

Franklin Gazette

Volume 8, Numbers 1 & 2, Summer, 1998

Friends of Franklin, Inc., PO Box 40048, Philadelphia, PA 19106

"If your head is wax, don't walk in the sun" -- B. Franklin, 1749

President's Greeting

-- Ralph Gregory Elliot

How appropriate that this column is being written on Flag Day in Franklin's Philadelphia. While my visit here is to the American Law Institute, and Franklin's name has yet to be uttered or invoked in three hours of celebration, you cannot step onto the streets of this city without being infused with his spirit, memory, and accomplishments. *That* is the prospect that awaits those of you who, like me, will be joining Larry and Kathy's tour of Franklin's Philadelphia (plus Winterthur) this October.

As the Friends of Franklin enters its second decade of life and service, we are spiritedly planning for the tercentenary of Ben's birth in 2006. Even our new phone number reflects that focus of our attention. As part and parcel of a significantly expanded membership drive, I have written to 125 towns and counties named Franklin and the principals of 250 schools named after Franklin, and invited them not only to join us as members, but also to designate a person as the one in charge of Franklin's 300th birthday activities.

We want the Friends to play a central and major role in that celebration, serving as a source of ideas for activities, information both about Ben and about what others are doing to celebrate his birth, and a conduit and connection between all persons and institutions engaged in these activities so that there can develop cross-pollination and a network of mutually-enriching correspondence among them. We want, in short, to be the major clearinghouse and facilitator for Franklin's 300th.

We have already taken the initiative this past March in convening a luncheon meeting in New York attended by representatives of the major repositories of Frankliniana from coast to coast, to inspire thinking, planning and coordination in the 300th anniversary process. The Friends will soon have a Web site where our rich store of Franklin facts and scholarship can be made available to all, and which can serve as an important medium for our members, towns, schools and other institutions to talk to us and each other, to get and share ideas, and in so doing to enrich the quality and universality of the 300th celebration.

In this effort, you and this Gazette are important players. We need your ideas, thoughts and articles for this Gazette. We need your help to

encourage the Franklin towns and schools to join us as members and to designate Franklin - 300 coordinators and to send us their names. We need your suggestions on how best the Friends can play its leadership role on this exciting occasion. And we need your help in enlisting new and interested non-town and non-school members in the Friends.

The visibility and vitality of this organization, which is *your* organization, depends in the final analysis on you. Kathy, your excellent Board of Directors and I cannot -- and should not -- do it alone. We need your *involvement*, both as members and as missionaries for the Friends. This Gazette gives you our new Post Office box, phone number, fax number and e-mail address. Use them. Flood us with new members and good ideas. We're capable of absorbing whatever you have to deliver.



Franklin and Mesmer: An Encounter

by Claude-Anne Lopez

[Ed. note: This is the conclusion to the article which began in the Winter, 1997 issue of the Gazette.]

The King soon appointed two commissions, the first consisting of four prominent doctors, including one whose name would acquire a sinister ring, Doctor Guillotin, the other made up of five members of the Academy of Sciences, headed by Franklin. One may wonder why the American ambassador, or minister plenipotentiary, as he was called, would become involved in a purely French affair, but it should be kept in mind that Franklin, the first American diplomat ever, anywhere, made up the rules as he went, without any State Department to impose limitations or guidelines. Be it launching the potato into the French diet, sponsoring the first balloon flights, advising about prison reform or a better way of baking bread, he had cheerfully participated in the various concerns of French society.

In deference to his age, and to his lack of mobility, due to a painful kidney stone, the meetings took place at his residence in Passy, then a lovely village a few miles out of Paris. Soon, Franklin and his fellow commissioners were bombarded with advice from all sides. Mesmer sent a very clever and well-worded letter, dissociating himself from Doctor Deslon and making the point that whereas Deslon had stolen some of his master's ideas- which put the commissioners in the awkward position of sanctioning a theft - he was ignorant of the true core of animal magnetism. Lafayette wrote in the same vein, calling Deslon a traitor and Mesmer an honest man [6].

The commissioners obviously had a jolly time planning and carrying out the inquest, more often than not outdoors, in Franklin's vast gardens.



Anton Mesmer

A graphic account of one of their sessions is to be found in the diary kept by Franklin's grandson, Benjamin Franklin Bache, a fourteen-year-old boy just back from four years in a Geneva boarding school. Living at a time when adolescence had not yet been "discovered", Benny allowed himself to be good-humored, and his diary is a delight. Under the dateline of May 22, 1784, he notes:

"The commissioners are assembled today with M. Deslon, who, after having magnetized many sick persons, they are gone into the garden to magnetize some trees. I have been present at it. It thus occurred: M. Deslon has made many passes towards a tree with a cane, then they brought a blindfolded young man, whom M. Deslon had brought with him...They made him embrace several trees for two minutes. At the first three trees which he held in this way, he said that he felt a numbness which redoubled at each tree; finally, at the fourth, he remained by the tree and no longer answered; then he fell, and they carried

him upon the turf, where he made many singular contortions; then he suddenly arose."

The commissioners also experimented with cups of magnetized and plain water, and they tried their skills at impersonating Deslon to see if they were capable, when wearing his clothes, of magnetizing people. They were.

Two reports appeared in the course of the summer, one for the public, of which 20,000 copies were eagerly snapped up, and one for the eyes of Louis XVI only, which remained in manuscript form for fifteen years. This secret report dealt with the impact of animal magnetism on matters of a sexual nature. With great emphasis, and not a little condescension, it made the point that women, having less stable nerves than men, a more inflammable imagination, and a greater tendency to copy one another, were the predestined victims of such a system. "Touch them in one point, and you touch them everywhere," it said. There was furthermore the suspicion that older women patients were simply put to sleep, while the younger ones were submitted to titillations *delicieuses*. Hence, the report concluded, the practice of magnetism should be condemned on moral as well as medical grounds.

The report to the Academy of Sciences, read by the astronomer Jean-Sylvain Bailly and published in September 1784, opens a window on the methodology used by the Commission and its way of thinking in the days when clarity, reason, and light held their final sway:

"The first thing that struck us was the discrepancy between the means employed and the effects produced. On the one hand, violent convul-

London's Franklin House and Twyford's Gazebo

by Penelope Harshorne Batcheler

On their 1997 tour the Friends of Benjamin Franklin visited both Franklin's London home at 36 Craven Street and the Shipley Gazebo in the garden of Twyford House, where Franklin started his autobiography.

As the Craven Street house is about to undergo a structural rehabilitation and restoration the group was unable to enter the house, there being little light and some holes in the floors. Having been one of the restoration architects of Philadelphia's Franklin Court, I persuaded Anne Prescott Keigher of the Friends of Benjamin Franklin House to let me photograph the interior on a brief visit.



Craven Street fireplace - in need of repair
(photo: P.H. Batcheler)

Seeing the house was exciting. Most of the woodwork Franklin knew seems to survive: the stairs, paneling, cornices, window interior shutters and trim. The fireplace surrounds have largely disappeared, but the London restoration architect

Donald Insall will no doubt be able to reproduce them.

Everyone had the pleasure of seeing the Twyford gazebo. We could easily imagine Franklin seated with his back to the fireplace while enjoying the view of the sweeping lawn and garden through the glazed doorway and windows.



Friends enjoy scenic Twyford gazebo
(photo: P.H. Batcheler)

Both structures are "listed" as historically significant, of course, and their owners are thus responsible for their preservation. The private owner of the gazebo has his hands full maintaining the large Shipley house and garden as well as the gazebo. The Friends of Benjamin Franklin House have a \$1,850,000 project for which they have still to raise \$640,000. Clearly Americans are needed to help with the preservation and presentation of these structures.

Anyone wishing to contribute to the 36 Craven Street restoration should contact this tax-exempt charitable 501(c)(3) organization:

The Director
The Friends of Benjamin
Franklin House (USA)
Public Ledger Bldg., Ste. 846
Philadelphia, PA 19106-3474
Tel: (215)923-4966
Fax: (215)923-6113



Franklin on the Internet

Friends with access to the World Wide Web will be interested in looking at the following sites:

<http://www.english.udel.edu/lemay/franklin/>
"Benjamin Franklin: A Documentary History" is Friend Leo Lemay's exciting site, presenting a thorough chronological overview of Franklin's life and career.

<http://crystallmusic.com/history.html#Ben> is Friend Yatri's page devoted to "Benjamin Franklin and Glass Music" and the history of glass music. Yatri is a gifted glass armonica musician in her own right; you might enjoy the "sound bites" on her main page!

<http://www.fi.edu/franklin/> The Franklin Institute's "Benjamin Franklin: Glimpses of the Man" contains a timeline, a genealogy, and glimpses into Franklin's various roles as scientist, inventor, statesman, printer, philosopher, etc. Also includes educational activities geared toward children.

<http://www.rsa.uk/franklin/> is the address for the Franklin Centre, the group which is partly responsible for the Craven Street renovation (please see the accompanying article on this page). Thanks to Friend Bill Anderson for pointing out this important site.

<http://www.rsa.org.uk/projects/details.html?ID=23> is the Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures & Commerce's brief description of the restoration project. They are the other group under whose aegis the 36 Craven Street restoration is taking place. This organization is one that Franklin himself was invited to join in 1755.

Please let us know of other sites!

sions, long and repeated; on the other, simple touchings, a few gestures, a few signs. It was like fairyland; how could one man, disposing only of a wand, have such an effect on so many people?

"Our role was to keep cool, rational, open-eyed. To define in some way the nature of a fluid that escapes all our senses. The proof of its existence, we were told, is its action on live bodies, its power of curing. But Nature, as we know, also cures, often without remedies [this last thought an echo of Franklin's words in the letter quoted above]...

"The experiments we carried out on ourselves demonstrated that if we stopped concentrating, the effect evaporated. Children, devoid of preconceived notions, had no reaction and neither did the mentally disturbed, which is strange since they are often prey to convulsions and upset nerves. Magnetism missed the mark when we tried to use it to warm up cold feet or when we requested it to diagnose some ailments.

"Thus forced to give up on our search for physical proof, we had to investigate mental circumstances, operating now no longer as physicists but as philosophers. Examining subjects who had been blindfolded, we discovered we could influence them ourselves so that their answers were the same, whether they had been magnetized or not. This means we were dealing now with the power of imagination...We succeeded in manipulating the imagination. Without being touched or signalled, the

subjects who thought themselves magnetized felt pain, felt heat, a very great heat. In some cases, we provoked convulsions and what is known as crises. The subjects' imagination could be brought to the point of the loss of speech. It allowed us to produce all the so-called effects of magnetism, even the calming down of convulsions.

"Whereas magnetism appears nonexistent to us, we were struck by the power of two of our most astonishing faculties: imitation and imagination. Here are the seeds of a new science, that of the influence of the spiritual over the physical."

The conclusion of Bailly's report—which, it is often thought, was in reality written by Antoine Laurent Lavoisier—sounds almost in awe. In awe of this tremendous power they have stumbled upon, the power of one man's imagination to carry with it the imaginations of thousands of others, often, alas, for the worse. In a century that has seen Hitler and Stalin, this needs no elaboration, but in the days of the Enlightenment, the unleashing of such a power seemed overwhelming: "When the imagination speaks to the multitude," said the report, "the multitude will ignore dangers and obstacles. One man commands and the others are only his instruments...Man has the capacity to act on his peers, to shake their nervous system to the point of convulsions, without the help of any fluid. This is a dangerous phenomenon" [7].

Indeed, Lavoisier and Bailly, valuable, brilliant, rational scientists, would both lose their lives to the passions soon to be inflamed by a handful of charismatic orators. Bailly, good egghead that he was—his specialty nothing less than

the moons of Jupiter—threw himself with zest into the revolutionary politics, became the first mayor of Paris, tried to remain a moderate, and was eventually engulfed. Lavoisier kept clear of politics, lending only technical assistance to the new order, but he too was sent to the scaffold for having been a tax collector under the Old Regime—an honest one in his case, but that made no difference.

Days after the report's publication, Franklin wrote about it to his older grandson, Temple, who was then in London [8]. Well aware that this grandson, aged twenty-four, had joined one of Mesmer's Societies of Harmony—whether out of conviction, curiosity, admiration for Lafayette, or a desire to assert his independence—Franklin was careful not to gloat too much: "The Mesmer report...makes a great deal of talk. Everybody agrees that it is well written; but many wonder at the force of imagination describ'd in it, as occasioning convulsions, etc. and some fear that consequences may be drawn from it by infidels to weaken our faith in some of the miracles of the New Testament...Some think it will put an end to mesmerism. But there is wonderful deal of credulity in the world, and deceptions as absurd have supported themselves for ages."

Mesmerism had certainly been dealt a blow. An engraving of the time shows Franklin surrounded by his colleagues and carrying the report, whose rays cause the tub to overturn. A blindfolded, scantily draped woman is about to fall out of it, while people flee in confusion. Mesmer and Deslon are flying away, respectively on a broomstick and a winged donkey.

Mesmer, of course, protested vigorously to the Parliament and the

Faculty, and offered to mesmerize a horse or two as irrefutable proof. Mesmerism remained in practice in France for a while, especially in the provinces, and its guru kept the allegiance of a number of famous people—Lafayette, for instance, who would attempt some years later, to Jefferson's undisguised horror, to introduce mesmerism into the United States ("A compound of fraud and folly" were Jefferson's words [9].) But the elan had gone out of the movement, a schism developed among its practitioners, new leaders captured it, moving from healing to spiritualism, in which guise it would last well into the nineteenth century. Mesmer, in disgust, set off for England and Italy in hopes of a new start which never came about. He died in obscurity in 1815, not far from where he was born, near Lake Constance in Germany. As to the unfortunate Dr. Deslon, a true martyr to the cause, he dropped dead soon after the 1784 report, ironically while being magnetized.

A pro-Mesmer versifier made sure he had the last word. His poem proclaimed that by inventing his famous rod Franklin had indeed snatched lighting from the heavens; Mesmer, however, a bolder man, had gone right into the abode of the gods and brought back to mankind the secret of their divine wisdom. Safely back in Philadelphia by then, Franklin must have remained unaware of the latest in partisan one-upmanship. As far as he was concerned, the affair was closed, and he refused to have his name connected with any more polemics on the subject. It was surely to this foray into medicine that he owed his little-known election to the Medical Society of London, an institution whose membership has otherwise been restricted to physicians.

Had he lived in our age of satellite dishes, Franklin would have enjoyed,

in January 1790, a few months before his death, the production of a new opera in Vienna. He would have chuckled at a scene where a doctor, who is really a chambermaid in disguise, miraculously revives two dying men, who are really not dying at all. And how does this fake doctor do it? By waving an iron wand and singing:

Questo è il pezzo di calamita,
Pietra mesmerica,
ch'ebbe origine nell'Alemagna
che poi si celebra là in Francia fu.
This is the magnet,
That mesmeric stone,
Which originated in Germany
And then became so famous in
France.

Then come the convulsions:

How they writhe about, twisting and
turning,
They're almost banging their heads
on the floor.

And finally the cure:

Ah, hold up their heads!
...Hold tight, hold tight,
Tight, tight,
Go on, now you are freed from
death.

Was this a belated tribute to Mesmer, a friend of Mozart's father? Or, the opera being *Così fan Tutte*, where all is deception and trickery, was it a joke at Mesmer's expense? We shall never know.

ENDNOTES

6. Letter from Lafayette to Franklin, before June 12, 1784. Copy in Franklin Collection, Yale University; original at American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia.
7. Bailly's "Expose des experiences" was read on September 4 and printed on September 24.
8. William Temple Franklin (1760-1823) was the illegitimate son

of Franklin's illegitimate son, William, former Governor of New Jersey.
9. Letter from Thomas Jefferson to the Rev. William Smith, February 19, 1791. The Papers of Thomas Jefferson. Princeton Univ. Press. 1950 et seq. XIX, p.112.



Welcome to the following new members:

Life:

James Hayase; Tokyo Japan
Noriyuki Uenami; Tokyo Japan

Sustaining:

Mark Biddle; Philadelphia, PA
Roy Brocksmith; Sherman Oaks,
CA
Elizabeth Glascock; Santa Fe, NM
Ehsan Zaman; London England

Friend:

Penelope Batchelor; Phila., PA
Thomas Byrne; New Haven, CT
Carole Enfield; Stonington, CT
David Enfield; Stonington, CT
Jeremy J. Fitz-Patrick; Newport
News, VA
Mary Helen George; Waco, TX
Elizabeth Jouve; Somerville, MA
Richard Kithil; Louisville, CO
Bill Price; Renton, WA
Ben Franklin Elementary School;
Wichita Falls, TX
Franklin Elementary School;
Franklin, CT

Individual:

Marvin Alexander; Ft. Worth, TX
Kermit Lamar Black; Hickory, NC
Burton E. Collins; Buena Park, CA
Manuel M. Villas-Boas; London,
England

Member Profile:

Pamela A. Hartsock,
La Mesa, California
poor-richard@juno.com

Books/Articles Written: 1991 Master's thesis was comparing/contrasting BF's Autobiography with Jonathan Edwards' Personal Narrative. These men had striking similarities in the ways they portrayed themselves as young men and the ways they portrayed themselves to the public about their concerns for the then-new nation; PhD dissertation (in progress) on history and culture of the Autobiography.

Collections: I own 50 (and counting) different Franklin readers, children's books, picture books (mainly focusing on portraying BF to young audience); I own 160 (and counting) different editions and printings of Franklin's Autobiography; I collect anything with Franklin on it. Items I have with Franklin on them or with his picture or caricature: men's boxer shorts, a cigarette lighter, nutcracker, two money clips, money banks, beer bottle, lottery ticket, postcards, a board game piece, picture frame, car air fresheners, perfume and liquor bottles, coffee mugs, etc, etc.

Special area of interest: Obviously, studying his Autobiography and history thereof; dismissing the idea that he was a ladies' man or womanizer, at least in the negative sense in which he has been portrayed historically; making my whole life Franklin. If I could make "Franklin dreams" come true, I would be hired at the Huntington Library in San Marino, California for \$30,000 per year with the sole purpose of guarding the only surviving manuscript of Franklin's Autobiography, and I would add to or

amend Melvin Buxbaum's 2 volume Franklin Bibliography (everything written by and about Franklin). I also chose an Internet provider based on the capability to have Franklinfan as an email address! *[Pamela has since re-thought that decision, but she still shows her true "fan" status with her new "poor-richard" user name! - Ed.]*

Special thanks to our Life Members!

Jackson C. Boswell; Arlington, VA
Elly Fitzig; Wichita, KS
Michael L. George; Dallas, TX
Doug Hall; Cincinnati, OH
James Hayase; Tokyo, Japan
Mr. & Mrs. David A. Jones;
Louisville, KY
Frank B. Jones; Bloomington, IN
Benjamin Franklin Kahn; Chevy
Chase, MD
Stuart E. Karu; Cape Elizabeth, ME
John T. Kelly; Penn Valley, PA
E. Philip Krider; Tucson, AZ
J.A. Leo Lemay; Newark, DE
Martin Mangold; Rockville, MD
Michel Roubinet; Ozoir La Ferriere
France
Deane M. Sherman; Rockville, MD
Malcolm Smith; Highland Park, IL
Noriyuki Uenami; Tokyo, Japan
George Franklin Waters; Rochester,
MN



Franklin Tour

*Join Friends for this Special
Occasion*

We have organized another world class tour to one of the many cities Benjamin Franklin in his long and illustrious career called home. We have done Boston. We did Paris. We last explored Franklin's London.

And now we are going to Franklin's Historic Philadelphia—with a one day incursion into Franklin's Historic Delaware as it is exhibited at the world renowned Winterthur Museum, Garden, and Library. Reserve the dates—October 7-11, 1998, Wednesday evening to Sunday noon.

For those cynics who will undoubtedly say about a Philadelphia Franklin tour, "Been there and done that," let me warn you that this is a tour you will not want to miss. Just as we opened up places in Boston, Williamsburg, Paris, and London that even the best tour detective could not find, we are doing the same in Philadelphia.

On our Philadelphia outing you will learn just what we know about Franklin's custom-designed house on Franklin Court. You will learn particulars about the most restored building in America—Independence Hall. You will see the vast Franklin and Franklin era collections held by Winterthur, the University of Pennsylvania, and the American Philosophical Society. You will stand on sites where Franklin and his associates made history—Bartram Gardens, Fort Mifflin, and Carpenter's Hall, where Congress first met and Franklin colluded in the formation of an alliance with France.

And, as usual, we will have delightful repasts in unusual settings such as Philadelphia's unique Franklin Inn Club House, gathering place of litterateurs since 1902, to carry on tradition of reading and inquiry established by Franklin in his famous Junto. And we will meet such interesting folk as Benjamin Franklin DuPont, direct descendant and an energetic new global business director for DuPont.

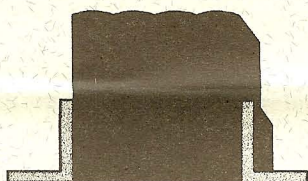
If you have not received a copy of the tour schedule, please contact Kathy DeLuca at 215.BEN.0300 or by e-mail at fof@benfranklin2006.org. She can answer questions about the tour and, if you would like to talk about various components of the tour program, I would like to hear from you as well at 215.765.2418 or at e-mail: ltise@ibm.net.

I hope to see you on this unique glimpse of Franklin's Historic Philadelphia and of the great treasures of Winterthur.

-- Larry E. Tise



Good Reads



The Winter, 1998 issue of *Pennsylvania History* (Vol. 65, No.1, edited by Bill Pencak) is a special issue devoted to "Franklin and His Enemies." These papers were originally a series of lectures given for Friends.

Benjamin Franklin: A Biographical Companion by Jennifer L. Durham is the first title in the new ABC-CLIO Biographical Companions series, aimed at high-school level readers and above. Booklist (3/1/98) says Durham's work "presents Franklin's life and achievements in an encyclopedic A-Z format, along with selections from his writings, a chronology, a bibliography, and an index." Publisher: ABC-CLIO, 1997. Hardcover; 312 p. Cost: \$55.00.

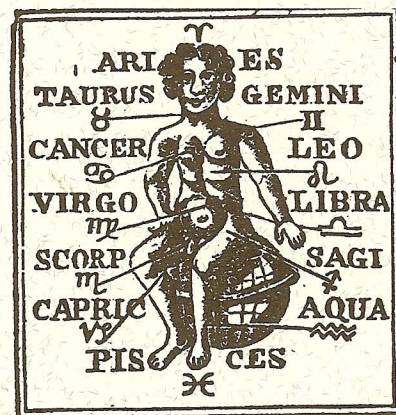
London Blood is the sixth Benjamin Franklin mystery from Friend Robert Lee Hall. *Mystery Newsletter* has praised this work as "The perfect combination of history and mystery." In this volume, BF helps to unravel a murder mystery, which takes him from Bridewell Prison, to Oxford, to an isolated country estate. "Ultimately Franklin unmasks the truth in a fierce electrical storm, where his scientific knowledge helps him defeat a deadly foe." Publisher: St. Martin's Press, 1997. Hardcover; 208 p. Cost: \$21.95

The Radical Enlightenments of Benjamin Franklin by Douglas Anderson is called "a fascinating intellectual biography" by reviewer William Weisberger. The book covers the literary dimensions and the ethical and religious concepts of Franklin's early life, Franklin's scientific thinking, and his views on economics and politics. Weisberger opines that this "impeccably written" work has "much to recommend it.....this suggestive and synthetic study offers a new and refreshing way of looking at Franklin's early career." "The book is based on primary sources, contains a valuable bibliography, and is closely footnoted. Anderson's study will assuredly be recognized as a classic in the field of Franklin scholarship." Publisher: Johns Hopkins Press, 1997. Hardcover; 261 p. Cost: \$39.95.



Caricature of Mesmer as a Hydra

Mark your calendars!



Calendar of Events for 1998-1999

October 7-11, 1998. The Friends of Franklin's tour, "Benjamin Franklin's Historic Philadelphia and Winterthur." Please see the information in this issue (p. 6) and sign up now!!

April 16 through September 6, 1999. "Franklin and His Friends: Portraying the Man of Science in Eighteenth-Century America." The National Portrait Gallery, Washington D.C., will present a groundbreaking exhibition that will bridge the disciplines of science and art. (Stay tuned! A fuller description of this show will appear in the next issue of the Gazette.)

May 16-24, 1999. "John Bartram Tercentenary." A variety of events will take place in Philadelphia, including a Symposium on Ben's dear friend, explorer/naturalist John Bartram. Sponsored by a number of organizations, these activities will be highlighted in a future issue of the Gazette.

(If you know of events that our Friends would be interested in, please submit them to the Gazette.)

Meet the Franklin Papers Team!

by Claude-Anne Lopez

The *Franklin Gazette* proposes to introduce in the next few issues the people who are laboriously editing the great man's papers at Yale. The order of presentation will have nothing to do with rank, seniority, or the alphabet. It is purely haphazard.

Let me explain first that we are at Yale, but not primarily supported by Yale. The university gives us space, heat, light, and the use of its library facilities; it handles our payroll, but does not contribute directly to our expenses. If this edition is prepared at Yale rather than at the American Philosophical Society in Philadelphia where most of the original documents are located, it is because William Mason, an alumnus, bequeathed to his *alma mater* his fabulous collection of eighteenth-century rare books, pamphlets, brochures, and prints, an incomparable tool for research. We are lodged in a spacious suite on the second floor of Sterling Library. Friends of Franklin and their own friends are always welcome to visit.

This issue features Ellen Cohn who joined the Papers in 1979 and is now one of the Senior Associate Editors.

The French have an expression for a person's alternate possibility in life. They call it his or her *violon d'Ingres*, since the famous painter was almost equally gifted as a violin player. Ellen's *violon d'Ingres* is indeed music. Apart from an inherited Steinway grand piano dating from 1926, she has managed to squeeze into her apartment two pump organs, two guitars, three mandolins, two banjos, five concertinas, a silver flute, plus a number of recorders, whistles, and ocarinas. And those are only the western instruments. It comes as no surprise, then, that she has devoted time and energy to Franklin's involvement with music.

She has tracked down the texts of all the songs that Franklin composed, as well as their tunes.

A good editor has to be something of a detective, and what can be more fun than cracking codes? A number of them are to be found among Franklin's papers, some of which had remained mysterious until Ellen tackled them. In the case of the code used by the agent of Congress in Holland, a code for which we had the key but not the way to use it, Ellen figured out what was to be done, and those documents are now clear. She also discovered that the code had been devised by John Paul Jones. One code was never actually used by Franklin, since neither he nor John Adams nor their secretaries could understand the convoluted instructions sent to them by the inventor – a member of Congress' Committee for Secret Correspondence. Ellen cracked it; its key was the French word for thistle, "chardon."

The printing press that Franklin had set up in Passy intrigued Ellen and she had no peace of mind until she had thoroughly understood the organization of that press, and identified all the types used in it, including several fonts that Franklin ordered cut especially for him. One of these was a *sloped roman* type based on a model designed in the 1690's by the French Academy, but never executed.

Finally, Ellen is fascinated by Franklin's lifelong love of the sea and interest in charting the course of the Gulf Stream, so important for whalers and navigators. There are three generations of that chart. The first one appeared in London in 1768, under Franklin's care, but strangely, she believes, in a small edition of only twenty or so copies. The second one, engraved by the French cartographer Le Rouge, is still undated, but was probably published with Franklin's help in 1780. One

newly-discovered copy that Franklin gave the French Minister of the Marine is to be found in Paris at the Archives Nationales, with Franklin's own marginal notes. As to the third, reengraved for the APS, it appeared in the Transactions for 1786, serving as an illustration for Franklin's last work, his *Maritime Observations*.

Ellen's published work, outside the Yale edition, consists of "Benjamin Franklin and Traditional Music," in J.A. Leo Lemay, ed., *Reappraising Benjamin Franklin: a Retrospective* (Newark, DE: 1993); "Benjamin Franklin, Benjamin Vaughan, and Political, Miscellaneous, and Philosophical Pieces" in Balestra and Sampietro, eds., *Benjamin Franklin, an American Genius* (Rome: 1993); and the forthcoming "As Familiar as the Man in the Moon: the Representation of Franklin in French Prints," to be published this year by the North American Print Conference. One of the projects Ellen is responsible for is the *Bagatelles* Franklin printed at Passy; these will appear in Volume 34 of the Papers.



In Memorium

Bruce H. Yenawine
1949-1997

Dedicated Friend of Franklin and author of "Benjamin Franklin's Legacy of Virtue: the Franklin Trusts of Boston and Philadelphia" (Ph.D. Dissertation, Syracuse Univ., 1995).



Friends Respond -

To the question: "How do you think Franklin would celebrate his 300th Birthday?"

"He would have gotten out of his cask of Madeira wine, dried off, and gone to a travel agent to plan a tour of the USA! How I would have loved to go along and hear his comments! He and Clinton would have understood one another!"

Dr. Ronald T. Combs, Chicago, IL
(von-dan-kev@att.net)

"Propped up at his computer answering his e-mail!"

Phil Greenslet, Reisterstown, MD
(Pwoodgreen@aol.com)

"Surrounded by his friends."

Richard Kithil, Louisville, CO
(rkithil@ix.netcom.com)



Genealogy for Friends

A genealogy service is now being offered by the Friends of Franklin, Inc., for individuals wishing to trace their roots to Benjamin Franklin. The data is based primarily on research generously provided by Franklin Bache Satterthwaite, Friends member and direct descendant, and we hope that families will update us frequently. For information on specific family ties, member discounts, and an estimate of fees, please send inquiries along with a self-addressed, stamped envelope to:

Elly Fitzig
825 Linden Court
Wichita, KS 67206-4005

Changes at Friends of Franklin

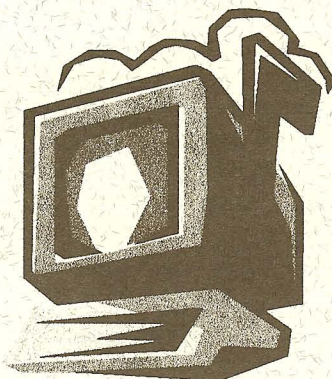
Friends of Franklin has recently entered a period of transition. This double issue is meant to "catch up" our readers on what is happening in the organization, and in the world of Franklin.

Alison Lewis has taken over the job of laying out the newsletter. This issue was produced using a fairly limited newsletter production program in MS Works. We hope that our next number will have a fresh new "professional" look to it, when we obtain the PageMaker program.

If you have articles or items you think may be of interest to other Friends, please contact one of the members of the newsletter coordination team, or send your materials to one of the new addresses below. **The next newsletter deadline is August 15, 1998.** Material on disk in MS Word format is most appreciated.

Please update your address book with the following information:

The Friends of Franklin, Inc.
Post Office Box 40048
Philadelphia, PA 19106
215-BEN-0300 (215-236-0300)
Fax: 215-440-3423
E-mail: fof@benfranklin2006.org



Friends of Franklin

Ralph Elliot, President



Newsletter Coordination:

Kathleen DeLuca

Claude-Anne Lopez

Roy Goodman

Alison Lewis

About the illustrations

The block illustration at the bottom left of p.1, and the decorative borders on pp. 5, 7, 8, and 9 were actually used by Franklin and other printers during colonial times. They come from the book *A Dictionary of Colonial American Printers' Ornaments and Illustrations* by Elizabeth Carroll Reilly, Worcester: American Antiquarian Society, 1975. The "Man of Signs" appearing on p. 7 with our calendar was an illustration used by Franklin for his almanac. It also comes from the Reilly volume.

The portrait of Anton Mesmer on p. 2 is a copper engraving by Meyer; it was found in the book *Anton Mesmer* by D.M. Walmsley, London: Robert Hale, 1967. The hydra illustration on p. 7 is from the same book; it is an anonymous print based on medieval representations.

The photographs on p. 3 are courtesy of Penelope Harshorne Batcheler, and were taken on the 1997 Friends of Franklin tour to London.



Hear Ye! Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

Don't miss the 1998 Friends of Franklin Tour
to Historic Philadelphia and nearby Winterthur!

October 7 - 11, 1998

*Enjoy "behind the scenes" tours with Franklin experts!
Meet with other Franklin scholars, descendants, and fans!
Walk in the footsteps of Benjamin Franklin!
Eat, drink, and be merry!*

★★★★★ **Get the details! See page 6 of this newsletter!** ★★★★★