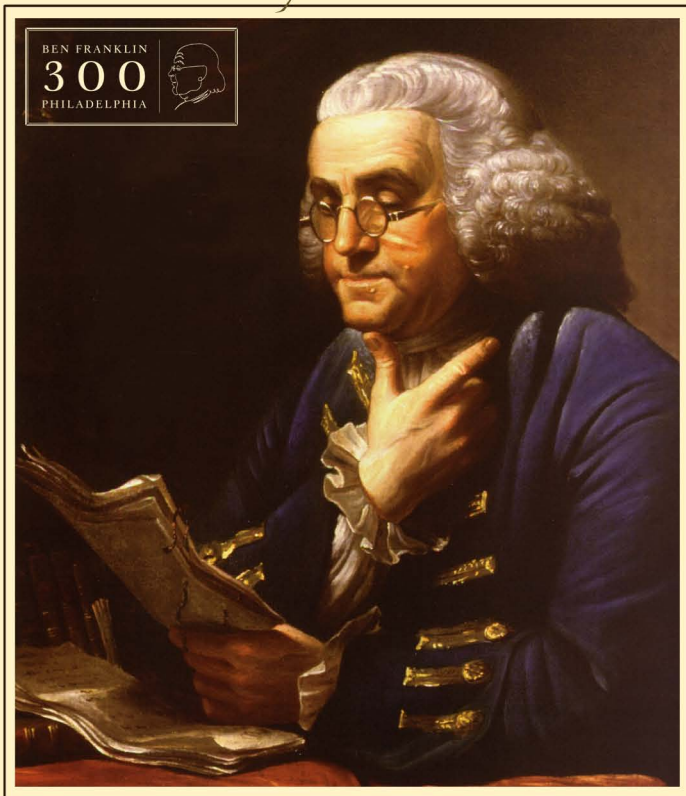


PENN HUMANITIES FORUM &
MARVIN AND SYBIL WEINER FUND
OF VAN PELT LIBRARY

present



“If Ben Had Had His Way”

SYMPOSIUM IN HONOR OF THE
300TH ANNIVERSARY OF
BENJAMIN FRANKLIN'S BIRTH

FRIDAY
4:00-6:00 PM
FEBRUARY 24, 2006

CLASS OF 55 ROOM
VAN PELT LIBRARY
3420 WALNUT STREET

Symposium

Near the end of his life, Benjamin Franklin concluded that the Academy he helped found, which became the University of Pennsylvania, had consistently violated its charter. That charter advanced a controversial view of the university's relation to tradition, class, citizenship, and speculative knowledge. Where does the academy stand on these matters today? Where would Franklin have liked the academy to stand?

We welcome you to this special symposium organized to mark the 300th anniversary of Franklin's birth and to celebrate the three winners of the 2006 Penn Humanities Forum Undergraduate Essay Contest, "If Ben Had Had His Way."

Educating the Youth of Pennsylvania: Worlds of Learning in the Age of Franklin

University of Pennsylvania Rare Book & Manuscript Library Exhibition

Who received an education in Franklin's day? Who were the teachers? What did students learn? What did they read? Drawing on the collections of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania and other important area repositories, this Penn exhibition addresses the originality and relevance of Franklin's 1749 educational manifesto, "Proposals Relating to the Education of Youth in Pensilvania" [sic]. See Franklin's original manuscript with his ideas for the Junto, a never-before-seen Franklin imprint, women's samplers, German fraktur calligraphy, a horn book, photographs of period schoolhouses from the Delaware Valley, and much more.

On display in the Rosenwald Gallery, 6th fl., Van Pelt Library, University of Pennsylvania, January 17–May 31, 2006. Exhibition hours: Mon.–Fri. 9:00a–5:00p; Saturdays: 12:00–4:00p. Public invited. Non-Penn affiliates must arrange weekend visits in advance; call 215.898.7088 or e-mail rbml@pobox.upenn.edu.

Penn Humanities Forum

Established in 1999, the Penn Humanities Forum is charged with taking a fresh look at ideas that touch on the human experience. The Forum's goal is to introduce humanistic perspectives to the sciences, professions, and public, and to bring ideas, long confined to the ivory tower, into popular discourse. Addressing a different topic each year, the Forum offers an integrated program of research, teaching, and outreach, which invites scholars, students, the cultural community, and the general public to discover common ground.

Program

4:00

Introduction and Awards

Peter Stallybrass
Co-Director, Penn Humanities Forum
Annenberg Professor in the Humanities

Student Essay Contest Awards

Tal Raviv, SEAS '09, Chemical Engineering
First Prize for Best Undergraduate Essay, "Spark"

Gena Katz, College '06, English
Honorable Mention for "Franklin's Ivy Leagues and the
Junto of Education"

Dvorit Mausner, College '07, Biological Basis of Behavior
Honorable Mention for "Of Virtue, Wit, and Wisdom"

4:15

Tal Raviv

"Spark," 2006 Penn Humanities Forum Prize for Best
Undergraduate Essay

4:35

Response and Comments

Christopher Hunter, Doctoral Candidate, Comparative Literature

4:50

Panel Presentations and Discussion

Rebecca Bushnell, Thomas S. Gates, Jr. Professor and Dean,
School of Arts & Sciences; Professor of English

Peter Conn, Professor of English

Peter Stallybrass, Walter H. and Leonore C. Annenberg
Professor in the Humanities; Professor of English

Michael Zuckerman, Professor of History

6:00

Reception

Rosenwald Gallery, 6th Floor, Van Pelt Library
Exhibition: "Educating the Youth of Pennsylvania: Worlds of
Learning in the Age of Franklin"