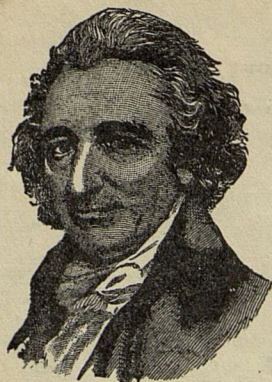


# WORLD TRIBUTE TO THOMAS PAINE

Celebrating the Bi-Centennial of his Birth with the  
Erection of a Monument in Paris, January 29, 1937



THOMAS PAINE

1737-1809

Englishman by Birth  
French Citizen by Decree  
American by Adoption

*Sponsored by the Freethinkers of America*  
*Executive Headquarters*

317 East 34th Street, New York, U. S. A.

February 19, 1936

*Honorary President*  
EDOUARD HERRIOT

*Secretary*  
JOSEPH LEWIS

INTERNATIONAL  
COMMITTEE

The complete international  
committee will be printed on  
our permanent stationery.

Mr. Nicholas H. Roerich  
310 Riverside Drive  
New York City

My dear Mr. Roerich:

It gives me great pleasure to announce the formation of the Thomas Paine Bi-Centennial Committee, the purpose of which is to erect a statue of Thomas Paine in the city of Paris on the two hundredth anniversary of his birth, January 29, 1937, and to urge the United States Government to issue a memorial stamp and coin in his honor on the same date.

M. Edouard Herriot, former premier of France, has accepted the honorary presidency, and a cordial invitation is extended to you to become a member of this committee. Among the noted men and women who have already accepted membership in this committee are Professor Albert Einstein, Rupert Hughes, Professor Franz Boas, Professor Joseph Jastrow, Harriet Stanton Blatch and Dr. Harry Elmer Barnes.

Mr. Gutzon Borglum, noted American sculptor, has agreed to make the statue at the actual cost of production and material, contributing his genius and his labor.

As we are anxious to print the names of the entire committee as quickly as possible, I would deeply appreciate it if you would send me your acceptance by return mail, using the enclosed card.

Respectfully yours,

*Joseph Lewis*  
JOSEPH LEWIS

## Expressions of Praise

"Others can rule, many can fight, but only Thomas Paine can write for us the English tongue."  
—BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

"Your presence may remind Congress of your past services to this country, and if it is in my power to impress them, command my best exertions with freedom, as they will be rendered cheerfully, by one who entertains a lively sense of the importance of your works."  
—GEORGE WASHINGTON

"History is to ascribe the revolution to Thomas Paine."  
—JOHN ADAMS

"That you may long live to continue your useful labors, and to reap the reward of the thankfulness of nations is my sincere prayer."  
—THOMAS JEFFERSON

"The crime of ingratitude has not yet stained, and I hope never will stain, our national character. You are considered by them as not only having rendered important services in our own Revolution, but as being, on a more extensive scale, the friend of human rights, and a distinguished and able advocate in favor of public liberty. To the welfare of Thomas Paine the Americans are not, nor can they be, indifferent."  
—JAMES MONROE

"I never tire of reading Paine."  
—ABRAHAM LINCOLN

"His writings instantly brought men to its humor."  
—WOODROW WILSON

"Free America without her Thomas Paine is unthinkable."  
—GENERAL LAFAYETTE

"Thomas Paine! A statue of gold should be erected to you in every city of the world."  
—NAPOLEON BONAPARTE

"With his name left out, the history of liberty can not be written."  
—ROBERT G. INGERSOLL

"That Illustrious American."  
—VICTOR HUGO

"Paine practiced what he preached and some day will be recognized as one of the clearest of thinkers."  
—THOMAS A. EDISON

# GEMS FROM the WRITINGS of THOMAS PAINE

**Independence is my happiness, and I view things as they are, without regard to place or person; my country is the world, and my religion is to do good.**

These are the times that try men's souls. The Summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of his country; but he that stands it now, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman. Tyranny, like Hell, is not easily conquered; yet we have this consolation with us, that the harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph. What we obtain too cheap, we esteem too lightly: 't is dearness only that gives everything its value. Heaven knows how to put a proper price upon its goods; and it would be strange indeed, if so celestial an article as Freedom should not be highly rated.

As extraordinary power ought not to be lodged in the hands of any individual, so ought there to be no appropriations of public money to any person beyond what his services in a State may be worth.

When I contemplate the natural dignity of man; when I feel for the honor and happiness of its character, I become irritated at the attempt to govern mankind by force and fraud, as if they were all knaves and fools, and can scarcely avoid disgust at those who are thus imposed upon.

Those who expect to reap the blessings of freedom must, like men, undergo the fatigues of supporting it.

All power exercised over a nation must have some beginning. It must be either delegated or assumed. There are no other sources. All delegated power is trust, and all assumed power is usurpation. Time does not alter the nature and quality of either.

Some people can be reasoned into sense, and others must be shocked into it.

I love the man that can smile in trouble, that can gather strength from distress, and grow brave by reflection. 'T is the business of little minds to shrink, but he whose heart is firm and whose conscience approves his conduct, will pursue his principles unto death.

Had it not been for America, there had been no such thing as freedom left throughout the whole universe.

As to religion, I hold it to be the indispensable duty of all governments to protect all conscientious professors thereof, and I know of no other business which government hath to do therewith.

It is an affront to truth to treat falsehood with complaisance.

The sublime and the ridiculous are often so nearly related that it is difficult to class them separately. One step below the sublime makes the ridiculous, and one step above the ridiculous makes the sublime again.

When it shall be said in any country in the world, "My poor are happy; neither ignorance nor distress is to be found among them; my jails are empty of prisoners, my streets of beggars; the aged are not in want, the taxes are not oppressive; the rational world is my friend, because I am a friend of its happiness"—when these things can be said, then may that country boast of its constitution and its government.

Whatever the form or constitution of government may be, it ought to have no other object than the general happiness.

A body of men holding themselves accountable to nobody ought not to be trusted by anybody.

Poverty is a thing created by that which is called civilized life.

The balance of power is the scale of peace. The same balance would be preserved were all the world destitute of arms, for all would be alike; but since some will not, others dare not lay them aside.

The most formidable weapon against errors of every kind is Reason. I have never used any other and I trust I never shall.

When we consider, for the feelings of nature cannot be dismissed, the calamities of war and the miseries it inflicts upon the human species, the thousands and tens of thousands, of every age and sex who are rendered wretched by the event, surely there is something in the heart of man that calls upon him to think! Surely there is some tender chord, tuned by the hand of the Creator, that struggles to emit in the hearing of the soul a note of sorrowing sympathy. Let it then be heard, and let man learn to feel that the true greatness of a nation is founded on principles of humanity, and not on conquest. War involves in its progress such a train of unforeseen and unsuspected circumstances, such a combination of foreign matters, that no human wisdom can calculate the end. It has but one thing certain, and that is to increase taxes. I defend the cause of the poor, of the manufacturer, of the tradesman, of the farmer, and of all those on whom the real burden of taxes fall—but above all, I defend the cause of women and children — of all humanity.

Certain I am that when opinions are free, either in matters of government or religion, truth will finally and powerfully prevail.

To argue with a man who has renounced the use and authority of reason, and whose philosophy consists in holding humanity in contempt, is like administering medicine to the dead.

When will men stop condemning in others the things they do themselves.

# WORLD TRIBUTE TO THOMAS PAINE

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EDOUARD HERRIOT

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Charles Erskine Scott Wood

Celebrating the Bi-Centennial of his Birth with the  
Erection of a Memorial Statue in Paris, France

OR

International Headquarters

317 East 34th Street, New York, U. S. A.

April 13, 1938

Prof. N. Roerich  
Naggar, Kulu  
Punjab, British India

Dear Professor Roerich:

A distinguished representative of our Committee who has personally been in contact with the members of the Municipal Council of Paris to get them to pass a resolution providing a site for the Thomas Paine monument, has suggested that you write immediately to

M. Villey  
Prefet de la Seine  
Paris, France

and urge him to support this resolution so that the Paine statue may be erected without any further delay.

In view of the present Central European crisis, it is my firm belief that the erection of the Paine monument NOW will help immeasurably to solidify the friendship of the three great democracies: France, England and the United States--all three of which were so closely associated with Paine's great humanitarian work and the fortunate beneficiaries of his philosophic, social and political wisdom.

Now, more than at any future time, will the unveiling of Paine's statue prove of inestimable value in bringing sanity, understanding and good will to the nations of the world.

The statue has just been completed and is ready to be erected. I understand that M. Villey is the only member of the Committee of the Municipal Council who is opposing this measure, and a letter to him at this time will prove tremendously effective. Be assured of my deep appreciation for your cooperation.

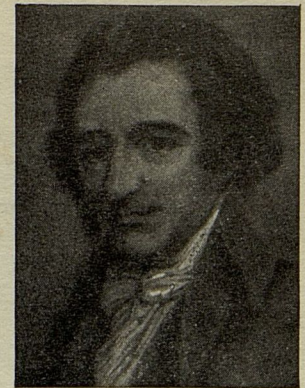
Sincerely yours,

*Joseph Lewis*  
Joseph Lewis, Secretary

THOMAS PAINE MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

JL:SL

P.S. I am gratified to inform you that the Polish Government has just honored Thomas Paine in the issuance of a new memorial stamp, commemorating the 150th anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution of the United States. Paine is given equal prominence on the stamp with George Washington.



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—VICTOR HUGO

"We never had a sounder intelligence in this Republic. He was the equal of Washington in making American liberty possible. Where Washington performed, Paine devised and wrote. The deeds of the one in the field were matched by the other with his pen. I consider Paine our greatest political thinker.

"Paine practiced what he preached and some day will be recognized as one of the clearest of thinkers."

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