

Franklin Gazette

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

"At 20 years of age the will reigns; at 30 the wit; at 40 the judgment." - *B. Franklin, 1741*

President's Message

by Ralph Gregory Elliot

One of the more popular attractions at Disney World in Florida is a panoramic view of our nation's history called The American Experience. The staged production is hosted by animatronic representations of what are undoubtedly the two most quintessentially American characters of our past, Ben Franklin and Mark Twain. They converse together as they narrate and introduce a series of tableaux representing the march of a people from settlers in a forest primeval to the unique people from a thousand ports of origin we call today's American.

The insight of the folks at Disney in seeing Twain and Ben as the embodiment of the American, and the great similarities of the two, struck me forcefully as I was given a personal tour of Twain's home at 351 Farmington Avenue in Hartford on a balmy, sun-drenched mid-May afternoon. The massive Victorian Picturesque structure, exquisitely restored and furnished to replicate its lustre in the years 1874-91 that Twain lived there, was the site where he wrote so many of his greatest works: Tom Sawyer, Huckleberry Finn, The Prince and the Pauper, A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court, and a host of others.

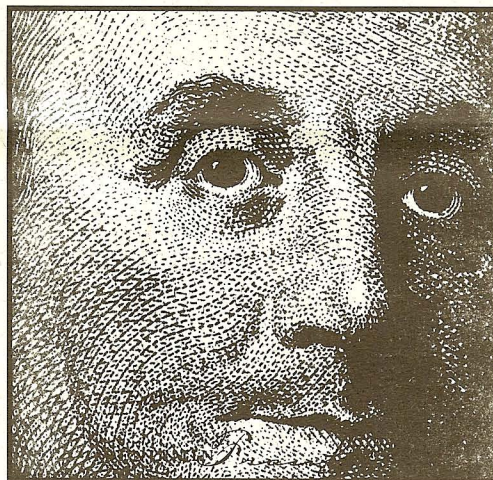
Twain, like Franklin, had but a meagre formal education, leaving school at 11 (Franklin finished only two years of formal schooling). Each tried his hand at a number of jobs (though Franklin's were primarily in his chosen craft

of printing). Each was largely self-taught, immersed himself in a wide range of interests, was an inveterate gad-geteer (Twain had a number of patents to his name; Franklin's inventions, alas, antedated the U.S. Patent Office); both also traveled extensively, read widely, and were at once cosmopolitan in taste yet indisputably plain

old Americans in speech, form, address, and persona of choice. And both, in their times and in ours, have been recognized as the authentic voice of the true American, what Crèvecoeur called "this new man." Their words resonate today in the events of our times. They remain the most frequently quoted Americans on every conceivable subject or occasion. The simplicity of their speech masked a subtlety of mind and a penetrating understanding of the human soul and psyche, of what animates people to do what they do and think what they think. Each knew how to push other people's buttons to get them to do

things they might otherwise shrink from essaying.

2006 marks the tercentenary of Franklin's birth; 2010, the centenary of Twain's death. Undoubtedly, both occasions will inspire commemorative events, books, television shows, articles, and the whole range of popular recognition. It is not too early, I think, for Americans to start to ponder seriously in this increasingly shrinking and interdependent multicultural world what it means to be an American in the 21st century, what is unique and what is best about the American character, and what popular contributions Americans as a people have to make to their fellow men and women in the world now and in the years to come. And we can be sure that Ben and Mark will be at our side, providing sound counsel, couched in ready wit and telling phrase.



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back issues are available.

Friendly Feedback

Friend of Franklin Richard Kithil, Founder & CEO of the National Lightning Safety Institute in Louisville, CO responds to the previous issue of *The Franklin Gazette*:

"Dear Friends: This is written on the 209th anniversary of Franklin's death.

"Your Spring 1999 *Gazette* contains an interesting article about the US Navy and ships named *Franklin*. As a minor historical note, with questionable accuracy as to time, how about adding the *Bon Homme Richard* to your list?

"True, it was prior to independence when John Paul Jones named his pirate vessel after Benjamin Franklin. Franklin pleaded successfully before Vergennes and Louis XVI to obtain a license for Jones to use French ports as a haven for pirate raids against British shipping. Jones, in appreciation, named his leaky old bucket after the author of *Poor Richard's Almanack*.

"Another factoid: Marie Antoinette called Franklin *Le Homme Electrique* when he arrived at the royal court. Franklin noted that her eyes caused more mischief in a week than he had accomplished in a lifetime."

Thanks, Friend Richard for this amusing and informative letter! As always, the editors welcome all "friendly feedback" from our readers.

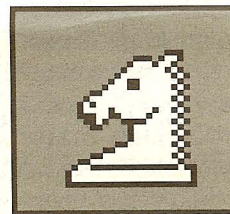
Franklin, the Chess-Player

Dr. Benjamin Franklin will be inducted into the US Chess Hall of Fame this year in recognition of his support and promotion of chess, and especially for his essay "The Morals of Chess," which is even more timely today than it was when it was written.

The award was proposed by the Hall of Fame Committee of the United States Chess Federation (USCF), unanimously endorsed by the USCF Executive Board, and approved by the US Chess Trust, a non-profit charitable trust that owns and administers the US Chess Hall of Fame.

The induction will take place at noon on August 14, 1999, at the Sands Regency Hotel, 345 N. Arlington Avenue in Reno, Nevada as part of the USCF Awards Luncheon. The luncheon is held in conjunction with the US Open chess tournament and USCF Annual Meetings. The Awards Luncheon is open to the public.

Attending the ceremony in Reno will be Jim Gassaway and his nephew, Jon Peter Gassaway. The Gassaways are Franklin descendants and will be representing the family. Jim is also a Friend of Franklin, so we will be represented, as well!



300th Birthday Celebration

*More Friends answer the question:
"How do you think Ben Franklin
would celebrate his 300th birthday?"*

"Swimming in the Thames or Delaware and going to the tavern with his Junto friends." -- Jay T. Snider, *Philadelphia, PA*

"Modestly and quietly." -- Robert L. Middlekauff, *Oakland, CA*

"Reflecting on what had happened to his beloved America." -- William W.L. Glenn, *New Haven, CT*

Franklin in the Press: Good News and Bad News

For those of you who missed it, there was a lovely write-up on the National Portrait Gallery show of "Franklin and His Friends: Portraying the Man of Science in Eighteenth Century America" in the New York Times on April 13, 1999 (see calendar on p.11). Four portraits from the show were reproduced, in color, along with photos of the scientific instruments portrayed in the paintings, which are also part of the exhibition. The article is entitled "Franklin the Researcher, and His Colleagues." It praises Franklin highly: "Besides being a printer, a diplomat and framer of the Declaration of Independence, Benjamin Franklin was one of the foremost scientists, or 'natural philosophers,' of his age." Gallery director Alan Fern is quoted from the exhibition catalog.

In a much less flattering light, the "writer and diplomat" Raymond Seitz, writing in the *Sunday Telegraph*, has nominated Benjamin Franklin as one of "the most overrated authors of the past 1,000 years"! According to Seitz: "Of all the polymaths who brightened the 18th-century Enlightenment, none shimmered more than Benjamin Franklin. He was, as Immanuel Kant praised him, 'The Prometheus of modern time.'"

"Franklin wrote a lot, as befits a man with his own printing press. He was also the only American to have signed the Declaration of Independence, the Treaty of Paris, and the United States Constitution.

"Yet Franklin's name never comes up when talking about the seminal literature associated with the birth of the new republic. Instead, mention Franklin and you hear *Poor Richard's Almanac*, which was first published in 1732.

"Stuffed full of rustic proverbs and aphorisms ('God helps those who help themselves'), *Poor Richard* was wildly popular at the time and much admired for its wit ('Keep your eyes well open before marriage and half-closed afterwards').

"Today, however, it sounds laboured and trite. Worse, Franklin must be held responsible for the American predilection for reducing everything to slogans. The genealogy of samplers, jingles, tee-shirts, bumper stickers and sound bites can be traced directly back to *Poor Richard*, a baleful legacy for genius. On the other hand, as my grandmother used to scold, 'If you can't say anything nice about someone...'"

A rather undiplomatic assessment at best! Do any Friends of Franklin have a refutation for Mr. Seitz?

Thanks to Caroline Hamburger, who is Jonathan Dull's sister, for sending this article in. Friends are encouraged to share any Franklin-related press clippings with the *Gazette*.

Ellen Cohn: New Editor-in-Chief of the Franklin Papers

A statement by the Board of the Friends of the Franklin Papers president Malcolm S. MacGruer

We are delighted to report that at our well-attended luncheon meeting on April 20th at the Graduate Club in New Haven, where we met to honor our departing editor Barbara Oberg with the gift of all the volumes of the Papers and a calligraphy certificate of appreciation, admiration, and affection, announcement was made by Professor Edmund S. Morgan, Sterling Professor Emeritus of History and Chairman of the Administrative Board of the Franklin Papers, that the Administrative Board, after a nation-wide search, have voted unanimously to name Ellen Cohn as the new Editor-in-Chief of the Papers of Benjamin Franklin.

Needless to say, this delightful news was greeted with great pleasure and a standing round of cheers for Ellen, whose experience, erudition and knowledge of Franklin insures that the continued publication of the Papers will be uninterrupted and carried forward with zest and skill.

Ellen's curriculum vitae reads as a scholar's should. A graduate of Wesleyan, Ellen has been with the Papers since 1979 as Research Associate, Assistant Editor, Associate Editor, and Senior Associate Editor. She has authored dozens of learned articles on Franklin and will deliver lectures at two prestigious conferences this summer in Athens and Dublin. She has received a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, studied at Dartmouth and the University of Virginia, and is a committee member of the Association for Documentary Editing, a member of the American Printing History Association, and has been on the faculty for the Editing of Historical Documents sponsored by the National Historical Publication and Records Commission, and grant reviewer for the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The Board of the Friends of the Franklin Papers is greatly encouraged by Ellen's assumption of the position of Editor-in-Chief and urge you to join in wishing her all the best in her challenging new role.



On Dr. Benjamin Franklin's Maritime Observations with Special Reference to the Gulf Stream, Pt. II

By Franklin Robinson, M.D.

Pt. I of this article appeared in the previous issue of the Franklin Gazette. This paper was originally presented to the Friends of Franklin at the Sloane Club, London, England, October 28, 1997, as part of the program of the Friends' Tour of Benjamin Franklin's Historic London and England. Dr. Robinson, Clinical Professor of Neurosurgery at Yale School of Medicine, is a Director of the Friends of the Franklin Papers, Yale University, and President of the Connecticut Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Franklin made many observations of sea water temperature with the thermometer during long ocean passages, noting the latitude and longitude of the samples and the character of the water.

He writes: "It will appear from them, that the thermometer may be a useful instrument to the navigator, since currents coming from the northward into the southern seas, will probably be found colder than the water in those seas, as the currents from the southern seas into northern are found warmer. And it is not to be wondered that so vast a body of deep warm water, several leagues wide, coming from between the tropics and issuing out of the gulph into the northern seas, should retain its warmth longer than twenty or thirty days required to its passing the banks of Newfoundland. The quantity is too great, and it is too deep to be suddenly cooled by passing under a cooler air. The air immediately over it, however, may receive so much warmth from it as to be rarified and rise, being rendered lighter than the air on each side of the stream; hence those airs must flow in to supply the place of the rising warm air, and meeting with each other, form those tornados and water-spouts frequently met with, and seen near and over the stream; and as the vapour from a cup of tea in a

warm room, and the breath of an animal in the same room, are hardly visible, but become sensible immediately when out in the cold air, so the vapour from the gulph stream, in warm latitudes is scarcely visible, but when it comes into the cool air from Newfoundland, it is condensed into the fogs, for which those parts are so remarkable The power of wind to raise water above its common level in the sea, is known to us in America, by the high tides occasioned in all our sea-ports when a strong northeaster blows against the gulph stream."

Franklin concludes his letter to Le Roy with the thought: "...a vessel from Europe to North-America may shorten her passage by avoiding to stem the stream, in which the thermometer will be very useful: and a vessel from America to Europe may do the same by the same means of keeping in it. It may have often happened accidentally, that voyages have been shortened by these circumstances. It is well to have command of them."

Franklin then refers to an earlier paper written at sea, on board the *Pennsylvania Packet*, Capt. Osborne, April 5, 1775 [1] in which he considered factors other than winds and currents that may explain why passages were generally shorter from America to Europe than from Europe to America. Franklin speculates that when sailing from a latitude of 40 degrees to a port at 50 degrees, the time taken is less due to the rotational motion of the earth, a theory later refuted when this paper was read by Franklin at the American Philosophical Society. However, it is clear that Franklin had a fundamental understanding of the principles of navigation, and pointed out that longitude is a function of time, that one degree of longitude, at any latitude, represents four minutes of time. The practical solution of determining longitude was made possible by John Harrison through his ingenious perfection of the ship chronometer just several decades before. His original clocks, still ticking and keep-

ing time accurately, are on exhibit at the Greenwich Observatory.

Franklin offers his suggestion of cross planking the ship hull using half the thickness in each layer to make it stronger and tighter. He calls attention to the need for safeguarding the health of sailors at sea on long passages and advises study of the experience of the successful methods of Captain Cook in the preservation of food provisions. In case shipwreck leaves one in a small boat in need of a compass, Franklin describes that a sewing needle forcibly rubbed or hammered then supported on little pieces of cork or wood, and floated in a cup will give a north and south orientation. Aware that sailors may express "repugnance to the advice of landmen," he reminds them that most of their navigation instruments, and indeed the first vessel to go to sea were made by landmen. As for passengers on long voyages, he recommends they keep their departure date secret lest they be distracted by visits from well-meaning friends and be robbed of valuable time for necessary preparations. Better to bid farewell to friends at their houses and have them come to congratulate you on your happy return. Since so much of the comfort and safety of the passage depends upon the captain, his social qualities should not be considered over his nautical skills and experience.

Franklin advises that passengers take some personal supplies with them — good spring water in clean bottles as ship water is often bad; good tea and ground coffee; chocolate; wine and cider; and other personal treats including raisins, almonds, lemons, and diet bread. He cautions against taking fowl unless one is to care for them as they are prone to illness and die, and besides those killed for eating are frequently inedible. Sheep and hogs are depended upon for meat at sea. Mutton is usually tolerable and the pork is excellent. However, Franklin cautions that the cooking may be poor as there are no professional cooks,

and that duty is usually given to the worst seaman who may be not only ignorant but also dirty. Hence the saying: "God sends meat and the devil cooks." The sea air and the constant exercise from the motion of the ship somehow bestow wholesome appetites despite the bad cooks. Franklin recommends taking along a "spirit-lamp" and a "blaze-pan" for preparing things such as hash or soup, or even a small tin-oven for roasting a piece of pork or mutton. Cider is a good thirst quencher after eating salt meat or fish, standard ship fare. Ship biscuit is too hard for some sets of teeth and may be softened by toasting, but he prefers rusk (a slice of sweet, raised bread dried and baked in the oven again like zwieback) as more wholesome than the unfermented biscuit. Having experienced accidents with large dishes of soup jostled by the motion of the ship, ever a practical man, he designed soup dishes with divisions to prevent spills and scalds.

Franklin concludes with reflections on the value of navigation in general, seeing it as a humanitarian means of providing provisions to a country in need and thereby preventing famine. He considers navigation a blessing to mankind. However, the darker side, when it is employed for the transportation of the superfluous, Franklin questions whether the hazards of the sea and the cost of so many lives is worth it. He looks upon the plundering of merchant ships and the transporting of slaves, common in his day, as contributing to the mass of human misery. Recognizing the risks to ships and lives faced in the transporting of tea from China, sugar and tobacco from America, and coffee from Arabia, all things his ancestors did so very well without, he sees the sugar as tainted with human blood shed in

the trafficking of slaves, by the casualties at sea, and in the many wars of the European powers. At the time, an estimated one thousand ships were busy in the trade of sugar, and an almost equal number in tobacco.

Franklin concludes: "For the utility of tobacco there is little to be said; and for that of sugar, how much more commendable would it be, if we would give up the few minutes of gratification afforded once or twice a day by



the taste of sugar in our tea, rather than encourage the cruelties exercised in producing it."

During the 1785 voyage, Franklin was completely immersed in the subject of maritime observations and records these along with his practical suggestions for navigation, improvements in ship and sail design, and safety measures at sea. The stone and gout do not seem to distract him. Exhilarated, he says: "I may never have another occasion of writing on this subject.... I think I might as well now, once and for all, empty my nautical budget." His scientific background and experience at sea readily win the respect of Captain Truxton who follows his recommendations of the trans-Atlantic course to be taken. The *London Packet* starts out in the company of the *America*, a merchant ship advertised for her speed, commanded by Captain Keeler, also bound for Philadelphia. After four days, they part company. Franklin advises Captain

Keeler to follow a route along with them south of the Azores to avoid stemming the stream, but Captain Keeler chooses not to do so and takes a westwardly route. Captain Truxton follows the advice of the sage navigator, and reaches the coast of South Carolina and rides the current northward, arriving in Philadelphia six days before the *America*. The voyage is pleasant and calm except for the storm on the night of September 5th. A joyous welcome by the townspeople of Philadelphia greets Franklin on September 14th, and he walks amid bells ringing, surrounded by friends and fellow-citizens the four square streets from the waterfront to Franklin Court. Franklin is reunited with his family. His extraordinarily busy public life continues until his death on April 17, 1790.

Franklin's maritime legacies live on. The *London Packet* was returned to Humphry's yard and refitted, the bottom sheathed with copper in preparation for the lucrative China trade. She is rechristened the *Canton*. Captain Truxton orders a sea anchor according to Franklin's design, made for holding a ship into the wind during storms. The *Canton* sailed for China with Captain Truxton in command on December 30, 1785. In 1794, Captain Truxton publishes a paper based upon the log of his voyage with Franklin, acknowledging Franklin's observations and the importance of an acquaintance with the currents of the gulf stream in order to take advantage of them. In 1799, Jonathan Williams, Jr., Franklin's great-nephew, publishes a pamphlet entitled: *Thermometrical Navigation with the subtitle: Extract from the Maritime Observations of Dr. Franklin Relative to the Gulf Stream* [2]. a paper which would have given Franklin much pleasure.

cont. on p.6

Franklinia: Stamp and Census

On May 18th, the United States Postal Service officially commemorated the new first-class postage stamp dedicated to botanists John and William Bartram. The stamp, reproduced in black and white on the front cover of this newsletter, features the famous illustration of the Franklinia, the magnolia-like tree that was named after Benjamin Franklin. Although the name of the tree is not very legible on the standard-size stamp, we are sure that all Friends of Franklin will recognize it!

Historic Bartram's Garden is conducting a census of living Franklinia trees, so if you have one growing in your yard or know of one growing elsewhere, please fill out a census form. Besides trying to get an idea of the number of Franklinia in existence, the Garden is trying to determine how far north and west the tree can be found. The Franklinia census form can be filled out on-line at <http://www.libertynet.org/bartram/franklinia.html> or contact Historic Bartram's Garden at 54th St. and Lindbergh Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19143 or (215) 729-1047.

Maritime Observations - cont. from p. 5

In 1843, Alexander Dallas Bache, Franklin's great grandson, becomes the second superintendent of the Coast Survey [3]. Under his direction, the hydrographic activities and budget of the Survey are greatly expanded. From these studies, Bache proclaims that the stream "is the great sea mark of the coast of the United States, both Gulf and Atlantic, and its qualities as hindrances and aids of navigation require that the navigator should be well informed in regard to it," advice which Franklin espoused so well almost a century before.

cont.

Maritime Observations References-

- [1] Franklin, B. "On board the Pennsylvania Packet, Capt. Osborne, at sea, April 5, 1775." *Trans. Amer. Phil. Soc.* 2 (1786): 304-317, plus tables.
- [2] Jenkins, C.F. "Franklin Returns from France — 1785." *Proc. Amer. Phil. Soc.* 92 (1948): 417-432.
- [3] Schlee, S. *A History of Oceanography: The Edge of an Unfamiliar World*. London: Robert Hale & Co., 1975. pp.40-43.



The new US Postal Service stamp
featuring *Franklinia*.

Good Reads: Reviews of Franklin Related Materials

Franklin and His Friends: Portraying the Man of Science in Eighteenth-Century America. By Brandon Brame Fortune with Deborah J. Warner. University of Pennsylvania Press, 1999. 200 pages with 72 color and 72 b&w illustrations; paperback. \$34.95. Now available! The companion book to the portrait show still on-going at the National Portrait Gallery, this beautifully illustrated work "takes a new, cross-disciplinary look at early American science through the lens of portraiture." "The authors ex-

amine the original context and reception of these portraits, and contend that they situate each subject within his local community as well as across cultural, economic, and geographical boundaries to fix him within the international community of science." Illustrations include works by Charles Willson Peale, John Singleton Copley, and Gilbert Stuart.

Ben There, Done That. By Joseph Locke. Mass Market, 1998. 160 p.; paperback. \$3.99. For young adult readers, this is no. 6 in the "Sabrina, the Teenage Witch" series, based on the popular television program. According to the Amazon.com synopsis: "After Sabrina's Aunt Hilda accidentally hiccups Sabrina's history text back into the hands of our founding Fathers, Sabrina's life - not to mention American history - may never be the same again."

Newton's Cannon. By J. Gregory Keyes. Del Rey/Ballantine, 1998. 480 p.; paperback. \$14.00. Selected as one of the titles of Best Genre Fiction of 1998 in the Science Fiction category by Library Journal. "A youthful Benjamin Franklin embroils himself in a conspiracy of alchemy and politics in this series opener set in an alternate 18th century where science and magic coexist amid a tangled web of intrigue and duplicity."

A Calculus of Angels. By J. Gregory Keyes. Del Rey/Ballantine, 1999. 406 p.; paperback. \$14.00. This is the second in "The Age of Unreason" series, a sequel to *Newton's Cannon*, above. Set in 1722 in an alternative universe, a second Dark Age looms after Earth has been struck by an asteroid. Young Ben Franklin is apprenticed to Sir Isaac Newton and they are living in Prague, trying to unravel the secrets of hidden powers affecting the universe. Like its predecessor, this book has been very popular with readers, leaving them anxiously waiting for the next volume to be published.

An Ancient Debate: Havelock Ellis on Benjamin Franklin

By Kate Ohno,
Franklin Papers, Yale University

The following quote about Franklin is from a letter written by Henry Havelock Ellis to Margaret Sanger on December 29, 1921, which was forwarded to The Franklin Papers project by Cathy Moran Hajo of The Margaret Sanger Papers: "Please remember (it is my patent idea!) that the birth control does not mean that the later members of the family are cut off; more accurately, it is the intermediate ones that fail to appear, & you can never tell which; therefore, from the point of view, there is never any need to worry over the possible losses by birth control. Archbishop Hayes is appalled to think that America might have lost Benjamin Franklin (I am not sure whether B.F. would have returned the compliment). But if Mrs. F. Senior, had refrained from having the intermediate thirteen children, B.F. would have been, not the fifteenth, but the second child, & in that case, by the gain of vitality to his mother, he might never have been the dry old stick he turned out to be.— Please remember this whenever that silly old argument about the immense value of the twenty fifth child is brought forward. It is an argument only worthy of people who are themselves twenty fifth children."

The argument over birth control and the effect of birth order on a child's development remain hotly debated topics today. Birth control efforts in Franklin's eighteenth century America absorbed less of society's energy. Franklin was a proponent of early marriage, and birth order was a topic of interest to him. In a letter to his friend John Alleyne (published in vol. XV, pp. 182-5 of *The Papers of Benjamin Franklin*) he quoted an old Spanish proverb on the subject: "Late Children...are early Orphans". Franklin's writings seem generally in

favor of the idea of large families where they could be supported. Most of his comments on this topic are impersonal and theoretical, but there is one example of the application of his philosophy in a Franklinian blend of family planning and revolutionary ideology. In a personal letter sent in 1782 to his young friend the marquis de Lafayette whose wife had just given birth to a daughter, Virginie, he made this witty observation: "In naming your Children I think you do well to begin with the most antient [ancient] State. And as we cannot have too many of so good a Race, I hope you and Mme. de la Fayette will go thro' the thirteen [states]."¹

As for Havelock Ellis (1859-1939), this pioneer in the scientific study of sex may have had a distinguished career, but it certainly didn't include the development of a deep understanding of Franklin, or else he could never have called him a dry old stick!

1 Stanley J. Idzerda et al., eds., *Lafayette in the Age of the American Revolution* (5 vols., Ithaca and London: 1983), V, 57.

BF and SF

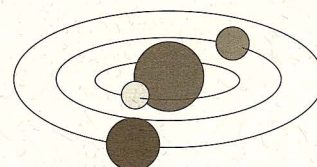
There is certainly something about Benjamin Franklin - his inquisitive mind, his cunning developments of fledgling technologies, his wide range of scientific interests, and his sense of humor - that still appeals to the modern aficionados of science fiction. This became abundantly clear when your intrepid editor, along with co-worker and Friend of Franklin Roy Goodman, stumbled across the website for the Millennium PhilCon during a routine internet search (<http://www.netaxs.com/people/phil2001/index.html>).

For the uninitiated, a "Con" is a convention of Science Fiction fans. SF fans have their own way of speaking which can be a little perplexing to outsiders at first, but it is easy enough

to understand. The PhilCon takes place in Philadelphia, of course, and it is the "millennium" Con because it takes place on August 30-Sept. 3, 2001 — the "true" millennium. The convention organizers cleverly integrated Franklin into their publicity for this event. A particularly delightful illustration by Steve Storrs adorns the opening page of the website; it shows Franklin, with kite and key, hooked on the tail of an unidentified flying object and being pulled off into outer space. The May 9, 1754 Pennsylvania Gazette "Join or Die" illustration of the colonies as cut-up sections of a snake is also used to promote conference membership. Franklin is listed as an "Out of Time" member of the bid committee. His resume tells us that his "fannish name" is "Dr. Franklin" and that his "favorite scientificion and/or fantasy authors are Jonathan Swift and Sir Thomas Moore." The writer also brilliantly captures the modesty Franklin espoused in his persona, by having him state as his Background/mundane experience: "I am a printer and bookseller by trade. My success in these fields has allowed me to retire and devote myself to my interests in science and public service, and I have had some small success at both. I also have some little experience at political negotiations."

Anyone wishing more information on the convention can write: Philadelphia in 2001, Suite 2001, 402 Huntingdon Pike Rockledge, PA 19046 or e-mail phil2001@netaxs.com. Apparently there will be Franklin-related activities on the convention agenda!

For a look at some recent titles in the fantasy/alternative reality vein featuring Franklin, see this issue's "Good Reads" column on the opposite page.



THE SEARCH FOR "SETTLE"

February 24, 1999

By Philip S. Hessinger

In about 1790, Richard Bache purchased a large estate on the Delaware River north of Philadelphia, where he and his wife Sarah lived in their later years. Richard named the estate "Settle" after his native Yorkshire home in England. Sarah died in 1808 and Richard in 1811. Following Richard Bache's death, the estate was taken over by his youngest son Louis Bache who later sold it to Charles Marquedant. Louis died in 1819 at Bristol.

We knew little more about "Settle" than the above but decided that it would be interesting to find out where the estate was along the Delaware and even if there was a chance that the house itself still stood in 1984. In October of 1982 we had made a visit to Bristol, Pennsylvania. Bristol was the major town in the area, the seat of Bristol Borough and the place where Louis Bache served as Chief Burgess in 1816-17. At that time we made a few inquiries about "Settle" but could find nothing.

In the meantime however, we had been able to locate in the Rare Documents section of the Pennsylvania Historical and Genealogical Society, the original mortgage document for the "Settle" property along with the transfer papers from Richard Bache's estate to Louis Bache. The mortgage or indenture gave exact survey and location details of the Bache property. While written in stilted legal language it could still be interpreted, since it referred to local landmarks including the Delaware River Bank and most important of all, Dunk's Ferry Road. Dunk's Ferry Road still exists, and leads to the location of a river ferry which is a historical site. It was at that point that General Cadwalader attempted to ferry his troops across the Delaware to participate in the Battle of Trenton during the American Revolution.

Using the 1814 survey data we were able to reconstruct a map of the Bache estate. Then by adjusting the map scale to that of a recent topographical map of the area we could do an overlay matching the river bank and the Dunk's Ferry Road points exactly. The technique worked and we found that the estate lay adjacent to what is now recently opened Neshaminy State Park in Bensalem Township near Eddington and a few miles Southwest of Bristol.

On October 13, 1984 we drove the two hours from West Caldwell, New Jersey to Bensalem Township to search for the former Bache estate. Pennsylvania Route 132 passes South through Bensalem where it is called Street Road, crosses Route 1, and then Interstate 95, finally terminating near the river at State Road. That intersection, according to our calculations, was at the very

center of the Bache estate. From State Road, a small road leads toward the river and would have been the old entrance to the estate. At the end of it stands a former coach house which was occupied by Mr. Grupp and some rental tenants. When we first arrived we did not enter here since the whole area is full of Private, No Trespassing and Beware of the Dog signs.

We still saw no signs of an old mansion so ventured down several roads and driveways some of which were marked private. Finally we came upon a huge Victorian House right on the river which turned out to be the present home of the Philadelphia Gun Club. We spoke to the caretaker's mother but were unable to establish the identity of the house. Later research in the library showed that it was not the Bache home but an estate known as "Brander". By our maps however we knew we were very close and the lady at that house commented that there was a very old house next door which was being rebuilt.

We then drove down State Road to the next driveway which was the Columbus Country Club. No one seemed to be around but we saw a possibility of reaching the old house by climbing over the jetty and entering the property that way. At this point we felt we needed some more information and drove to the Bensalem Township Library where we found limited reference material but a very important fact. In the library we found reference to a book called "Lights Along the Delaware" by Marion Willis Rivinus and Katherine Hansell Biddle published in 1965. We had been aware of the book and had actually seen a copy but could not find "Settle" listed in the index of early Delaware River estates. This time we found out why. The home had many names since 1819 and was listed in the book as the Vandegrift residence, "Mount Pleasant" adjacent to the Columbus Country Club.

The book states as follows, "At one time known as the Vandegrift residence, Mount Pleasant originally belonged to Richard Bache, the son-in-law of Benjamin Franklin. The house was a large brick structure on the river bank at Eddington. Benjamin Franklin supposedly used this house to erect one of his first lightning rods. His sister is reported to have lived in the house at one time, as well, and one of Franklin's chairs was, for many years, kept ceremoniously on the porch overlooking the river, awaiting the return of its owner." The book indicated that much of the property had been subdivided and sold over the years, and that in September 1964 six acres were sold by the owner Mrs. Harrison for development, and states "A modern industrial building will be erected on State Road and the old house will be used as a residence. Mr. Otto Grupp, Mrs. Harrison's nephew, continues to occupy the remodeled garage on the property"

cont. on p. 11

Franklin on the Web

The new Friends of Franklin website (<http://www.benfranklin2006.org/>) has recently been given the "Pennsylvania Destination of the Day" award, recognition of "contributing to Pennsylvania's community on the Web." The site contains a wealth of information: everything from the facts on the upcoming Franklin tour of Scotland to reprints of book reviews from the *Gazette*. In the near future, we plan to be partnering with the bookseller Amazon.com. A link from the Friends of Franklin site will take you to Amazon.com, where you may purchase the books reviewed (or any others). A percentage of all sales made through the link will benefit the Friends of Franklin. Look for this new partnership soon, and consider this as a way to quickly accomplish your book-buying needs and to support the Friends!

The Glass Music International site at <http://www.mindspring.com/~glassmusicintl/> is also packed with information for anyone interested in learning more about Franklin's beloved glass armonica. The mission of Glass Music International, Inc. is "to promote renaissance of glass music; to educate and raise the level of awareness of musical glass instruments; to encourage all members, musicians, composers, and scientists in the field of glass music; to research and preserve the history of glass music compositions and instruments; to communicate old and new discoveries in the field to all the world; and to prevent the loss of this art form to our societies." This site includes sound clips of glass armonica music, and links to other glass armonica sites. GMI will be sponsoring the World Glass Music Festival 2000 in Philadelphia on April 27-30, 2000. Look for more information on this event in an upcoming *Gazette*.

Look for more web-links in upcoming issues of the *Gazette*!

Franklin Tid-bits

Franklin's Recipe Book

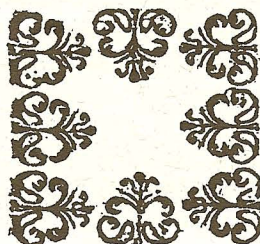
Friends of Franklin may recall that Claude-Anne Lopez wrote an article for the *Gazette* on the subject of Franklin's recipes. She has just received word from Britain that there will be a book published there on that very topic. St. Malo Press proposes to bring out Hilaire Dubourcq's compilation of Franklin's recipes in the form of a cookery book. Yum!

"Royal" Ben Franklin?

Elly Fitzig, director of the Franklin genealogy project, received word from Paul Douglas Franklin that there is some speculation that Franklin is descended from a royal lineage. A family history spanning 33 generations names Franklin as a direct descendant of the Emperor Charlemagne. This information is not substantiated at this time, but anyone interested in Franklin genealogy can send an SASE to Elly Fitzig, 825 Linden Ct., Wichita, KS 67206-4005.

Revisionist History

From a list of supposedly authentic answers given on a sixth-grade history test: "Delegates from the original 13 states formed the Contented Congress. Thomas Jefferson, a Virgin, and Benjamin Franklin were two singers of the Declaration of Independence. Franklin discovered electricity by rubbing two cats backwards and declared, 'A horse divided against itself cannot stand.' Franklin died in 1790 and is still dead." At least the student got the last bit correct!



Your Last Chance! "Benjamin Franklin's Historic Edinburgh & Scotland"

Benjamin Franklin wrote to Lord and Lady Kames the following: "...how far that Country had exceeded our Expectations...And the agreeable and instructive Society we found there in such Plenty, has left so pleasing an impression on my Memory, that did not strong Connections draw me elsewhere, I believe Scotland would be the Country I should chuse to spend the Remainder of my Days in."

From September 23-29, 1999, the Friends of Franklin will explore and experience Franklin's Scotland. We will discover what it was that Franklin so loved about this place filled with ancient traditions, 18th Century elegance, medieval streets and lanes, and royal castles. Come with us as we learn about ghosts long departed and delight in the wonderful adventures planned in the City of Edinburgh. In addition to Edinburgh, our escapades will include full day excursions to St. Andrew's, Glasgow, and the Central Highlands also visited by Franklin.

This customized tour includes historian guides, distinguished speakers, and special welcomes by directors of the many places we will visit. They will retrace with us Franklin's footsteps and those he befriended in Scotland. We will be welcomed in special Franklin spots and will reawaken the past as we experience Franklin's time in this beautiful country. It was memorable for him and it will be memorable for you.

The tour is only three months away so, if you plan to attend, please register quickly. Tour particulars and itineraries are on our webpage. To register or for more information, please contact Kathy DeLuca at 215-BEN-0300.

Special Thanks to Our Life Members!

William D. Anderson, Jr.;
Wichita, KS

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

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J.A. Leo Lemay; Newark, DE

Claude-Anne Lopez; New Haven, CT

Martin Mangold; Rockville, MD

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Michael Newcomb; Cave Creek, AZ

Barbara Oberg; Princeton, NJ

Michel Roubinet;
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Deane M. Sherman; Rockville, MD

Malcolm Smith; Highland Park, IL

Noriyuki Uenami; Tokyo, Japan

George Franklin Waters;
Rochester, MN

Ehsan Zayan;
London, UK

Member Profile: Roy Goodman

Roy Goodman has been a Friend of Franklin since 1990, serving also as a Board member or officer. His infectious enthusiasm for Franklin has been responsible for bringing in many new members to the Friends. Roy works as the curator of printed materials at the American Philosophical Society Library, where co-workers maintain, only half-jokingly, that no matter what topic comes up in conversation, Roy can always find a Franklin connection to it. "I'm interested in Franklin's idea of the popularization of information and science," says Roy. "Everything from the work I do at the APS to the Friends' new website seems to be related to this."

A native Philadelphian, Roy also counts Franklin as his benefactor: it was through the City of Philadelphia Franklin Fund that Roy was able to purchase his 1810 rowhouse in the Northern Liberties section of town back in 1979. "It was great to see that Franklin's money was still working in this town, encouraging people to stay in the city and 'pursue useful trades'."

Roy enjoys his involvement with the Friends of Franklin because "[Franklin] brings a lot of great people together." Those of us who have had the opportunity to interact with Roy during one of his frequent appearances at Franklin events know him to be one of those "great people." His easy, outgoing nature and friendliness make him a natural ambassador for Franklin and his ideas. Thanks, Roy, for all your hard work, and for being a true "friend" of Franklin!

Welcome and Thank You to Our New Members!

Upgrades to Life Membership

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New Haven, CT

Michael Newcomb;
Cave Creek, AZ

Barbara Oberg;
Princeton, NJ

Sustaining:

B. Franklin Reinauer, II;
Green Pond, NJ

Allan J. Tolbert, III;
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Join Friends of Franklin!

Would you like to become an official member of the Friends of Franklin organization? Do you have a friend or relative who might wish to join, or who would appreciate a gift membership? All individuals, scholars, students, collectors, and Franklinophiles, as well as institutions, are invited to become members of the Friends of Franklin at the following membership rates:

Life Members	\$1,000	Franklin Friend	\$50
Institutional Members	\$1,000	Student Members (full time only; photocopy id)	\$20
Sustaining Friend	\$ 100	Subscription (Educators and libraries only)	\$20

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