

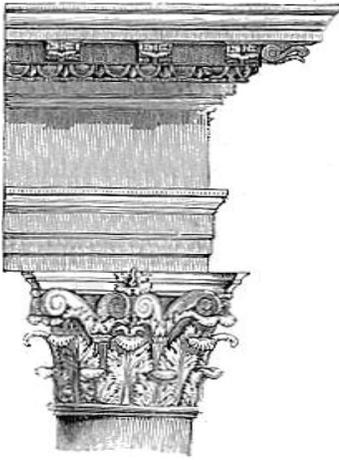


The Entablature

Whole Number 4

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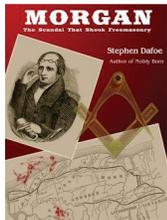
Winter 2009



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

Take Time To Read!

Two more books to consider!



Morgan: The Scandal That Shook Freemasonry by Stephen Dafoe is a book you may enjoy or hate but it's one you can't ignore if you want to fully understand the anti-Masonic movement of the early 1800s which almost eradicated our beloved fraternity. Bro. Dafoe dares to challenge the beliefs of nearly two centuries - and provides material to support his conclusions.



The Secrets of Masonic Washington by James Wasserman
A truly beautiful photo essay, it casts no light on Masonic Secrets. The author who is neither Mason nor historian often reaches much too far in vying for sales in the marketplace following the release of *The Lost Symbol*. Most of this small book is simply of photographs and potted descriptions of DC's statuary and buildings

See the MMC web site for more book recommendations!

In the Beginning

By Bro. Don McDougal, Regent, MMC

On September 9th NASA released the first pictures taken by the newly refurbished Hubble Telescope. To view them, visit <http://hubblesite.org>. Those marvelous photographs provide examples that our ritual is a living vibrant document.

The Hubble demonstrates that "a fund of science and industry is implanted in mankind". Masons are tasked with ensuring that that fund be used "for the best, most salutary and beneficent purposes".

"Numberless worlds are around us" is shown by one of the more spectacular views of the universe, the Hubble Deep Field photograph. That is a fourteen hour exposure aimed at a patch of empty space in the southern hemisphere the size of a pea held at arms length. When developed, it showed thousands of galaxies heretofore invisible to earth based telescopes.

Throughout the fabric of the cosmos we see "the enduring essence of life". Our "Faith in the immortality of the soul" is supported and strengthened by the Pillars of Creation where new stars spring to life out of condensing clouds of dust and gas. We have a living example that "the eternal light fashions the world in the womb of chaos".

The stunningly beautiful cat's eye, NGC 3132, omega, tarantula, and eagle nebula lead us "to view with reverence and admiration the glorious works of creation". We are awestruck by the unparalleled beauty of the "starry decked heavens".

Just as Masonry is a journey not a destination, mankind's eternal quest for wisdom, knowledge, and enlightenment is a never ending process.

New knowledge is continually produced by those "standing on the shoulders of giants who went before". A journey back in time through the eyes of the Hubble telescope reveals the extensive dimensions of the cosmos. Our thoughts are taken beyond "the rigors of the seasons and the inclemency of the weather". It opens our minds, frees our spirits, and leads us to consider the universality of Freemasonry.



Photo courtesy NASA at hubblesite.org

Want to know more about the Institute of Noetic Science or other interesting facts about Dan Brown's *The Lost Symbol*? Visit our website for more information.

Upcoming Courses!

Jan. 9 (Saturday) - Critical and Logical Thinking
- Sam McKeeman - St. Paul's Lodge, Rockland.
9am-3pm.

Jan. 30 (Saturday) - Understanding Vitruvius
- George & Walter Macdougall - Newport - 9am-3pm

Feb. 6 (Saturday) - The Four Cardinal Virtues
- Reggie Wing - Windham - 9am-2pm

Feb. 20 (Saturday) - Masonic Background for Mentors
- Richard Bowden - Bangor - 9am-Noon

Mar. 20 (Saturday) - Why Myth and Ritual?
- Charlie Plummer - Auburn - 9am-3pm

Apr. 10 (Saturday) - Development of American Masonic Ritual
- Christian Ratliff - Houlton - 9am-3pm

Apr. 24 (Saturday) - Freemasonry in Popular Literature
- Dr. Mark Koltko-Rivera (Joint program with the Maine Lodge of Research). Details coming.

Registration and further details are on our web site or by calling the Registrar, Bro. Jerry Lighton, at 296-2085.

The Minutes of “Old Builders Lodge #1000”

By Bro. George M. A. Macdougall, Vice Chairman, Board of Regents, MMC

In our last installment of the Minutes, we learned a little about Pythagoras. One thing we learned was that his most famous theorem was referred to in our ritual as the “47th Problem of Euclid”. Who was this Euclid? He is commonly referred to as the Father of that noblest of sciences that our fraternity is founded on: Geometry.

Not much is known on his life except what he wrote himself. What we do know is that Euclid was born in 300BC and lived in Alexandria, Egypt. He was probably educated in Athens by students of Plato. He taught Geometry in Alexandria and founded a school of Mathematics there. He is actually credited with writing the most successful textbook in the history of mathematics (Ball, W.W. Rouse, 1960, *A Short Account of the History of Mathematics*). This text was called ‘Elements’. Not all the works in the text were by Euclid as we learned in the article on Pythagoras and how his work appeared

in ‘Elements’. However, Euclid put these works together in a framework that is easy to follow and use. It has been used in some form or another for the last 2000 years and reads very similarly to a modern day Geometry textbook!

‘Elements’ is not a single text but is made up of 13 separate books. It covers what later became known as ‘Euclidean Geometry’ as well as elementary number theory. One source said that it is second only to the Bible for number of editions printed with the number being well over a thousand. (*The Historical Roots of Elementary Mathematics*’ by Lucas Nicolaas Hendrik Bunt, Phillip S. Jones, Jack D. Bedient (1988)). Books 1-4 deal with plane geometry. Books 5-10 introduce ratios and proportions. Books 11 – 13 cover spatial geometry.

Other works that Euclid is credited with are; ‘Data’ which deals with the “Givens” or what we have to work with



when solving mathematical problems; ‘On Divisions of Figures’ which dealt with geometric figures and ways of dividing them and ratios that result by doing so; ‘Catoptics’ which dealt with the study of mathematical theory of mirrors; ‘Phenomena’ which was on Spherical Astronomy; ‘Optics’ which is the earliest surviving Greek treatise on perspective. Interestingly enough here, he was under the common perception of the time that vision was made up of rays from the eye to the object not the other way around!; ‘Pseudaria’ or ‘Book of Fallacies’ which discussed errors in reasoning.

Euclid, The father of Geometry, gathered and laid the foundation on which we have been able to build and will continue to build in the future.

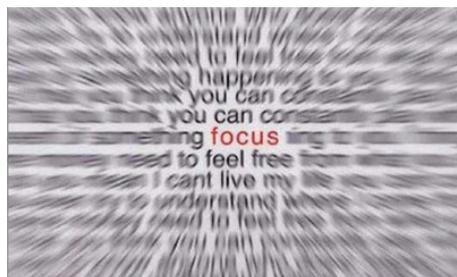
Focus, Brethren. FOCUS!

by Steve Nichols, Chairman, Board of Regents, MMC

The George Washington Masonic Memorial in Alexandria, Virginia, recently began the celebration of its centennial. Incident to the many reminders of our noble Masonic past, we reflect on the virtues of the Father of our Country and on the contributions that he and his contemporary Masons made to the building of our country and the strengthening of our Craft.

We note that in the paeans of praise accorded our first president, there is no mention of increased membership in his lodge, nor of new carpets and refurbished roofs, of adequate funding nor excellence in ritual. Rather we hear of loyalty, integrity, steadfastness, and an unwavering belief in the Supreme Architect of the Universe. If that was his Masonic focus, should it not also be ours?

Masonic lodges across the state of



Maine are enjoying a surge of applications. No one seems to know why we are blessed with this increase of candidates but we are happy to have them. And what an opportunity to inculcate the real lessons of Freemasonry: Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth. This should be our focus, “so that when we shall depart this life we may die in the hope of a glorious immortality,” and be remembered as Masons who devoted our time and energies to the furtherance of fundamental Masonic principles and not to the provision of worldly

and material things. We should aspire to join the likes of Washington, Franklin, and Lafayette as exemplary Masons who added to the worth of Freemasonry—for others as well as for ourselves. Even non-Mason Dan Brown, author of the best-selling novel, “*The Lost Symbol*,” states that his purpose in writing the book was “...an earnest attempt to reverentially explore the history and beauty of Masonic Philosophy.” Should we, as Masons, do less?

The Maine Masonic College is a tool intended to assist the Craft in pursuing their Masonic quest for more light in Masonry, in focusing on the building of each individual’s Masonic edifice. We urge you to attend the courses that we offer and join us in this journey of the mind, refocusing on true Masonic knowledge.