



The Franklin Inn Club

Newsletter

May 2009

Club Calendar

Call Steward Shefqet at 215-732-0334 to reserve for all meals and events. For reduced fee parking at Central Garage at 12th and Sansom, ask your waiter or Shefqet for a coupon (for three or twelve hours) to present with your parking chit.

Note that regular evening parking rates Sunday to Wednesday may be the same as, or lower than, the reduced day rate given to the Club.

The Club is now open 10:00 to 5:00 daily for members' convenience. The computer is available in the first floor bar area.

Quarterback Luncheon, Mon. May 4, 12:30-1:30 pm. Publisher and physician George Fisher will lead the discussion.

Board Meeting, Tues. May 5, 6:00 pm. The meeting will begin promptly and will be followed by a Buffet Supper with wine. One blue ticket.

Roundtable Luncheon, Thurs. May 7, 12:30-1:30 pm. Joe Paprzycki, Playwright and Producing Artistic Director of the South Camden Theatre Co., will talk about how, with help from the Heart of Camden and the Domenica Foundation, he built a 99-seat Waterfront South Theatre in Camden which is scheduled to open in September 2009.

Club Dinner, Fri. May 8, 5:30 pm Cocktails; 6:30 pm; Program Followed by Dinner. Published as Vol. 264 of the Memoirs of the American Philosophical Society, Jean O'Neill and Elizabeth P. McLean's recent book, *Peter Collinson and the Eighteenth Century Natural History Exchange*, is a revelation even to those who are familiar with the role of John and William Bartram in documenting the new plants found in the North American colonies. Innmate Elizabeth McLean will deliver an illustrated talk on high points of the book.

Quarterback Luncheon, Mon. May 11, 12:30-1:30 pm. David Freeman will be quarterback.

CLUB BUSINESS

Complimentary Meal Coupons

There has been some confusion about the coupons which allow a Club member to bring a guest who would be a suitable candidate for membership to Lunch at Club expense.

A member may invite a suitable candidate for membership to Lunch once and once only at the Club's expense.

The Club is willing to incur this expense so that (1) the potential member may visit the Club and (2) Club members may meet and engage the potential member in conversation.

A revised coupon is printed on page 4.

The By-Laws

Palmer Hartl, with the assistance of Gresham Riley and Gregory Harvey has begun the process of reviewing the Inn's By-Laws and raising questions with the Board about possible revisions.

The Finance Committee

Members of the Finance Committee are as follows:

Chairman: William J.D. Jordan

Avi Eden

George Fisher

Gregory Harvey

Mickey Herr

Helen Pratt

Deborah Goldstein, ex officio

There will be an afternoon meeting of the committee on Mon. May 18.

Trivia: It's the Little Things that Count!

The Buildings Committee has retrofitted the faucets in the Ladies' Room which now has hot and cold running water.

Lou Bluver's CINEMA FROM THE VAULTS Presents:

THE PEACH GIRL--A Chinese 1931 Silent Film (with original music score)

Using a melodramatic format, the Director, Bu Wancang was able to thwart government censors and was able to show the great contrast between rich and poor, country and city, peasant and landowner, and the weak and the strong. Production of the film was completed the night before the Japanese army started its invasion of Manchuria.

The countryside locations are photographed like ancient Chinese landscape paintings.

The female star Ruan Ling-Yu made 29 films before she committed suicide in 1935 at the age of 24. The male star Jin Yan was known as "The Emperor of Chinese Cinema," and appeared in movies until the 1960s.

There will be a variety of unique films from Lou's personal collection screened before the Feature, plus a Buffet Supper downstairs. One blue ticket.

FLASH!!--All screenings are now projected on a screen, not on aTV!

The Franklin Inn Club
205 South Camac Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107
Telephone: 215-732-0334
www.franklininn.org

President

A. DEBORAH GOLDSTEIN, MD

Vice President

AVI EDEN

Treasurer

MICKEY HERR

Recording Secretary

NORMA VAN DYKE

Immediate Past President

JANICE GORDON, PhD

Board of Directors

CHARLES HANCOCK
K. PALMER HARTL
GREGORY M. HARVEY, Esq.
WESLEY PARROTT
DOUGLAS SCHALLER

Membership Chair

LOUIS BLUVER

Finance Committee Chair

WILLIAM J.D. JORDAN

Librarian

MARY STEWART

Nominating Committee Chair

NATHAN SIVIN

Program Chair

LENORA BERSON

House Committee Chair

CHARLES HANCOCK

Food Committee Co-Chairs

HELEN PRATT

Wine Steward

NATHAN SIVIN

Newsletter Editor

MARTHA GOPPELT

Executive Chef

DAVID HEYDT

Steward

SHEFQET OSMANOLLAJ

BOOK REVIEW: Peter Collinson and the Eighteenth-Century Natural History Exchange

by Jean O'Neill and Elizabeth P. McLean, *Memoirs of the American Philosophical Society*, Vol. 264, American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia 2008, 215 pages, 28 Color Plates.

The Inn Library has received a copy of this elegantly printed scholarly work by Elizabeth McLean, who will speak at the May 29th Club Dinner about this work.

Much of the intellectual ferment of the Enlightenment, including the understanding of science, was the doing of intelligent, curious tradesmen and noblemen with the leisure to pursue their investigations of the physical and natural world. For example, the nobleman Antoine Lavoisier, who had led a comfortable life as tax collector for the Ancien Regime before he was guillotined during the Terror, was the father of chemistry. Another example was Peter Collinson, a successful 18th century English businessman and friend of John Bartram, who is the subject of Elizabeth McLean's most recent book.

The text of this book is fascinating and I found on every page new facts and concepts I had not thought of. I am a frequent visitor to Bartram's Garden, yet I did not know the source of funds or the real story behind the thirst for plants from the New World that existed in the mother country. English landowners and plantsmen wanted plants and trees from the New World, and Englishmen in the Colonies wanted plants and foods with which they had been familiar before they left England.

Peter Collinson (1694-1768) was described variously as a mercer, a draper and a haberdasher. He lived in London and its environs his entire life, never traveling to the Colonies and only once to Holland. Brought up as a Quaker, he had a very enquiring and open mind. He probably acquired his love of plants and gardens from his maternal grandmother by whom he was brought up. He was apprenticed in the family cloth business which he inherited. Extensive trade with the Colonies gave Collinson a knowledge of ships, captains and routes. Early on he had enough success and leisure to collect plants for his own garden, and through this means, met other English plant enthusiasts, among them a Lord Petrie and the Duke of Richmond, both of whom craved plants and trees from the Colonies.

Thus was initiated the annual stipend of twenty guineas paid to John Bartram to cover the costs of his plant-finding expeditions. In addition, Collinson instructed Bartram in how to wrap and ship seeds and plants, and paid him for each shipment. He also sent cloth and clothing to Bartram's family. He did not charge a fee for his import service, but there was an eager clientele for every shipment. Thus Collinson became very famous as a plant expert, was introduced to the Royal Society and soon became a member.

You might ask why the thirst for plants from North America. As one who has wandered many great forested estates of southern England, I was aware that the eighteenth-century style of garden was a radical change from the wall-enclosed gardens of the late Middle Ages. However, it didn't occur to me to question where the trees came from. Consider that two centuries of civil war, the building of a navy and the beginning of the Industrial Revolution had left England largely deforested. Some nobility wanted to reforest their estates with English species, but Peter Collinson's clients thirsted for newly discovered trees from North America with which to beautify and improve their estates. Collinson thought of himself as improving his native country.

But this was also an intellectual exercise for Collinson. He was an acquaintance of Carolus Linnaeus and eventually was won over to (*cont. p.3*)

-
- **Answers to Hamlet quiz on page 3:** •
- 1) b; 2) a; 3) b; 4) b; 5) a; 6) b; 7) c; 8) c; •
- 9) b •
-

Club Calendar

Exceptional Film Screenings, Second Series, Mon. May 11, 6:00 pm Buffet Supper, followed by vintage film at 7:00 pm. The evening features Director Bu Wancang's *The Peach Girl*. Fuller description appears on p. 1. One blue ticket.

Roundtable Luncheon, Thurs. May 14, 12:30-1:30 pm. Bruce Graham, anti-elitist playwright, will discuss his newest production, *Something Intangible* (at the Arden April 9-June 7), and regale us with what it's like to be a successful playwright/screenwriter who never left Philly!

Quarterback Luncheon, Mon. May 18, 12:30-1:30 pm. Palmer Hartl will facilitate the discussion.

Buffet Dinner and Piano Bar, Tues. May 19, 6:00 pm. Wesley Parrott, acclaimed classical organist, will play the piano for uninhibited Innmates who like to sing.

Roundtable Luncheon, Thurs. May 21, 12:30-1:30 pm. Thaddeus Squire, artistic executive director of Peregrine Arts, returns to describe Hidden City Philadelphia, a series of artistic events to be performed at the Metropolitan Opera House on North Broad Street and in eight other venues, from May 30-June 28.

Quarterback Luncheon, Mon. May 25, 12:30-1:30 pm. Club programmer and City Hall afficianada Lenora Berson will lead the discussion.

Roundtable Luncheon, Thurs. May 28, 12:30-1:30 pm. Jay Raymond will speak on modern industrial design and in particular his own collection of irons.

Club Dinner, Fri. May 29, 5:30 pm Cocktails; 6:30 pm Program followed by Dinner. Margot Chew Barringer will speak about her grandfather, Daniel Moreau Barringer, who changed the course of scientific opinion and proved the origins of the Meteor Crater in Arizona. George Fisher will then introduce Baruch Blumberg, Nobel Laureate, Founding Director of NASA Astrobiology Institute, and current President of the American Philosophical Society, who will talk about NASA missions, astrobiology, and why we are interested in meteorites and craters today.

Peter Collinson (Cont.)

the Linnaen method of naming genus and specie in Latin. He corresponded with the leading figures in science of the day not just about botany but about new ideas in general. It was he who heard from Germany about certain experiments in electricity done there. These he communicated to Benjamin Franklin with whom he was already corresponding. Franklin subsequently performed his kite experiment, reported on the results to Collinson, who wrote them up for presentation to the Royal Society. On this basis, Franklin was invited to join the Royal Society.

The book is a beautiful one, published in a large flat format with twenty-eight color plates and twenty-two black and white figures. To ease the reader's memory, there are several pages of a Chronology of the Enlightenment provided by Ernie Schuyler of the Academy of Natural Sciences. Especially important to the botanists and plantsmen who will study this book, every chapter is extensively footnoted. The handsome bookjacket was designed by Elizabeth and William McLean's son to illustrate the concept of the "natural history exchange," which is the thesis of this book. ~ Janice Gordon

(Dr. Gordon, former FIC president has been elected Treasurer of the Central Committee of the Phila. Orchestra and has accepted the position of Awards Chair at the College of Physicians of Philadelphia.)

Lantern Theatre *Hamlet* Extended

FIC members who missed the Club's April expedition to *Hamlet* have a second chance! The Lantern Theater Company's production of *Hamlet* has been extended by popular demand through May 17. Innmates can receive 15% off tickets (pending availability) when calling the box office at 215-829-0395 and mentioning "Franklin Inn Club." Visit www.lanterntheater.org to find out which shows have sold out.

Below are selections from the infamous **Hamlet quiz** from the Club's Dinner. *Answers on p.2.*

- 1) How old is Prince Hamlet? a. Between 20 and 23; b. Over 23; c. Under 20
- 2) When Hamlet Traveled to England what "attack" happened on the way? a. a pirate attack b. highway robbers attacked c. an attack of food poisoning
- 3) Which is the correct line of this famous soliloquy spoken by Hamlet? a. Oh that this too too sullen flesh would melt b. Oh that this too too solid flesh would melt c. Oh that this too too sordid flesh would melt
- 4) Which of these famous stage actors first performed Hamlet? a. Edmund Keen b. Richard Burbage c. David Garrick
- 5) Who said "Leave her to heaven"? About whom? a. the Ghost, about Hamlet's mother b. Hamlet, about his girlfriend c. Hamlet, about his mother
- 6) Which of these famous screen actresses portrayed Hamlet on film? a. Clara Bow b. Sarah Bernhardt c. Theda Bara
- 7) When did Rosencrantz and Guildenstern die in the play? Where? a. At the beginning, crossing from Norway b. In the middle, crossing the English Channel c. At the end, in England
- 8) Which twentieth-century playwright wrote a play called *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*? a. Samuel Beckett b. Sam Sheppard c. Tom Stoppard
- 9) How many people are left for dead on stage at the end of the play? a. 2 b. 4 c. 6

COMPLIMENTARY MEAL COUPON
YOUR GUEST IS OUR GUEST

The Board invites you to bring a guest to your choice of Monday or Thursday Luncheon at no charge to you. Simply make your reservation in advance, specify you are bringing a "Free Guest" and provide your name and his/her name below.

Host:

Guest:..