



Almanac

VOL. 2, NO. 4

JANUARY 1956

TO

Sec. 34.65 E, P. L. & R.

Five To Receive Honorary Degrees Offer Assessments of Franklin

At the Founder's Day Convocation, January 14, commemorating the 250th anniversary of the birth of Benjamin Franklin, President Harnwell will confer honorary degrees

upon the heads of five institutions which honored Franklin during his lifetime. How does Franklin, once described as "the largest all-around man that has yet been produced upon this continent," impress leaders of thought in our own day? Below, especially written for *The Almanac*, are the answers given by four of the men to be honored:

Frankliniana Displayed

"Franklin and the University," a collection of letters, books, documents, and memorabilia marking the 250th anniversary of the birth of Benjamin Franklin, is on display in the University Library for the next few weeks. Most of the items will be shown in the catalogue room on the first floor.

Among the exhibits are: a selection of books and documents from the Library's rich Curtis Collection of Franklin Imprints, including the first issue of the "Poor Richard Almanack" (1732), the fourteen Indian Treaties printed by Franklin, and volumes of his newspaper, the "Pennsylvania Gazette"; the earliest known Franklin manuscript—his poem "Elegy on My Sister," written when he was about fifteen years old; a loyalty oath to George II which the trustees of the College and Academy of Philadelphia were required to sign—Franklin among them; minutes books of early trustees' meetings, noting fines levied on absentees; books which Franklin persuaded Louis XVI to donate to the struggling young College; and a variety of letters touching on such matters as the Stamp Act, smallpox inoculation, and schoolboy behavior. In one letter he suggests to the Marquis de Lafayette that he have thirteen children and name them after the original colonies, hoping meantime that Massachusetts and Connecticut will "new-name themselves" before they are needed.

A cane given by Franklin to Lafayette (later deposited with the University by descendants of Lafayette) is also being displayed on the first floor, along with such other Franklin memorabilia as a dinner plate, a solid silver porridge spoon, and a pair of cuff links.

Two of Franklin's desks (one still in use in the Library) and his ingeniously devised chair with a "tabletop" arm for writing (fore-runner of the table-armed chairs used in classrooms and luncheonettes) are on exhibit in the rare book room on the second floor.

From A. WHITNEY GRISWOLD, *President
Yale University.*

When I spoke at the inauguration of the Franklin Papers project, I said "Few Americans epitomized in their own lives so much of the life and interests of their countrymen as Franklin; few have so much to teach us about ourselves today." What I meant was that Franklin's energy, ingenuity, inventiveness, versatility, resourcefulness, wit, urbanity, kindness, generosity—I could go on at some length—all fitted together in a career which was a sort of preview of our subsequent history. But that isn't saying or meaning anything that hasn't been better said before. Perhaps the thing about Franklin that appeals most to me in my present office is what he once wrote to the subscribers to his newspaper:

"I request all who are angry with me on account of printing things they don't like, calmly to consider these following particulars.

1. That the opinions of men are almost as varied as their faces; an observation general enough to become a common proverb, *So many men, so many minds.*

2. That the business of printing has chiefly to do with men's opinions; most things that are printed tending to promote some, or oppose others.

4. That it is as unreasonable in any one man or set of men to expect to be pleased with everything that is printed, as to think that nobody ought to be pleased but themselves.

8. That if all the people of different opinions in this province would engage to give me as much for not printing things they don't like, as I can get by printing them, I should probably live a very easy life; and if all printers

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Franklin Assessed *(Continued From Page One)*

were everywhere so dealt by, there would be very little printed."

I'm afraid that's about all I'm good for on the subject except to say that I welcome Franklin's symbolic good offices of friendship in drawing together Yale and the University of Pennsylvania.

From DR. NATHAN M. PUSEY, President Harvard University:

I can honestly say that I live with Franklin every day, for above the fireplace in my office is the famous oval Duplessis portrait of the great American whose anniversary we celebrate this month. Franklin's sage countenance is a continuing reminder of what a triumphant creation is the reasonable man.

Is it too much to say that for all us working in higher education Franklin comes perhaps as close as any to symbolizing the end product we desire? He was, as Carl Van Doren has said, a man of "grand dimensions" whose intellect touched all branches of human knowledge. To be sure, he would seem to be separated from us by the fact that he lived in an age of ferment when a roving mind could serve a revolutionary end with propriety. But the difference here is perhaps more apparent than real, for ours is also an age of revolution, the difference being that the "constructive revolutions" promoted by the qualities of mind we admire in him are now taking place in spheres other than the political.

Franklin was a man, with man's foibles, but he was a man motivated primarily by mind. In the more complicated and crowded world of today, all of us in the colleges can continue to admire him and fittingly recall that it remains our business to seek out and encourage the qualities of mind and heart which made Ben Franklin great.

From A. D. CHANDLER, President College of William and Mary

Benjamin Franklin, who lived a full eighty-four years of the eighteenth century, is frequently pointed to as an outstanding product—the representative American—of the age of reason. At the forthcoming celebration of his birth, historian, scientist, and philosopher will pause once more to contemplate the full measure of his life and its meaning for us today.

What would be the nature of our American culture without the heritage of Benjamin Franklin? As difficult as it is to imagine Philadelphia without its Junto or Pennsylvania without its great University—both the long shadow of the man Franklin—it is still more difficult to contemplate the early Colonies and States without such a journeyman printer, author, inventor, philosopher, and statesman.

By our standards Franklin was a successful man. Since he became financially independent at a rather early age we may feel that he was, indeed, a "Poor Richard" in the flesh.

I believe, however, that his life may be placed in better perspective than by viewing it merely as the triumph of

frugality, industry, and love of wealth. He emerged from this early material success with a continued curiosity and heightened sense of public responsibility. This is evidence enough that he was unwilling to be satisfied merely with the goals our culture attributes to him.

From T. M. KNOX, Principal University of St. Andrews

Franklin's *Experiments and Observations on Electricity* were published in 1751. Eight years later a tiny university in the east of Scotland made him an honorary Doctor of Laws and he was known ever afterwards as Dr. Franklin. Oxford paid him a similar compliment three years later, but it has always seemed to me remarkable that in the days when news travelled slowly and broadcasting was still far in the future a small and remote university should have been aware of Franklin's genius and that his genius should have shown itself so unmistakably that it received recognition far from his home by men qualified to judge his work.

In a century of remarkable characters Franklin stands out as a man of vision and ideas. He had a receptive mind, like the great business men of the century that followed, and he was always big enough, even when he could not get his own way, to support with all his might the measure which had commended itself to the majority. He commands still the respect of all those who venerate individuality and who seek by educational means to create a society of free individuals and those conditions in which the energies of men can find full scope for their initiative.

Research Grants Voted

The Committee on the Advancement of Research voted at its meeting on December 6 to offer Special Summer Research Grants of \$1,000.00 each for the summer of 1956. These awards are made to members of the Faculty to free them from the necessity of teaching summer school or engaging in other employment that would interfere with research activities.

Application for these grants may be made by letter to the secretary of the Committee, W. W. Weaver, in 104 Bennett Hall, any time before February 15. Awards should be announced by March 15. No forms for application are to be distributed, but applicants should submit a description of the proposed project along with publications and letters from those persons who are best qualified to judge the validity and significance of the proposal.

These awards may be used to initiate, continue, or complete any project approved by the Committee. Grantees are expected to devote full time to their projects for the summer months. The grants are tax free.

The Committee has been pleased with the number and quality of applications submitted in previous years. Those who are interested are invited to consult with members of the Committee concerning the preparation of applications.

Senate Meeting Announced

The next meeting of the University Senate will be held on Monday, February 27, 1956, from 4 to 6 P.M. in room W-51 Dietrich Hall (Alumni Hall).



The Witness Box

Question:

"Since it knows what it wants, why isn't the Faculty Club Committee empowered to act on behalf of the Faculty in respect to this project?"

—JOHN M. NUGENT, *Lecturer in Journalism.*

Answer:

"The Faculty Club Committee *has* acted. Like any other committee appointed by the Senate, it is authorized to represent the Senate, and it is continuing to act to the limits of such authority. We do not have the authority to build a building or to administer it. Our business has been to try to determine Faculty desires and to call them to the attention of the Administration. This we have done. Certain financial responsibilities must be assumed by the Administration, which has, incidentally, given every indication of undertaking the venture in the near future. We shall continue to try to be as helpful as possible to it to the end that the Faculty Club shall be brought into being as quickly as possible."

—DR. JULIUS HALPERN, *Chairman, Faculty Club Committee.*

New Service Available To Budget Officers

We ambled across campus the other day, to 3436 Walnut Street, home of the Management Analysis Service, a new staff agency attached to the Office of the President.

A man of generous proportions with a glowing eye had us seated before we could say we were not from the Ford Foundation. This was the Director of M. A. S., Dr. G. Jay Anyon, Assistant Professor of Industry in the Wharton School. We were then introduced to a pair of cheerful assistants, Ivars Avots and Kenneth G. Helfrich, both Wharton School Graduate students, who guessed our needs at once by provisioning us with pencils, paper, cigarettes, and a match.

"We are a consulting and advisory service," said Dr. Anyon, the preambles concluded. "There are 305 budgetary officers on the campus, some of whom might want some assistance in the planning, organization, manning, facilities, methods, and control aspects of the administrative process. Our job, as of December 1, has been to help them."

Would there be a charge for the service?

"None," said Dr. Anyon. "It costs nothing—not even a cent against budgets that may be saved money."

Are administrators obliged to make use of M. S. A.?

"The Service has no authority to audit any budgetary officer's administrative problems without his approval. He can ignore us if he likes. But service is our keyword and we want to serve. We know we can be of help in matters like space utilization, systems and procedures, work simplification, methods and layouts. We can save trouble and time, we can tap specialized talents on campus for particular problem-solving, we can serve as a clearing house through which experience can be exchanged with

a minimum of effort on the part of the heads of the highly decentralized administrative units on campus."

"Business ought to be brisk as word gets around," we offered.

"The brisker the better," Dr. Anyon glowed.

We ought to add that the Management Analysis Service is a pioneer venture in University Administration. One B. Franklin would have liked this additional "first" for his school as much as he would have approved the thrift, order, and service-mindedness of Dr. Anyon's agency. Looks as if extension 8080 is going to be one of the busiest telephones on campus.

Scholarship Aid Growing

The growing interest of U. S. corporations in establishing scholarship programs at U. S. universities and colleges prompted your reporter to drop in to the offices of Gene Gisburne, Vice-President in Charge of Student Affairs.

"We're naturally seeking such help here at Pennsylvania," he said. "We have many scholarships with which to attract capable students—but not enough. Every study I'm familiar with shows that 50% of the highest quarter of secondary school graduates fail to attend college, and of this group more than a third doesn't continue at the college level because of inadequate finances. Our own experience is that we must refuse aid to a third or more of our qualified applicants each year and that most of those to whom we must refuse aid are therefore unable to attend Pennsylvania."

Mr. Gisburne does not subscribe to the notion that student loans are more in keeping with U. S. economic philosophy than scholarship grants. "What the University believes in is a combination of free, loan, and job aid. It is sound economics, of course, for society to invest in the able student; and it's also sound for the student to invest in his own education. But I think it would be very unwise for a student to graduate with a debt of up to \$8,000—the approximate cost to him of his four years here."

Direct selection of candidates by industry can be efficiently done, Mr. Gisburne admits, but adds that few industries actually have a screening program of the sort regularly employed by a university. "It seems an unnecessary cost, too, to set up duplicate facilities. And as a matter of fact, duplicate set-ups may give some students more assistance than they need while others are neglected."

He was favorably disposed toward a national scholarship program to be administered by a central agency and supported by corporate donations, "but not at the expense of the need for research programs, capital expansion, other educational grants, and especially funds required to lift teachers' salaries. Actually, the most helpful financial aid that can be extended to colleges and universities is the unrestricted grant. Our most urgent problem at Pennsylvania is to achieve a salary program that will hold and attract men of first rate talents to the teaching field. Industry, I think, has begun to recognize its profound stake in the intellectual resources of the country. Helping fine young minds to mature by giving them the opportunity to study under trained supervision is good for the nation, and therefore, good for industry, too. Scholarship help helps everybody."

Among Other Things

Commemorative gestures in the direction of Benjamin Franklin on the 250th anniversary of his birth will not be confined to the University campus. Forty nations have reported plans to honor Franklin during 1956, according to a release from the Library of Congress, among them countries as widely separated as France, Peru, and Japan. At its last session, incidentally, Congress enacted a bill directing the Secretary of the Treasury to strike 71 bronze medals to commemorate the occasion . . . The best of Franklin's famous maxims were collected by B. F. himself for the 1757 edition of his Almanac. Special commemorative reprints of that edition are now available for a nominal fee from Gerald S. Lestz, editor of "Baer's Agricultural Almanac," Box 328, Lancaster, Pa. . . .

No new light as of this writing regarding the details of the Ford Foundation's grants to this University . . . Of sudden special interest: the four-part series on the Foundation in the "New Yorker" magazine, issues of November 26, December 3, 10, and 17 . . . A recent issue of "The Key Reporter," the Phi Beta Kappa news magazine, suggests a new field of research for savants-in-search-of-an-area-of-specialization: "psychoceramics," the study of crackpots. Sites are numerous; specimens more so. . . .

Clearing house: Dr. Paul Dudley White, chief advisor to President Eisenhower respecting his physical condition, will deliver the key address opening the Heart Fund campaign on January 30 in the Bellevue-Stratford Hotel. Introducing Dr. White will be Dr. William D. Stroud, Professor of Cardiology at the University's Graduate School of Medicine. Dr. Stroud is a past president of both the Heart Association of Southeastern Pennsylvania and the American Heart Association . . . Dr. Carleton Coon received credit in the December 12 issue of Life magazine for the help he gave in the preparation of the article entitled "The Dawn of Religion," the magazine's second installment in its series "The Epic of Man" . . . The Dr. Alexander Rush listed in the Faculty Directory as Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine is the great-great-grandson of the famous Dr. Benjamin Rush. . . .

Worth Another Thought: "I send you enclos'd the propos'd new Federal Constitution of these States . . . It is now sent by Congress to the several States for their Confirmation. If it succeeds, I do not see why you might not in Europe carry the Project of good Henry the 4th into Execution, by forming a Federal Union and One Grand Republic of all its different States and Kingdoms, by means of a like Convention, for we had many Interests to reconcile." . . . Benjamin Franklin, letter to Grand, Oct. 22, 1787.

Congratulations: to Dr. Thorsten Sellin, Professor of Sociology, recently awarded the Order of Honor and Merit Lanuza from the Cuban Government, with the rank of Commander . . . to Dr. Eugene P. Pendergrass, Professor and Chairman of Radiology, who will be awarded the Gold Medal of the American College of Radiology on February 10, 1956 . . . and to Dr. Jonathan E. Rhoads, Professor of Surgery and President of the Faculty Senate, who has been re-elected president of the Philadelphia Division,

A University Defined

"A university is a nursery of ideas. In its freedom of inquiry and investigation must be protected from the infections of bigotry and prejudice, the periodic epidemics of demagoguery, and the blight of pressure groups, by courage of conviction and by independence of operation. The touchstone of the true university is the liberalism of its outlook."

From President Harnwell's Address delivered at the 57th Annual Dinner of the Pennsylvania Society, at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, New York, December 10, 1955.

American Cancer Society. . . .

Catching Up With the News: Dr. Carl C. Chambers, Vice-President for Engineering Affairs, spoke on the need for engineers on the Steve Allison radio program last December 22nd . . . Among the official delegates to the recent White House Conferences on Education were Dr. Lee O. Garber, Professor of Education, and Dr. Roderic D. Matthews, Professor of Education . . . Dr. Geoffrey W. Rake, Research Professor of Microbiology in Medicine, is directing joint research by the University and Wistar Institute of Anatomy and Biology into infectious disease processes in tissue culture and host cell-parasite relationship in man and animals. . . .

In Case You Didn't Know: A communication from the University's News Bureau informs us that we have 370 foreign students at Pennsylvania from 65 countries . . . In addition to the Special Summer Research Grants announced elsewhere in *The Almanac*, the Committee on the Advancement of Research renews its invitation to full-time and part-time members of the Faculty to apply for research grants. Funds up to \$1,000 are available for individuals and approved groups . . . Flower lovers will be happy to know that "The Genus Phlox," by Dr. Edgar T. Wherry, Emeritus Professor of Botany, has just been published. It is Volume III in the Morris Arboretum series of Monographs . . . Dr. Matthias A. Shaaber, Professor of English, contributed a chapter entitled "Forerunners of the Newspaper in America," to the recently published book, "Highlights in The History of the American Press: A Book of Readings," edited by Edwin H. Ford and Edwin Emery (University of Minnesota Press) . . . "Time" magazine's regular motion picture reviewer is a 34-year-old University graduate named Henry Bradford Darrach, Jr. . . .

THE ALMANAC

Published monthly during the academic year by the University for the information of its faculty and staff

The Editor is assisted by an Advisory Committee representing the Faculty, Administration, and Personnel of the University.

Letters, items of news, and articles of interest to the faculty and staff are earnestly solicited.

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 Address Public Relations Office