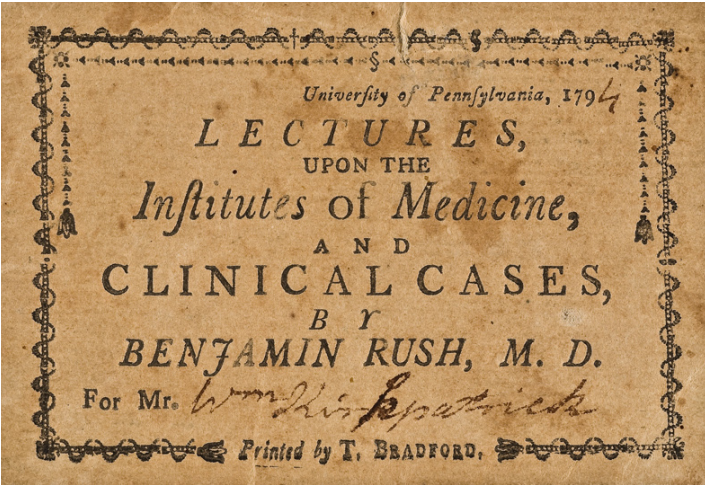


EXHIBITION CHECKLIST

All artifacts courtesy Archives and Special Collections, Dickinson College, Carlisle, PA unless otherwise noted.

THE PORTRAIT

Sully, Thomas. *Benjamin Rush*, c. 1813, oil on canvas, 32 x 26 in. Acquired through gifts from Lockwood and Jacklyn Rush, the Ruth Trout Endowment, the Helen E. Trout Memorial Fund, and the Friends of The Trout Gallery, 2009.8.



Admission Ticket to “Lectures...by Benjamin Rush, M.D.” Archives and Special Collections, Dickinson College.

EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY DOCTOR

Lancet, for bleeding, used by Benjamin Rush. AC00283, Shelf 25. Gift of Dr. Ronald Goldberg.

Dickinson, John, to Benjamin Rush, 4 October 1792. MC2001.13. John Dickinson Papers. Gift of Boyd Lee Spahr.

Rush, Benjamin. *An Account of the Bilious Remitting Yellow Fever, as it Appeared in the City of Philadelphia, in the Year 1793*. Philadelphia: Thomas Dobson, 1794.

Admission Ticket to “Lectures, upon the Institutes of Medicine, and Clinical Cases, by Benjamin Rush, M.D.” Philadelphia: 1794. I–Original–1794–2.

Dickinson, John, to Benjamin Rush, 29 December 1796. MC2001.13. John Dickinson Papers. Gift of Boyd Lee Spahr.

Rush, Benjamin. *Medical Inquiries and Observations*. 4 vols. Philadelphia: J. Conrad & Co., 1801.

Rush, Benjamin. *Six Introductory Lectures to Courses of Lectures Upon the Institutes and Practice of Medicine, Delivered in the University of Pennsylvania*. Philadelphia: John Conrad & Co., 1801.

Rush, Benjamin. *Medical Inquiries and Observations, Upon the Diseases of the Mind*. Philadelphia: Kimber & Richardson, 1812.

PATRIOT AND REVOLUTIONARY

Rush, Benjamin. *Considerations on the Injustice and Impolicy of Punishing Murder by Death*. Philadelphia: Matthew Carey, 1792.

Rush, Benjamin. *Essays, Literary, Moral, and Philosophical*. Philadelphia: Thomas and Samuel F. Bradford, 1798.

Rush, Benjamin, to unknown, Philadelphia. 9 July 1803. Willoughby–2009–01.

Forrest, J. B. *John Dickinson* (after Charles Willson Peale), engraving, 4½ x 3¾ in.

Gross, J. *Benjamin Rush* (after Thomas Sully), engraving, 5¼ x 4 in.

EDUCATIONAL IDEALS AND DICKINSON COLLEGE

Rush, Benjamin, to John Jay, 16 January 1785. Record Group 1/1, Board of Trustees (1783–1833).

Rush, Benjamin, to John Dickinson, 30 June 1785. Record Group 1/1, Board of Trustees (1783–1833).

Rush, Benjamin. *Plan of Education*, 1785. Record Group 1/1, Board of Trustees (1783–1833).

Soldier certificate of John Hetcher, Pennsylvania Line, signed over to Dickinson College by Benjamin Rush, 17 April 1786. I–SpahrB–1966–20. Gift of Boyd Lee Spahr, 1966.

Rush, Benjamin. Cash Ledger Accounts for Dickinson College, 1786–1787. Record Group 1/1, Board of Trustees (1783–1833).

Latrobe, Benjamin. *Sketch of the Basement Story of Dickinson [sic] College*, 1803, ink, 14¾ x 9¼ in. Record Group 1/1, Board of Trustees.

Latrobe, Benjamin. *Sketch of the North Front of Dickinson [sic] College*, 1803, ink, 14¾ x 9¼ in. Record Group 1/1, Board of Trustees.

Latrobe, Benjamin. *Sketch of Dickinson College*, c. 1813, watercolor, graphite, 6¾ x 14½ in. Gift of John Dann.

SELECTED GIFTS TO DICKINSON COLLEGE

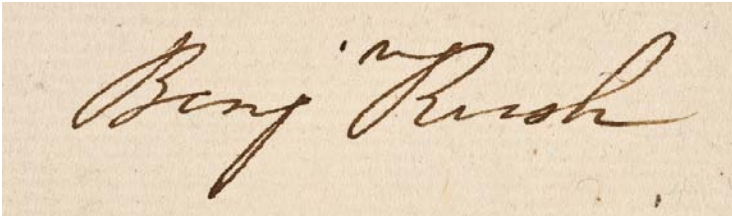
Rowning, John. *A Compendious System of Natural Philosophy*, 2 vols. London: Bible and Crown, 1759; 1767. Gift of Benjamin Rush.

Jortin, John. *Remarks on Ecclesiastical History*. London: J. Whiston, 1767. Gift of Benjamin Rush.

Bible, annotated by Benjamin Rush. Dublin: Boulter Grierson, 1768. Gift of Lockwood and Jacklyn Rush, 2008.

Hydrometric Balance. AC00360. Gift of Benjamin Rush.

Sextant. AC00365. Gift of Benjamin Rush.



Soldier certificate signed over to Dickinson College (detail). Archives and Special Collections, Dickinson College.

FURTHER READING

Binger, Carl, M.D. *Revolutionary Doctor: Benjamin Rush*. New York: W. W. Norton and Company, Inc., 1966.

Brodosky, Alan. *Benjamin Rush: Patriot and Physician*. New York: St. Martin’s Press, 2004.

Fabian, Monroe H. *Mr. Sully, Portrait Painter: The Works of Thomas Sully (1783–1872)*. Washington, DC: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1983.

Jones, Robert Erwin, M.D. “Portraits of Benjamin Rush, M.D., by his Contemporaries.” *Antiques* (July 1975): 94–115.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

James Gerencser, Archivist, Archives and Special Collections, Dickinson College

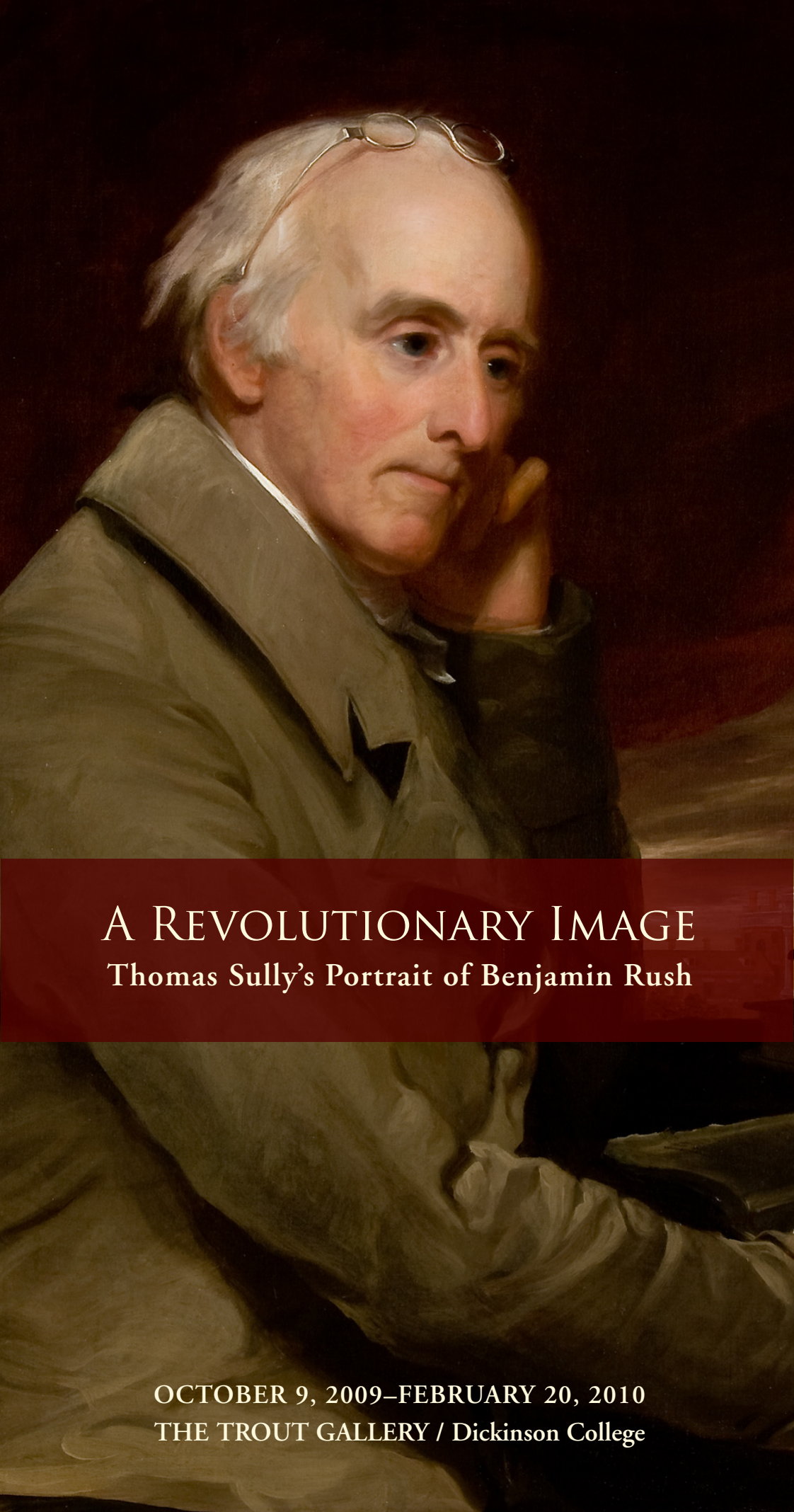
Photography by Andrew Bale

Graphic design by Catherine Siegel

Cover: Thomas Sully, *Benjamin Rush* (detail).

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A REVOLUTIONARY IMAGE  
Thomas Sully’s Portrait of Benjamin Rush

OCTOBER 9, 2009–FEBRUARY 20, 2010  
THE TROUT GALLERY / Dickinson College



During what were to be the last years of his life, Dr. Benjamin Rush (1746–1813) sat for a series of portraits by celebrated American painter Thomas Sully (1783–1872). In a version at The Trout Gallery, Dickinson College, Rush appears at his desk before an open notebook. In the background, a curtain is drawn to the left to reveal a view of the Pennsylvania Hospital (now part of the University of Pennsylvania), where Rush served as a physician. Surrounded by books, the doctor’s reading glasses are pushed back on his head as he glances up in retrospect. Sully’s portrait of Rush is one of the painter’s finest, as it exhibits the bold brushstrokes of a painter well versed in the current English trends. Sully, known for his ability to capture the personality of his sitters, emphasizes Rush’s likeness as well as the doctor’s pursuits in both medicine and intellectual matters.



Thomas Sully, *Benjamin Rush*, c. 1813, oil on canvas.  
The Trout Gallery, Dickinson College.

Benjamin Rush was portrayed by leading artists over the course of his life, including Charles Willson Peale, Edward Savage, and his cousin William Rush. In 1812, Dr. David Hosack wrote to Thomas Sully to commission a painting of Benjamin Rush. Dr. Hosack requested that it contain “the character of Dr. Rush” and also had “a distant view of your City Hospital [Philadelphia Hospital] . . . to which Dr. Rush’s labours have been so much and so long devoted.” While it is unclear if Dr. Hosack’s request relates directly to the painting at The Trout Gallery, such features are clearly represented in this work. It is also not certain where the painting was originally displayed, but it remained in the Rush family until it was acquired by The Trout Gallery in 2009.

### EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY DOCTOR

Benjamin Rush began his medical career as an apprentice to Dr. John Redman in Philadelphia. In 1766, the young Rush left America for a year of study at the prestigious University of Edinburgh. The following year, he extended his training at the St. Thomas Hospital in London. Upon his return to Philadelphia, he established his practice as a general physician. During the Revolutionary War, Rush



Thomas Sully, *Benjamin Rush* (detail of Pennsylvania Hospital).

was also to serve as Surgeon General to the Continental Army. Over the course of his life, Rush developed a deep interest in mental diseases. At the Pennsylvania Hospital, where he was on staff from 1783 to 1813, Rush worked in the mental ward, examining the symptoms and causes of mental disease. His observations led him to classify mental illness as a bodily disease, not an infliction of the soul. Rush also petitioned for better treatment of the mentally ill who, in his day, were treated more like criminals than sick patients. Through his efforts with the mentally ill, Rush has become known as the “Father of American Psychiatry.” In many ways, Dr. Rush was a pioneer of medicine; in other areas, however, he remained rooted in older traditions. Most notably, Rush was a strong proponent of bleeding, a practice based on the belief that disease was caused by an imbalance of bodily fluids, which could be restored by draining a portion of the patient’s blood. Even as many physicians began questioning the efficacy of bleeding, Rush remained a strong supporter of the method.

### PATRIOT AND REVOLUTIONARY

In the 1770s, Benjamin Rush joined the struggle for separation from England, participating in circles where he actively promoted American Independence. He worked closely with many Founding Fathers, such as John Adams, John Dickinson, and Thomas Jefferson. He also worked with Thomas Paine, author of *Common Sense* (1775), a pamphlet that called for American Independence. Rush suggested the title to Paine and found a printer for the controversial text. In 1776, Rush was elected to the Second Continental Congress and signed the Declaration of Independence. Throughout his life, Rush promoted the principles of the American Revolution and advocated other social ideals, such as abolition and prison reform.



Lancet, for bleeding, used by Benjamin Rush.  
Archives and Special Collections, Dickinson College.

### EDUCATIONAL IDEALS AND DICKINSON COLLEGE

Benjamin Rush’s desire to serve the newly created United States of America inspired him to create a college that would teach “republican education,” instructing the American youth to become citizens who could support the newly formed government. Rush advocated the teaching of subjects he deemed useful for the cultivation of individuals, such as government, modern languages, science, and history. He also stressed the importance of religion in education, which he believed was a source of virtue that would enable citizens to function responsibly in a democracy. As Rush wrote to John Dickinson, the current governor of Pennsylvania and the man after whom Rush named the college, “May you long live to enjoy the fruits and triumphs of your benevolence in beholding your College—the vehicle of your name to posterity—the bulwark of liberty—religion and learning in Pennsylvania.”



Benjamin Latrobe, *Sketch of Dickinson College*, c. 1813, watercolor, graphite.  
Archives and Special Collections, Dickinson College.

Rush chose Carlisle as the site for the college for many reasons. Located in rural central Pennsylvania, an area far from the colleges on the eastern seaboard, Rush intended the college to teach republican ideals to those well removed from the political and urban centers. Secondly, the college was formed during the political feuds that followed the American Revolution. Whereas the Constitutionalists resisted intellectualism, believing that the rural populations could assist in government, the Republicans preferred that leadership roles go to the educated. Dr. Rush, who sided with the Republicans, aimed to promote education within his native Pennsylvania. Working with John Montgomery, Rush laid the foundation for what would become Dickinson College. Though the college suffered many setbacks during its early years, Rush continued to support it through his work as an influential trustee. He raised funds, aided in the creation of the curriculum, and donated numerous books and scientific instruments. He remained an ardent supporter of Dickinson College until his death in 1813.

Rush’s service to medicine, American Independence, and education were all essential endeavors in his life. His ideals and passions remain instilled in Dickinson College today. Through a useful education, the college continues to teach students to serve their communities. Thomas Sully’s painting, as well as the artifacts and documents that belonged to Benjamin Rush, reveal a studious man committed to a life of purpose.

Emma Bennett ’10