognize the achievements of Thomas Paine by contacting the Thomas Paine Historical Association at the Paine Museum, 983 North Avenue, New Rochelle, N.Y. 10804 or Margaret Downey's Pennsylvania based Thomas Paine Memorial Committee, P. O. Box 242, Pocopson, PA 19366-0242. Phone (610) 793-2737. Oh yes, and if you want to go all the way, there is also Thomas Paine Memorial Committee of the Bordentown Historical Society, P.O. Box 182, Bordentown, NJ 08505. They are collecting funds to erect, by next June 8, a statue of Thomas Paine in Bordentown. According to this Society, Paine lived longer in plush Bordentown, than any other place in America. Congratulations to the Paineites!

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Due to the popularity of these items at our recent Symposium, Benjamin Franklin and His Friends, The Franklin Institute Gift Shop has graciously agreed to make them available to all Friends of Franklin and their friends via mail order. You can fax your order with Credit Card information or mail your order with a check to the address and fax number listed on the order form below. As you will notice, celebrity David Hartman agreed to model the Franklin Tie for the Friends of Franklin!

(See Page 6)

This design is emblazoned on the 100% Silk Tie and on the 100% Cotton Tee-Shirt. It is a Norman Rockwell design and already a collector's item.

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Upcoming Events

- ♦ Benjamin Franklin's Historic Williamsburg and Virginia Trip
(see details on page 2). November 6-10, 1996
- ♦ Friends of Franklin Board Meeting - Philadelphia, PA . . . November 5, 1996, 6:00 p.m.
- ♦ Benjamin Franklin Symposium Philadelphia, PA May 30-31, 1997
- ♦ Benjamin Franklin's Historic England October 21-27, 1997