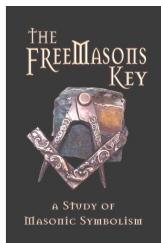
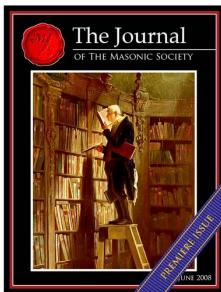


An entablature refers to the superstructure of moldings and bands which lie horizontally above columns, resting on their capitals.

Great Reading!
Take Time to read and advance in your knowledge as a Mason



The Freemasons Key-A Study of Masonic Symbolism. Published by Michael A. Poll. For under \$20, this book of essays by leading Masonic thinkers will provide you with many hours of thoughtful meditation and will enrich your understanding of Freemasonry. Pub. 3/2008.



The Masonic Society is a new organization publishing a high quality quarterly magazine filled with articles of interest to all Masons. \$39 annually also provides a gorgeous membership certificate, membership pin, and access to their online forum. www.themasonicsociety.com

The Maine Masonic College Newsletter

The Entablature

Issue Number 1

WWW.MAINEMASONICCOLLEGE.ORG

Fall, 2008



Whither goest the Maine Masonic College?

Characterized at one of our meetings as akin to building a house from the roof down, the idea of a Maine Masonic College has undergone several transformations in the process of seeking to understand and fulfill the needs and wants of our members searching for further light in Freemasonry.

Other jurisdictions have begun similarly named programs but most replicate the excellent work of Maine's already functioning MEALS (Masonic Education and Lodge Services) Committee. The vision for our Masonic College was to go beyond the practical or pragmatic, offering the seeker of wisdom an opportunity to expand and grow mentally at his own speed, with his own interests in mind.

Striving to understand Freemasonry can lead one's mind down many beautiful pathways. We are striving to develop a variety of roadmaps to assist you on the journey.

Initially, classroom instruction was the preferred mode for our work but

rising fuel prices and weekend work schedules for many signaled a need to develop a broader approach. We have therefore reduced some classes and instead given more emphasis to the development of a distance learning resource. We are also creating shorter programs for delivery locally while simultaneously developing a variety of DVDs covering topics such as symbolism, geometry, masonophobia and more for both lodge and home use. Through the use of several different modalities, we feel we can best serve you and your community.

This continues to be a very challenging process but we're mindful of the ritual obligation to make a daily advancement in learning. It's a noble goal and one we can achieve together.

We welcome your input and suggestions. We're also always on the lookout for more good men to help carry the load. Wages received when helping another Mason are VERY high indeed. If you might be interested, contact any Regent for more info or call Chairman Steve Nichols at 727-3368 or by e-mail at senichols@sacriver.net

College Courses for FREE!

Several colleges and universities throughout the country are making nearly all of their courses available online with the same materials as if you were right there on campus. Just download and learn at your leisure. You won't be able to get a degree from Harvard, MIT or Stanford this way but you can take the same courses that those schools charge resident

students hundreds of dollars for but you'll be able to enjoy them in the comfort of your home without the pressure of awful tests!

We'll be adding links to several of these offerings on the MMC website. If you know of others, tell us! Advanced fluid dynamics might not be your 'thing', but you might find an astronomy or literature course very enjoyable.

Francis Bacon & Shakespeare

By Edward L. King
Secretary, Board of Regents

Surely you've heard it somewhere: Francis Bacon was the real author of plays attributed to William Shakespeare. In fact, a book published in 1954 tried to tie Bacon (and by extension the works of Shakespeare) to Freemasonry. There are many websites proclaiming it including one that at first blush seems to be the work of a 33rd Scottish Rite Mason. There's a blue graphic with a S&C and the number 33. Take a look at his picture on the site though and you'll quickly conclude he's not what you might first think –unless he's the youngest 33rd ever.



A recent book reveals 'the rest of the story': that the theory actually originated in a log cabin in Tallmadge, Ohio with an odd and unlikely American woman named Delia Bacon. She was born in 1811 into a large family in a small log cabin in the frontier country of Ohio.

Delia was, reports indicate, bright and apparently very pretty but not terribly stable. For reasons unclear, she gradually became convinced that Francis Bacon, her distinguished namesake, was the true author of the works of Shakespeare.

Though she had no known genealogical connection to Francis Bacon, she felt that the correspondence of names was almost certainly more than coincidental and in 1852 travelled to England, embarking on a long and fixated quest to prove that William Shakespeare a fraud.

You'll see many books and websites arguing the coincidences and even dragging Masonry along for the ride as Bacon was said to have been a Rosicrucian which folks then want to connect to.... Well, it's just a matter of selective evidence, ignoring those pieces that don't fit.

Be critical in your thinking!

Copyright made simple

It's really simple: so simple that it's now taught in grammar school. It's **copyright infringement**. The easiest way to explain it is 'what you write is your property and no one has the right to use it without your permission'. Even if you credit the originator, that doesn't eliminate the requirement for advanced permission! It's NOT yours to use. Period. Full stop!

Now there are a couple of excep-

tions: one is 'fair use' whereby a **SMALL** part of someone else's work is used. Note the emphasis is on **SMALL**. What about schools for teaching? Any teacher will tell you that they get permission for things well before they present a class.

What about a

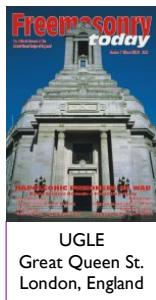
"Did you ask for *and receive* permission to use someone else's material? If not, you are guilty of THEFT!"

list of words or names that are common knowledge? Just try publishing all the words and definitions from Webster's and you'll learn about compilation copyright quickly in a court of law.

In short, ask for permission BEFORE you use someone else's words. Don't be a thief!

Freemasonry Today now FREE!

Ever read the excellent UK magazine, *Freemasonry Today*? Recently it was merged into an equally excellent publication, *MQ*, house organ for the United Grand Lodge of England. The good news is that ALL of the 42 past issues are now available online for free and there's also a link to the past issues of *MQ*



as well! You can find it all at freemasonrytoday.co.uk

In addition, many grand jurisdictions and Masonically-related bodies now have their magazines and newsletters online. These make excellent reading!

There are also a handful of self-published magazines

online created by individual Masons. While the authors do strive for accuracy, their efforts are rarely, if ever, peer reviewed prior to publication and thus may contain misleading or completely inaccurate information. We urge caution with these self-produced works. Created by individuals with good intentions, they may fall short in facts.