

Franklin Gazette

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

Visit: www.friendsoffranklin.org

"Friends are the true Sceptres of Princes."

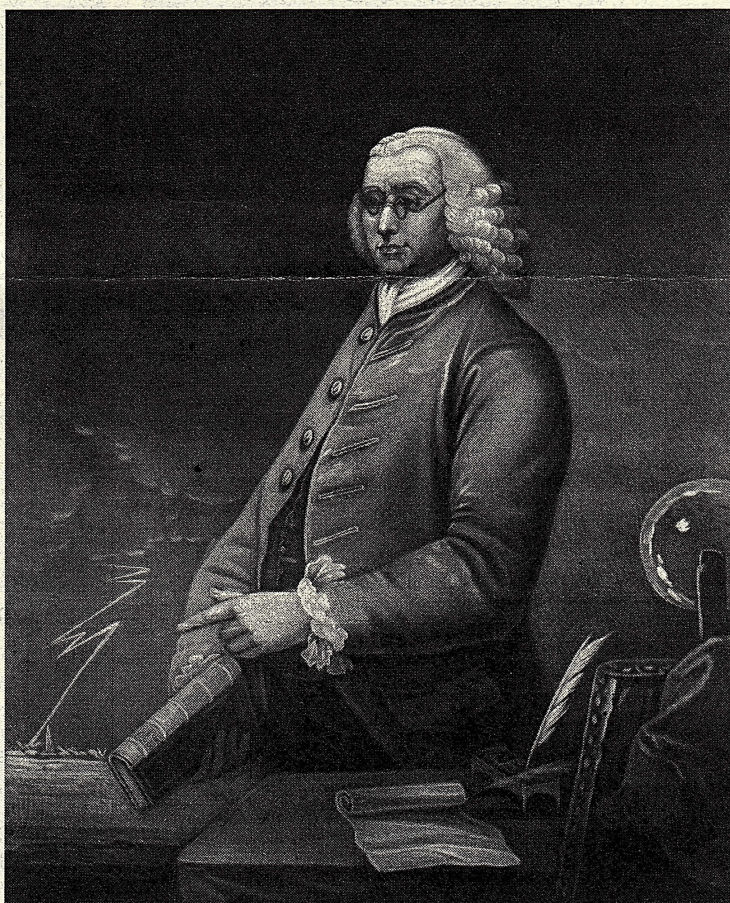
Poor Richard, October 1754

President's Message

By Lee E. Knepp

As we look forward to 2011, I am pleased to report on our efforts to bolster the organization's finances. In September, the Board endorsed a campaign proposed by our valued board member Frank Batchelor of Beaver, Pennsylvania. Our aim is to secure ten new corporate memberships, with an emphasis on those businesses that would take pride in being associated with Benjamin Franklin. We ask for your suggestions in identifying potential corporate members, and if you have a relationship with a key person at a corporation, and would be willing to introduce our fundraisers, we welcome your help. Stuart Batchelor of California was named as fundraiser and campaign leader, and I will advise and support the effort, aided by Board members Frank Batchelor, Roy Goodman, and Blaine McCormick, and executive director Kathy DeLuca.

In addition to our annual Friends' trip (for the latest one, to Scotland, see Elly Fitzig's account in this issue), the Board also decided to reinstitute the annual Franklin symposium. We expect to host one similar to those that we offered in the 1990s. In Philadelphia



Lithograph, "Franklin of Philadelphia, L.L.D. F.R.S."
Courtesy of the American Philosophical Society

in April, 2009, The Friends of Franklin presented "Ben Franklin Goes to Wall Street: Money, Investing and the Good Life," which featured several top-notch presenters, and was enthusiastically received. We are looking for one or more sponsors to offset the costs of these future events.

Under the capable leadership of board member and Franklin descendant Ted Molin of New Jersey is the planning for the much-anticipated reunion of Franklin descendants, which will take place in Philadelphia, June 3 - 5, 2011. You may recall that the Franklin descendants held a reunion there in April, 2006, the 300th anniversary of Franklin's birth. Franklin descendants at that event endorsed a reprise of that exciting meeting.

It is critical that our membership stand by these efforts. The board counts on your wise input and support.

And, as we near the end of 2010, please consider making a tax deductible contribution to The Friends of Franklin – this is your organization. Contributions should be sent to The Friends of Franklin, Inc., PO Box 40048, Philadelphia, PA 19106.

On behalf of The Friends of Franklin and its Board of Directors I wish for you a meaningful and joyous holiday season, and a healthy and prosperous 2011 for both you and The Friends of Franklin!

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A Renaissance for the Glass Armonica?

by Charlotte and Bob Craig

"In honor of your musical language [Italian], I have borrowed from it the name of this instrument calling it the Armonica." These words, written in 1762 by Ben Franklin to his friend Giambatista Beccaria, set the stage for the development of one of the most interesting and controversial musical instruments of the 18th Century. As the original creator of the "Glass Armonica," Mr. Franklin had the historical honor of initiating the use of this extraordinary musical instrument. It was unlike anything else ever before conceived, with its ethereal sounds, pleasing yet daunting tones, and its unique sound became identified with the Enlightenment. Regrettably, for many reasons, this instrument fell from "musical grace" and after the 18th century, was known to but a few academic musicians. Played infrequently, it got lost in the musical archives. While both Mozart and Beethoven wrote individual pieces for it, and other noted musicians of the time composed music for it as well, it was valued by fewer and fewer people over time.

Fast forward to the present times. There are still in existence a few armonicas played by a select number of talented musicians at special events. Friend of Franklin Ms. Cecilia Brauer has been one of the staunch adherents to this Franklin invention, and she has performed on it in some leading venues, most notably as the soloist in Donizetti's opera, "Lucia de Lammermoor," where she used the instrument to foreshadow the growing madness of the title character. There is

but one known manufacturer of these devices, G. Finkenbeiner, Inc., of Waltham Massachusetts. Recently, because of a rise in interest in historical musical instruments – such as the armonica – a program to teach the armonica has been established at the Mason-Gross School of the Arts, at Rutgers University, in New Jersey, under the leadership of Dean George Staffer and the authors of the present article. Beginning in 2011, a graduate fellowship will be awarded to a student to study and learn to play the armonica. An instrument will be procured to allow the fellowship holder to learn the intricacies of the instrument and to offer performances at various venues as part of an overall program featuring historical musical instruments.

It is hoped that this effort may rekindle interest in this "one of a kind" treasure and preserve for today's generation an important, but little known, invention of the multi-talented and surprisingly creative Benjamin Franklin. The historical record shows that Franklin claimed that the armonica was the musical instrument he played that gave him the greatest pleasure.

For those readers wishing "to play the armonica," you may do so at the below listed web site.

<http://fi.edu/franklin/musician/virtualarmonica.html>

Charlotte and Bob Craig are Friends of Franklin from Princeton, N.J.

Calling All Musical History Scholars Interested in the Glass Armonica

Friend Bob Craig is organizing a panel at the International Society for Eighteenth Century Studies (ISECS) conference in Graz, Austria. The conference runs July 24-29, 2011. Bob's panel is entitled "The Glass Armonica: The Development, History, and Demise of a Unique Musical Instrument of the Eighteenth Century". He is currently accepting proposals for other papers on the subject for the panel.

Bob will furnish all interested participants with the panel abstract. You can email him at Craigrbcm@aol.com, or write him at 51 Hedge Row Road, Princeton, NJ 08540.

Registration and proposals should be submitted in accordance with the conference guidelines at <http://www.18thCenturyCongress-Graz2011.at>.

The Friends of Franklin Visit Scotland

August 29-September 6, 2010

By Elly Fitzig



From the moment we checked into the George Hotel in the heart of Edinburgh, there was magic. The annual Fringe Festival was underway, but we had our own treasures to explore.

Within hours of arrival, our troupe of 10 travelers was met by Peter Jones, Professor Emeritus of Philosophy at the University of Edinburgh, who, along with his late wife Jean, welcomed the Friends to Scotland in 1999. Moments later we set off on a walk to the Royal College of Physicians, where Iain Milne, Sibbald Librarian, dazzled us with fascinating 18th-century manuscripts and tales of Scottish medical personalities, including Dr. John Young Simpson, who introduced chloroform.

We were far too excited to allow thoughts of anesthesia (or our sleepless trans-Atlantic flight) to miss a thing. We reached Robert Louis Stevenson's house, where the author lived from 1857-1880, currently owned by the Macfie family. After a visit to their private park where we toasted, we retired to the dining room, where a delicious meal with produce from their own garden, including edible nasturtiums, was consumed.

The next day, with our kilt-bedecked guide David Stalker, we saw Edinburgh's Old and New Towns, Holyrood Palace, and the City Chambers. The Burgess Roll of the City of Edinburgh was signed by Franklin in 1759, when he and son William became guild brethren. We even peeked inside the old leather chest which contained the Lord Mayor of Edinburgh's chain of office with its not-too-shabby diamond brooch. A visit to St. Cecelia's Hall allowed a glimpse of "the finest collection of harpsichords in Europe," followed by "a stop at the Royal College of Surgeons, where we were entertained with the story of Alexander Wood, M.D., who made rounds with a raven and a tame sheep.

Our coach headed for the University of St. Andrews on the third day. Mrs. Rachel Hart, University Archivist, showed us numerous Franklin-related documents, including his 'Experiment Book,' in which Franklin recorded "a wet rat will not conduct electricity, but a dry one might." Mrs. Helen Rawson, Curator of Museum Collections, guided us to St. Salvator's Chapel at the university. Our timing could not have

been better, for workmen had arrived unexpectedly to open the underground crypt of the chapel's founder, Bishop James Kennedy (d. 1465). Our vivacious student-guide Jenny, red velvet university robe fashionably around her elbows, led us at the University Museum. There Dr. Ian Carradice, Keeper of the Collections, showed us artifacts related to famous alumni, including Franklin. Our delicious dinner at Fern Cottage, Pitlochry, was followed by a performance of "Nana" by Owen Wymark. We also took in the "Queen's View," a breathtaking scenic look-out where Prince Albert proposed to Queen Victoria (or perhaps, it was the other way around).

A visit to the Royal Society of Edinburgh, followed by a free afternoon helped us regroup for our visit to the University of Glasgow, where Lesley Richmond, University Archivist, showed us the campus. Franklin had passed through its Old Main Gate. The day's highlight was luncheon at the University of Strathclyde, where we learned about Franklin's association with the university's founder, John Anderson.

At the National Library of Scotland Dr. Iain Brown, Principal Manuscripts Curator, led a tour. Then we drove through the Central Highlands to Stirling Castle, and were met at the castle by guide "Wee Sandy," who led us to a view of a cell once occupied by condemned prisoners next to our lunch room. Our lunch-time speaker, Dr. Ken McKay, spoke on "Franklin & Blair Drummond." A stop at the former site of Blair Drummond, the home of Franklin's friend Lord Kames, where he once planted a tree, followed. Unable to locate the tree, we nevertheless found that the property is next door to a safari park.

Our final day included Mellerstain House, in the border country near Kelso, decorated by William and Robert Adam. Franklin may not have visited there, but several of his friends did, and in the ballroom on the top floor we saw remarkable embroideries and clothing dating from his time. The

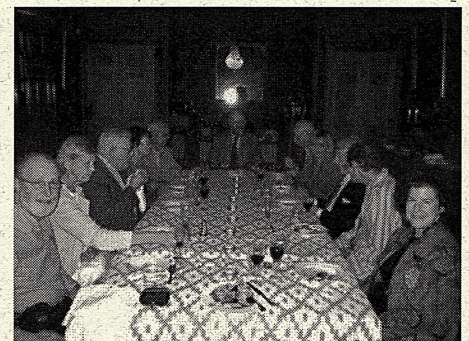


The Friends stand at the Old Main Gateway of the University of Glasgow, built during the reign of Charles II, which Franklin walked through during visits to the university.

week concluded with a Farewell Dinner at Prestonfield House, the home of Alexander Dick, whom Franklin visited for five days in 1759. Professor Jones and Lt. Colonel Dr. Diana Henderson led the discussion while we dined in elegant surroundings. One final treat was the spectacular firework display over Edinburgh Castle.

Many thanks to Kathy De Luca and all who made this tour so delightful, and stay tuned for more adventures to come!

Editor's Note: For more photos and information on Franklin and John Anderson and their shared interests as well as the recent Friends' visit, visit <http://www.strath.ac.uk/archives/itemofthemonth/september2010/> to read Senior Library Assistant Carol Stewart's account in the University of Strathclyde Glasgow Archives newsletter.



Dinner at Robert Louis Stevenson's House, hosted by the Macfie family

In His Own Words

“May God give us soon a good Peace”



Most people don't think of Franklin as an editor, but he was a good one. The letter below, written on March 5, 1780, from France gives us some idea of Franklin's reasons for wishing to intervene and edit a text. The revision that Franklin had in mind was never published. It would be fun to see the original text that Franklin held in his own hands here—perhaps he added some commentary in the margins as he did with other writings? Maybe one day some rare book dealer will come across the copy that is referred to in the letter below.

The victory of the Battle of Saratoga in 1777 (for which see Part IV of Franklin in the Hudson Valley) had far reaching consequences for both the United States and Franklin. Some years later, reflecting on the part that that success had on driving the British to finally negotiate a peace with its former colonies, Franklin wrote to the commander of the defensive effort at Saratoga, Horatio Gates. He kept a copy of his letter, and it is among his papers at the Library of Congress.

The work that Franklin enclosed with his letter to Gates was one published by John Burgoyne, the disgraced British commander at Saratoga, who surrendered his entire army. It was entitled *A State of the Expedition from Canada as Laid Before*

the House of Commons... (London, 1780). An American living in London had sent a copy to Franklin, and as soon as Franklin received it he could not resist sending it on to Gates, whose troops had so soundly trounced Burgoyne. Throughout the remainder of the war Franklin often referred to the great American victory, and commemorated it on the Libertas Americana medal he had struck in 1783, and which he distributed to all the European heads of state and the American Congress.

The proclamation that Franklin wished that Burgoyne had included was one made in June, 1777, in which General Burgoyne denounced rebel tyranny, and promised to “protect” those well disposed to the British forces in the areas of New York through which his army was about to march. Burgoyne also threatened the noncompliant with the fury of thousands of Indians who were allied to the British forces. The proclamation was, as Franklin observed, in marked contrast to the statement that Burgoyne issued at his surrender. Although it is not in common usage today, Franklin's contemporaries turned the British commander's name into a verb. Being “burgoyned” was not something you would ever wish upon a friend. This is what Franklin wrote to Gates:

Passy, March. 5. 1780.

I embrace this Opportunity of the Marquis de La Fayette's return to the [American] Army, to Salute you, my dear old friend, and to present you with my best Wishes for your Health and prosperity.

He will deliver you a Book lately published by General Burgoyne to explain and account for his misfortune. The perusal may amuse you[.] To make the work compleat—Methinks he ought to have given us in it his proclamation contrasted with his capitulation.

We are making great Preparations here, intending an active, and hoping for a successful Campaign.

May God give us soon a good Peace, and bring you and I together again over a Chessboard, where we may have Battles without Bloodshed. I am ever, with the highest Esteem, Dear sir, Your most obedient and most humble Servant

Congratulations and Thanks to Frank Batchelor!

Friend and Board member Frank Batchelor and the Batchelor Furniture Company were honored on November 4, 2010 by the Beaver County Foundation for “success in fulfilling the spirit of entrepreneurship in the best tradition of Ben Franklin.” Two other local firms were also honored.

The Beaver County Foundation is able to honor these individuals and organizations thanks to a \$5000 trust fund Benjamin Franklin set up which was to “to be invested for 200 years and then distributed to worthy Pennsylvania organizations and institutions. The Beaver County Foundation was chosen to receive a share of this legacy amounting to \$25,000 to continue Franklin's desire to encourage and recognize the spirit

of business initiative, and those willing to carve new paths,” explained Beaver County Foundation President, Charles N. O'Data.

Frank Batchelor is donating his award to the Friends of Franklin, a cause that would no doubt have pleased the founder of this award. FOF president Lee Knepp extended congratulations to the Batchelors on behalf of the organization:

“Hearty congratulations to both you and Carin upon your recognition today! I wish I could have been present to more adequately convey to those of the Beaver Community Foundation the degree to which the Friends of Franklin treasure the involvement of you and Carin in our organization.

“You should take just pride in your family business which, over a period of several generations, contributed significantly to the economy and quality of life in Beaver County, and we know the citizens of Beaver County owe you and your family a debt of gratitude for your considerable history of community service.

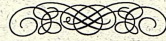
“We hope you will especially treasure the association of this day with the illustrious Founding Father Benjamin Franklin. I truly believe he would applaud your selection for the honor.

“Please be assured the board and membership of the Friends of Franklin join with me in saluting you, and in expressing appreciation for the designation of this check to further our efforts to preserve the important legacy of Benjamin Franklin.”

Benjamin Franklin and the Hudson Valley: Four Seasons in Albany

Part IV

by Kate Ohno



Editor's note: This series of articles is based on the talk Kate Ohno gave to the Friends in October, 2009, during their visit to the Hudson Valley.

Fall, 1777: Anxiety and Jubilation

By 1777 Franklin was minister to France, and although he was far from the Hudson Valley during the fall campaign, he was keenly aware of the strategic importance of the region and the real possibility that British troops would invade the valley and cut off the New England colonies from the rest of the new nation, putting an end to the American rebellion. We know that during the final military campaign of the war he was discovered by a dinner guest poring over maps and comparing news reports. We don't have similar testimony of his actions in 1777, but I don't think it is too speculative to assume that he did the same at the earlier date. After all, he knew the terrain intimately from his trips to the Hudson Valley, and Burgoyne's pincher movement reaching out of Canada to meet up with Howe advancing up the Hudson would have been all too concrete

to him, based on these earlier visits, the last of which had terminated in the spring of 1776, hardly more than a year earlier (for which see Part III in the summer issue of the *Gazette*). The canal envisioned by Gen. Schuyler to make communications easier and the border with Canada more readily defensible had never been built. Moreover, he had first hand knowledge of the terrible condition of the American forts along the way. Ticonderoga was captured in early July, 1777, by Burgoyne's troops, and Benjamin Lincoln's troops threatened, but did not retake it in September. Waiting in France for news, Franklin knew, that the French would never ally themselves publicly with the Americans if the British appeared to have quashed the rebellion.

Although the news of Gates' great victory at Saratoga in October, 1777, was sent as quickly as possible to Franklin, it was slow to arrive. Jonathan Loring Austin left Boston at the end of October, and despite an especially speedy ocean voyage, only managed to arrive at Franklin's doorstep on December 4. Before he even had time

to set foot on the pavement in front of Franklin's house, the American minister, usually so measured and calm, was pelting him with questions. Austin told him the great news--Burgoyne and his whole army were prisoners of war! The effect on Franklin was "electrical".

It made all the difference; it allowed Franklin to persuade the French to ally themselves openly with the Americans, and to provide money, arms, and military support throughout the remainder of the war. Without the French the war could never have been won, and the news from the Hudson Valley was the clincher. A treaty of alliance with the French was signed in February, 1778.

Today, more than 200 years after that great victory, I like to imagine that if Franklin was here, he would ask you to raise a glass to the Americans who persisted against such overwhelming odds. The Hudson Valley was sacred ground to Franklin; here he hoped, despaired, and finally, triumphed.

Patience Wright: "Women are always useful in grand Events"

Patience Wright to John Dickinson, April 6, 1775

By Eleanor Gesensway



Twenty miles from Franklin's Philadelphia and just nine miles from the printing office in Burlington which he used when serving as the official printer for the royal colony of New Jersey, sits the Delaware River town of Bordentown, N.J.

Originally known as Farnsworth's Landing, it changed its name when Joseph Borden's big ships rode the tide up river. At 100 Farnsworth Avenue is a house with a plaque reading,

HOME OF
PATIENCE LOVELL WRIGHT
1725-1786
FIRST AMERICAN MODELER IN WAX
AND FEMALE SPY
MOTHER OF
JOSEPH WRIGHT
DESIGNER OF ORIGINAL U.S.COINS

Intrigued to learn more about this unusual woman, I read Charles Coleman Sellers' meticulously researched

biography, *Patience Wright: American Artist and Spy in George III's London* (Wesleyan University Press, 1976). She was indeed a fascinating woman and an accomplished artist, but I was especially surprised to learn of her relationship with Benjamin Franklin.

She called him repeatedly her "gardiun angel" and "the glorious deliverer." He, in turn, though refusing to be a co-conspirator in a British revolution, evidently respected

Honoured Sir
 178 March 29th
 as Mr. Watts history his marriage
 my daughter and her return to America
 is already been said before you for your
 Council Affairs &c. The most sincere gratitude
 to God for making you the guardian angel
 of us, who are so far from our native
 country, notwithstanding I meet with the
 greatest politeness and civility from the
 people of England yet, the distress which
 is already come and must follow to this
 once great little Island give me such pain
 I cannot content my self to repeat any more
 I began with the Boston Port Bill and I have
 travel through all the different ways of
 Providence to bring about the grand and
 most extraordinary Revolution by the most
 unlikely means. That I now believe that
 all my romantic Education I find with
 my father & to Lovell's Courage can be serviceable
 yet farther to bring on the glorious cause of
 civil and religious Liberty. 5 years ago I
 dreamt a dream concerning Port Franklin I
 wrote down dream and told number how it
 to say that all these wonderful events would happen
 and as only one half as yet come to pass I

Patience Wright to Benjamin Franklin, March 29, 1778.
 Courtesy of the American Philosophical Society.

and even admired her "American gusto," her spontaneous blunt speech, and her recognized artistry and originality. It was through her acclaimed ability to model heads of her contemporaries in wax (which she called "bustos") that she met Franklin.

Patience Lovell was four when her Quaker family moved from Oyster Bay, N.Y., to Bordentown, N.J. There, her frugal, opinionated, farmer father prospered, but he would have been furious if he had observed some of his ten children secretly modeling little lifelike figures in clay or flour dough and painting them with herbal dyes. Over the years Patience gradually rebelled against his stern regimens.

So, in 1745, twenty-year-old Patience, tired of being "disobedient," left home for Philadelphia, where the arts flourished and where she could be free. Without financial resources, however, she soon married "a substantial Quaker," Joseph Wright, who,

in Patience's words as reported by Captain Philip Thicknesse in his *New Bath Guide* for 1778 "had nothing but Age and Money to recommend" him.

In 1748 the newlyweds bought the Farnsworth Avenue house in Bordentown. When Joseph Wright died in 1769, his fortunes having declined since his marriage, 44-year-old Patience was left with little to maintain her family of four children and another on the way but her ingenuity and her "abilities."

Her sister, Rachel Wells, also a widow and living in Philadelphia, led the way in solving their economic problems. Rachel had become so adept in making wax images that Dr. William Shippen, Jr., employed her to sculpt in wax two female children joined together from breastbone to navel, which he then sent to Benjamin Franklin in London for transmission to the Royal Society.

Patience soon overshadowed her sister's reputation with her greater speed, ease, and nuanced facial expressions, producing amazingly realistic portraits in wax. Frances Hopkinson, himself a man of many talents, a future signer of the Declaration of Independence, an acquaintance of Franklin, and her neighbor, became an admirer. Leaving her children with relatives, Patience traveled the East Coast seeking commissions, and she exhibited her growing output in both Philadelphia and New York City. Waxwork shows were then a popular amusement in America as well as in England. Included in her exhibitions were busts of John Dickinson, "the Pennsylvania Farmer", and Lieutenant-Governor Cadwalader Colden of New York, author of medical works, a botanist, and a close friend of Benjamin Franklin.

Increasingly, as her subjects became her friends, she found herself a famous personality, and her waxwork gallery became a place for discussions of people and the times.

While in Boston, Patience and Rachel met Jane Mecom, Franklin's beloved sister. When Jane learned of Patience's idea of going to London to seek new commissions, she offered to write a letter of introduction to her brother. Jane thought Ben could persuade the eminent of Britain to pose for the American artist. Leaving her children with her New York relatives, Patience Wright set sail for London on February 3, 1772. She fully intended to return to America, but delayed until her trip home was no longer possible. She died in London in 1786 at the age of 60 following a fall.

Upon her arrival in London and with the letter from Jane Mecom and her wax portrait of Cadwalader Colden in hand, Patience visited Franklin at his home on Craven Street. Writing to his sister on March 4, 1772, Franklin commented that Wright's work "appears extraordinary," and he promised to recommend her to his friends. And so their friendship began. He liked her art and he liked her boldness, energy, and "earthy vehemence." Her first London work was a bust of Franklin. (Neither this 1772 life-size wax bust with real hair, nor the copy she made of it and sent to her sister to be exhibited in New York and in Philadelphia has been located.)

Patience settled in Westminster, near St. James Palace, a center for artists and art patrons. Franklin's friend, Dr. Fothergill, appeared at her studio along with many others. Benjamin West, another American

continued on p.7

artist, recommended her to the King, who invited her to Kensington Palace, where he and Queen Charlotte sat for their portraits.

When her children arrived to live with her a year later, she moved to Chudleigh Court, Pall Mall. There, Lady Juliana Penn commissioned a bust of her husband, Thomas, the unpopular governor of Pennsylvania. Upon its completion she demanded that it replace the bust of Franklin in the place of honor in Patience's waxwork gallery. Lady Juliana's patronage seems to have caused a rift between Wright and Franklin, as Franklin wrote to his wife on April 6, 1773, that he did not know how he had displeased Mrs. Wright; that he had done his best to help her, but that she never came near him anymore.

This coolness lasted only a short time. The revelation of Franklin's part in the publication of the private letters of Thomas Hutchinson, governor of Massachusetts, together with his witty, satirical writings compounded the wrath of British officialdom but rekindled the fires of friendship in Mrs. Wright.

It was in the aftermath of the 1773 attacks on Franklin that Patience claimed to have had a prophetic dream. In it she saw Franklin rising again in triumph, both over the King and all his other enemies. She saw that it was Franklin who would bring peace, unity and renewal to the troubled empire, a vision that she would continuously refer to in many of the letters she wrote him as time went on. (She finally revealed her dream to him on March 29, 1778, when she wrote, "5 years agoe I Drempt a Dream" which she wrote down in her "Jurnal." Unfortunately, this journal has never been found.)

Meanwhile, Patience wholeheartedly and energetically participated in discussions and activities during the months and years of accelerating struggles between crown and colonies. Visitors to her waxworks provided her with insider gossip, and gave her all "the advantages I wish or want" to enable her to be a conduit for the transmission of military and political information to Franklin and others. She recognized the importance in London of information from America and in America of news she garnered from the Court and Parliament. When she realized that government agents were reading private mail, she conceived the idea of stuffing dispatches destined for the Continental Congress inside the waxworks she shipped to her sister Rachel in Philadelphia.

Franklin sailed for home on March

20, 1775, carrying hopes of effecting a reconciliation between Congress and King. He also carried a long letter from Patience Wright to John Dickinson dated March 10, in which she urged "Wisdom and Prudence" by Congress despite increasing agitation against the monarchy and its ministry.

A year and a half after his homecoming in Philadelphia, Franklin landed in France on December 3, 1776. On March 7, 1777, Patience wrote begging him to "Suffer me to trouble you with my Scraps of papr as I formerly did in Craven Street." In closing, she informed him that Lord Dunmore told the King, "americe will very Soon be tired of doct. Franklings Conduct." Franklin's old friend William Strahan wrote to Franklin on May 27, 1777, reassuring him of the health and continued devotion of "your excellent friend in Pall Mall."

Six more surviving letters from 1777-78 plead for Franklin's help. All concern the imprisonment on charges of high treason of Ebenezer Smith Platt, a young man with whom Patience's daughter Elizabeth was in love. Patience urged Franklin to appeal for justice on Platt's behalf. She adds, "My vanity prompts me to think I Can entertan you if permitted to write...Small begining and Some time a Slight hint to a wise man from a honest heart may do wonders."

A second letter of March 7 was sent by a friend so that it would not be intercepted. She enclosed news and publications and urged him to come to England. "You must be our Delivier our Salvation depends on you and you Sir have it in your Powr to Set us all in order."

Exactly two months later, Patience again pleaded for help, this time in the cause of American prisoners. "We Considr you our Comon Father and we all look up to you... Let England See you atend to the Rights of all us american who are now undr the opression of warr... You are now the most happy Instrement and cane Save Both Contrys by your wisdom and Powr."

It seems that Franklin failed to respond to these appeals. On November 10, 1777, Patience wrote to him once again: "This is the 5th lettr I have wrote to Dr. Frankling... none of which I have Recd. any answr... most humbly begs some direction how to proceed concerning mr. Platt" and others confined in Newgate prison. Franklin did what he could, sending money from his own purse. He also sent American public money to help with prisoners' subsistence. Although formal prisoner exchanges met with little success, eventually Platt was released, and in March, 1778, he married Elizabeth Wright. The couple set out for

Philadelphia by way of France, where Franklin gave them his blessing and further aid.

With that personal matter taken care of, and with the resumption of communications from Franklin, Patience again turned her energies to convincing Franklin to return triumphantly to England: "the good god who governs the world... Raises up a Frankling to do his great work and that America should be honourd with her Son Benjiman...and the man whom I have been taught to look on with the highest hopes to my Contry."

News of British losses on the battlefield only heightened anti-American sentiment in London. She feared arrest for speaking her mind in public. With the departure of patriotic Americans from England, and with the death of Lord Chatham, who had been a strong voice for the fair treatment of colonists, Patience found herself surrounded by fewer friends and more enemies. Her wax figure of Chatham, clothed in the scarlet robes of a peer and in the pose of an orator, was placed in the chapel of St. John the Baptist in Westminster Abbey in 1779. It was her only public commission. It remains an acclaimed work of art and can still be seen there today.

Further, with Franklin recognized at the French court as the envoy of an independent United States, and with the outbreak of war between England and France, Patience Wright closed her Pall Mall rooms. She wrote to Franklin in Passy on March 14, 1779, telling of her plans to return to America by way of France. She hoped that Franklin would recommend her to patrons in Paris. "I long to See you and love you more then Ever...My Servises are worthy of the Planeypotenterey [plenipotentiary] of amercca..."

After Franklin dissuaded her from coming to France in the expectation of finding work there (May 4, 1779), pointing out the myriad difficulties she would encounter in bringing her waxworks with her, Patience remained in London. She moved to the bustling neighborhood of Charing Cross; a waxwork studio and gallery on the lower level, and her residence above. There, she continued her political activities, including encouraging Britons to join in revolution against the monarchy.

When a 60,000-person march to Parliament to petition for reform in 1780 devolved into a mob that plundered, wrecked, and burned, enemies of the reformers took advantage of the riot to heap blame on Americans and Ben Franklin

in particular. Mrs. Wright was accused of ingratitude, insult, and indecency. English society was outraged in 1781 when her daughter Phoebe married artist John Hoppner, allegedly the King's bastard. Hoppner's pension from the crown was immediately terminated.

Patience realized she should leave England, and this time, she did go to France. Intending to repeat in Paris the success she had on first coming to London, she promptly renewed her acquaintance with Franklin, and at Passy she modeled a new wax portrait of him.

A young American businessman there, Elkanah Watson, ordered a wax head of Franklin for himself. When he and Patience dined with Franklin at Passy, they compared her work with the original. In his journal, Elkanah recorded, "No sooner in the presence of the Doctor, than she placed one head by the side of the other. 'There!' she exclaimed, 'are twin brothers.' The likeness was truly admirable." Franklin again wrote letters on her behalf to prominent people who might consent to pose.

Patience later returned to England. A letter to Franklin dated July 30, 1782, is filled with names of his old London friends, and she entreats him to return to England. She was also a friend of Franklin's son William. On his behalf she pleaded for reimbursement by America for the losses of Loyalist refugees, a cause to which Ben was cool.

Excitement followed the King's formal acknowledgement of the independence of the United States on December 5, 1782. In London on business, Elkanah Watson played on the continued rumor of Franklin's return to England. At a dinner party he placed his wax figure of Franklin in a chair by the fire posed as if he was reading a book. Each visitor addressed Dr. Franklin but received no answer. Quiet grumbling over the famous man's bad manners ensued. After having his fun, Watson revealed the "Man of Wax." "Gentlemen...I purchased this friend of Mrs. Wright...This is the first time the Doctor was ever bought or sold."

When Elkanah Watson returned to France he wrote to William Temple Franklin begging to be sent "a suit of your grandfather's Old Cloaths". Temple complied. This time Elkanah placed the figure

"in the corner of a large room near a closet, and behind a table. Before it I laid an open atlas, the arm resting upon the table, and mathematical instruments strewn upon it. A handkerchief was thrown over the arm stumps; and wires were extended to the closet, by which means the body could be elevated or depressed, and placed in various positions. Thus arranged, some ladies and gentlemen were invited to pay their respects to Dr. Franklin, by candle-light. For a moment, they were completely deceived, and all profoundly bowed and curtsied, which was reciprocated by the figure. Not a word

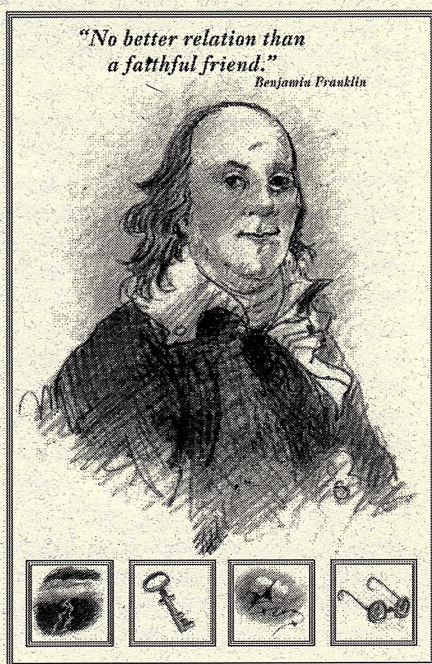
being uttered, the trick was soon revealed. A report soon circulated that Doctor Franklin was at Monsieur Watson's. At eleven o'clock the next morning, the Mayor of Nantes came in full dress to call on the renowned philosopher...Others came in, and all were desposed to gull their friends in the same manner."

These amusements occurred while Franklin himself was involved in the serious and crucial negotiations to end the Revolutionary War.

In 1783 Phoebe and John Hoppner moved to their own home in London where John's career as a portrait painter flourished. Patience's only son, Joseph, was also an accomplished artist. In 1782 he visited Paris, where he painted a portrait of Franklin. Unfortunately, on his voyage home to Philadelphia, Joseph was shipwrecked, and though he was saved, the copy of the portrait which he was carrying with him was lost at sea. Joseph Wright was received cordially in 1784 by George and Martha Washington at Mt. Vernon, where he modeled a bust of General Washington.

Patience was now a gently respected oddity, and she continued to confide her hopes and fears to Franklin in Passy. In February she wrote that his son William looked old and in bad health. She sent love to Franklin's grandson and once again expressed hope of seeing him in London as well as in Philadelphia "this summer."

continued on p.9



"No better relation than a faithful friend." —Benjamin Franklin

Customized card for a cause! Thinking of someone special, need to send out a thank-you note, want to acknowledge or touch base with a colleague? Why not send a note card that supports a good cause?

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The Friends of Franklin would like to acknowledge and offer our sincere thanks to President Roy Goodman's wife, Sherry Bufano, who donated her design talent to provide the customized artwork for the card graphic.

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By the time of the cessation of hostilities with Britain, Patience seems to have decided to moderate her speech and writing: "...I now no longer the old mad woman but Madam Wright or the Ingenious Mrs. Wright from America who told us TRUTH....Experience that Excellent school master has taught me to follow Reason and let the world do as they please." (to Franklin, March 19, 1783)

But still she could not allow herself to give up the fight to remove the "tyrant" King from power and send him "to some Place where mischievous Consort or Party can no longer destroy the peace and Happiness of mankind." Nor could she give up her belief that it was Franklin who would be the "garden angel"; the English "only want your help to set wisdom at work." Nor could she refrain from placing the responsibility for compensation of American Loyalists squarely on the monarchy, Loyalist "clames being Just on the King."

Nor could she cease to ask Franklin to help those who had appealed to her for help. Her letter of June 19, 1783, was to be the last Patience Wright wrote to Franklin. Biographer Sellers suggests several possible reasons for the close of their correspondence, including the signing of the Treaty of Peace (1783). More likely she realized that Franklin was never going to make that grand return entrance in England that she had prophesized and which she had frequently proclaimed publicly. Her vision of the future unfulfilled, she turned her attention to other things.

She continued to produce waxworks, working dexterously under her apron where the wax was kept warm and pliable while she busily conversed with her visitors and drew information out of them. William Smith observed that she was still "a great Enthusiast both in Religion & Politics with a vanity greatly inflated by the Rank of Visitors her Genius draws about her."

She was, after all, a "Promethean Modeller", "the Sibyl", a "singular genius", an "exotic prodigy"; a woman with a warm heart and a feisty fidelity to "the old Quaker truths" of fairness, equality and love. "An Ingenuous Woman." She described herself as "the great unfoldr of secrets". By her actions and in her own words, Patience Wright proved "that women are useful and may be admitted into the Bond of useful Friendship where the good of all men are Concern'd."

Reading Franklin



Tom Blair, *Poorer Richard's America: What Would Ben Say?* (Skyhorse, 2010) Complete with an introduction by Tom Brokaw, this book of essays points out flaws in modern America and suggests, through quotes by Franklin, the great promise of our form of government. Thanks to Friend Chuck Hargis for bringing this to our attention.

Molly McCarthy, "Redeeming the Almanac: Learning to Appreciate the iPhone of Early America," *Common-Place*, October, 2010. What discussion of the almanac could be complete without a mention of Franklin's *Poor Richard*? Read it on line at <http://common-place.org/vol-11/no-01/reading>

Craig Robertson, *The History of the Passport in America* (Oxford University Press, 2010). The passports that Franklin printed on his press at Passy during the American Revolution and signed for those requiring safe passage are among the first produced on behalf of the new nation.

Daniel Vaugelade, ed., *Voyage de La Rochefoucauld-Liancourt en Amérique* (Editions de L'Amandier, 2010), is an abridged version of the multi-volume work issued in both French and English in the 1790s. Franklin's stay in France during the Revolution inspired many Europeans to make a visit to America, among them the cousin of his dear friend the duc de La Rochefoucauld. In French.

Holiday Gift Guide

Franklin was constantly sharing books with his friends, and they reciprocated, sending him their own works and those of others. We can think of no more appropriate gift for the holiday season for a fan of Benjamin Franklin than a good book. Here are some recent ones, including the very latest book on Franklin from long-time senior associate editor of *The Papers of Benjamin Franklin* Jonathan R. Dull.

Benjamin Carp, *Defiance of the Patriots: the Boston Tea Party and the Making of America* (Yale University Press, 2010). Ben will be speaking about his book to the Colonial Society of Massachusetts on Dec. 16, the anniversary of the Tea Party.

Sheldon Cohen, *Commodore Abraham Whipple of the Continental Navy: Privateer, Patriot, Pioneer* (University of Florida Press,

2010). Friend Sheldon Cohen has long written about Franklin and his friends, and this latest book is a biography of a ship captain who likely made Franklin's acquaintance in 1776. He offers a discounted price of \$42.50 to any Friend of Franklin who would like the book, which is listed at \$69. Contact him by email at shelco539@comcast.net.

Jonathan R. Dull, *Benjamin Franklin and the American Revolution* (paperback, University of Nebraska Press, December, 2010). Robert Middlekauff calls this book "A rich history of Franklin's conduct in the Revolution. Having the various strands of Franklin's life in the revolutionary period woven together is of great value."

Julie Flavell, *When London Was the Capital of America* (Yale University Press, 2010). Here, in this lavishly illustrated volume, is Franklin's London of the 1760s and 1770s.

William Hogeland, *Declaration: The Nine Tumultuous Weeks When America Became Independent, May 1 to July 4, 1776* (Simon & Schuster, 2010). A close look at the period leading up to the Declaration of Independence in Franklin's Philadelphia.

Pauline Maier, *Ratification: The People Debate the Constitution, 1787-1788* (Simon & Schuster, 2010). The role of Franklin in formulating the Constitution has been often told, but few people today know that that familiar document was not immediately ratified by the states. Noted American historian Maier takes readers on a guided tour of this contentious debate.

John H. Pollack, ed., *"The Good Education of Youth": Worlds of Learning in the Age of Franklin* (Oak Knoll Press, 2009). Lavishly illustrated, it includes a catalog of the exhibit held at the University of Pennsylvania Library for the Tercentennial. Franklin's ideas for educating youth are the subject of several essays in this collection; John C. Van Horne's study looks at schools for African Americans in Philadelphia, Friend Carla Mulford examines Franklin's attitudes towards education for women, Lynne Farrington discusses a Franklin imprint on education, and Michael Zuckerman compares Franklin's contributions to educational theory with Jefferson's.

David Wondrich, *Punch: The Delights (and Dangers) of the Flowing Bowl* (Perigee Trade, 2010). Before there were cocktails there was punch, a favorite beverage of Franklin's. Drink historian Wondrich offers an historical overview and authentic recipes with notes for modern punch drinkers. Franklin recorded recipes for food and drink, among them one for orange shrub, a kind of punch.



Calendar of Events

January 21, 2011. Celebration! of Benjamin Franklin, Founder, annual symposium, procession to his grave and luncheon. This year's theme is Pennsylvania Politics: Franklin to Rendell; for more information or registration see: www.ushistory.org/celebration.

June 3-5, 2011. Descendants' reunion, Philadelphia, PA.

"Benjamin Franklin: In Search of a Better World" Traveling exhibit:

December 16, 2010-March 13, 2011, Bowers Museum, Santa Ana, CA

April 14 - July 31, 2011, Heinz History Center, Pittsburgh, PA

September 2, 2011- January 8, 2012, Gerald Ford Museum, Grand Rapids, MI

February 10 - May 6, 2012, National Archives, Washington, DC.

The traveling library exhibit: "Benjamin Franklin : In Search of a Better World" is coming to the following locations:

Nov. 3-Dec. 17, 2010. Verona Public Library, Verona, WI; Oxford Public Library, Oxford, PA

January 12 - February 25, 2011: Eastern Illinois University, Booth Library, Charleston, IL; Camden County College, Blackwood, NJ

Annual Drive Continues

Please remember that the Friends of Franklin's annual appeal continues and be as generous as you can to support the Friends' organization. Each and every gift is tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowable by law. For additional information, contact Kathy DeLuca at 856-833-1771.

Franklin Tidbits



Franklin censored? AARP's magazine lists Franklin's *Autobiography* as one of the most banned books of all time.

Franklin and "the holy grail of advertising": Interactive media is being used by those using public transit in Albany, N.Y., to access Franklin's autobiography. Anyone with a 2-D smartphone can scan a two-dimensional bar code displayed in the station on a poster advertising free books. Once the code is scanned, the user is sent to a web site offering a free download of an electronic book that can be read on the user's phone. In the first two weeks of the campaign, the *Autobiography* was one of the top three titles downloaded.

For Elizabeth Olson's complete story, see the Oct. 25 issue of the *New York Times*: <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/10/26/business/media/26adco.html?emc=eta1>

Franklin on stage: In Philadelphia on Sept. 17 and 18 the Historical Theatre Acting Group presented a new play by Richard Dalton, "a poignant, humorous examination of the delicate balancing of the important issues of slavery, women's rights and independence." The production, a Philly Fringe Festival offering, included in its cast an actor portraying Franklin and one performing the role of Franklin's enslaved black servant, George.

Friend Christopher Lowell has recently brought his Franklin presentation to Greenwich, Connecticut, Columbia University, Washington, D.C., and Rye, New York.

Historic Waters: The search for John Paul Jones's flagship, the *Bonhomme Richard* (in English, the Poor Richard, after the title of Franklin's almanac) continues in the fall of 2010 with the help of the navies of both the United States and France. The most famous of the American navy's warships, sunk in a battle with the *H.M.S. Serapis* in 1779, was part of a squadron that reported to Franklin, then minister to France. Previous searches of a 400-square mile area of Filey Bay (Yorkshire, England) yielded no wreck that could be positively identified as the *Bonhomme Richard*, but the Ocean Technology Foundation of Mystic, Connecticut, hopes to find what remains of the ship with state of the art sonar, an oceanographic survey ship, a mine hunter, underwater vehicles,

and divers. The Foundation began their search five years ago, but the search for the wreck goes back more than 30 years.

Franklin's influence on the conduct of cyberwar: The dangers of cyberwar have been in the headlines recently, but few know that a principle championed by Franklin during the negotiations to end the Revolutionary War, when he was a peace commissioner charged with making a treaty with the British, has been extended in international law to the conduct of cyberwar. Franklin proposed that civilians be protected from the depredations of war, and this idea was first incorporated into the treaty that the United States signed with Prussia in 1785. The protection of civilians from the potential effects of cyberwar is recognized as one of the conventions governing that kind of conflict. See Tom Gjelten's September 22 story from National Public Radio's Morning Edition at <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=130023318>

Franklin document sold at auction: On Feb. 25, 1767, Franklin wrote a long and interesting letter to his friend Lord Kames. Valued at more than a quarter of a million dollars, this important letter was sold at the Signature Historical Manuscripts Auction. In the letter Franklin hints at the possibility of an American revolt. You can read the entire letter at <http://www.franklinpapers.org>.

Franklin's advice gets high marks from financial advisor: Newspaper columnist Eric Tashlein wrote on Sept. 26 on guidelines for a successful retirement, and after giving a brief biography, he showed how some of Franklin's aphorisms still have meaning today, and how his philanthropic program was made possible by following his own advice. Tashlein concluded "You should understand that adopting Franklin's common-sense practices concerning money and debt can go a long way toward restoring your own fiscal health and helping you to manage your retirement plan."

Friend of Franklin Carla Mulford reports that the University of Delaware will continue to host Leo Lemay's Documentary History web site on Franklin. As Leo's former student, Carla has been fielding research queries generated by the UDel site. Carla also reports that 50 boxes of books from Leo's personal library have been given to Washington College in Chestertown, Md. Thanks to Friend James Srodes for passing on the good news.

Franklin Math Puzzlers

Aziz S. Inan, Ph.D., Electrical Engineering, University of Portland

Editor's note: Below are the last two Franklin themed math puzzles which appeared in the Summer Gazette and their solutions. Number 18 is a brand new puzzle for you to enjoy.

Problem # 16. Palindrome age on a palindrome date. How many seven-digit palindrome dates expressed in the month-day-year date format coincided with Ben Franklin's palindrome ages during his lifetime? How many seven-digit palindrome dates written in the day-month-year date format coincided with his palindrome ages in his life? (Note that the year number used in each date format must be a four-digit number.) (Source: Inan. Answer: 3 in each.)

(Solution: In the month-day-year date format, three seven-digit palindrome dates coincided with his palindrome ages: July 17, 1717 (7-17-1717) when Franklin was 11 years old, August 27, 1728 (8-27-1728) when he was 22, and May 7, 1750 (05-7-1750) when he was 44 years old. In the day-month-year date format, also three seven-digit palindrome dates coincided with his palindrome ages: 05 July 1750 (05-7-1750) when he was 44 years old, 16 July 1761 (16-7-1761) when he was 55 years old, and 27 July 1772 (27-7-1772) when he was 66 years old.)

Problem # 17. Seven-digit palindrome dates in the 21st century. How many seven-digit palindrome dates expressed in the month-day-year date format exist in the 21st century? How many seven-digit palindrome dates written in the day-month-year date format exist in the 21st century? (Note that the year number used in each date format must be a four-digit number.) (Source: Inan. Answer: 26 and 9.)

(Solution: A seven-digit palindrome date in the month-day-year date format in the 21st century has the form BA-0-20AB where single month digit B varies between 1 and 9. Digit A can either be 1, or 2, or 3, except A cannot be 3 in the case when B = 2 (February). There are 26 such palindrome dates total listed as follows:
1-10-2011, 2-10-2012, 3-10-2013, 4-10-2014, 5-10-2015, 6-10-2016, 7-10-2017, 8-10-2018, 9-10-2019, 1-20-2021, 2-20-2022, 3-20-2023, 4-20-2024, 5-20-2025, 6-20-2026, 7-20-2027, 8-20-2028, 9-20-2029, 1-30-2031, 3-30-2033, 4-30-2034, 5-30-2035, 6-30-2036, 7-30-2037, 8-30-2038, 9-30-2039.
No seven-digit palindrome dates in the month-day-year date format with a single-digit day number exist in the 21st century since a date number BA-0-20AB is not a valid date since the day number cannot be zero.
Similarly, a seven-digit palindrome date in the day-month-year date format in the 21st century is given by B-10-201B where the single day digit B varies between 1 and 9. There are a total of 9 such palindrome dates, all to occur in October, listed as follows:
1-10-2011, 2-10-2012, 3-10-2013, 4-10-2014, 5-10-2015, 6-10-2016, 7-10-2017, 8-10-2018, 9-10-2019.
No single-digit month number palindrome dates in the day-month-year date format exist in the 21st century since BA-0-20AB is not a valid date because the month number is zero.)

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