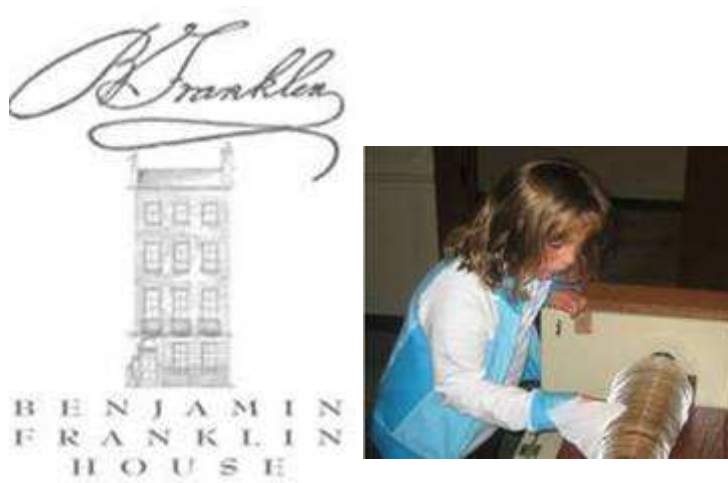


2007 Craven Street eGazette – 3rd Quarter Review



Above, a young visitor tries her hand at Franklin's glass armonica during the Benjamin Franklin House Summer Family Day

Q: Is any man wise at all times, and in all things?

A: No; but some are much more frequently wise than others. Benjamin Franklin

Dear Friends,

As Franklin noted, some are more frequently wise than others. Franklin's character, based on an intriguing mix of pragmatism and experimentation, diligence and whimsy, earns him such a distinction. The news and events in the quarter reflect this rich brew: new plays, exhibitions, lectures, and learning activities, inspired by the man who long called Craven Street home.

Educational Outreach

Each Tuesday we close to the public in order to open free of charge to school groups. Even during the summer months, when pupils enjoy a respite from the classroom, our Tuesday's were filled with excited young visitors. We welcomed budding archaeologists as part of the UK's National Archaeology Week, who were fascinated by the Craven Street bones, remnants of the anatomy school run by William Hewson, son-in-law of Franklin's landlady. Camden, one of London's inner city boroughs, brought groups of children to the House as part of their summer Festival of Learning, and we held our second summer Family Day focused on Georgian London life: dress, food, and games (Franklin kite making!) were all part of the fun.

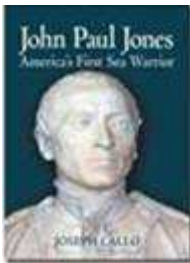
In association with our neighbours, the Royal Society of Arts (since it's creation in 1754, dedicated to removing barriers to civic advancement) – where Franklin was an active

early member – we ran a Coffeehouse Challenge at our local Starbucks to bring House staff and volunteers together with area residents to debate how best to engage young people in local history. It was a fitting setting as Franklin was fond of London's coffeehouses! We have submitted our ideas to the RSA for grant consideration.

Events

We were honoured to have Sir Harry Kroto, a Nobel Prize winning scientist, feature in this year's Benjamin Franklin House Symposium. Sir Harry was knighted in 1996 for his contributions to chemistry – with colleagues he discovered C60 Buckminsterfullerene, a new form of carbon. Franklin would have liked the association with such a kindred spirit. As he has noted, "I have ended up a supporter of ideologies which advocate the right of the individual to speak, think and write in freedom and safety (surely the bedrock of a civilised society)." Read more at www.BenjaminFranklinHouse.org/news.

Retired Rear Admiral Joseph Callo, author of *John Paul Jones: America's First Sea Warrior*, winner of the prestigious 2006 Samuel Eliot Morison Award, gave a fresh



perspective on Jones, the best known and least understood naval hero of the American Revolution. An icon in America, a celebrity in Paris and a rogue in London, Callo highlighted his contribution to maritime history. He also discussed Franklin's mentoring of Jones: "if you should observe an occasion to give your officers and friends a little more praise than is their due, and confess more fault than you can justly be charged with, you will only become the sooner a great captain."

Multidisciplinary artist Mark Maxwell installed a temporary work comprising candle wax, muslin, and video, based on Franklin's electrical work, in London's St Bartholomew's church this summer. During Franklin's first stint in London as a 19 year old (when he came to learn more about the printing trade), he worked with master printer Samuel Palmer in a workshop which then occupied the Lady Chapel of this great church, originally founded as an Augustinian Priory in 1123. Maxwell called Benjamin Franklin House his 'first port of call' when researching Franklin's life in the capital.

Matt Theodore's 'Cold' series of photographs taken inside Benjamin Franklin House was shortlisted for the student AOP award by the British Journal of Photography and also featured in the Sunday Times. See an image at:

<http://www.ephotozine.com/exhibitions/ex1937>

Shakespeare's Globe recreated the extraordinary Philadelphia convention of 1787 that led to the American Constitution in *We The People*, a play by historian Eric Schlosser, author of *Fast Food Nation*. The vivid drama was forged from surviving speeches, letters and official documents from that historic moment



when Benjamin Franklin and others crafted principles for a new nation. Benjamin Franklin House received a production credit for assistance with costumes.

Coming Soon – Black History Month Lectures

Two October events at Benjamin Franklin House will mark Black History Month in this special year commemorating the 200th anniversary of Britain's abolition of slavery.

Tickets for both lectures are £5 each (£3 Friends and concessions). To book email info@BenjaminFranklinHouse.org.

Friday 12 October 2007, 6.00pm - Stephen Terence Welsh, Curator of Living Cultures at Manchester Museum, will speak on the contribution museums can make to the history of slavery.

Tuesday 23 October 2007, 6.00pm – Lady Joan Reid, Benjamin Franklin Scholar and Benjamin Franklin House Governor, will explore Franklin's position on slavery and in particular his last public role as President of the Pennsylvania Society for the Abolition of Slavery.

Benjamin Franklin House in the News

- Benjamin Franklin House is featured on the **NY Times** online travel guide for Britain at:
<http://travel.nytimes.com/travel/guides/europe/britain/england/overview.html>
- Harvard Professor Joyce Chaplin exclaims of her visit to Benjamin Franklin House in **Common Place Journal** www.common-place.org/pastimes/200707.shtml
“Lucky us, to have inherited from the past such a revealing artifact of the long, complicated connections between Britain and America”
- **Trust**, the magazine of The Pew Charitable Trusts, features Benjamin Franklin House as do the **European Council of Otolaryngology and Optics**, the **Institute of Archaeology**, and **Broadway to Vegas** (www.broadwaytovegas.com/July15,2007.html); and we are now a part of the American Embassy London's Cultural Connections page:
http://london.usembassy.gov/culture/cultural_connections.html
- Benjamin Franklin House is also taking full advantage of new media opportunities to promote awareness of the House and its many offerings:
 - See videos of the House on Youtube:
www.youtube.com/benjaminfranklinhouse
 - Answer our first quarterly question on the House blog: Who is the latter day Franklin? <http://benjaminfranklinhouseblog.blogspot.com/>
 - Join Benjamin Franklin House on Facebook:
www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=543910325

Endowment Campaign and Operations Challenge Grant

We are making progress on our Endowment Campaign and Operations Challenge grants. Mr. Robert H. Smith, for whom our Scholarship Centre is named, has pledged \$300,000 if we can raise the same amount this year toward our endowment campaign. In the quarter we received an additional \$35,000 toward the goal.

To help with our operations this year, Mr. Smith has also pledged \$100,000 if we can raise \$200,000. We have just \$50,000 left thanks to recent pledges from the Annenberg Foundation and the Manoukian Charitable Foundation. To discover more and lend your support, contact us at Director@BenjaminFranklinHouse.org or call +44 20 7839 2006.

Exceptional Visitors and Visits

The House is an exciting daily hub of activity with visitors from all over the world. Among recent guests are Stephen Rees, Director of Mount Vernon; Labour Members of Parliament Barry Sheerman (head of the House of Commons Education Committee) and Andrew Mackinlay; Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Franklin Bailar (Mr. Bailar, named after Franklin, is a former US Postmaster General); patrons from the San Francisco Symphony Orchestra; the Friends of the Victoria & Albert Museum; and even professional Franklin impersonator, Bud Long.

All were able to visit our new Box Office located onsite at Benjamin Franklin House! This summer we moved from space kindly provided by our neighbours at the New Players Theatre, to a space at 36 Craven Street to make it easier for visitors to purchase tickets and in order to create an in-House shop. The Box Office is open every day, 10:30am to 5pm, except Tuesdays when the House is closed for our Student Free Days.

Use of the House for private entertainment is expanding. Hunting PLC held an elegant dinner for their board, and Shakespeare's Globe treated their patrons to an evening reception in our courtyard terrace. We have been added to a number of prestigious venue websites including London MICE – www.londonmice.co.uk – and the Georgian Group – <http://www.georgianlocations.com/> – who have shortlisted us for their annual Georgian Architecture Award! The House is a perfect location for holiday corporate and individual gatherings: **contact us** info@BenjaminFranklinHouse.org to find out more and receive our hire brochure.

We have been fortunate at Benjamin Franklin House to have “frequently wise” individuals provide essential counsel. We said thank you to Sir Bob Reid as he retired as Chairman of our Board after nine years of stellar leadership and this summer we welcomed John Studzinski as new Chairman. John is an outstanding man of business and philanthropy and we are lucky indeed to have him take Benjamin Franklin House into an exciting new era. (Read about John's appointment at <http://www.guardian.co.uk/comment/story/0,,2130742,00.html>.)

Thank you as always and best wishes,

Márcia

Dr. Márcia Balisciano
Director

Benjamin Franklin House,
36 Craven Street
London WC2N 5NF
Telephone +44207 839 2006
Email info@benjaminfranklinhouse.org
Website www.benjaminfranklinhouse.org