

# POOR RICHARDS' BIDZINE

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE PHILADELPHIA IN 2001 WORLDCON BID  
VOLUME 1 NUMBER 3

## Hello Presupporters!

This is the last issue of Poor Richard's Bidzine before the vote! Has everyone got their Bucconeer memberships? Has everyone got their ballots? Site selection ballots are available on-line at <<http://www.bucconeer.worldcon.org/library/sitevote2.htm#Images>>. Remember, if it's past the mail-in deadline, you can still give your ballot to someone who's going. Let's get out there and vote for Philly, folks!

Our Committee wishes to invite all our supporters (and everyone else, too) to our parties at Bucconeer. We'll be in the Holiday Inn on Wednesday and Thursday nights. Win or lose, we guarantee a party to remember!

Well, now that we've gotten that out of our systems, we've got some news. First off, this is not only Bidzine 3, but also Postcard #0. That's right, this mailing counts towards your 20 postcards for a free conversion. **Don't forget to bring it to Bucconeer** if you want to use it as a postcard. Also, we are now publishing the list of conventions which will entitle attendees to bonus postcards. Details on page 2.

In this issue, Lynn Cohen Koehler, roving editor, interviews Philadelphia SF writer Michael Swanwick, and we turn our spotlight on fun in Philadelphia. We've covered as much ground as we can, but we can't put an entire city on paper. The Philly in 2001 Bid Committee looks forward to the day when we can personally show off our wonderful city to all our guests! Until then, we leave you with these Philly Tidbits.

- Philadelphia was founded in 1682 by William Penn, on land granted him by King Charles II. He planned a "greene country towne" based around several urban squares.
- Just before the American Revolution, Philadelphia was the second-largest English-speaking city in the world.
- Philadelphia was the capital of the United States from 1790 to 1800.
- Today Philadelphia covers 129 square miles and has a population of 1.6 million.

Next stop, Baltimore!

## The Missing Fen

We no longer have valid mail or email addresses for the following people. If you know where they are please have them contact us with their new address. We've listed the last known city and state for each missing fan.

Bob, Pallas, Rene, & Tucker Bane	Lanham, MD
Greg Barr	Washington, DC
Tom Beckes	Cupertino, CA
Frank Bynum	Fairborn, OH
Dawn Dela Cruz	Coventry, RI
Todd Dresser	Silver Spring, MD
Andy Dyson	Philadelphia, PA
Betty Gentili	Virginia Beach, VA
Mark Irwin	Skokie, IL
Eve M. Jones	Silver Spring, MD
Gail Ludwig	La Habra, CA
Laura Lehow	Oakland, CA
Richard Lyke	Enterprise, AL
Lynn Marron	Bridgeport, CT
Nancy Nutt	La Habra, CA
Eileen Pearlman	Lawrenceville, NJ
Lawrence Sall	Philadelphia, PA
J. Louis Srygley	Summit, NJ
Robert Taylor	Austin, TX

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# The "Ben Franklin Through Time & Space" Postcard Series

The Philadelphia in 2001 Bid Committee is issuing a series of collectable postcards. Collect 20 postcards (see below for full rules) and you can win a free conversion from supporting to attending membership in the Millennium Philcon (provided we win).

For our series, top science fiction and fantasy artists have captured scenes from Ben's bizarre journey as he warps through time and space on his way to the Millennium Philcon. So far, among his stops, Ben has been in the first dimension, Ancient Egypt, Earth's moon, Pern and our far future. The full series will include about 35 postcards. In order to win the conversion you must:

- Presupport Philadelphia in 2001 and
- Collect 20 different postcards and
- Vote on site selection for 2001 (This is important to remember. Even if you have presupported and gotten your 20 cards, you still cannot qualify for the conversion if you did not vote for site selection.)

New presupporters receive the most recent card when they join up. All presupporters are entitled to receive the most recent postcard at any convention the bid attends. Pick up your free card at our bid table or parties. At each convention, you can also buy one older postcard for \$1.00 which will count towards conversion. For those who want the full set, additional cards can be purchased for \$1.00, but will receive our special kite cancellation and be ineligible for conversion.

There are two other ways to get postcards. First, we are also giving away postcards as prizes at our bid parties. Second, below is a list of conventions where the Philly bid did not have a presence. Show a committee member, at one of our parties or at our bid table, a badge from one of the conventions on the list (the badge must show your name), and you can buy a postcard, which will count towards conversion, for \$1.00. You can use badges from the past two years for these conventions. (i.e. a 1997 Leprecon badge and a 1998 Leprecon badge would entitle you to buy two postcards.) You may purchase postcards for up to eight different conventions this way.

Poor Richard's Bidzine #3 also counts as a postcard. Where one copy is sent to more than one person at the same address, they can all use that copy of the Bidzine towards their 20 postcards. (Each person's name must appear on a mailing label on the Bidzine.)

Any fans who have any questions about the postcard series should contact the bid at our email or snail mail addresses.

## *Postcard Bonus Conventions*

Aggiecon	Con-version	Leprecon
Armadillocon	Corflu	Loscon
Chambanicon	Duckcon	MidSouthCon
Confluence	Eurocon	NotJust AnotherCon
Conquest	Filk Ontario	SiliCon
Context	KeyCon	

# Fun in Philadelphia

by Margaret Trebing

Philadelphia is a genuinely world-class city! Our history, arts and music, theater, shopping, restaurants and night life stand their own against any city anywhere. We are the birthplace of a nation. We have an internationally famous orchestra. We have a world renowned art museum. We have the first zoo in America. The artistic and cultural experiences available in our city cover the entire spectrum. We have experimental theater and we have Broadway musicals. We have upscale, elegant shopping districts and we have our amazing, funky South Street. We have five-star French cuisine and we have cheesesteaks. And we have a living city. People don't just work in our downtown, they *live* there. Philly doesn't empty out and close down at night. The lights are on, music is playing, theaters are filing, clubs are hopping and people are walking, talking, dining, dancing and partying. Philadelphia is a great city, a fun city and a friendly city. Here, without further delay, is a small sample of what Philadelphia has to offer guests.

## Museums

Philadelphia is known for its extraordinary number of museums. We've got far too many to list them all, but here's some of the highlights:

The **Academy of Natural Sciences**, founded in 1812, is the oldest science research institute in the Western Hemisphere. Its magnificent new Dinosaur Hall is worth the admission alone! Visitors can also walk, surrounded by live butterflies, through a tropical forest; view the Diorama Halls, showcasing wildlife from every continent in recreated natural habitats; feast their eyes at the Hall of Gems and Minerals and participate in an ever-changing variety of exhibits.

The **Franklin Institute Science Museum** is a modern, state-of-the art science museum with four floors of interactive exhibits. Walk through a huge model of the human heart, watch massive bolts of lightning generated in the weather exhibit, explore the Futures Center (changing exhibits spotlighting cutting-edge and future technologies), see the stars or a laser light show at the Fels Planetarium, and watch a movie on the giant IMAX screen.

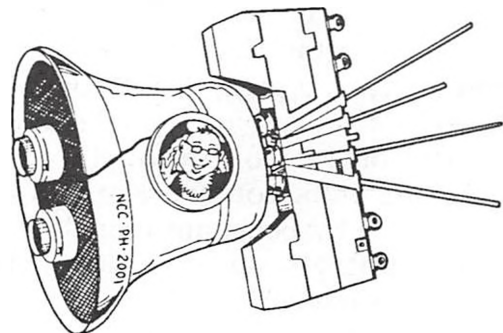
The **Philadelphia Museum of Art** displays masterpieces of painting and sculpture, as well as prints and drawings spanning more than 2,000 years and representing Asia, Europe and the United States. The museum also hosts special and traveling exhibits, such as last year's Cezanne show.

The **Barnes Foundation**, near Philadelphia, boasts one of the world's finest collections of Post-Impressionist and early French modern art. It holds works by Renior, Cezanne, Matisse, Picasso, and Modigliani.

At the **Independence Seaport Museum**, visitors can explore the city's maritime history, and tour Admiral Dewey's flagship, the USS Olympia, built in 1892, and the WWII submarine USS Becuna.

The **Mummers' Museum** displays costumes and history from this uniquely Philadelphia tradition. Free outdoor concerts are held every Tuesday at 8:00 PM.

Other museums in Philly include: Afro-American Historical and Cultural Museum, Balch Institute for Ethnic Studies; Civil War Library and Museum; Curtis Center Museum of Normal Rockwell Art (more than 600 paintings); Mutter Museum (medical history and curiosities - see the two-headed skeleton and the ossified colon!); National Museum of American Jewish History; Please Touch Museum (a paradise for children); University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology (mummies, 12-ton Sphinx, architectural remains from Egyptian palace of Merenptah, Sumerian cuneiform tablets, lots more); Rodin Museum (the largest collection of Rodin sculptures and drawings outside of Paris, including "The Thinker") and Steve's Insectarium (a live insect zoo).





## Historic Philadelphia

Independence National Park is sometimes called "America's Most Historic Square Mile". On this small patch of ground, the most important event in the history of the United States took place - its creation. Our committee is proud to invite our fellow citizens and our foreign guests to share in the experience of our nation's birthplace.

The heart of the Park is **Independence Hall**. Built in 1732 as the Pennsylvania State House, and renovated in the 19th century, it now stands exactly as it was in 1776. It was within its walls that the Declaration of Independence was adopted, and the Constitution drafted and signed.

Across from Independence Hall, hangs the world's most well-known symbol of freedom - **The Liberty Bell**. This Bell rang from the steeple of Independence Hall when Benjamin Franklin was sent to England to address Colonial grievances. It tolled for the ascension of King George III, for the meeting of the First Continental Congress and for the Battles of Lexington and Concord. But the proudest moment in the Bell's history was on July 8, 1776 when it rang out to summon the people of Philadelphia to Independence Hall. There, as Betsy Ross's flag -the first flag of a new nation- flew overhead, the Declaration of Independence was read aloud for the first time.

Also among the more than a dozen historical monuments in the Park is **Carpenter's Hall**, where the First Continental Congress met in 1774 (because they feared that Independence Hall was a hotbed of Tory sympathizers). At 6th St. is **Congress Hall** where the Senate and the House of Representatives met while Philadelphia was the nation's capital. At the end of a narrow, cobblestone street is **Christ Church**, where George Washington and Benjamin Franklin worshipped. The grave of Benjamin Franklin is located in its burial ground.

Of course Philadelphia's historical area is larger than Independence National Park. Throughout Old City stand historical landmarks spanning the 18th through 20th centuries. The house where **Betsy Ross** sewed the first American flag still stands and is open to visitors. **Elfreth's Alley**, a beautiful row of 33 colonial and Federal style homes is the oldest continuously occupied residential street in the country. The nation's first hospital, founded by Benjamin Franklin, is here, as is the country's second-oldest Jewish congregation (founded 1740).

Many tours of Historic Philadelphia are available, on foot (including by candlelight), by bus or trolley, and by horse-drawn carriage. Every day throughout the summer Historic Philadelphia is filled with music, arts and crafts demonstrations and costumed colonial characters performing vignettes of daily life in colonial times. You can even meet Ben himself!

## The Avenue of the Arts

We still call it Broad Street, but this stretch of downtown Philly is now officially The Avenue of the Arts. The amazing explosion of arts and culture that began here several years ago continues to grow. There are now 16 new and renovated performance and visual arts facilities stretching down this street - opera, ballet, the Philadelphia Orchestra, jazz, drama, musical theater, dance and more.

The hub of the Avenue is the **Academy of Music**. This National Historic Landmark, built in 1855, is the oldest grand opera house still in use in the USA. The Academy is the home of the world-renowned **Philadelphia Orchestra**, the **Pennsylvania Ballet** and the **Opera Company of Philadelphia**.

Just south of the Academy, **The Merriam** and **Wilma** theaters face each other across the Avenue. Stars such as Katharine Hepburn and Lawrence Olivier have appeared at the 1,688-seat Merriam. The intimate, 300-seat Wilma is a venue for new, innovative and often daring performances.

Further south, housed in a renovated historic bank, the **Arts Bank** offers a venue for performances of all kinds by international, national and local companies including our **American Music Theater Festival** and famous **Philadelphia Dance Company** (Philadanco). Local and international Jazz musicians perform at the **Clef Club**, and the **Firehouse Arts Center** exhibits and promotes the fine art of printmaking.

Sites north of the Academy of Music include the **Museum of American Art**, which displays the distinguished collection of American art owned by the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, America's oldest art school. The **Freedom Theater** also has its home here. Founded in 1966, the Freedom Theater presents over 150 performances each year of productions specific to the African American experience in America.

## Restaurants

Philadelphia is restaurant heaven! From classic French to perfect fish. From Middle Eastern to Mongolian. Southern soul food to South American. Cajun to Caribbean. Indian to Ethiopian. Sirloin steaks and hoagies, Peking duck and pulled pork, dress-for-diner and down-home diners. We've got sixteen square blocks of Chinatown. We've got vibrant new neighborhoods full of Vietnamese, Thai and Korean eateries. We've got world-famous restaurants where you can drop a hundred bucks a person, and we've got popular places where you can eat dinner for \$10.

Our downtown alone has more than 30 cafes - coffee (and tea, and baked stuff and... you get it) places with an atmosphere that encourages relaxing, reading, talking and otherwise loitering over a cup. Many cafes sell art and books and have live music and poetry.

Here is the finest French restaurant in America (voted by Gourmet Magazine), **Le Bec Fin**, and the nationally-known **Striped Bass**, with its upscale atmosphere and fish-only menu. There are brew pubs where you can taste a wealth of local microbrews, the true Philly cheesesteak experience at **Pat's Steaks**, the famous **Melrose** and **Mayfair** diners and outdoor decks on the Delaware River where you can eat while you watch the boats go by. Our city has a place to eat for every budget and every taste imaginable.

## Philadelphia Zoo

This 42-acre park is the first zoo in America. Although historic, it is constantly updating and renewing itself. The zoo boasts modern, open-habitat enclosures and state-of-the art exhibits. The brand new reptile house (currently featuring an albino alligator) has just opened, and the new Primate Reserve will open in 1999. The zoo cares for more than 1700 animals.

## NJ State Aquarium

The Aquarium is located in Camden, NJ, right across the Delaware River from Penn's Landing. Ferries run regularly from the waterfront to the aquarium and back. The aquarium includes over 80 exhibits with more than 4,000 fish and aquatic animals of some 500 species. The award-winning main exhibit, Ocean Base Atlantic, takes visitors from a Caribbean beach and ends at the breathtaking 760,000 gallon Open Ocean Tank. In this giant tank swim many kinds of ocean fish as well as two dozen sharks.

## Night Life

After hours in Philadelphia just keeps getting better. On our beautiful Delaware riverfront; on South Street; in Old City; in Center City — all over the city — things are happening. Here there be mosh pits and mambo. Goth-rock and Irish step-dancing. Zydeco and swing. Rock and reggae. Disco and line-dancing. Hip-hop and headbanging. We do the jitterbug and the achy-breaky. We walk like Egyptians and we waltz. We get Saturday night fever and we twist and shout. If it isn't happening here, it never happened. And who knows what we'll be doing next!

Columbus Boulevard (locals still call it Delaware Avenue) is the city's newest hotspot. Restaurants and clubs continue to sprout like mushrooms along the river. At **Dave and Buster's** patrons dine, dance, play virtual reality games in the huge (330+ games) video arcade; and play pocket billiards, shuffleboard, and just-for-fun blackjack. You can visit the tropics at **Katmandu** and drink daiquiris under the palm trees while listening to live bands perform a mix of reggae, ska, calypso and soca. At **Egypt**, house, techno, jungle, hip-hop, disco, and old and modern rock play in three separate rooms while intelligent, programmable lighting produces a hypnotic light show. You can detour to Hawaii at **Maui** (live bands and DJ's) and dine on seafood at **Rock Lobster**. All up and down the waterfront there are places to eat, drink, dance and catch the breezes off the Delaware.

South Street is hopping at all hours, with more than 250 shops, restaurants, and clubs. This is our own Greenwich Village, our answer to Haight-Ashbury, Philadelphia's very own Carnaby Street. Funky and fashionable, avant-garde and retro, upscale and downright sleazy, South Street is an experience. You can buy Guatemalan shorts, hand-crafted furniture, one-of-a-kind art, crafts and jewelry, love beads and black-light posters; visit used-book and vintage-clothing stores; catch a band at the Theater of the Living Arts; shop for silver jewelry or tattoos; get any part of your body pierced or just watch the world go by from a sidewalk cafe.

We could go on with our praise of this great city, but this publication can only be so big. Rather than try to cover all there is to see and do in Philadelphia (an impossible task), we have a better idea - come and see it for yourselves!

# An Interview with Michael Swanwick

conducted and transcribed by Lynn E. Cohen Koehler, native Philadelphian.

Michael Swanwick came to Philadelphia in 1973. He married Marianne Porter in 1980, and they have a son, Sean, 15, born and raised in Philadelphia. Michael has won a Nebula Award for best novel (*Stations of the Tide*), a World Fantasy Award for *Radio Wars* and a Theodore Sturgeon Award. His latest novel, *Jack Faust* is 1998 Hugo nominee.

Lynn: How did you find yourself becoming a writer in Philadelphia?

MS: Oh, I came to Philadelphia and it was all magic and brownian motion. I had no particular reason to be here. My good friend Patrick McGrath (not the writer) offered to put me up for a week in his living room. I had no better place to go, so I came here.

Lynn: You must have been very happy here.

MS: Philadelphia is a really good to place to be. You can discover it one of two ways; move here like I did and slowly find it out, or visit and let people show it to you. People in Philadelphia are so willing to share their City

Lynn: You seem to understand the intricacies and subtleties of Philadelphia.

MS: I walk through the city and at times it's like walking through an anthology of my own stories. Some of my stories are actually set in Philadelphia, in very specific places. Over here is the fixit shop where I met the old man who is hero of "The Man Who Met the \_\_\_\_". And he told me this beautiful story. For no reason at all, he told me this beautiful story that got me onto the World Fantasy Award ballot. I keep walking through and I go "here's where I wrote this, here's where I wrote that." because there's so much happening...

Lynn: Where else do you like to go?

MS: Everybody should go straight off to the Liberty Bell. Start at the Liberty Bell and wander through the historic district. So much of Philadelphia has been preserved. When my son was three years old, I took him to see The Liberty Bell. We went on the tour, and he went and touched The Bell. I explained it to him. And he reached out and touched the Bell with his eyes wide. And this woman (who was from

Oregon) was practically in tears watching this and said, "I bet he remembers this the rest of his life."

You can wander through colonial Philadelphia. You can be there right on the same streets where Thomas Jefferson relieved himself against the corner; George Washington was zipping by with his six matched white horses and the regular people... I find them really interesting.

Then you can wander out into Philadelphia and there are all these different things. Philadelphia has this terrific African-American heritage which people are just beginning to map out. Two hundred years of interesting people of color. I'm constantly finding out new things about Philadelphia.

Lynn: There's also a strong SF history here too.

MS: Philadelphia has this odd self-deprecating quality. And, yet, during WWII Robert Heinlein, Isaac Asimov, L. Ron Hubbard, L. Sprague de Camp and Milton Rothman had a regular weekly meeting that Heinlein organized where they got together and would brainstorm solutions that the US military needed. (Michael says: "Come up to me and ask me about Murray Leinster's submarine, because anybody who does will hear a great story.") And it goes on from there...

Lynn: And, what else do you do in Philadelphia?

MS: When people come to visit us we show them Roxboro and Manayunk – old sections of town. They are authentic. They are working class. There have been working class people here for 150 years. These are like solid rock bed people. They're okay. I've never had anybody dislike the neighborhoods.

Lynn: You must be going out of the area of all the trendy clubs and restaurants. (*In Manayunk - eds.*)

MS: Part of Manayunk has been Yupified, but the core of Manayunk is the old Yunkers. And they're solid people. Yupies combine with them and themselves become solid.



We take our friends to the Art Museum. We take them down to Chinatown where you can get immensely great food for idiotically cheap prices.

Lynn: Which is right next to the Convention Center.

MS: And we take them to South Street if they want to watch the cultures mix. We take them to this whole industrial area, the old warehouses and cast iron facade buildings. In there are a lot of solid old establishments that we hit. We take them to the fabric workshops. If you want something cutting-edge pretentious, if you want a suit bag by Red Grooms, that's the place to go.

We take them down by the waterfront, if they're in a frivolous mood.

Lynn: You really show people the city!

MS: Yes. When Ellen Kushner came here we took her to Fairmount Park. Around the horticultural center there was a display of environmental art. There were fifty pieces of really interesting artwork just scattered around the park. You wandered around and found them Things like out there in the woods – five fiberglass green bodies with wolf heads raised howling. You'd see shoes painted in fluorescent colors climbing up stairs in the middle of the Park. There were stages and things up in trees and environments made of stacked up newspapers...

Lynn: That sounds so cool!

MS: It was extraordinary. The thing is in Philadelphia there's all this strange stuff that you don't have to work for... because it's just there. There's nothing quite like it.

Lynn: And there's so much more.

MS: I like the Philadelphia Art Museum. Going through the medieval exhibits into the oriental wing, you go through chapels that have been transported here from Medieval Europe. You travel through them and you take a turn and go through an Asian chapel and then all of a sudden you come into this little Japanese village of bamboo huts with paper walls and running water right there in the middle of the building. You stop and think "Have I taken drugs?"

The Academy of Natural Sciences has the first dinosaur ever found in North America. It's got a Gigantasaurus skeleton, the largest carnivore ever.

The Franklin Institute is full of very weird stuff. Philadelphians have a sentimental favorite; they like to walk through the Heart.

Lynn: YES.

MS: There's always something to astound you. You can go down to the river and take a ferryboat to the New Jersey Aquarium It is very cool and really interesting and very involving. In a couple years they're going to put a Gondola over the river, too.

I really love the historic district. Things like the Thaddeus Kosciuszko house, the reproduction of the house where Thomas Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence – there must be a hundred of them. Scattered between them there's gardens very carefully planted, maybe by national parks gnomes, with herbs and the flowers that they would have planted back then.

I like to go to the Pennsylvania Hospital. It's 250 years old. There's an operating room preserved the way it was then with a skylight for light and the tools they used. They'll direct you to it at the front desk. It's wonderful.

Thomas Akin's painting "the Autopsy" is one of the most famous American paintings. It's not in a museum. It's at Jefferson Hospital. It's gorgeous and enormous. Kinda gross, kinda cool painting by an American master.

Philadelphia is just full of hidden places. Olde City is laid out in a grid but once you get to know it, you'll realize that there are courtyards inside and that half the city is inside those courtyards. And you can't see them unless you know to look.

Lynn: When we win the Worldcon for 2001 will you do an insiders guide to Philadelphia?

MS: I'll tell you what. I'll work up a walking tour and I'll walk people through. And I'll write up a guide too.

*Thank you. If you want to read more of the interview, visit our web site.*

# THE PHILADELPHIA IN 2001 COMMITTEE

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*This Newsletter is part of the Postcard Contest—See Inside!*