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Benjamin Franklin: In Search of a Better World
Key Artifacts

INTRODUCTION AND SECTION I: CHARACTER MATTERS

Earliest known portrait of Benjamin Franklin, by Robert Feke, ca. 1746. Oil on canvas. Harvard University, Cambridge, MA

The South East Prospect of the City of Philadelphia (earliest view of an American city), by Peter Cooper, ca. 1718. Oil on canvas. Library Company of Philadelphia

SECTION II: B. FRANKLIN, PRINTER

Common press (Franklin Press), ca. 1720. National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC. The one Franklin used in London in 1726, in the shop of John Watts.

Poor Richard, 1733 (Philadelphia: Benjamin Franklin, 1732). Rosenbach Museum & Library, Philadelphia. The only surviving copy of Franklin's first almanack.

Portrait of Francis Folger Franklin, attributed to Samuel Johnson, ca. 1736. Oil on canvas. Owned by Benjamin Franklin. Still owned by Franklin descendant. Franklin's son who died at age 4.

SECTION III: CIVIC VISIONS

"Lion's Mouth" box (suggestion box of the Library Company), ca. 1750. Painted tin. Library Company of Philadelphia

Frontplate of Pennsylvanian Fire-place, ca. 1760. Cast iron. Bartram's Garden, Philadelphia

SECTION IV: USEFUL KNOWLEDGE

Opticks: or, a Treatise of the Reflections, Refractions, Inflections and Colours of Light..., by Isaac Newton (London: Printed for William and John Innys, 1721). Owned by Benjamin Franklin. Library Company of Philadelphia

"Electrical battery" of Leyden jars, 1760-1769. Glass, metal, and wood. Owned by Benjamin Franklin. American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia

Experiments and Observations on Electricity, by Benjamin Franklin (London: E. Cave, 1751). The Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia

Top portion of a lightning rod, erected by Benjamin Franklin, ca. 1756. Iron. The Franklin Institute, Philadelphia

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SECTION V: WORLD STAGE

Congressional order for supplies, July 1779. Manuscript. Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia

Glass armonica, designed by Benjamin Franklin, made by Charles James (London), 1761-1762. Wood, brass, glass, cork, and iron. Owned by Benjamin Franklin. The Franklin Institute, Philadelphia

Chess set (French), 1750-1780. Pearwood. Owned by Benjamin Franklin. American Philosophical Society Philadelphia

Blank passport (with Benjamin Franklin's family crest) (Passy: Benjamin Franklin, ca. 1780). Rare Book & Manuscript Library, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia

Masonic sash, ca. 1782. Silk with gold & silver thread, sequins, gold beads, and crystal. Originally owned by Benjamin Franklin. Masonic Library and Museum of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia **(Note to Editors: the Masonic sash on display in Philadelphia will be replaced with a Masonic apron in subsequent venues)**.

Portrait of Benjamin Franklin, by Joseph Siffred Duplessis, 1778. Oil on canvas. The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY **(Note to Editors: this Duplessis portrait in its original carved frame will only be on view in Philadelphia; other versions will be at other venues)**.

Portrait bust of Benjamin Franklin, by Jean Antoine Houdon, 1779. White marble. Philadelphia Museum of Art

Portrait of Benjamin Franklin, by David Martin, 1767. Oil on canvas. Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Philadelphia **(Note to Editors: the original Martin portrait will only be on view in Philadelphia.)**

Five Key Founding Documents

Draft of the Albany Plan of Union, by Benjamin Franklin, et al., 1754. Manuscript. Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. **(Note to Editors: Franklin's manuscript Draft of the Albany Plan of Union on display in Philadelphia will be replaced with a different manuscript version in subsequent venues)**.

Holograph draft of the Declaration of Independence (Richard Henry Lee's copy), by Thomas Jefferson, 1776. Manuscript. American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia **(Note to Editors: Richard Henry Lee's copy of the Declaration of Independence on display in Philadelphia will be replaced with a different printed version in subsequent venues)**.

Treaties of Amity and Commerce... (Philadelphia: John Dunlap, 1778). American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia

Treaty of Paris, September 3, 1783. Manuscript. National Archives and Records Administration, College Park, MD **(Note to Editors: the manuscript copy of the Treaty of Paris on display in Philadelphia will be replaced with a different printed version in subsequent venues)**.

U.S. Constitution (Benjamin Franklin's own copy), September 17, 1787. Printed document with handwritten annotations. American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia **(Note to Editors: Franklin's copy of the U.S. Constitution on display in Philadelphia will be replaced with a different version in subsequent venues).**

SECTION VI: SEEING FRANKLIN

Portrait of Benjamin Franklin (last life portrait), by Charles Willson Peale, 1785. Oil on canvas. Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Philadelphia

Mémoires De La Vie Privée De Benjamin Franklin (first French edition of Benjamin Franklin's *Autobiography*) (Paris, 1791). Collection of Noah Katz, New York, NY.

About the Benjamin Franklin Tercentenary

The Benjamin Franklin Tercentenary, a non-profit organization supported by a lead grant of \$4 million from The Pew Charitable Trusts, was established to mark the 300-year anniversary of Benjamin Franklin's birth (1706-2006) with a celebration dedicated to educating the public about his enduring legacy and inspiring renewed appreciation of the values he embodied. The Benjamin Franklin Tercentenary was founded in 2000 by a consortium of five Philadelphia cultural institutions: the American Philosophical Society, The Franklin Institute, The Library Company of Philadelphia, the Philadelphia Museum of Art and the University of Pennsylvania. In addition, an Act of Congress in 2002 created the Benjamin Franklin Tercentenary Commission, a panel of fifteen outstanding Americans chosen to study and recommend programs to celebrate Franklin's 300th birthday. The Benjamin Franklin Tercentenary can be found online at www.benfranklin300.org.

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Note to Editors: For hi-resolution artifact images, please contact:
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