

Franklin Gazette

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

Visit: www.friendsoffranklin.org

"Gifts much expected, are paid, not given."

Poor Richard, December 1753

President's Message

By Lee E. Knepp

To those of you who are not already Life Members, we urge prompt remittance of your 2012 membership dues to The Friends of Franklin organization. Executive Director Kathy DeLuca has recently posted your dues notice which you should have in hand. Please respond quickly because The Friends of Franklin depends heavily on the revenue generated by membership dues.

In looking ahead to membership opportunities in 2012, we commend board members and officers Jackson Boswell and Martin Mangold, along with their wives Ann and Jane, for their willingness to plan a late winter/early spring getaway to Washington, DC. The traveling exhibit "Benjamin Franklin: In Search of a Better World," which in 2011 was featured at the John Heinz History Museum at Pittsburgh and the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum at Grand Rapids, Michigan, will open at the National Archives in Washington on February 12, 2012. In addition, a special exhibit "Something of Splendor: Decorative Arts from the White House" currently at the Renwick Gallery (located beside Blair



Benjamin Franklin, born at Boston, January the 17th 1706.
Courtesy of the American Philosophical Society.

House on Pennsylvania Avenue, and under the umbrella of the Smithsonian Institution sites) will run until May 6,

2012 affording a great opportunity for members and friends to take advantage of both venues. As the Mangolds and Boswells for some time have expressed interest in hosting the membership in Washington, DC, and as many of the members attending the annual tours have developed a genuine fondness for each other's company, we encourage you to respond to their kind invitation when you are notified of arrangements. We hope to keep this gathering rather informal, and to offer an opportunity for dinner and fellowship during the gathering.

As we end the year 2011 and enter into 2012, we wish you and your family a healthy and bountiful New Year, and remind you of your opportunity to make a financial contribution to The Friends of Franklin which will qualify as a deduction under Section 501(c)(3) of the I.R.S. Code. Contributions should be remitted to The Friends of Franklin, Inc., PO Box 40048, Philadelphia, PA 19106.

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March, June, September and December. Newsletter submissions are encouraged. Deadlines are the 15th of the month preceding publication. Submissions by e-mail or computer disks (text-only format) are preferred.

Editor's note: This article was first published in the November/December 2011 issue of the Yale Alumni Magazine.

No more Raping and Pillaging

By Carole Bass, Yale University '83, '97 MSL

"All Fishermen, all Cultivators of the Earth, and all Artizans, or manufacturers unarmed and inhabiting unfortified Towns, Villages or Places, who labour for the common Subsistence and Benefit of Mankind and peaceably follow their respective Employments, shall be allowed to continue the same, and shall not be molested by the Armed Force of the Enemy."

With these poetic words, Benjamin Franklin proclaimed a radical ideal: that civilians – especially those whose labors help feed and clothe their neighbors – should be left alone by invading armies.

Franklin, who had been sent to France to negotiate an end to the Revolutionary War, tried to include this language in the Treaty of Paris, which formally ended the war with the British in 1783. But the British rejected Franklin's humanitarian invention. Not until 1785, in a pact with Prussia, did Franklin and other American negotiators succeed in securing wartime protections for humble working people.

As he was waiting for the British decision in 1783, the elderly statesman was negotiating commercial treaties with Portugal and Denmark, which were never ratified. Yale researchers have now discovered that those deals also included

the landmark language safeguarding civilians – a fact Franklin had kept secret. "Without telling [fellow negotiator John] Adams or Congress, he slipped in this article," explains Ellen Cohn, editor of the Papers of Benjamin Franklin project at Yale. The project, cosponsored by the American Philosophical Society, aims to edit and publish all of Franklin's writings; it was founded in 1954 and has so far produced 39 of a projected 47 volumes.

Because Franklin told no one about his clandestine efforts, and made no written record of them, Cohn turned to the Danish National Archives for an account of his "deft and complex negotiating strategies." She tells the story in Volume 40 of Franklin's papers, which will be published in December.

Eventually, the Geneva Conventions enshrined civilian protections in international law. It was one of Franklin's dearest wishes. "He wanted this to be universal," Cohn says. He once wrote, in a letter to a friend: "I should be happy if I could see before I die, the proposed Improvement of the Law of Nations established. The Miseries of Mankind would be diminished by it; and the Happiness of Millions secured and promoted."



Franklin Abroad

Cecilia Brauer, member of Friends of Franklin, concert pianist, Armonicist and associate member of the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra for almost 40 years, recently returned from Japan after a very successful tour with the Metropolitan Opera.

Ms. Brauer, who plays the celeste with the orchestra, performed the Armonica in Lucia di Lammermoor, one of the operas presented. It was the first time in Japanese history that the Armonica was ever used in the third act "mad scene" as originally written by the composer,

Donizetti in 1835. As we all know, the Armonica is the musical glass instrument invented by Ben Franklin in 1761 when he was in London.

History was also made at the Metropolitan Opera in 1992 when Ms. Brauer first introduced the Armonica into Lucia and has done so ever since. She has a very interesting website which will give you much information about her many and varied areas of performances. It can be found at:

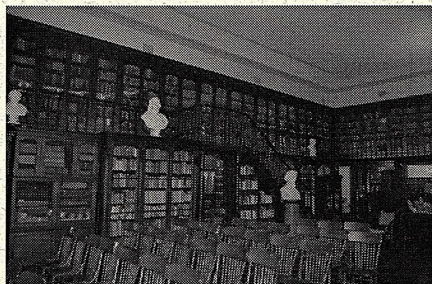
www.gigmasters.com/armonica/

Benjamin Franklin and the Pennsylvania Germans

Saturday Tour: Five Historic Sites and Brauhaus Dinner

By Jean K. Wolf - Wolf Historic Preservation

Tour participants for the fall symposium (September 15th to 17th) enjoyed visits to five historic sites in greater Philadelphia on Saturday. Not only were they exposed to landscapes and buildings that Franklin knew, but they also had the pleasure of seeing a chair from his London apartment now in the collection at Wyck, in Germantown. The weekend concluded with great beer and food at Brauhaus Schmitz on South Street as the first day of Munich's Oktoberfest began.



Reading Room of the German Society of Pennsylvania.

Despite the decibel level, conviviality and food were enjoyed by all.

Saturday's travels included Philadelphia treasures many had not visited. The first stop was the German Society of Pennsylvania, founded in 1764 to provide economic, legal, and social help to 18th-century German immigrants. Today it is located at 611 Spring Garden Street in a building erected in 1888. It houses the largest private German library in the U.S. in an elegant 19th-century reading room. A grand hall on the first floor serves the public for concerts, cultural events, and programs on German culture. Violet Lutz, Special Collections Librarian, displayed and discussed a marvelous array of publications from the printing press of Germantown's Christopher Sauer—one of Franklin's rivals in business. Among the rarities we saw was Sauer's 1743 German Bible, the first printed



The garden side of Grumblethorpe; view toward Germantown Avenue.

in North America.

The next stop was Grumblethorpe on Germantown Avenue, a stone residence with a deep garden at the rear that was built in 1744. John Wister, a German immigrant who became a wine importer, built the house as a summer retreat. Ties between Franklin and Wister are confirmed by a receipt documenting property rentals from Wister. His descendants expanded and used the property until 1950, thus it is filled with furnishings, memorabilia, and tales of family and Germantown. A special treat was local ice cream and jams for sale at a sidewalk stall. Local gardening initiatives for the community have been implemented at Grumblethorpe by programs of the Philadelphia Society for the Preservation of Landmarks. Surely Franklin would have approved.



The entrance hall of James Logan's Stenton.

Our lunch stop was Stenton, the beautiful 1730 Georgian brick home of James Logan, Secretary to William Penn. Stenton is one of the city's most intact Quaker houses of this period, and its elaborate interior is particularly notable. As we toured the house and its surviving outbuildings we learned Franklin's visits to Stenton were often to seek Logan's financial support to establish new institutions in Philadelphia. A massive brick wing to the large separate kitchen became our box-lunch picnic spot. The site is under the care of the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America.

Back on Germantown Avenue we stopped to tour the stone and stucco farm house Wyck, which includes outbuildings, the historic rose garden begun by Jane Bowne Haines, and a farm program for the neighborhood. The farm yard now includes chickens. Generations of family possessions from Wyck descendants fill the house. The farm property was the home of two prominent Quaker families—those of Caspar Wistar and Reuben Haines. The first structure on the site was a log cabin built in 1690 by Hans Milan, a Dutch-



Wyck's south facade, looking west.

German immigrant. This no longer stands, but the property descended through Milan's daughter. The house was changed by subsequent owners, but especially notable are renovations designed by Philadelphia architect William Strickland in 1824 for Reuben and Jane Haines.

Our last stop was at Historic Rittenhouse Town, home of the earliest paper mill in America established in 1690 by William Rittenhouse on the banks of a tributary to the Wissahickon Creek, now part of Fairmount Park. The paper mill no longer exists, but would have been of prime importance to a newspaper publisher like Benjamin Franklin, who procured paper from any mill he could in exchange for his clean rags or cash. The Abraham Rittenhouse visitors' center provided a video and working model of the mill. We crossed the creek to visit the bake house and the 1707 family homestead. There noted scientist and inventor David Rittenhouse was born. This 18th and 19th century water-powered site was the hub of industrial activity a few blocks from Germantown Avenue. Now its history, architecture, and archaeology, are available to the public in a bucolic and peaceful setting.

Oktoberfest at South Street was the occasion for a beer and a toast. Prosit!



Rittenhouse Town's bake house (left) and homestead (right)

Worlds of Learning in the Age of Franklin: Part IV

By John Pollack

The pedagogical system that Franklin outlined in the *Proposals* cannot, therefore, be evaluated in a vacuum. His plans were but one of a remarkable number of educational projects undertaken or conceived in eighteenth-century Pennsylvania, and his ideas about education, while more far-reaching than some, were less so than others. This is not, however, to argue that Franklin's place in the world of education is marginal or his contributions insignificant. On the contrary, some of Franklin's other initiatives may actually have had a greater impact upon American education than his work for the Academy and College of Philadelphia. In fact, when we examine the scope of Franklin's educational interests and commitments and compare them, as Michael Zuckerman does in this volume, with those of his counterpart Thomas Jefferson, their breadth and depth become apparent.

Of particular significance is the "Junto," the voluntary association for self-improvement that Franklin invented with fellow tradesmen in the 1720s, and the intellectual traces of which remain preserved in a remarkable manuscript held by the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. The Junto established a powerful model of self-education for those with only limited access to formal schools and went on, as Joseph Kett has argued, to inspire the formation of hundreds of clubs and associations in the early republican and antebellum United States.⁵¹ Franklin also became an active promoter of the education of the African American population, free and enslaved. In his essay here, John C. Van Horne presents a much-needed archaeology of this topic. He shows how, thanks to the strong support of Franklin, the Anglican Associates of Dr. Bray opened a school for thirty black students in 1758, which grew in size and ran continuously until the Revolution, reopening in 1786. Van Horne argues that Franklin's experience with this school and his observations of the students there would help convince him to become an active abolitionist late in his life.

As a printer and bookseller, Franklin always played an active role in the dissemination of educational ideas and products. He imported and sold books and school supplies in his shop and competed with other printers for the growing trade in school textbooks.⁵² One recent discovery highlighted in this catalogue

is a complete copy of Franklin's 1750 printing of *The Friendly Instructor*, a series of dialogues to be read by young children to one another. This humble, pocket-sized text introduces the radical notion that children might learn best when left to themselves with a good—and in this case, "good" means highly moralized—book. For Franklin, the demands of business usually trumped personal opinions he held about his audiences. Putting aside any reservations he may have had about German culture, he printed Count Zinzendorf's *Kurzer Catechismus*, a catechism used in Moravian communities for over three decades.⁵³ Later, he supported the German Charity School movement by printing William Smith's manifesto for the program in 1755.

While the educational market no doubt helped his business, Franklin the writer often took aim at educational practices and pretensions. From his early *Silence Dogood* essays written for his brother's *New-England Courant*, in which young Benjamin mocks Harvard College, to his late "Petition to those who have the Superintendency of Education," in which he adopts the pose of a left-handed girl to poke fun at educational inequities, Franklin seems to have enjoyed using the educational system as a foil for his social commentary.⁵⁴ Indeed, Franklin never lost the reforming spirit that impelled him to prepare the *Proposals* in 1749. He engaged in lively debates with Noah Webster over the English language and the need for spelling reforms. As chairman of the Pennsylvania Abolition Society, he helped to author its call for "A Committee of Education, who shall superintend the school instruction of the children and youth of the free blacks."⁵⁵ And in the last few years of his life, records suggest that Franklin, then governor of Pennsylvania, funded the opening of a school for orphan boys. One document from the University of Pennsylvania's Franklin Papers lists "the boys in Dr. Franklin's Charity School." Other evidence comes from a 1788 letter in which James K. Tobine, a teacher in the school, tells Franklin that "Your School has already almost half its Complement of Scholars. Nothing can give more general Satisfaction; particularly to the poor People who are more immediately benefited by Your Excellency's Bounty and Munificence."⁵⁶ We know little else about this school's origins or its fate after Franklin's death, but its existence suggests that even as Franklin was expressing disillusionment with the Academy and College

of Philadelphia, he was turning his attention to this more democratic educational endeavor.⁵⁷ In his will, Franklin set aside sums for the vocational training of artisans and promised one hundred pounds sterling to the free public schools in Boston, recalling that "I was born in Boston, New England, and owe my first instructions in literature to the free grammar-schools established there."⁵⁸

Franklin's death in 1790 might seem a logical end point for this study, but this volume suggests instead that we must look beyond that date to examine his successors and the many new projects that accompanied the foundation of the United States. The decades between the Revolution and the 1820s may have been, in educational terms, the most innovative in the nation's history, and Pennsylvania was a major laboratory for many of these experiments. Reformers with many different backgrounds and agendas fashioned educational solutions with a particularly Franklinian spirit of initiative.

Magazines and newspapers debated the means and ends of education, often citing Franklin as they did so, and reformers like Benjamin Rush proposed far-reaching overhauls of the state's educational system.⁵⁹ New colleges like Dickinson in Carlisle and Franklin College in Lancaster—named by its German Lutheran founders in honor of the man who had once been their political enemy—proved successful, as political and religious leaders preached an updated version of the "education gospel" which called for institutions to meet the nation's need for well-trained republican citizens. Local communities constructed new elementary school buildings, like the Concord School in Germantown (1775) and the Haverford "Federal School" (1797), both of which still stand.⁶⁰ Some developed progressive architectural plans for small schools like that of the octagonal schoolhouse, examples of which dotted the region's landscape by the 1820s.⁶¹ A group of Quaker educational leaders, worried, much like Franklin, about the corruption of morals among their youth, conceived of a new boarding school at Westtown which would offer a "guarded education" to Quaker children. At Westtown School, which thrives to this day, students followed a Franklinian curriculum, studying history, literature, science, and geography and learning natural history by gardening on the school grounds.⁶²

Problems and challenges abounded, too. As urban populations and urban poverty increased, groups mobilized to begin schools which, they hoped—in an echo of modern educational debates—might give dispossessed youth the skills they needed to confront economic challenges. Ministers Richard Allen and Absalom Jones began new initiatives to educate African American parishioners by starting day and evening schools in their churches, even while, as some scholars have argued, the larger community became more hostile to their cause.⁶³ Women were at the forefront of these debates and reforms: these included Rush's students at the Young Ladies' Academy, who discussed the social benefits of educating women; the Quaker women who founded and taught at the Aimwell School in Philadelphia; the Presbyterian women who proposed a plan to educate "poor female children" in 1804; and committed educators like Milcah Martha Moore, who secured Franklin's endorsement for her school textbook and then used the profits from its sales to fund a school for the poor in Montgomery County.

What remains striking about these schemes and discussions is the remarkable optimism of those involved. Varied though their projects were, these reformers would all have seconded Franklin's 1750 statement that "nothing is of more importance for the public weal, than to form and train up youth in wisdom and virtue."⁶⁴ It is a faith still shared by those working to reshape American education today.

51. Joseph F. Kett, *The Pursuit of Knowledge under Difficulties: From Self-Improvement to Adult Education in America, 1750–1990* (Stanford, 1994), pp. 23–24, 45–52.

52. See, for example, a book order Franklin sent to his, London agent William Strahan on April 14, 1745. The list consists overwhelmingly of books for children, including several grammars, Nathan Bailey's *English and Latin Exercises for School-boys*, Aesop's *Fables*, the *London Vocabulary* (a Latin primer), and William Mather's *Young Man's Companion* (PBF 3:21–22).

53. On the *Kurzer Catechismus*, see Haller, *Early Moravian Education*, p. 221.

54. For an analysis of the rhetoric in Franklin's text, known as the "Petition of the Left Hand," see Mary Kelley, "Petitioning with the Left Hand: Educating Women in Benjamin Franklin's America," in *Benjamin Franklin and Women* (see note 44), pp. 83–101.

55. Franklin, "Plan for Improving the Condition of the Free Blacks" (1789?), in *Writings*, p. 1156.

56. James K. Tobine to Franklin, 1788, available online in *The Papers of Benjamin Franklin, Digital Edition* (<http://www.franklinpapers.org/franklin/>). The original is held by the American Philosophical Society.

57. The school seems not to have been connected with the Charity School operated by the College of Philadelphia. Mark Frazier Lloyd and J. A. Leo Lemay, personal communications, 2006.

58. Franklin, Will and Codicil, July 17, 1788, available online in *The Papers of Benjamin Franklin, Digital Edition* (<http://www.franklinpapers.org/franklin/>).

59. For an overview of educational plans and debates in the early Republic and discussion of Franklin's impact upon them, see Lorraine Smith Pangle and Thomas L. Pangle, *The Learning of Liberty: The Educational Ideas of the American Founders* (Lawrence, Kans., 1993), 75ff.

60. The Concord School may have been named to commemorate the ship in which the first Germantown settlers arrived, or the first skirmish of the American Revolution. Or the name may recall the fact that the Upper Burying Ground in which the school sits included residents of all religious denominations, lying together "in sweet concord."

61. On the construction of octagonal schools, see Robert William Craig, "Temples of Learning: Octagon Schoolhouses in the Delaware Valley" (master's thesis, Columbia University, 1988). Craig dates the Hood School in Newtown Square, Delaware County, which still stands, to 1798, but current research indicates that it was actually built in 1841.

62. For a history of Westtown School, see Helen G. Hole, *Westtown Through the Years, 1799–1942* (Westtown, Pa., 1942). On the varied responses of Quakers to educational challenges during this period, see Kashatus, *A Virtuous Education*, pp. 65–153 and Kashatus, "The Inner Light and Popular Enlightenment: Philadelphia Quakers and Charity Schooling, 1790–1820," *PMHB* 118, no. 1/2 (1994): 87–116.

63. Gary Nash, in his important study of African American life in colonial and federal Philadelphia, argues that an "optimistic spirit of racial harmony" which characterized the 1790s "came to be transformed into the militant antiblack sentiment of the 1830's." Nash, *Forging Freedom: The Formation of Philadelphia's Black Community, 1720–1840* (Cambridge, Mass., 1988), p. 2.

64. Franklin to Samuel Johnson, August 23, 1750, in PBF, 4:41.

Franklin Math Puzzlers

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

Editor's Note: Below is the solution to the last math puzzle which appeared in the summer Gazette and some new ones to solve.

A Set of Birthday Brainteasers in Honor of Dr. Franklin's 306th Birthday

Problem # 21. Secret connection between Benjamin Franklin's birthday and 1776. The year Declaration of Independence was signed (1776) is secretly coded in Ben Franklin's birthday (1-17-1706 or simply, 1171706). Can you figure out how?

(Solution: Note that date 1171706 has total seven digits. If the leftmost digit is numbered as digit one and its rightmost digit is numbered seven, the odd-numbered digits of Franklin's birthday (that is 1171706) amazingly yields 1776! Also, Franklin's age at the time (he was 70) is coded in the middle of his birth year 1706! So, both year 1776 and his age 70 are embedded in Franklin's birthday.)

(Source: Inan. Answer: The odd-numbered digits of 1171706 equal 1776!)

continued on p. 11



Join Us!

Benjamin Franklin Birthday Celebration Friday, January 20, 2012

On January 20, 2012 Friends of Benjamin Franklin and representatives of the many organizations he founded will gather in Philadelphia for the annual Celebration! of Benjamin Franklin, Founder. This year's theme, *Franklin and Energy: Resources, Uses and Efficiencies*, begins at 9:00 a.m. with a free morning seminar at Benjamin Franklin Hall, 427 Chestnut Street. The speakers are as follows:

- Denis P. O'Brien, President & CEO, PECO Energy Company: "A Kilowatt Saved: Energy Innovation from Franklin to Fracking"

- Derrick Pitts, Chief Astronomer, Franklin Institute, "Ben Franklin and the Energy of Invention in Colonial Philadelphia"

- Paul Hallacher "The Greater Philadelphia Innovation Cluster for Energy Efficient Buildings, a U.S. DOE Energy Innovation Hub"

Guests are then invited to join in the procession from the American Philosophical Society Library to Franklin's grave for a wreath laying and tributes. This starts promptly at 11:00 am and leaves from Library Street and S. Fifth Street. A luncheon follows at the Down Town Club where this year's Franklin Founder award will be presented to Dr. Steven Chu, US Secretary of Energy. The seminar and procession are free events, but registration is requested. There is a charge for the luncheon. More information on the program, past events and registration can be found at www.ushistory.org/ celebration.

In His Own Words

“Very Ingenious in Other Matters of More Importance”



Just as the forthcoming volume of The Papers of Benjamin Franklin was going to press, the project's editor-in-chief, Ellen Cohn, received a phone call from someone who needed help authenticating some historical manuscripts. Among the caller's collection was a previously unknown letter from Franklin to his friend, John Whitehurst, a clockmaker in England. The editors were not only delighted with discovering a new Franklin letter, but they also found that it concerned a famous scientific innovator in the field of speech synthesis. Luckily, the owners of the manuscript agreed to allow the project to publish this very important letter, and permission arrived just in time to insert it in the volume that covers the period in which it was written.

It has become a tradition to allow the Friends of Franklin a sneak peek at the newest volume of The Papers of Benjamin Franklin, and volume 40, covering May 16-September 15, 1783, is no exception. All volumes contain interesting insights into Franklin's life and this one is no different.

It is during this period that he was able to finalize negotiations on the definitive treaty to end the Revolutionary War, but it was also a time when Paris was buzzing over the latest scientific advances, the first balloon launch by the Mongolfier brothers, the exhibition of Mical's talking heads, and von Kempelen's supposed automaton, a chess-playing Turk. Von Kempelen was an Austrian inventor whose passion was speech synthesis. He had little luck securing patronage for his work, so he constructed the Turk, and challenged the audience to try to beat the "machine" (there was a man concealed inside) at chess. This drew paying crowds that supported the scientist's research. As you can see from Franklin's letter, he was far more impressed with von Kempelen's speaking machine, one of the earliest and most sophisticated, than with the Turk. Von Kempelen's machine was the result of a study of the human vocal tract, and it was an emulation of that system. The inventor personally delivered the letter printed below.

Passy Augt. 22. 1783.

Sir

The Bearer, Mr Kempel, is the Creator of the Wooden Man who plays so well at Chess; but he is very ingenious in other Matters of more Importance, and has some useful Inventions to communicate to the Publick. I beg leave to recommend him to you Civilities, and to request your Advice to him, as to the Manner of making those Communications so as to produce some Benefit to himself. With great Esteem, I am ever, Dear Sir, Your most obedient & most humble Servant

B Franklin

Mr Whitehurst.

Groundbreaking Ceremonies at Franklin Court



Photos provided by NPS . Museum curators, city representatives and project funders join Superintendent Cynthia MacLeod and Benjamin Franklin at groundbreaking

On October 24, 2011, dozens of museum professionals and Franklin aficionados gathered together for the official groundbreaking ceremony for the new Franklin Court Museum, an 18 month project. The "ghost house" structure and courtyard will be preserved while the museum's entrance and exhibits will be completely redone. The

museum is expected to reopen in 2013. A fuller description and design photographs are found elsewhere in this issue.

This exhibit redesign was made possible by a public- private partnership bringing together funding from the Pew Charitable Trusts, Gerry Lenfest, the William Penn

Foundation, the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the City of Philadelphia, and the Independence Visitors Center and the National Park Service.

Although the museum itself is closed, the print shop, courtyard, and other Market Street buildings will remain open to the public.

Franklin Renovations Underway



The underground museum at Franklin Court is undergoing renovations, the first since the biographical exhibit opened its doors for Philadelphia's bicentennial celebration. Its grand reopening is tentatively scheduled for early 2013.

Dedicated to the life, times and legacy of Benjamin Franklin, the revitalized world-class museum facility will feature interactive displays exploring his life as a private citizen and statesman through individual, room-like installations.

The library is intended to be the culminating experience. Designed to invoke the feeling of Franklin's own library, which included not just books but inventions and gifts from high-ranking friends and colleagues, this room will include an animated feature focusing on

Franklin's autobiography.

Other 21st century additions to the underground museum include interactive elements like touch screen kiosks, a computerized version of Franklin's glass armonica—a musical instrument employing glass and water to create sound—and two-minute animated vignettes designed to help visitors understand critical turning points in Franklin's life.

The print shop and other Market Street buildings will remain open to the public, though a construction fence will close off the Chestnut Street entrance to the Court.

The famous Ghost Structures, created by architects Robert Venturi and John

Rauch, with Denise Scott Brown, will be preserved. The "ghost houses" trace three-dimensional outlines of where Franklin's house and print shop once stood.

The courtyard itself will not be affected substantially, as most work will take place below ground, with the exception of the change to the visitor entrance space at the courtyard level. The current southwest area of the courtyard will be enclosed to create a welcoming lobby and gathering space inside, as shown in the rendering above.

The final design plan has been completed by Quinn Evans Architects; Casson Mann is responsible for designing the exhibits. Remer & Talbott are curators and content developers. (Credit NPS)



275th Anniversary of the Union Fire Company



Two hundred and seventy five years ago inspired by Benjamin Franklin, a group of prominent Philadelphians banded together to form the Union Fire Company, the nation's first truly volunteer fire fighting organization. This first movement towards formalized firefighting ultimately led to the establishment of today's Philadelphia Fire Department.

Agreement so as to extend their help to all citizens who required it. This turning point established the Union as the first volunteer fire company.

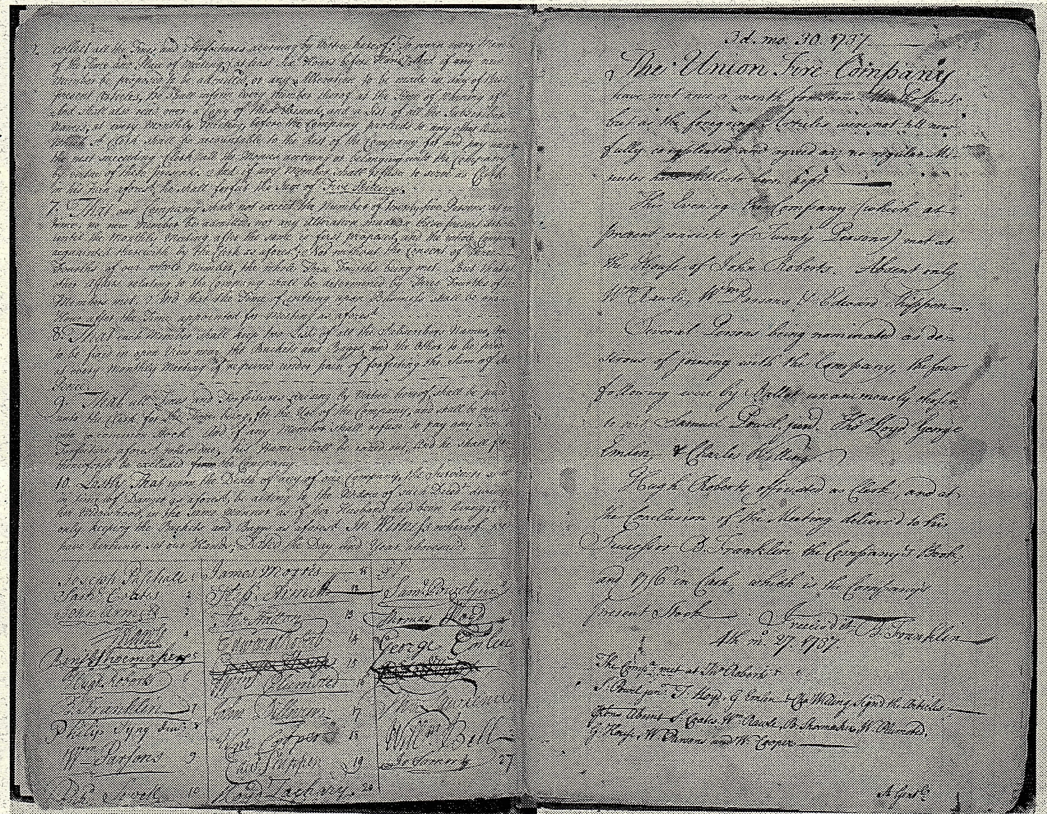
The company's social aspects no doubt furthered its success. Membership was limited to 25 then 30 members, all of whom had to be unanimously elected. This

library of the University of Pennsylvania) placed on the grounds of the Philadelphia Academy, functioned as the city's first official fire alarm.

By the beginning of the nineteenth century the company grew less active, finally disbanding in 1843. By this time

From the beginning Philadelphians considered the dangers of fire. Many early settlers recalled the damage caused by the Great Fire of London in 1666 which destroyed nearly two-thirds of the city. Subsequently they laid out streets that were wider than average, built their homes of brick and stone where possible and petitioned the Assembly to provide communal firefighting equipment: ladders, leather buckets, and eventually engines. In addition, each homeowner maintained two buckets carefully marked with his name for easy retrieval after a fire. This planning paid off; Philadelphia suffered only one major fire, that at Fishborne Wharf in 1730, which led to the purchase of three fire engines and 400 more buckets. Still an element of fear persisted in the minds of some Philadelphians. Benjamin Franklin voiced his concerns in his oft-quoted "An Ounce of Prevention is worth a Pound of Cure" letter published in *The Pennsylvania Gazette*, February 4, 1734/35 proposing the formation of organized firefighting groups, much like the mutual aid fire societies that already existed in Boston.

Within a couple of years, on December 7, 1736 Benjamin Franklin and 24 others drafted and signed the articles of agreement forming the Union Fire Company. In accordance with these articles, each member was to equip himself with the specified tools for firefighting (initially two leather buckets and four linen salvage bags) identifiably marked, appear at regularly scheduled meetings, and of course, at fires. In turn, he was entitled to assistance from his fellow members if his home was in danger from fire, and if he should die, his widow was entitled to the same protection. Within a few years, they altered these Articles of



Minutes of the Union Fire Company. Courtesy of the Library Company of Philadelphia.

exclusivity soon gave rise to the formation of other fire companies abased upon a similar structure. By 1752 there were 8 fire companies in the city.

The Union remained a leader among the fire companies through much of the eighteenth century, striving to increase property protection throughout the city. They scheduled periodic drills, rigorously inspected equipment, helped stock the city's watchboxes with fire buckets, contributed towards the purchase of equipment for Pennsylvania Hospital and the House of Employment and, together with the Hand in Hand Fire Company, purchased a fire bell for the city. This bell (now in the Van Pelt

there were 60 volunteer fire companies operating in Philadelphia- the Union's final and most valuable legacy to the city.

Fireman's Hall Museum, Philadelphia's fire museum, commemorated this historic anniversary with a series of special events including an exhibit on the history of firefighting at Philadelphia International Airport and a reception at Fireman's Hall Museum. The museum, which features many examples of equipment similar to that used by members of the Union fire Company is open to the public free of charge, Tuesday through Saturday from 10:00 am until 4:30 pm

Franklin Tidbits



Franklin cartoon offered for sale:

The famous "Join or Die" cartoon, which Franklin published in 1754 in the Pennsylvania Gazette is a rarity. Only about six research libraries have a copy of the original printing. Until recently, a private museum in Camden Yards, Baltimore also displayed a copy of the cartoon. On September 13 this copy was auctioned off in Beverly Hills, with an estimated value of \$100,000.

Musical inspiration:

The hydrocrystallophone, a musical instrument inspired by Franklin's glass armonica, was featured on the popular web site, hackaday.com.

Franklin on youtube?

You probably have seen Benjamin Franklin dolls before, but this one talks—for about 4 minutes a recording of Franklin's most famous sayings plays when triggered.

Historical Sound:

Recently, an historic preservation controversy arose when a plan to melt down the bells of Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris was announced in preparation of the 2013 celebration of the cathedral's 850th anniversary. The bells, most of which were cast in the 19th century, had fallen out of tune. In Franklin's time, the cathedral had 20 bells, and all but one were melted down to make cannons during the French Revolution. The one that remains from Franklin's era, is the 1681 "Bourdon Emmanuel" bell, which rings only on major occasions. The hope is to restore the original 17th-century layout of the bells and recreate the "ancient harmonics" with new bells, designed to produce the same notes. It is hoped that the newly configured bells will ring as they did during the Ancien Régime, when Franklin would have heard them. The restoration will bring a deeper resonance and lower tone than the bells have today.

What is the difference between intelligence and genius? See Walter Isaacson's reflections on Steve Jobs and Benjamin Franklin. New York Times, Oct. 30, 2011.

The Franklin Number and Other Numerical Oddities in Ben Franklin's Life

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

The Franklin number: In a recent article titled, "More 17's in Ben Franklin's Life," published in the Franklin Gazette, Volume 21, Number 2, pp. 7-8, Summer 2011, I provided many examples of number 17's appearing in Ben Franklin's life. Also, I reported that if one assigns numbers to the letters of the English alphabet as A = 1, B = 2, ... and Z = 26, amazingly, the numbers corresponding to the letters of Franklin's first and last names each add up to an integer multiple of 17. In addition, I pointed out that the sum of the numbers assigned to his full name "Benjamin Franklin" equals 153 (which equals 9×17) and I coined this number as "the Franklin number" for the following reasons:

- If Franklin's death year 1790 is split in the middle as 17 and 90, 17 times reverse of 90 (which is 09) equals 153;
- The product of the digits of 153 equals 15 and the reverse of 15 is $51 = 3 \times 17$. Interestingly enough, the sum of the squares of the digits of Franklin's birthday January 17 expressed as 117 also yields 51.
- Amazingly, the reverse of leftmost two digits of 153 (which is 51) and its rightmost digit 3 also satisfy $51 = 3 \times 17$.
- The sum of the cubes of the digits of number 153 yields back 153!

Since then, I have discovered other fascinating properties of number 153 and its numerical connections with Franklin's birthday 117 which further advocates my choice of the number 153 to be named after Franklin:

- The reverse of number 153 is 351 and $351 = 3 \times 117$. Wow!
- If number 153 is split as 15 and 3, the squares of these two numbers add up to $234 = 2 \times 117$. It's like magic, isn't it?
- Also, as an aside, the sum of the digits of number 153 is 9 and 9×17 yields back 153!
- Two more reasons why the Franklin number is indeed a special number: If 351 (which is reverse of 153) is split as 3 and 51, 3×51 yields back 153! Also, if 351 is split as 35 and 1, the difference of the squares of these two numbers is 1224 which equal 8×153 . Unbelievable!

Franklin's 305th birthday and the 305th prime year coincide: Note that Franklin had his 305th birthday in the 305th prime year 2011, a fascinating coincidence!

Franklin turns 111,111 days old in 2010: After his 304th birthday in 2010, on 4-03-2010 (April 3, 2010), Franklin turns exactly 111,111 days old. (That is, if he were still alive, 4-03-2010 would have been the 111,111th day in Franklin's life.) Interestingly enough, notice that 403 representing April 3rd and Franklin's birthday number 304 are reverses of one another. Turning 111,111 days old is a unique special age to reach in one's afterlife and it requires roughly about two and a half months more than 304 years after the person's birth date. Another famous person who turned 111,111 days old recently on 30 June 2011 (30-06-2011) is Swiss mathematician Leonhard Euler (15 April 1707-18 September 1783).

Franklin's early age in 2012: At the beginning of next year (2012), between January 1 and 16, Franklin will still be 305 years old and amazingly, there is a secret numerical connection between numbers 305 and 2012. One fourth of 2012 equals reverse of 305!

Franklin's 306th birthday in 2012: As I reported earlier, Franklin's 306th birthday to occur on January 17, 2012 is a very special birthday simply because 306 equals twice the Franklin number 153! Also, 306 can be uniquely expressed in terms of number 17 as $17^2 + 17$! In addition, if 306 is split as 30 and 6, the difference of the squares of these two numbers yield 864 which is twice 432 where the reverse of 432 is $234 = 2 \times 117$. Amazing!

I hope that my recent numerical findings related to numbers in Franklin's life serve as a vehicle to attract more attention to his life and achievements. No question, he was a one-of-a-kind individual with multiple facets and interests and his contributions to the well being of the human society are myriad. Happy 306th birthday, Franklin, and thanks for continuing to serve as a role model for generations to come!



Calendar of Events

January 20, 2012- Celebration of Benjamin Franklin, Founder! Philadelphia, PA. Morning seminar, procession to Franklin's grave and luncheon. See www.ushistory.org/Celebration for registration information or contact Carol Smith, 609-320-1417

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

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

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

2013, Reopening of the underground museum at Franklin Court.

Reading Franklin



Ellen R. Cohn et al., eds., *The Papers of Benjamin Franklin*, vol. 40 (Yale University Press, December, 2011). During the period of this volume, the United States of America completed its transformation into a fully recognized independent nation. In May, Franklin and his fellow American peace commissioners John Adams, John Jay, and Henry Laurens recommenced treaty negotiations with their new British counterpart David Hartley. Those negotiations proved fruitless, as the new British ministry rejected all proposals for additional articles. On September 3, 1783, the commissioners signed the Definitive Treaty of Peace, which was essentially identical to the preliminary articles signed the previous November. While this marked the official end of the War for American Independence, the nations of Europe had long since recognized the United States. In the spring, Franklin, as sole minister plenipotentiary, secretly negotiated draft commercial treaties with Denmark and Portugal. After being recognized by the diplomatic corps in early July, he received overtures from other ambassadors, including a proposal from the papal nuncio concerning American Catholics. Franklin published

a French edition of the American state constitutions, which he sent to every monarch in Europe, witnessed the first hot-air balloon ascension, welcomed his grandson Benjamin Franklin Bache back from Geneva, and wrote to his friends that "There never was a good War or a bad Peace."

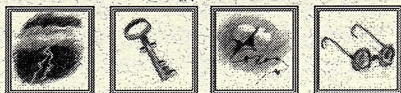
George Boudreau, *Independence: A Guide to Historic Philadelphia* (Westholme Publishing, December, 2011). Called by its publisher, "An intimate Illustrated Tour of America's Most Iconic Colonial City."

Joyce E. Chaplin, ed., *Benjamin Franklin's Autobiography* (Norton, December, 2011). From the publisher's description: "This newly edited Norton Critical Edition includes an introduction that explains the history of the Autobiography within the larger history of the life-writing genre as well as within the history of celebrity. The text is accompanied by new and expanded explanatory annotations and by a map, an illustration, and six facsimiles. 'Contexts' presents a broader view of Franklin's life with a journal entry from a 1726 voyage, correspondence, a Poor

continued on p. 11

"No better relation than a faithful friend."

Benjamin Franklin



"No better relation than a faithful friend."

—Benjamin Franklin

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Richard piece on ambition and fame, Franklin's views on self-improvement, and his last will (and codicil). 'Criticism' draws on a wealth of material that reflects both the wide range of Franklin's achievements and the global impact of his life and memoirs. New international voices in 'Contemporary Opinions' include Immanuel Kant, Honoré Gabriel Riqueti, Comte de Mirabeau, José Antonio de Alzate y Ramírez, and José Francisco Correia da Sera. 'Nineteenth-Century Opinions' includes Humphry Davy on Franklin's discovery of electricity as well as Empress Shōken of Japan's Franklin-inspired poem. Finally, 'Modern Opinions' reprints important pieces: I. B. Cohen on Franklin and the Autobiography's importance to science; Michael Warner's theoretical interpretation of the practices of writing and printing and what they tell us about Franklin; and Peter Stallybrass' insightful and engaging history-of-the-book perspective on Franklin's writing generally and the Autobiography specifically. A Chronology of Franklin's life, a Selected Bibliography, and an Index are also included. [It is] the only edition of the celebrated Autobiography that includes the long-missing and recently identified 'Wagon Letters.'"

Problem # 22. Benjamin Franklin's palindrome birthday. Benjamin Franklin had a palindrome birthday in what year in his lifetime? His 305th birthday is also a palindrome day. Why?

Problem # 23. Benjamin Franklin's prime birthday. The n -th birthday of Benjamin Franklin coincides with a year that is the n -th prime number. Find n and the year of this coincidence.

Problem # 24. Benjamin Franklin's 306th birthday. What makes Benjamin Franklin's 306th birthday, to occur this year (2012), so special?

Problem # 25. Benjamin Franklin's square-age birthday. In the four-digit year $Y_1Y_2Y_3Y_4$, Benjamin Franklin turns a square age x . If his full birthday that year expressed as $117Y_1Y_2Y_3Y_4$ equals a times b^c where $a + b$ equals c and the square of the sum of b and c is x , what is x ?

Problem # 26. Benjamin Franklin's birthday divisible by his birth year. If Benjamin Franklin's full birthday in any four-digit year $Y_1Y_2Y_3Y_4$ is expressed as $117Y_1Y_2Y_3Y_4$, what is his earliest birthday that is divisible by his birth year 1706?

Problem # 27. Benjamin Franklin's 1183rd birthday. What is special about Benjamin Franklin's 1183rd birthday expressed as 1172889? Hint: Square

Answers #22: 1-17-1711 in 1711 and 1-17-11 in 2011. Answers: #23 Answers: 305 and 2011. #24: 306 equals to twice 153, the Franklin number. Also, number 306 equals $17 + 17$. #25 Answer: 169. #26: 1172022. #27: It's a perfect square date the square root of which equals one hundred less than the birthday number.

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