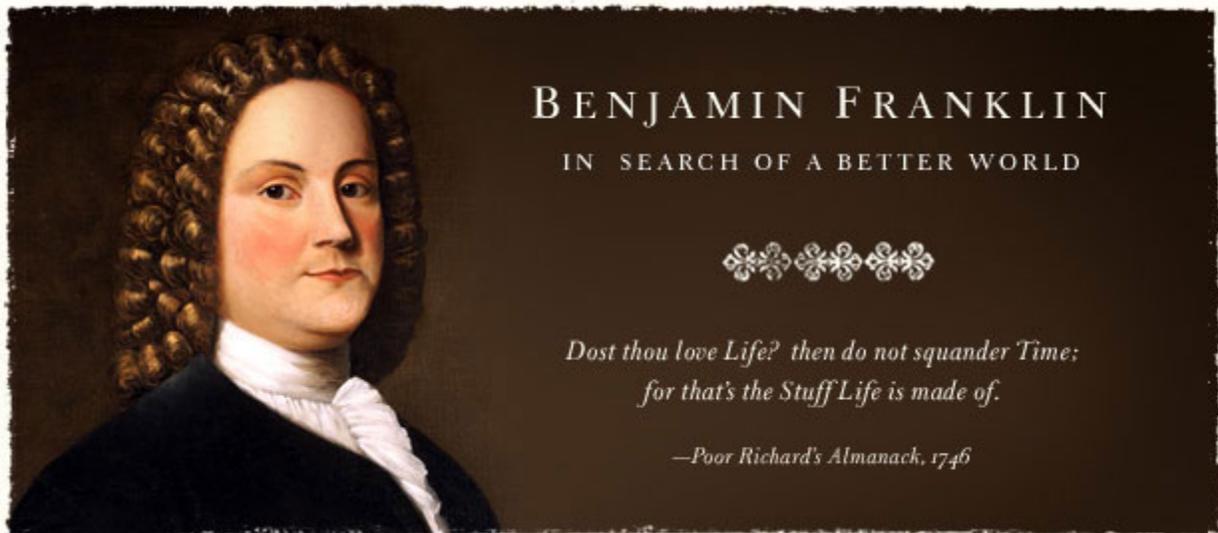


For Immediate Release

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**Louisville, Ky. (May 16, 2011)** -- Benjamin Franklin's achievements in diplomacy, science, philanthropy and other fields profoundly influenced the path of a new nation and continue to inspire us more than three hundred years after his birth. Now a national traveling exhibition looks at the remarkable life and achievements of one of America's most beloved personalities. *Benjamin Franklin: In Search of a Better World* opens June 1 at the Main branch of the Louisville Free Public Library.

*Benjamin Franklin: In Search of a Better World* draws upon original documents in the collections of the American Philosophical Society, The Franklin Institute, the Library Company of Philadelphia, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, and the University of Pennsylvania, other museums and libraries, and private collectors. Photographs of handwritten and printed documents, objects owned by Franklin, maps, paintings and drawings provide a colorful background for Franklin's story. The traveling exhibition was organized by the Benjamin Franklin Tercentenary, Philadelphia, in cooperation with the American Library Association, with support from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH): great ideas brought to life.

Besides serving his country as a skillful diplomat and negotiator, Benjamin Franklin was a scientist, inventor, entrepreneur, humorist and philanthropist whose wisdom and wit continue to inspire and entertain. Franklin was dedicated to making the world a better place and himself a better person. His accomplishments were the result of a lifelong dedication to improving himself and the world around him.

The Louisville Free Public Library is pleased to have been selected as a site for this exhibition. An **opening reception on Wednesday, June 1, at 7p.m.** features a presentation by Louisville's own Tom Owen. *Why Louisville? – Let's Thank Ben* explores Benjamin's Franklin's negotiations with King Louis XVI of France and their importance to the success of the American Revolution (we thanked the King by naming our city for him). The opening reception and program will be held at the Main Library, 301 York Street.

The library is also sponsoring free programs and other events for the public in connection with the exhibition. Contact 574-1611 or visit [lfpl.org](http://lfpl.org) for more information. *Benjamin Franklin: In Search of a Better World* will be on display June 1 - August 15 at the Main Library.

*Louisville Free Public Library connects the residents of Louisville and Jefferson County to knowledge and information at our 18 locations and on the Web at [www.lfpl.org](http://www.lfpl.org). Come on in, the whole world's inside.*

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