

contrary, he showed his innovation together with his newly designed fonts to the king's printer. Franklin imported the first copying machines to France and gave them to French carpenters so that they could duplicate them. He is also credited with giving the abbé Rochon the ideas for inventing an engraving machine.

Even at the height of the Revolutionary War, Franklin sought to shield the pursuit of knowledge from the conflict. On March 10, 1779, he ordered "all Captains and Commanders of armed Ships acting by Commission from the Congress of the United States of America, now in war with Great Britain" to spare Captain James Cook's expedition because his men were not America's enemies, but the "common friends of mankind." For all the bitterness he felt toward Britain, he did not contemplate preventing American innovations from being emulated there. Almost as soon as the peace accord was signed, he informed British printers of the method of type-founding he had developed in Paris during the war. Occasionally he introduced American artisans to his London colleagues and asked that the Americans help the Londoners make use of their inventions. In 1788 Franklin was a member of the Rumseyan Society, which raised funds to send James Rumsey to London in search of the capital needed for further development of his steamboat. The notion that Rumsey's innovations should be kept in the United States to give the country an economic edge did not cross his mind.<sup>63</sup>

Franklin, who around the middle of the eighteenth century had joined a vibrant international circle devoted to the cultivation of knowledge, remained faithful to that circle's disregard of borders as far as science and technology were concerned. This did not mean that he thought invention should not be rewarded, or that he took a principled stand against all monopolies. He did not. It was prudent for nations to encourage innovation and development by promising local exclusionary monopolies, and Franklin was willing to secure such an arrangement for the Stockport group. Such arrangements,

however, had to be limited in time and place. They could not be extended across national boundaries. Franklin never respected European restrictions on international diffusion of know-how, and kept to the idea that knowledge was unlike physical property. Humanity, regardless of national boundaries, was entitled to enjoy the fruits of innovation. His principled support for the free exchange of science and technology, like his embrace of a civic ethnically inclusive national model, had few followers among his countrymen, who embraced a protectionist and exclusive national construction of intellectual property. His was the path not taken.