# The Unfinished Life of Benjamin Franklin

By Anderson, Douglas.

Johns Hopkins. 1 Cloth(s), 2012. hard. Book Condition: New. It seems only logical that Benjamin Franklin would be as radical and innovative when it came to crafting his autobiography as he was with his inventions and political thought, posits English professor Douglas Anderson. Also the author of The Radical Enlightenments of Benjamin Franklin, Anderson notes how Franklin never completed his autobiography, choosing instead to immerse his reader in the formal and textual atmosphere of a deliberately "unfinished" life. Taking this decision on Franklin's part as a starting point, Anderson treats the memoir as a subtle and rewarding reading lesson, independent of the famous life that it dramatizes but closely linked to the work of predecessors and successors like John Bunyan and Alexis de Tocqueville, whose books helped to illuminate Franklin's complex imagination. Anderson shows that Franklin's incomplete story exploits the disorderly and disruptive state of a lived life, as opposed to striving for the meticulous finish of standard memoirs, biographies, and histories."This book deserves a special place on any library's shelf. Franklin was a master at segmenting and redistributing his experience in different formats, Anderson points out, and Franklin's autobiography is very much a part of that digressive practice. This...

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