



Historical Society *of* Pennsylvania

Collection 3118

Friends of the Benjamin Franklin House, U. S. records

**Creator: Friends of the Benjamin Franklin House, U. S.
1956-2008 (bulk 1976-2005)
59 boxes, 3 volumes, 1 flat file, 23.8 linear feet**

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Abstract

Benjamin Franklin lived at 36 Craven Street, London, England, from 1757 to 1775. It is his only surviving residence. In 1978, The Friends of Benjamin Franklin House was registered as a United Kingdom charity to restore the house and open it to the public as a museum. In 1992, the Friends of Benjamin Franklin House, U.S. was incorporated as a separate non-profit charity, based in Philadelphia, to support the work of the British organization. The Benjamin Franklin House museum opened to the public on January 17, 2006, Franklin's 300th birthday. The Friends of Benjamin Franklin House, U.S. closed its offices in 2008.

The Friends of Benjamin Franklin House, U.S. records include correspondence, meeting minutes, financial records, administrative subject files, printed materials, clippings, scrapbooks, audiocassettes, videocassettes, and photographs.

Background note

From 1757 to 1775, American statesman, inventor, and publisher Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790) lived at 36 Craven Street in London, England, while serving as a representative of colonial Pennsylvania in Britain. In practice, the house became the first overseas American embassy where Franklin fought for the colonists' rights and protested British taxes against the colonists, such as those imposed by the Stamp Act of 1765. When not consumed by political matters, Franklin focused on his inventions and created the glass armonica, bifocal glasses, and what became known as the "Franklin stove." He also performed his famed experiments with electricity by flying kites along the Thames River during thunderstorms. Additionally, Franklin published several scientific papers and pamphlets, the *Craven Street Gazette*, and *The Way to Wealth*. Though he was happy in London, Franklin was frustrated by the crown's heavy-handed dealings with the colonies. With revolutionary fervor growing in the states, Franklin left Craven Street and returned to Pennsylvania. He later went back to Europe and worked in France from 1776 to 1785, but never again visited London.

Franklin's London residence at 36 Craven Street is his only surviving home in the world. At present, it serves as a museum and educational facility; but just several decades ago it was little more than a decrepit shell of a house. Philadelphian Mary (Munn) Bessborough and her late husband were the first to champion the cause of restoring and reopening the house. In the early 1970s, the Bessboroughs and other London-based

parties raised funds to restore the house. In 1976, a generous grant from SmithKline of Philadelphia allowed for the purchase of a 150-year lease for 36 Craven Street. In 1978, the Friends of Benjamin Franklin House (London Friends) was officially registered as a United Kingdom charity. Even at this early stage, the group recognized the profitability in establishing ties to the United States, and Mary Bessborough served as the organization's first overseas liaison. She also agreed to serve as president of an American organization once it was formed.

Throughout the late 1970s and 1980s, the London Friends worked tirelessly on several fronts that included renovations to and restoration of the house, fundraising and associated events, and creating an American friends organization. The group received a major publicity boost in 1987 when then British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher visited the house, where she received the Benjamin Franklin Award for Public Service. About a year later, the British government granted the London Friends freehold (total possession) to the property.

1987 also saw the creation of the American Friends of Franklin Committee with Bessborough at its helm. The committee shared the same goal as the London Friends, to restore and preserve 36 Craven Street, and raised money in the United States that was used by the London Friends to meet that goal. The committee was based in Washington, D.C., and over several years, successfully garnered funds and strengthened the London Friends' cause in the United States. As the committee continued to raise funds and hold fundraising events, some American donors came to mistakenly believe that the committee co-owned the Benjamin Franklin House, which was not the case. In response, and to distinguish themselves as a fundraising organization, in 1993 the committee changed its name to the American Friends of Franklin Trust.

While the trust worked in Washington, D.C., another non-profit fundraising group was being raised in Philadelphia. In 1992, the Friends of the Benjamin Franklin House, U. S. (FBFHUS) was incorporated as a separate charity that assisted the London Friends not only with fundraising, but also with surveys and feasibility studies of the house and planning the phases of the restoration. At this point, plans were in place to restore the house with period furnishings and decorations to make the house appear as it had when Franklin was its resident. Bessborough played a key role in this effort and firmly believed that the house's most appropriate role in modern society was that of a historic home and cultural center that furthered Benjamin Franklin's legacy.

This idea was solidified in 1995 when the London Friends formed a partnership with the Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufacture, and Commerce (RSA). With this partnership came plans to restore the house "as a museum, library/archive and educational centre celebrating Franklin's life and times."¹ Additionally, the RSA sought to expand the facilities to include the neighboring house at 35 Craven Street. This proved favorable with Bessborough and members of the American Trust. In this same year, the trust was closed and FBFHUS in Philadelphia became the sole overseas fundraiser for the London Friends.

¹ Letter, Peter Cowling to Lady Bessborough, 11 July 1995, Box 6 folder 8.

The 1990s brought about new leadership to the London Friends, a new million-dollar grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund (an organization comparable to America's National Endowment for the Humanities), and new plans for the Benjamin Franklin House. Despite protests from Bessborough and FBFHUS, the decision was made to turn the house into an interactive "historical experience" (including concealed theatrical lighting and sound equipment) with a library and educational center rather than a traditional museum. This decision on the part of the London Friends created a contentious rift between it and FBFHUS, and the two organizations did not see eye-to-eye over the project for several years.

Restoration work on the Benjamin Franklin House began in 1997 and took almost ten years to complete. During this time, FBFHUS held several successful fundraisers and promoted the London Friends' cause in America. Even though Bessborough did not agree with the house's fate, she still believed in the history of 36 Craven Street and supported the London Friends' efforts. But she continued to offer suggestions on how to make the house historically accurate up to its opening to the public in 2006. Once the house opened, FBFHUS turned its attention toward raising money for the long-term maintenance of the house. But the strained relationship between the London Friends and FBFHUS proved too much for Bessborough and her supporters, and membership within and outside support for FBFHUS declined throughout 2006 and 2007. In early 2008, the decision was made to dissolve the organization, and the final board meeting was held in March of that year.

Scope & content

The Friends of the Benjamin Franklin House, U. S. records span mostly from the 1970s to the late 2000s. The collection documents many aspects of the project to restore 36 Craven Street through fundraising and planning correspondence, architectural drawings and plans, descriptions of the restoration work, business models, and informal discussions of museum philosophy. There is also substantial documentation on the sometimes difficult relations between the U.S. and London groups, both of which included heavy upper-class representation, and on the project's various sources of financial and political support. This collection would be valuable for those interested in learning about what goes into developing a historic house and the development of public history more generally.

The collection is arranged into five series, with one series further divided into three subseries. Papers are arranged in the order in which they were found: Series 1 is arranged chronologically, while Series 2, 3, 4, and 5 are arranged alphabetically. The papers in Series 4 remain, for the most part, in their original folders. Throughout the collection and whenever possible, original folder titles have been transferred from old folders to new folders. Given that papers were routinely exchanged between FBFHUS, the London Friends, and the American Friends of Franklin Trust, there is some repetition of materials between series, particularly Series 1 and 4.

The administrative papers in the first series document FBFHUS's daily operations and interactions with various funders and the London Friends. The minutes cover both FBFHUS and the London Friends (noted in the Box and Folder list as "UK") and provide not only information on the progression of the restoration of 36 Craven Street, but also insights into the relations between the two groups. The subject files are particularly rich with details on the restoration process and how the London Friends received the bulk of the monies for the project. Concomitantly, the second series of financial records, which were found separate from the bulk of the administrative files, also detail funds raised, used, and kept by both the London Friends and FBFHUS. Three boxes of audio cassette tapes and one box of video recordings have been placed at the end of subject files.

Papers from the American Friends of Franklin Trust are in Series 3, though copies of their papers can be found in the subject files in Series 1 and scattered throughout Series 4. The papers are roughly divided into two chunks: administrative records including correspondence and financial records. These papers document the creation of the trust and its daily operations, its name change from a "committee" to a "trust," and its relationship and importance to the London Friends as they attempted to establish the house project as an Anglo-American venture.

The papers in the fourth series originated from two key FBFHUS members: Mary Bessborough and Robert Landseidel, who served as FBFHUS chairman. In these twenty-three boxes is a mix of personal and business files from the FBFHUS's Philadelphia office. The business files are more extensive than the personal files, which mainly detail Bessborough's travels between London and Philadelphia. The business files are quite similar to those found in the subject files in Series 1, though the papers generally focus more on the group's fundraising work in the United States. They also document Bessborough's attempts to persuade the London Friends to make 36 Craven Street into a traditional house museum, as well as the London Friends' reactions to Bessborough's suggestions.

The final series contains a binder of individual photographs, disbound photo albums and scrapbooks, and a variety of published items related to Benjamin Franklin that FBFHUS collected for research purposes. The scrapbooks are made up of photographs, clippings, copies of letters, and other ephemera and provide glimpses into how the Benjamin Franklin House project came to be and progressed during the 1980s and 1990s.

Overview of arrangement

Series I	Administration, 1971-2008	21 boxes
	a. Minutes, 1971-2008	4 boxes
	b. Correspondence, 1981-2003	3 boxes
	c. Subject files, 1976-2007	14 boxes, 1 flat file
Series II	Financial, 1989-2008	6 boxes, 2 volumes
Series III	American Friends of Franklin Trust, 1987-1996	5 boxes
Series IV	Bessborough and Landseidel files, 1956, 1988-2008	23 boxes

Series V	Photographs, scrapbooks, and printed material, 1975-2007	4 boxes, 1 volume
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Series descriptions

Series 1. Administration, dates (Boxes 1-21, Flat file 1)

a. Minutes, 1971-2008.

This small but rich subseries contains meeting minutes from both the Friends of the Benjamin Franklin House, United States (FBFHUS) and Friends of the Benjamin Franklin House, United Kingdom (or London Friends), and together they document the histories of the organizations. The minutes from various London meetings begin in earnest in 1978, when the Friends of the Benjamin Franklin House, United Kingdom was officially registered as a company and its board of governors was created. However, Box 1 Folder 1 also contains scant minutes from 1971 and 1977 that were collected by Mary Bessborough. These early minutes are similar to those found in the rest of the series, except that most refer to meeting of the “committee” of the Friends of Benjamin Franklin House.

The first two boxes contain minutes from the London Friends while the Boxes 3 and 4 only contain minutes from the Executive Committee meetings of FBFHUS that were held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. These minutes start with the first transatlantic meeting of FBFHUS and the London Friends on September 18, 1997. Since FBFHUS’s main purpose was to raise funds for the project, most of the minutes concern fundraising events and occasionally contain financial reports. The records end in early 2008 when the organization was dissolved.

b. Correspondence, 1981-2003.

These correspondence files were separated from the bulk of the files in the collection, and have therefore been retained as a separate subseries. The most prominent correspondent represented is Mary Bessborough—her letters take up Box 5 and reveal the general workings of FBFHUS from the early 1990s to 2002. Box 6 contains two files of letters to and from Jonathan Carey and Donald Insall, both of the architectural consulting firm of Donald W. Insall and Associates. Additionally, there are significant files from Evangeline Hunter-Jones, who served as chairman of the London Friend’s board in the late 1990s, and Stephen Sinnott, who served as the London Friend’s managing director during the 1990s. Box 7 contains letters from Jane de Graff Sloat, president of the American Friends of Franklin Trust, as well as several groups of letters that were filed under the name F. W. Stephens, the accounting firm used by the London Friends during the 1990s. The Sloat files contain considerable information about the administration of the London Friends versus that of FBFHUS, while the letters of F. W. Stephens mainly concern the London Friends’ finances.

c. Subject files, 1976-2007.

This subseries consists of assorted alphabetically arranged files related to the administration of the London Friends and FBFHUS. However, while a variety of subjects are covered, most of the information within the files pertains to funders, fundraising events, and the restoration of the Benjamin Franklin House. Highlights include issues of the *Craven Street Gazette*, the newsletter put out by the FBFHUS that contains updates on the restoration, stories about Benjamin Franklin, and listings of Benjamin Franklin-related books and events. There is also the London Friends' application to the Heritage Lottery Fund (Box 10), an organization that provides grants to various projects that help preserve the national heritage of the United Kingdom. This application is notable because it details not only the London Friends' aims to present the house as a "dynamic museum and educational facility" but also details the project team at the time, financial data related to the project, the group's then-current business plan, and the overall importance of the project to the United Kingdom's national identity.

Other notable files include minutes, agendas, and reference materials that were collected by the Historic Interiors (or Furnishings) Committee (Box 11), which was dedicated to re-creating the inside of the house as it may have appeared during Franklin's time. There are also more restoration-related files in Boxes 14 and 15 and Flat File 1 that consist of plans of the house, architectural contracts, and correspondence. There is also an extensive guide to the restoration process in Box 15 Folder 4 that contains detailed notes on the house and the surrounding area.

This subseries also contains a series of files from one of the FBFHUS's final fundraisers called "Painting for Pleasure." This silent auction of works by Philadelphia and other regional artists was held in 2007. Among the records are financial papers, lists of artists, meeting minutes and agendas, correspondence, and artist donation forms. These files span Boxes 13 and 14.

Rounding out the subseries are three boxes of audio recordings, one box of DVDs and VHS tapes, and a box of member cards and RSVP cards. There are seventeen audio recordings on standard cassette tapes (Box 17) and ninety on microcassettes (Boxes 18-19). Most of the tapes are labeled with names and dates, but a few tapes in Box 19 are unlabeled. Among the video recordings is the 2005 Benjamin Franklin House Symposium entitled "Design and Innovation." A service copy of this DVD is available to researchers.

Series 2. Financial, 1989-2008 (Boxes 22-27)

Spanning six boxes, the financial records of FBFHUS mostly consist of various bills, receipts, and invoices, but there are also bank statements, tax papers, audited financial statements, and investment reports. The bills, invoices, and receipts in Boxes 22 and 23 document the organization's general expenses on rent, utilities, and supplies. There are a few Corestates bank statements in Box 24 that further detail FBFHUS's income and expenses between 1997 and 1998. Also in Box 24 are two folders of reports from the accounting firm of Janney, Montgomery, Scott that detail investments held by FBFHUS from 2001 to 2005. FBFHUK's finances are also

represented in the files of Royal Bank of Canada statements in Boxes 25 and 26. The group kept several different accounts, four of which produced the bulk of the statements. Rounding out the series are several folders of tax forms and related papers.

Series 3. American Friends of Franklin Trust, 1987-1996 (Boxes 28-32, Volumes 1-2)

The American Friends of Franklin Trust (AFFT) records were found separated from the bulk of the collection and therefore remain in their own subseries. There are five boxes and two volumes.

AFFT was founded as the American Friends of Franklin Committee in 1987, and its primary goal was to raise funds in the United States for the restoration and preservation of the Benjamin Franklin House in London. Unlike the AFFT records that are integrated into the rest of the collection, these papers present the distinct history of AFFT and its relationship with the London Friends through correspondence, administrative records, board meeting minutes, and financial papers. The files were found roughly divided into two groups: administrative papers are in Boxes 28 to 31, and financial papers span boxes 31 and 32 and include two account books (Volumes 1 and 2).

Among the administrative papers are the files of two primary members of AFFT, Jane Sloat, who served as president, and Alan Dye, one of the executive committee members. There are also several folders of correspondence and a folder of architectural plans of the Benjamin Franklin House. Of particular interest, however, are two folders titled "Reorganization" that contain papers related to the internal changes AFFT underwent in the early 1990s that included changing its name from a committee to the trust. As AFFT drummed up more American interests in the house, some donors mistakenly thought that AFFT co-owned the Benjamin Franklin House. By changing its name, AFFT clarified its role as a fundraising organization that worked with the London Friends.

At eleven folders, AFFT's financial papers make up a fraction of the series and contain mostly bills and receipts for utilities and supplies, tax forms and related papers, and records relating to fundraising and funder relations.

Series 4. Bessborough and Landseidel files, 1956, 1988-2008 (Boxes 33-55)

This large series is made up of twenty-three boxes; and while a few items date from 1956, the bulk of the papers cover the late 1980s to the late 2000s. The papers consist of a mix of business and personal files from the FBFHUS Philadelphia office created by President Mary Countess of Bessborough and Chairman Robert Landseidel. Most papers remain in their original folders. Loose papers were either interfiled in the appropriate folders or housed and labeled separately. Please note that some of these papers duplicate those found in Series 1, subseries c, particularly those papers that pre-date FBFHUS's founding in 1992.

The bulk of the files start in 1998, when the restoration project was in Phase I (structurally securing the house), and end in December 2007 as the house entered its second year of operation as a public space. Several major themes emerge from these papers, such as the disagreements between FBFHUS and the London Friends over the fate of 36 Craven Street. Bessborough and FBFHUS favored fully restoring the home with mid-eighteenth century furnishings and décor. The London Friends favored a more theatrical and interactive approach complete with multimedia lighting and sound accompanying tours given by actors in period costume. They also wanted to renovate the house's upper-floor into a "Children's Science Center" where visitors could recreate some of Franklin's experiments. Though Bessborough referred to this plan as "Disneyland" and fought hard to make the house into a historic home, the London Friends had their way. The Bob Reid folders in Box 51 contain particularly vivid correspondence on the matter. (Reid was chairman of the London Friends.)

Other interesting material that sheds light on the relationship between FBFHUS and the London Friends includes papers concerning accounts with the Royal Bank of Canada. (See folders "NY account info" in Boxes 48-49.) In the early 2000s, the London Friends opened an account with the Royal Bank using FBFHUS's tax ID number so that donors could claim charitable tax deductions. Once the money was collected, the London Friends transferred the money from the account to themselves as a "gift" from FBFHUS without Bessborough's or FBFHUS's knowledge. Although it is hard to discern specifics from the files themselves, this action apparently violated tax and charity laws. Files from lawyers, especially Stone King, shed light on this situation.

In addition to the above mentioned files, there are also several copies of grants for which FBFHUS applied, fundraising party plans, and correspondence with other FBFHUS members and Franklin enthusiasts. There are also numerous personal files that do not relate to the Benjamin Franklin House project that contain travel and lodging receipts, event invitations, and personal communications.

Series 5. Photographs, scrapbooks, and printed material, 1975-2007 (Boxes 56-59, Volume 3)

The items in this subseries highlight the participants involved in the restoration of the Benjamin Franklin House, as well as FBFHUS's research and interests. There are four boxes and the papers span from the 1970s to the 2000s. Box 56 is an album that contains loose photographs that have been sleeved. Boxes 57 and 58 contain several photocopied and disbound photo albums and scrapbooks. Box 59 consists solely of various printed materials and publications that relate directly to Benjamin Franklin's work and accomplishments.

The photographs in Box 56 were found loose throughout the collection and have been consolidated into an acid-free binder. Among the photos are those of events, including receptions that involved then current British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, pictures of the interior of the Benjamin Franklin House before and during renovations, and a few miscellaneous images and proof sheets. The vast majority of the photos in this album are not labeled.

During processing, seven “magnetic” photo albums and scrapbooks were discovered in the collection. For preservation purposes, all but one of the albums were photocopied and disbound. Boxes 57 and 58 contain the contents of all disbound albums and scrapbooks—photographs have been sleeved and paper items have been foldered. There are two disbound albums that contain pictures of the Benjamin Franklin House during 1989 renovations. There are also pictures of a replica of the “Franklin stove” that was made part of the house in the early 1990s. Additional disbound albums include the “Margaret Thatcher” photo album that contains pictures dating from about 1987 to about 1993; a scrapbook of clippings, pictures, and articles related to publicity received by the London Friends and FBFHUS for their efforts; and a scrapbook compiled by Bessborough that contains a wide variety of clippings, many of which document her own work with the London Friends and FBFHUS. Box 58, Folders 7 and 8 contain a scrapbook of clippings, pictures, and articles related to the history of Benjamin Franklin.

Box 59, the final box in the collection, contains nine folders of printed material and publications that Bessborough and FBFHUS probably collected for research and informational purposes. Almost all of the items are writings on Benjamin Franklin. One exception is Folder 4, which contains a modern facsimile of Franklin’s 1776 ledger as postmaster general. There are several individual issues of journals and magazines, such as *National Geographic*, the *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*, and the *Smithsonian*, that contain articles on Benjamin Franklin. Other items include a script of a play entitled “Dear Dr. Franklin,” a chronology of Benjamin Franklin’s life published by the Friends of Franklin, Inc., and an informational packet on Philadelphia’s celebration of Franklin’s 300th anniversary.

Separation report

None.

Subjects

36 Craven Street (London, England)
Franklin, Benjamin, 1706-1790
Franklin, Benjamin, 1706-1790 – Homes and haunts – England – London
Fund raising consultants
Fund raising – Great Britain
Fund raising – Management
Fund raising – Pennsylvania – Philadelphia
Fund raising – Washington (D. C.)
Historic house museums – England – London
Historic house museums – Interpretive programs
Historic house museums – Furniture, equipment, etc.

Bessborough, Mary, Countess of
Dye, Alan
Hunter-Jones, Evangeline
Landseidel, Robert
Reid, Robert, Sir
Sloat, Jane de Graff
Sinnott, Stephen

American Friends of Franklin Trust
Donald W. Insall and Associates
Friends of the Benjamin Franklin House, U. K.
Friends of the Benjamin Franklin House, U. S.
Heritage Lottery Fund (Great Britain)
Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufacture, and Commerce (Great Britain)

Administrative Information

Restrictions

The collection is open for research.

Acquisition information

Gift of the Friends of the Benjamin Franklin House, U. S., 2008.

Accession number 2008.023.

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Processing note

Processing made possible by a generous donation from Mary Countess of Bessborough.

Box and folder listing

Series 1. Administration. a. Minutes

Folder title	Date	Box	Folder(s)
U. K. meetings (Bessborough's copies)	1971-1985	1	1
U. K. meetings	1978 June 21- 1987 November 26	1	2-3
U. K. mixed committees	1984-1996	1	4-5
U. K. Annual General meetings	1988-2002	1	6
U. K. Governor's Executive Committee book [disbound]	1989-1994	1	7
U. K. mixed meetings and financial reports	1991-2002	2	1
U. K. mixed meeting [disbound binder]	1996-2004	2	2-3
U. K. trustee meetings	1996-2002	2	4
Executive Committee	1997-2003	3	1-6
Executive Committee	2004-2008	4	1-5

Series 1. Administration. b. Correspondence

Folder title	Date	Box	Folder(s)
Mary Countess of Bessborough – incoming and outgoing	1991- September 2002	5	1-5
Mary Countess of Bessborough – mixed letters and other papers	1998-1999	5	6-7
Jonathan Carey/Donald Insall	1988-1997, undated	6	1-2
Evangeline Hunter-Jones	1997-1999	6	3
Important letters	1985-2003	6	4
Members' letters	1989-1994	6	5
Morrison & Foerester	1993	6	6
Sir Bob Reid	February-June 2003	6	7
Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufacture, and Commerce	1981, 1994- 1995	6	8
Stephen Sinott	1993-1995	6	9
Jane de Groff Sloat	1992-1995	7	1-3
F. W. Stephens & Co.	1985-1998, 2001	7	4-6

Series 1. Administration. c. Subject files

Folder title	Date	Box	Folder(s)
Accounts	1990-1997, undated	8	1
American Museum of Bath	1992-1996	8	2
Architectural Heritage Fund	1994, undated	8	3
Articles	1986-2002	8	4
Audio recordings of meetings and other events (cassettes and microcassettes)	2002-2008, undated	17-19	n/a
Bessborough drafts and notes	circa 1998	8	5
Brochure – new	1992-1994	8	6
Business plans	1999	8	7
Christmas Fair	1992-1994	8	8
Charity Commission and charitable donations	1983, 1984, 1992-1997	9	1
Colonial Dames of America – London	circa 1981- 1993, undated	9	2
Commercial Union Assurance	1985-2001	9	3
The Company Act (original and copies)	circa 1978	9	4
Contacts and contact lists	1976, 1990- 1992, undated	9	5
<i>Craven Street Gazette</i> (edits, drafts, preparation, miscellaneous)	1990-1994	9	6-7
<i>Craven Street Gazette</i> (issues)	1985, 1991- 2004, 2006	10	1
Events	1991-1992, undated	10	2
Foundations	1987-1988	10	3
Franklin Award for Human Freedom certificates	1990	10	4
Franklin Institute Frankliniana collection list	2002	10	5
Fundraising	1992-1993, 1997-1998, undated	10	6-7
Health and safety policy	2006	10	8
Heritage Lottery Fund (FBFHUK application)	1999	10	9
Heritage Lottery Fund (FBFHUK application)	1999	11	1
Historic Interior (Furnishings) Committee – minutes and financial papers	1999-2003	11	2
Historic Interior (Furnishings) Committee – references	1976-2000	11	3-4
History	1981-1998	11	5-6

I-PC fundraising	1985, undated	12	1
Investigation into RBC New York account	2004	12	2
Land registry and deeds	1971, 1985	12	3
Launching party at the RSA	1983	12	4
Bernadette McNichols	1996, undated	12	5
Mailing lists	1991-1992, undated	12	6-7
Member and RSVP cards		20	n/a
Miscellaneous	1983, 1989, 1990-1997	12	8-9
Miscellaneous	1998-2002, 2003, 2006, 2007	13	1-3
Museums (primarily the London Museum)	1982, 1993, undated	13	4
Painting For Pleasure – bidding sheets	2007	13	5
Painting For Pleasure – contacts and artist lists	2007	13	6
Painting For Pleasure – correspondence	2007	13	7
Painting For Pleasure – donation forms	2007	13	8
Painting For Pleasure – financial	2007	13	9
Painting For Pleasure – meeting agendas and minutes	2007	14	1
Painting For Pleasure – miscellaneous	2007	14	2
Press/publicity – articles	1984-1993	14	3-4
Press/publicity – correspondence and miscellaneous	1983-1993	14	5
Relations (fundraising)	1993-1997, undated	14	6
Restoration – architectural contracts	2002-2003	14	7
Restoration – “File #1”	1987-2001	15	1-3
Restoration guide	1983	15	4
Restoration – Insall/Carey correspondence	1990-1993	15	5
Restoration – plans of the house	1989, 1994, 1998, 1999, 2001	n/a	Flat file 1
Restoration – plans and blueprints	1990	15	6
Script of “theatre” tour of house	2000 December 13	15	7
Sotheby’s	1993-1994	16	1-2
Souvenirs	1984	16	3
Video recordings (VHS/DVD)	2002, 2005	21	n/a

Series 2. Financial

Folder title	Date	Box	Folder(s)
Bills and invoices – AT&T	2001-2008	22	1
Bills and invoices – brochure, printing	1997	22	2
Bills and invoices – CNA [insurance]	1996-2006	22	3
Bills and invoices – Copy Center	2004-2007	22	4
Bills and invoices – GREIT Public Ledger	1999-2004	22	5
Bills and invoices – Staples	2002-2005	22	6
Bills and invoices – TeleQNS	2002-2007	22	7
Bills and invoices – Vesper Club	2002-2007	22	8
Bills and invoices – Verizon	2005-2007	22	9
Bills and invoices – Verizon Wireless	2006-2007	23	1
Bills and invoices – W.B. Mason	2005-2007	23	2
Bills and invoices – Wolfpack	2005-2006	23	3
Bills, receipts, and invoices (mixed)	1991-2003	23	4-9
Corestates statements	1997-1998	24	1
Expense reports	1999-2005	24	2
Financial reports and related papers	1989-1993, 1997, 1999- 2003, 2006	24	3-4
Financial statements	2001, 2006, 2007	24	5
Historical Society of Pennsylvania	2006	24	6
Incoming contributions	1990-2007	24	7
Janney, Montgomery, Scott [accountants]	2001-2005	24	8-9
Miscellaneous	1990-2007	25	1-2
Ledger – Income	1983-2002	Vol. 1	n/a
Ledger – Expenditures	1983-2003	Vol. 2	n/a
Royal Bank of Canada account #1317171	1989-2002	25	3-4
Royal Bank of Canada account #5118443	1991-1994	25	5
Royal Bank of Canada account #5481908	1996-2002	25	6
Royal Bank of Canada account #6022909	1997-1998	25	7
Royal Bank of Canada account #6022909	1998-2001	26	1-3
Royal Bank of Canada account #1317205, 6002439, 6021497, 6021521	1993, 2003	26	4
Royal Bank of Canada correspondence	1992-1993	26	5
Security deposits	1997	26	6
Taxes	1989-1998	26	7-8
Taxes	1999-2007	27	1-5
Taxes – miscellaneous	circa 1998	27	6

Series 3. American Friends of Franklin Trust

Folder title	Date	Box	Folder(s)
American Chamber of Commerce – list of members	1990 May 17	28	1
Architectural plans	1993-1994	28	2
Articles and bylaws	1987, 1994	28	3
Board meetings	1993-1994	28	4-5
Congressional correspondence	1989-1990	28	6
Congressional Research Services of the Library of Congress	undated	28	7
Correspondence	1988-1996	28	8
Correspondence	1988-1996	29	1
Alan Dye files	1993-1994	29	2-4
Mixed administrative papers	1987-1994	29	5-6
Mixed administrative papers	1994-1995	30	1-2
Project and purpose statements	1993	30	3
Reception and dinner	1989, 1992	30	4
Reorganization	1990, 1992-1993	30	5-6
Resignations	1994-1995	30	7
Jane Sloat files	192-1994	31	1-3
Billing – Webster, Chamberlain & Bean	1989-1996	31	4
Bills and receipts	1987-1990	31	5-6
Expenditures and cost summary	undated	31	7
Fundraising	1990-1992, 1994	32	1-2
Miscellaneous financial	1988-1995	32	3-4
Taxes	1991-1994	32	5-7

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Academy Ball	1997-1998	33	1
Acquisition and Disposal Policy	2003 June 10; 2004 September 17	33	2
Activities by Category	undated	33	3
Acupuncture	2002-2004, undated	33	4
AK's [Anne Keigher] file	2005-2006	33	5
All Cell Services	2004 February 2	33	6
The Arcadia Foundation	1998 July 27; 1998 July 31;	33	7

The Arcadia Foundation (con't)	1998 November 4	33	7
Archival Letters	2002-2006	33	8
Artefacts	1989-1990	33	9
James Ayers	2002 June-2002 October	33	10
Baker Trust	1998, 1999, 2005	33	11
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Barra Foundation	1998 June 27; 1998 August 6	33	13
B.E.G.I.N.-2/23/99	1999 February	33	14
Margaret S. Bearn	2005 March	33	15
Bechtel	2002	33	16
Beneficia Foundation	2007	33	17
Benjamin Franklin House	2005 September 21	33	18
Bennett Press	2001 April 8	33	19
Bessborough-Reid	2001 April-September	33	20
Feb 99 - Bessborough Visit	1999 February-March	33	21
Bessborough schedule	1998	33	22
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Big Picture Alliance	2001 December	33	24
Misc bills	2001-2004	33	25
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Bones [lecture at Mütter Museum]	2000	33	28
Ms. Sharton R. Bookhout	2004 June 15; 2004 June 20	33	29
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Bradshaw	2004 November 4-5	33	31
British Airways	2002 June 21	33	32
British & Am Council (British and American Business Council of Greater Philadelphia)	1997, 2005, 2006	34	1
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Ersel Buckley-Sharp	2003 August 27	34	3
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Camera	undated	34	10
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Celebration - 2001	2001	34	14
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Celebration 2005	2005	34	17
Franklin Celebration Attendees	2002	34	18
Chamber of Commerce	2000, 2006	35	1
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Steve Christensen	2002	35	5
Michael Chrisman	2004 April-2005 August	35	6
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Christmas Card 2004	2004	35	10
Christie's party – March 3	1998-1999	35	11
Cingular	2003-2004	35	12
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Conboy, Ken	1998	36	6
Conference - US/UK	2003 November	36	7
Conflict of Interest	undated	36	8
Colonial Wars	1997 October 30; 1998 December 8	36	9
Conciliator	undated	36	10
Consortium 9/2002-2004	2002-2004	36	11
Context Engineering LTD	2003 August 31	36	12
Cookbook Event	2001	36	13
Copeland, James	2000 May 16; 2000 August 18	36	14
Theodore R. Crane	1997 February 25	37	1
Crane manuscript – “Advocate for America”	1996-1997	37	2-6
Craven Street	2000-2007	37	7
Deeds Craven Street	2004 August 18	37	8
Craven St. Manuscript	1997 February 11	37	9
Cron dall Consulting	2002-2003	37	10
Current	circa 2002	38	1

Databases	2006-2007	38	2-3
Lee Dennis	undated	38	4
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Development Comm-Leads	undated	38	6
Proposal for Display	2001, 2002	38	7
100K Documentation	2005	38	8
Domain registration	2006	38	9
Domenick & Associates	2007 February	38	10
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Doomed Memorandum	2006	38	12
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Anthony J. Drexel Society	2005 September 21	38	14
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Drexel - General	2005, 2006	38	16
Drexel Family Project	2006	38	17
Drexel Portrait	2000 February 15	38	18
Drinks Party	1998 November	38	19
Martin Drury	2000	38	20
HRH Duke of Gloucester	2004 March	38	21
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A. G. Edwards	circa 1995-1995	39	3
English Speaking Union	2005, 2007 February	39	4
Enterprise	2002-2005	39	5
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Event communications	undated	39	7
Executive Club	2002, 2005	39	8
Exhibition	2001	39	9
Family	1997	39	10
Fancher	2005 May 18	39	11
Farish Dinner – Nov. 1	2001	39	12
Financial analysis of past Franklin accounts	1989, undated	39	13
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Fireplace	2007 July 16	39	15
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Hugh Fisher	2003, 2005	39	17
Floors - \$20,000	2002	39	18
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Franklin Brochures	1997	40	2

Franklin Bust	1997, 1998	40	3
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Furnishing Committee	1999 November 18	41	14
Gala-UK	2006 January 17	41	15
Gates Foundation	1999 January 7, 1999 January 26	41	16
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Gladding, F.	1999 March 25	41	18
John Giangiulio	2004-2007 June 25	41	19
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Gordon Fund	1999 December 31	41	21
Graff House	1998 August	41	22
Grant Documentation	2003	42	1
Grantman's Class	1998 September 8, undated	42	2
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Guide Star	2006 May 10	42	4
Dr. William Hackmann	2004 October 9, 2005 January 4	42	5
Hallam, Margaret	2006	42	6

Hamid/Meakin	2003 November 17-18	42	7
Hepburn, Wilcox, Hamilton	1997-2002	42	8
The PC Handyman	2006-2007	42	9
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Mary Stevenson Hewson	1956 December, undated	42	12
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Jackson, Sarah	2001 March-June	43	5
Janney, Montgomery	1998-2000	43	6
Jones, E. Hunter	2004	43	7
Anne Keigher	1997, 2001-2003, 2005	43	8-9
A. Kevorkian	2005 May 13	43	10
Joe Kern	2003 March 19	43	11
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Dr. Kotler	2004 July, September	43	14
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Landmarks	2003-2005	43	16
R. Landsiedel's annuity 2005	2005	43	17
Leadership, Inc.	1997 February 5	43	18
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Wynn Lee	2007 April 18, 2007 December 14	44	2
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London - Jan. '06	2006 January 10, 2006 January 13	44	4
London - 2/12/03	2003	44	5
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London - June, 2006	2006 June 28, 2006 July 6	44	12
Heritage Lottery Fund	2004-2005	44	13
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Mailing September 16, 2005	2005 September 16	44	20
Mailing December, 2005	2005 December	44	21
March 2005 Mailing	2005 March	44	22
September 16, 2005 Mailing	2005 September 16	44	23
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Main Line Event Solutions	2007 January 4	44	25
Manna	2004-2005	44	26
Martucci	1999 January 26	44	27
Mary D. B. T. Semans	1997-2000	44	28
Mary Mather – London	2001-2004	44	29
Andrew Maykuth	2002 April 6; 2005 May 8	44	30
McCord, Rob	2001	44	31
Iain McManus	2001-2004	44	32
Robert Meakin	2002-2003	44	33
Merchant Billing	2005-2007	45	1
Mereworth Script	undated	45	2
Microsoft	undated	45	3
Mixed administration/financial	1983-2002	45	4-10
Mixed administration/financial	2002-2005	46	1-7
Mixed administration/financial	2006-2007, undated	47	1-6
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Montgomery, McCracken, Walker & Rhoads	2003-2007	47	9-11
Morgan Lewis	2002 May-July	47	12
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Mother Katharine	2000	48	1
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National Trust	1997, 2006 June 9	48	4
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#2-Winter-'99-'00 [<i>The Craven Street Gazette</i>]	1999-2000	48	9
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Abby Rockefeller O'Neill	2000	48	11
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PAFA [Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts]	2000-2002	49	6
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Paul Palmer	2003-2004	49	8
Parkway Corp.	2005	49	9
PANO Nonprofit Congress	2007	49	10-11
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Palm Beach + Phila. April/May 2000	2000	49	14
Parking Tickets	1998-2006	49	15
Pending	2005, 2006	50	1
Charlotte Petsopoulos	2000 March	50	2
Pew Trusts-Info	2000 March 14	50	3
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Phase II Brochure	undated	50	5
Phila. Museum of Art	2005 April	50	6
Philadelphia Printed[sic] Shop	undated	50	7
Philly Sports Club	2001 April	50	8
Pirie, Robert S.	2005 May 18, 2005 June 6, 2007	50	9
Pitcairn	2000-2007	50	10
20K -Pledge	2001	50	11
Potential Comm	2000-2001	50	12
Potential Donors	2003-2006	50	13
Powell House	2003 June, 2005 June	50	14
Kenneth J. Powell Jr.	2005	50	15
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Progressive Ins.	2005-2007	50	19
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Project Photos	undated	50	21
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Bob Reid Letters	2001-2005	51	3
Reimbursement	2000-2001	51	4
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Rittenhouse Town	2003 September 18	51	6
Elton Robertson	2001-2007	51	7
Rockefeller, Rodman	1998 June 8	51	8
Rome	2000	51	9-10
Save America's Treasures	1999-2000	51	11-12
Save America's Treasures	1999-2000	52	1-2
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Script - Franklin House	2004 July 31	52	5
SCT Corp	1999	52	6
Singer, Karen	undated	52	7
Siragusa Foundation	1998	52	8
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Status Report	2001 November- December	52	11
Stearns, Donald	2006 May 24	52	12
Stone King - Bills	2002 April-2004 March	52	13
Stone King - Non Bills	2002 April-2003 February	53	1
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Tercentary - Nov 14 '04	2004 November	54	2
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Treasurer's reports	1988, 1997	54	7
Trustees Update, U.K.	2001	54	8
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U.K. Banking	2000 October	54	10
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UK Meetings	2004-2006	54	12
UK Treasure's	1997 October 20	54	13
Union Jack	1998	54	14
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Venturi, Robert	2005 May, June, September	54	16
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Wallet	2002 October 17	54	18
Nick Watson	2002 March-April	54	19
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Willie & Duffy's Philly Grill	2001 November, December	54	21
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Year End Mailing - 1999	1999 December	54	23
Year End Mailing - 2000	2000 December	55	1
Year End - Nov, 2001	2001 November	55	2
Year End Mailing - 2002	2002 December, 2003 January 23	55	3
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2003-Year End	2003 December	55	6
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Year end mailing 2007	2007 December	55	12
2006-2007	2006 May 16-2007 June 17	55	13
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Series 5. Photographs, scrapbooks, and printed material

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Copies of Franklin letters and other memorabilia	1976, 1989, undated	Vol. 3	n/a

Loose photographs (placed in acid-free album box)	circa 1980- circa 1990	56	n/a
Franklin stove photo album [disbound]	circa 1990	57	1
House and construction photo album [disbound]	1989	57	2-4
House publicity scrapbook [disbound]	circa 1985- 1989	57	5-6
House restoration photo album and scrapbook [disbound]	1989	57	7-8
Lady Bessborough scrapbook [disbound]	circa 1987- 1998	58	1-3
Margaret Thatcher photo album [disbound]	1987-1993	58	4-5
Miscellaneous	2003, undated	58	6
Scrapbook [disbound]	circa 1990	58	7-8
American Philosophical Society	1992, 1993, 2006	59	1
Benjamin Franklin chronology, published by the Friends of Franklin , Inc.	1996	59	2
“Dear Dr. Franklin” – play by Aaron Coleman	1989	59	3
Facsimile of Franklin’s ledger as postmaster general, 1776, published 1865	undated	59	4
Historical Society of Pennsylvania	2006, 2007	59	5
Journals	1975, 1976, 2007	59	6
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Miscellaneous photocopies, booklets, pamphlets, and postcards	1977, 1994- 2006, undated	59	8
Philadelphia’s 300 th anniversary of Franklin - informational packet	2005	59	9