

1077-VL-2879 **Rebecca Garcia***, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, Box 2206, Huntsville, TX
77341-2206. *Benjamin Franklin's Magic*. Preliminary report.

In several letters written in the mid-1700s, Benjamin Franklin produced his version of magic squares and what he called his “magical circle of circles.” A magic circle is an arrangement of numbers in a circular grid with annuli and radii adding to a common number. In this talk, we will revisit Benjamin Franklin’s magic circle of order 8 and answer various questions on their construction and enumeration using modern techniques in algebra. Then, we will discuss a method to construct the only known Franklin magic circle of order 16. (Received September 22, 2011)