

# The Princess THE PATRIOT

## Ekaterina Dashkova, Benjamin Franklin, and the Age of Enlightenment

17 February – 31 December 2006, in Philadelphia

They seemed to have nothing in common, and they came from opposite ends of the eighteenth-century world. She was a Russian princess; he was a printer-patriot from Philadelphia. She was the friend of a monarch, Catherine the Great; he became the enemy of a monarch, George III. Yet Ekaterina Dashkova and Benjamin Franklin both disliked court fashion—she favored men’s jackets over corsets and gowns, and he scandalized the French by wearing a fur cap. Both led prestigious scientific institutions, she as director of the Russian Academy of Sciences, and he as founder of the American Philosophical Society. When they met in Paris in 1781, it was a meeting of two of the most fascinating minds of the “Age of Reason.”



***The Princess and the Patriot*** – through portraits, memoirs, letters, court attire, medals, jewelry, other decorative arts, scientific materials and instruments – will explore how Dashkova and Franklin each took up the challenge of living according to three new Enlightenment ideals: the pursuit of knowledge and the use of reason; liberty and equality; and virtue and self-improvement. Though neither person always achieved these goals in practice, the ideals represent commonalities in their worldview that transcended differences of gender, country of origin, and political context.

### Exhibition: Free Admission

*Philosophical Hall, 104 S. Fifth Street, Philadelphia, PA*

Thursday – Sunday 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. (Feb. 17- Labor Day, 2006)

Friday – Sunday 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. (Labor Day – Dec. 31)

Wednesday Evenings 5 p.m. – 8 p.m. (May 1 – Labor Day)

For more information: [www.amphilsoc.org/exhibitions](http://www.amphilsoc.org/exhibitions)