

Franklin Gazette

Volume 8, Number 4, Winter, 1998

Friends of Franklin, Inc. P.O. Box 40048, Philadelphia, PA 19106

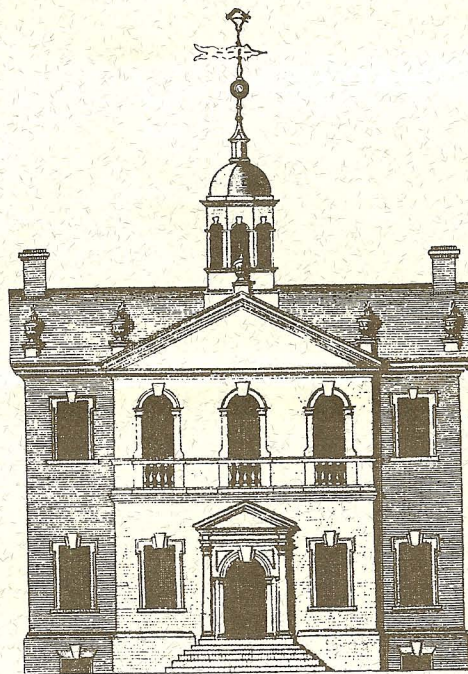
"A good conscience is a continual Christmas" -- B. Franklin, 1741

President's Message

-- Ralph Gregory Elliot

It seems there's hardly a subject of human discourse these days in which Benjamin Franklin's name is not invoked. I was having breakfast recently with one of the nation's preeminent authorities on impeachment -- a man who knew nothing of my Franklin connection -- who quoted Franklin as saying the only reason the impeachment provision was included in the Constitution was to scotch the idea that assassination was the only recourse when presidents were faithless to their office. He couldn't cite the locus of the quote, and I can't find it. Can any of you?

The other day over lunch, a friend and I were discussing others' early planning for millennium New Year's celebrations December 31, 1999. My friend suddenly asked, "How would Franklin have celebrated the millennium?" A fascinating question! I have no idea. But you can be certain his active, probing mind would have been busily at work devising some appropriate commemoration, and probably one of both practical and lasting value at that, like finding a solution to the Y2K computer spectre looming ever larger on the horizon. How do you think Franklin would have celebrated the advent of 2000? Write the Gazette with your inspired ruminations and we'll publish some of them in the next issue.



Carpenter's Hall, Philadelphia

One thing is for sure: Franklin would have been at the cutting edge of the electronic super-highway. When the Friends had their splendid October 10 dinner in Philadelphia's 1774 jewel, Carpenter's Hall, together with our friends from the Independence Hall Association, the latter gave us a tour of the historic structure that included the second floor. And there, in a small office, a crowd gathered around a computer watching in delight as an infinite variety of history-related Web sites were visited by the man at the console.

Can we not picture the inestimable pleasure Franklin would have experienced e-mailing Collinson, Lord Kames, Hume and the French philosophes, thus avoiding the months of waiting for his letters to arrive in Europe and their responses to reach Philadelphia? The ravenous devouring of books sent for and received from abroad would be replaced by the click of a mouse bringing to Franklin's wondering eyes the texts of the latest proceedings of the Royal Society and the several French Academies. And who can say how much happier, more content and less abandoned poor Deborah would have felt if she could have communicated instantaneously with the Great Man on Craven Street. The mind boggleth!

The Friends continue to add friends to their number, both at home and abroad, with new membership recruitment initiatives underway -- initiatives in which your role in introducing two new members apiece is

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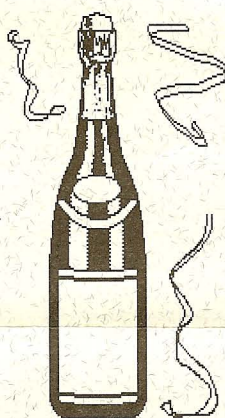
The Franklin Institute reports that
their website has been updated as
a result of Seymour Gluck's
research findings, which were
reported in the last issue of
The Franklin Gazette.
Check out this interesting and
educational site at:
<http://www.fi.edu/franklin/>

President's Message - cont. from p. 1

central. We continue to be involved
in Franklin-related events with co-celebrants, continue work on our own
Web site, and continue planning both
in the short term for the Scotland trip
next September and in the long term
for the Franklin tercentenary in 2006.

Let me close with every good wish to
all our Friends for a happy and prosperous
new year following a joyous
holiday season.

Cheers!



*Best Wishes for the
New Year!*

Report: The "Franklin in Philadelphia" Tour

-- Mike George

An excited, interested and intelligent group descended on Franklin Court October 8 to re-enter the 18th Century with an entertaining description by Penny Batcheler. Amongst the carefully preserved remains, we saw Franklin's modest homesite, re-created Post Office and Print Shop. The lack of grandeur of the surroundings

was a sharp contrast to Monticello (and the bankrupt Jefferson), and a reminder of Franklin's frugality, desire to avoid debt ("that species of slavery"), and to cause no jealousy that might harm his effectiveness. We passed a tour group of bored high school students, who reminded us "gray hairs" of the need to more effectively transmit the beneficial message of industry and courage contained in the Autobiography. (Deane Sherman has already sprung into action.) We then walked around the area, and saw unique statues and images of Franklin. After lunch at the Franklin Club, Nick Gianopulos and Penny prepared us for a tour of Independence Hall, learning that Trumbull's famous painting of the Declaration of Independence was depicted in the wrong room! The tiny size of the room contrasted with the might of the world's most powerful nation, which was arrayed to strangle the infant Republic that was born here. It was thrilling to stand where men "struggled for that which is most precious to mankind, his right of self government" (1). Roy Goodman then led us to one of Franklin's many great public works, the American Philosophical Society. There we saw original 18th Century manuscripts. As a former physics student, it was with great awe that I held his "Experiments and Observations on Electricity" and reflected on the great contribution that his first lucid explanations had made to our life. He never saw the electric motor, electric light, telephone, or computers, but these boons to civilization all had their origins with this triumph of the experimental method! A very full day was capped off with Franklinian, good fellowship over wine and good food provided by our gracious host Larry Tise at his charming, authentic and book crammed row house.

Day Two began with a tour of lovely Winterthur. After an excellent video presentation by H. F. DuPont, Claude Anne Lopez treated us to a remarkable series of anecdotes concerning Franklin's descendants. We saw his inventive and assertive genes publishing a radical re-

cont. on p. 3

Rept. on Friends Philadelphia Tour

- cont. from p. 2

publican newspaper, etc, etc. Winterthur is an 18th Century architectural time capsule. One memorable example was the bedroom of Mr. Francis DuPont, replete with a huge period fireplace with iron arm and cooking pots, escritoire with quill pens, period lamps, etc. (regrettably the lights were very low, come back in two years when upgrades are complete!). Benjamin Franklin DuPont, a direct descendant of both Ben and Irene joined us for a sumptuous dinner with an entertaining speech. It was wonderful to see a wealthy young man "not above his trade" industrious and active in his great ancestors' business, as both his famous namesakes would have wished!

Day Three began with a visit to Fort Mifflin, site of a historic rear guard action that delayed the British, allowing Washington time to retreat to Valley Forge, preserving the tiny army and the hopes and progress of mankind. We saw models of the Chevaux de Frises, clever submerged pikes that damaged and delayed the British Man O'War. Then on to the garden of the famous botanist John Bartram where so many plants and trees important to a new nation were cultivated, as well as engraved evidence

of 18th century Deism. Benjamin Franklin Kahn and Bill Zucker then laid on a luncheon on the Penn campus, and Deane Sherman discussed the history and goals of the Friends of Franklin. We then saw more interesting Frankliniana of the Curtis Collection. The tour reached its crescendo with a tour and dinner in Carpenters Hall. Jonathan Schmalzbach gave us a very informed and interesting tour, e'en to the summit of the Cupola where many a hardy Franklinophile climbed through the 18th century timbers to the summit of the Hall where met the First Continental Congress. Here it was that Franklin met Bonvouloir, and began his crowning achievement, the French Alliance that eventually led to Yorktown and victory. As we sat in the small room surrounded by memories of that tiny band that risked all, the reality and hazard of their venture was borne out by Jonathan and Mark Biddle's excellent lecture. On Day Four we all departed after a wonderful brunch at the City Tavern, where the good fellowship, lively and intelligent conversation and good cheer so much loved by Franklin was much in evidence, as it had been for the whole tour. The tour gave us insight into Washington's homage to Franklin: "If to be venerated for benevolence, if to be admired for talents, if to be esteemed for patriotism, if to be loved for philanthropy can gratify the human mind, you Sir, must have the pleasing consolation to know you have not lived in vain."

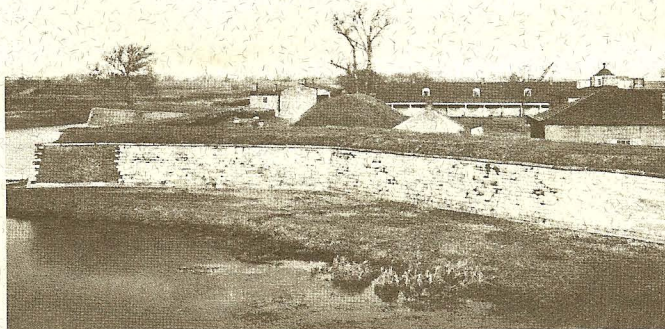
(1) Letter from Jefferson to Adams dated Jan 21, 1812: My favorite Jefferson letter! -- author.

Friends Tour of Scotland!

"Benjamin Franklin's Historic Edinburgh and Scotland" tour deadline is fast approaching. Don't miss this exciting, educational, and entertaining excursion that will take place from September 23-29, 1999. As has been the case in our previous Franklin tours, we will be enjoying behind-the-scenes visits to various institutions and have planned a tour that you will remember for years to come!

Please send your registration form and a \$300 deposit to Kathy DeLuca, The Friends of Franklin, Inc., P.O. Box 40048, Philadelphia, PA 19106. Credit card registrations may be faxed to 215-440-3423.

Plan to reunite with old Friends and to meet new Friends as we explore together and share our knowledge of Franklin's beloved Scotland!



Historic Fort Mifflin, near Philadelphia

Friends of Franklin Support Outreach to Youth

We are delighted to report that several members of the Friends have agreed to serve on a Youth Outreach Committee for the purpose of sharing and investigating ideas and developing a plan to spread Franklin's message to young people.

Committee members are:

Deane Sherman, Chair, Washington, D.C.;
Burton (Gene) Collins, Buena Park, CA;
James Gassaway, Swarthmore, PA;
Michael George, Dallas, TX;
Pamela Hartsock, Lakeside, CA;
Eddie McCauley, Wichita Falls, TX; and
Michael Newcomb, Cave Creek, AZ.

Friends are invited to send their ideas or suggestions for youth outreach programs to Kathy DeLuca. All suggestions will be forwarded to the Youth Outreach Committee for review and consideration. Target date for completion of a plan is January 17th, 1999. If you would like to be involved in the youth outreach program, please let us know!



Prophet and Loss: Benjamin Franklin, the Jews, and Cyber-bigotry Part II.

By Claude-Anne Lopez

The following is the conclusion of the article which began in the previous issue of the Franklin Gazette. This essay appeared in the Jan. 27, 1997 issue of The New Republic. It is also scheduled to appear in a somewhat different form in a forthcoming book of Claude-Anne Lopez's essays entitled The Franklin I Know. -- Ed.

The forgery was not even a good one. A stylistic analysis shows that the language of the "Prophecy" is not that of the eighteenth century. It contains anachronisms such as the Jews' longing for their "homeland," not a term employed at the time, but a term made current, for those who cared, by the Balfour Declaration in 1917. More important, the content of this statement imputed to Franklin is utterly at odds with Franklin's well-known principles of tolerance, especially in religious concerns.

The archives of Congregation Mikveh Israel in Philadelphia contain a subscription paper dated April 30, 1788, according to which Franklin, along with forty-four other citizens of all faiths, made a contribution toward relieving the debt incurred by the congregation in building a synagogue. The appeal may well have been written by Franklin himself. He had been such a vigorous fund-raiser over the years that the first thought of the Hebrew Society in distress must have been to enlist his help. The preamble of this text declares that even though the Hebrews, commonly called Israelites, worship God in a different manner, "the enlightened citizens of Philadelphia" will surely want to assist them. Indeed, many prominent Philadelphia names appear on that list: Rittenhouse, Ingress, Rush, Muhlenberg, Biddle, Cowperthwait, Benezet and others. Franklin donated five pounds, and this was, with two others, the largest donation.

Poor Franklin. Nobody loved a good hoax more than he did. He published his first at 16, his last less

than a month before he died. And his hoaxes generally had benevolent purposes. Who can forget Franklin's most charming literary creation, Polly Baker, the spunky lass who not only bore many children out of wedlock but spoke up in a Connecticut court in defense of all seduced girls? The outspoken middle-aged widow Silence Dogood — the persona that he adopted in adolescence — pleaded in favor of education for girls, tolerance, freedom of speech and other worthy causes in a series of essays that the young Franklin slipped before dawn under the door of his brother's printing shop. And at the end of his life he produced the speech supposedly delivered by Sidi Mehemet Ibrahim to the Divan of Algiers in defense of the traditional custom of enslaving the Christians captured by Barbary pirates. In a biting parody of pro-slavery rhetoric, Sidi Mehemet wonders how his country could possibly obtain the necessary produce without Christian slaves. "Must we not then be our own slaves?" he asks. "Isn't more compassion due to Muslims than to Christian dogs?"

He was joking. But other people were not, and the story of "Franklin's Prophecy" does not end here. There were two problems with Charles Beard's refutation. The first was his assertion that never in his life had Franklin expressed anti-Semitic views. In truth, Franklin did use anti-Semitic language twice. Both instances were in an expression of frustration with a man who, Jewish or not, had behaved in an obnoxious manner.

The offending gentleman was Jean de Neufville, an Amsterdam merchant and banker who, back in 1779, had promised to raise a loan in the Netherlands for the American cause, after a similar attempt by another banker had failed. Franklin had turned to this "self-interested vain promoter" because he was reluctant to be forever milking the French Treasury. Neufville's original demands had been extravagant. And the promised loan never materialized.

Two years later, John Adams, in Holland at the time, found himself unpleasantly embroiled with this same Neufville, and on November 26, 1781, Franklin saw fit to warn his colleague: "I believe him to be as much a Jew as any in Jerusalem..." A month later, commenting on the document that he had sent Adams to back up his charges, Franklin elaborated sarcastically: "By this time I fancy your Excellency is satisfied that I was wrong in supposing J. de Neufville as much a Jew as any in Jerusalem, since Jacob was not content with any percents, but took the whole of his Brother Esau's Birthright: and his posterity did the same by the Canaanites, and cut their throats in the bargain, which in my conscience I do not think Mr. J. de Neufville has the least inclination to do by us, while he can get anything by our being alive."

The second problem with Beard's splendid refutation was that it appeared in *The Jewish Frontier*, which made it unlikely that the historical correction would reach the general public. And there the matter rested for two years, until a speech by Fiorello La Guardia. On March 3, 1937, New York's colorful mayor addressed a luncheon of the Women's Division of the American Jewish Congress. He suggested in his speech that the "brown-shirted fanatic who is menacing the peace of the world" be displayed in a chamber of horrors at the upcoming New York World's Fair.

The German Embassy reacted with indignation, and the very next day Secretary of State Cordell Hull expressed regrets over "the use of language by any American citizen calculated to offend a friendly power." Questioned by the press, the feisty and impenitent La Guardia stood by his statement and added some. At this point everybody jumped into the fray: the mayor's allies and the mayor's enemies, German-American organizations and a number of concerned citizens whose views were reported in the columns of the *New York Times*. But nothing could equal the pitch of fury reached by the Ger-

man press: threats of a boycott of the World's Fair unless La Guardia were removed from office, slurs on the mayor's partial Jewish ancestry, a picture showing his resemblance to a gorilla, the accusation of being an Obergangster, and so on.

And Franklin in all this? His "Prophecy" was trotted out once more, warmly praised and declared in Germany to represent the views of an elder American statesman on the brink of death. Under the headline "FRANKLIN WAS RIGHT," *Der Angriff*, pretending that it had just come into possession of the document thanks to a reader, published a complete translation of it on March 9, 1937. *Die Deutsche Allgemeine Zeitung* did the same thing on the same day, stating that "the Jews will devour America."

The following weeks of that agitated month of March saw two different developments: Mussolini's press took up the cudgels in its turn and the American intelligentsia woke up to the seriousness of the situation. If Duce had concluded his alliance with Hitler in 1936. By early 1937, he felt it was time to drag his basically tolerant countrymen into a closer alignment with their formidable partner to the north. The La Guardia fracas provided the perfect pretext for the opening of an anti-Semitic campaign.

On March 20, the chairman of the Banca d'Italia sent Mussolini a letter quoting the *Deutsche Allgemeine Zeitung* to the effect that the Jews would devour America. It was enough to set the ball rolling. Dino Alfieri, the Minister of Popular Culture, cabled the Italian Embassy in Washington in 1938 to obtain more background on the interesting Franklin testimonial. The embassy's response has not been found, but the *Corriere della Sera* in Milan ran an article titled "Benjamin Franklin's terrible anathema against the Jews." Rome's *Popolo d'Italia* went even further, with comments that the United States were indeed in a dreadful mess because the Jews had been allowed to take over. Italians, beware!

In a comic piece of escalation, the German propaganda machine elevated Franklin to the presi-

dency of the United States. It was as president of the United States that Franklin was referred to by Rudolf Hess, Deputy Leader of the Reich, in addresses to the workmen of the freshly conquered Sudetenland in Czechoslovakia, on November 30 and December 2, 1938. Truth, of course, was of no interest to the dictators. Mussolini had proclaimed that "the regime needs myths, not history" and Hitler had asserted that "a lie is believed because of the unconditional and insolent inflexibility with which it is propagated."

In the United States, however, the search for the truth about "Franklin's Prophecy" was finally resumed in earnest. American scholars began to speak up. On March 10, 1937, three years and five weeks after the birth of the canard, *The New York Times* gave full play to the imposture and published Beard's refutation of 1935. By November, 1938, seven prominent scholars, the cream of colonial historians, joined forces to publish, under the auspices of the International Benjamin Franklin Society, a fifteen-page pamphlet titled *Benjamin Franklin Vindicated, An Exposure of the Franklin "Prophecy" by American Scholars*. They reaffirmed the mythical nature of Pinckney's diary, exposed the grossness of the forgery and deplored the way a lie can spread and gain credence. It was perhaps a sign of the times that only one of the seven scholars, J. Henry Smythe Jr., saw fit to remark that "this libel of the Jewish race is unjust both to Jews and to the name and fame of Franklin." The other six, among them Charles Beard, Henry Butler Allen (the director of the Franklin Institute), Alfred Rigling (the librarian of the Franklin Institute) and Carl Van Doren, concentrated only on defending Franklin.

For the New York gubernatorial campaign of 1938, the Vindication proved to be too little too late to discourage the use of anti-Semitism as a political weapon. A group of Republican supporters of Thomas Dewey, who was running against the incumbent (and Jewish) governor, Herbert Lehman, deposited quantities of copies of the "Prophecy" in trains,

buses, on car windshields, in waiting rooms and lavatories, going as far as sending them through the mail. This tactic evoked numerous letters of protest, some of them published in the major newspapers, and the dirty trick backfired. It may even have been a factor in Dewey's loss of the election.

That same year saw the opening of what would be a bitter and protracted struggle between William Dudley Pelley and the North Carolina authorities. The Silver Shirts' financial enterprises were in violation of the state's securities laws, and Pelley, who had received a suspended sentence in 1935, was charged with parole violation. More dangerously, his pro-Nazi propaganda caused him to be embroiled with the Martin Dies Committee on Un-American Activities. And so the printing equipment of *Liberation* was sold in 1940 and Pelley repaired to Indiana, where he published anti-war articles in *The Galilean*. Those articles were the motive for his arrest in 1942 under the Espionage Act of 1917, which was the first instance of the legislation's use in a major prosecution after Pearl Harbor. Found guilty on eleven counts by a jury composed of farmers and small tradesmen of southern Indiana, Pelley was sentenced to fifteen years in jail. He was released from the Federal Penitentiary at Terre Haute in 1950, after serving eight years. He died in 1965.

One might have thought that the "Prophecy" would die with him. But it is still alive, owing to the dark side of that new wilderness called cyberspace. A controversy sparked by one Salah Jafar, who quotes the entire "Prophecy," has been taking place on one of the Internet's bulletin boards, where several people are refuting his statements. Poor Richard used to say that truth stands on two legs whereas a lie stands only on one. These days the only legs a lie needs are virtual ones.



THIS SIDE OF THE GENE POOL

by
Elly Fitzig

Thanks to the Internet, genealogy is now a desktop treasure hunt, rather than a costly pilgrimage to Salt Lake City. Recently, through online searches, the Friends connected with several branches of Franklin descendants missing from official records since the early-1800s. Over 600 people were added to our files in the past twenty months, for a total of 2384 individuals and 835 marriages. We can now identify at least 1549 direct descendants, more than 700 alive today. Not bad for a man with only two surviving children. Imagine your own genetic pool in the Year 2249.

Nor is our Franklin search complete. There is still so much to learn that it's just the tip of the iceberg—which brings to mind one descendant, in particular, Charles Duane Williams, b. 1860, victim of the Titanic. Williams, a lawyer, left his home in Geneva to sail on the fateful vessel with his wife, Lydia Biddle Williams, and their only child, Richard Norris Williams II. The couple left Europe to enter their son, age 21, at Harvard. Richard Norris Williams II not only survived the sinking and enrolled in Harvard, but also became a Davis Cup champion. His mother Lydia returned to Philadelphia, but never remarried.

Benjamin Franklin's family, for all its good fortune, was never immune to tragedy. Ben's infant brother Ebenezer drowned in a tub of suds; his own son Franky died of smallpox at age four. Three Franklin descendants were murdered. Twelve disappeared. At least eight others besides Charles Duane Williams lost their lives at sea, including three adult children of Richard Bache, Jr. and his ex-wife, Sophia Burrell Dallas. Ironically, the three were younger siblings of Alexander Dallas Bache, head of the U.S. Coast Survey from 1848-1867. According to the Wainwright Genealogy, the first, George Mifflin Bache, b. 1811, "drowned September 8, 1846, while in command of the

U.S.S. Washington when that ship was wrecked in a hurricane off Hatteras." Richard Bache, b. 1813, "drowned March 27, 1850, while on a special survey of Trinidad Bay, California." Finally, the youngest child, Maria Campbell Bache, b. 1827, married Allan McLane, captain of the steamer Fremont, in December 1850 and died four months later off the coast of Rio de Janeiro, while accompanying her husband on a voyage. Two of Richard and Sophia's great-grandchildren, Edith Dallas Walker, b. 1871, and her brother Robert John Walker, b. 1873, both drowned on the 4th of July, 1888, off Seabright, New Jersey.

I am not a Franklin descendant. In fact, my father said we came from a long line of Russian horse thieves. Two years ago, after helping to resuscitate the Descendants Project, I realized that the Franklin-Bache family represents one of the largest assemblies of over-achievers ever recorded. Perhaps it is the tales of love and loss, gain and grief, which bring the family most to life, especially for those of us descended from the rustlers of the Russian steppes.

For information on genealogy services, please send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Elly Fitzig, 825 Linden Ct., Wichita, KS 67206-4005.

Skeletons in the Closet

The Craven Street restoration work was dramatically interrupted when the skeletons of ten bodies were discovered in the cellars.

"It was like a horror movie," said builder Jim Fields, who found the bones last December while digging the foundations. After analysis, it was found that the bones were around 200 years old and probable vestiges from the exploratory dissections done by William Hewson, a young surgeon who lived at no.36 for two years. Hewson, who had already achieved a reputation for good research, had built a small anatomy school at the back of the house.

But all such schools faced a major problem — the lack of bodies

to dissect. Dissection of human bodies was strictly prohibited in England until the middle of the nineteenth century and scientists had to obtain cadavers from grave robbers. It was a risky business for which they faced the penalty of deportation, so the remains had to be disposed of secretly. Ironically, Dr. Hewson fell victim to his own experiments by cutting himself while dissecting a putrid corpse, dying of septicaemia on May 1, 1774.

It is probable that Franklin knew what Hewson was doing but unlikely that he participated, being a physicist rather than a medical man.

(This information came from *The Craven Street Gazette*, the newsletter of the Friends of Benjamin Franklin House in London.)

Member Profile: Charles C. Hargis, Jr. Brecksville, OH

Charles is especially interested in Franklin's writings. He holds an A.B. degree in English from Eastern Michigan University and an M.A. in English from Wayne State University. He made Franklin's literary career the subject of his Master's essay, entitled "Benjamin Franklin as a Man of Letters." Charles also wrote an article entitled "America's First Great Technical Writer" which appeared in the January 1962 issue of the *Journal of the Society of Technical Writers and Publishers*. The subject was, of course, Franklin; the article was based in part on his Master's essay.

Charles' collection of Frankliniana includes books by and about Benjamin Franklin, including all the volumes to date of the *Franklin Papers*. Also in his collection are busts, figurines, banks, bookmarks, prints, bookends, refrigerator magnets, stamps, coins, coffee mugs, portraits, toys, a kite, liquor and other types of bottles, souvenir plates, and more. Charles writes that he would like to learn more about fellow Friends and their collections, and would like to see photos of interesting or unusual items collected.

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

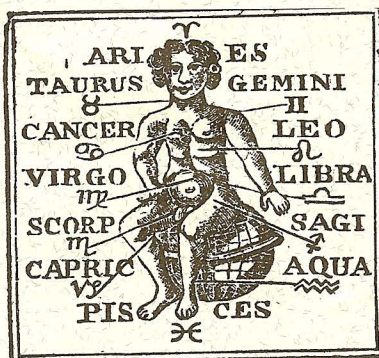
Michel Roubinet;
Ozoir La Ferriere, France

Deane M. Sherman; Rockville, MD

Malcolm Smith; Highland Park, IL

Noriyuki Uenami; Tokyo, Japan

George Franklin Waters;
Rochester, MN



Calendar of Events

Upcoming in 1999:

January 14, 1999. Celebration! of Benjamin Franklin; sponsored by a coalition of Franklin-related organizations in Philadelphia. See announcement on p. 8 of this issue.

January 16, 1999. Friends of Franklin Papers will hold their annual Franklin Birthday celebration at noon at the New Haven Lawn Club. The speaker will be Ellen R. Cohn, Sr. Assoc. Editor, who will present a slide-illustrated lecture concerning Nantucket, birthplace of Franklin's mother Abiah Folger. The presentation will include Franklin's studies, discoveries, and speculations about the Gulf Stream.

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. More information forthcoming in a future issue.

April 20, 1999. Friends of Franklin Papers monthly meeting. At noon, Friend of Franklin J.A. Leo Lemay, professor of American Literature at the University of Delaware, will be the guest speaker.

May 2-8, 1999. 50th International Science and Engineering Fair; in Philadelphia, for grades 9-12. Called the "Olympics of high school science fairs" this event has students

competing for scholarships and prizes totaling over \$2 million. One of the judges is Friend of Franklin and Nobel Prize winner Dudley Herschbach. The ISEF uses a kite and key as part of their emblem, in recognition of Franklin's pioneering achievements in science and technology. What an inspiration for our young people!

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.

September 23-29, 1999. Friends of Franklin tour of Scotland. Don't miss this exciting opportunity to explore historic Scotland from a Franklin perspective! For more information, please see the announcement on p. 3.

Welcome New Members!

Friends

Heather E. S. Crease;
Kent, UK

François Bujon De L'Estrange;
Washington, DC

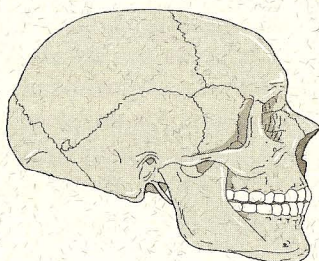
Mr. & Mrs. Eric G. Grundset;
Fairfax, VA

Barbara Bache Hessinger;
West Caldwell, NJ

Geoffrey B. Ulrich;
Los Angeles, CA

Educator

Kathleen Hardesty Doig;
Decatur, GA



More 300th Birthday Comments:

In response to the question "How do you think Franklin would celebrate his 300th birthday?" Friends have voiced the following opinions:

Reading a book in his sparse living room and to bed at 10:00 p.m.
- John S. Urban; *Philadelphia, PA*

I suppose with madeira wine and good friends, and perhaps a broadside against bigotry.
- Robert C. Dewel; *Baraboo, WI*

With a reflection on how things have changed and the almost unimaginable technological advances and discoveries that have been made. Looking toward the future and thanking God.
- Dan Kalenak; *Odessa, TX*



Good Reads and Great Gifts

Wondering what to give as a holiday gift for the Franklinophile in your life? A gift membership to the Friends of Franklin is one good idea! And, if you're interested in expanding your own or someone else's library, here are a few good suggestions:

Benjamin Franklin 1706-1790: A Chronology of the Eighteenth Century's Most Eminent Citizen. Compiled by Frank B. Jones. Edited for publication by the Friends of Franklin, Inc. Dubuque, IA: Kendall/Hunt, 1996. 44 p.; softcover. Still available for

Friends, this little volume makes a great stocking stuffer! The complete who, what, and where of our friend Ben's well-traveled life, copiously illus-

trated with pictures of important inventions and artifacts. Friends may obtain a copy of this book at the special price of \$7.96. To order, call 1-800-228-0810. Be sure to tell the operator that you are a Friend of Franklin, and use the special code name "Ben."

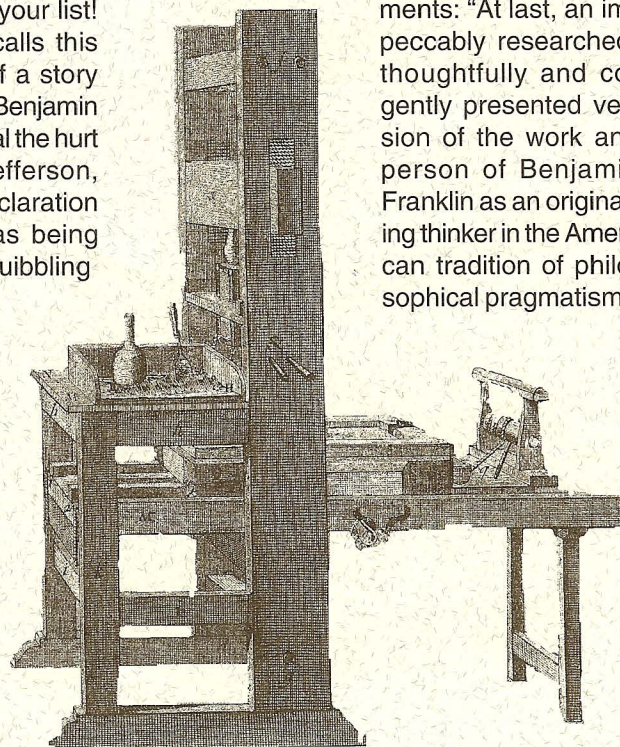
Benjamin Franklin: Writings. Edited by J.A. Leo Lemay. The Library of America, 1987. 1605 p.; hardcover. \$40.00. Still considered the authoritative version of Franklin's selected writings, this was edited by Friend of Franklin Leo Lemay. *Library Journal* called it: "a witty contribution.... Included are authoritative versions of Franklin's best-known writings (e.g. The Autobiography) as well as 57 new attributions. Also included are all prefaces and maxims from the full run of *Poor Richard's Almanack*, plus a generous and prudent selection of other writings, both personal and public. The material is arranged by the eras of Franklin's long life. Lemay's erudite notes, an excellent index, and the volume's acid-free paper all attest to admirable publishing standards."

The Hatmaker's Sign: A Story by Benjamin Franklin. By Candace Fleming; Robert A. Parker, illustrator. Orchard Books, 1998. 40 p.; hardcover. \$15.95. Here is something for the young reader on your list! *Publisher's Weekly* calls this "a piquant retelling of a story that master raconteur Benjamin Franklin relayed 'to heal the hurt pride' of Thomas Jefferson, whose draft of the Declaration of Independence was being picked apart by the quibbling Continental Congress. In this tale within a tale, a hatmaker drafts copy for a sign for his shop. En route to the sign maker, however, he encounters a string of opinionated people who whittle away his words to, quite literally, nothing. Young readers will easily appreciate

the irony of the kind sign maker's suggestion that the hatmaker fill his sign with the very proclamation he began with....Fleming has chosen her words with care, delivering an insightful parable and a welcome addition to the wealth of lore surrounding the remarkable Benjamin Franklin. Endnotes include further information about Franklin, Jefferson, and the writing of the Declaration of Independence; like the story, they will whet readers' appetites for American history."

Recovering Benjamin Franklin: An Exploration of a Life of Science and Service. By James Campbell. Chicago, IL: Open Court, 1999. 302 p.; hardcover. \$26.95. On a more scholarly note, here's an important contribution to a little explored side of Franklin. From the cover: "Campbell argues that the image of Franklin as cultural icon and ingenious dabbler has concealed his strictly philosophical achievement. After a detailed examination of Franklin's surprisingly rich conceptions in four areas - science, religion, morality, and politics — Professor Campbell identifies Franklin as an early figure in the Pragmatic movement, his contribution similar in importance to those of Emerson, James, and Dewey." John J. McDermott of Texas

A & M University comments: "At last, an impeccably researched, thoughtfully and cogently presented version of the work and person of Benjamin Franklin as an originating thinker in the American tradition of philosophical pragmatism."



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