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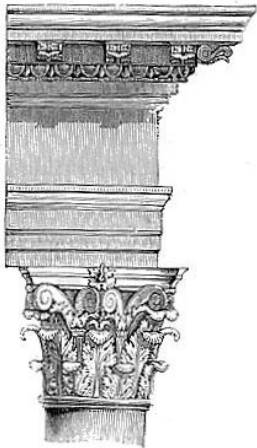
Entablature

Whole Number 6

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Convocation a Success



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

Take Time To Read Something Different!

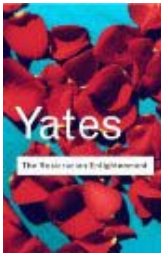
The Rosicrucian Movement

When did Freemasonry first begin? Where did its foundational ideas and concepts come from? These are questions that sooner or later will perplex every inquisitive Mason and, some three hundred years on, remain unanswered despite probing by some of the best minds in the world.

A number of scholars will contend that Freemasonry's past can be seen in the Rosicrucian movement but if we try to quickly understand what this means using the internet, we immediately encounter much bizarre speculation and fantasy with unfathomable names and references. It's not easy for those who haven't had several years studying esoteric matters to get a foothold in this very convoluted area.

If you're among those seeking to know about the oft-misunderstood Rosicrucians, *The Rosicrucian Enlightenment* by Francis Yates would be an excellent place to start. It cuts through the 'woo-woo' things you'll often encounter online to provide a good history and understanding which will better enable you to understand why so many have concluded that there's a connection between Rosicrucianism and Freemasonry.

-- Ed King



Our Schedule

Keep up to date with our classes
by checking our website
www.mainemasoniccollege.com

If you missed it, you missed a good one. What we used to call "The Convocation" we are now starting to refer to as "The First Annual Convocation." Set in the plush accommodations of the Hollywood Slots Hotel in Bangor, our First Annual Convocation delivered on its promise to produce authoritative and thought-provoking presentations. Some covered relatively familiar subject matter, while others had us really reaching for a fuller understanding and appreciation. Something for everyone. About sixty persons attended: some on both days, some only on Friday, some only on Saturday.

In all of the sessions, audience participation was encouraged. It didn't take much encouragement. While there was never any danger of physical confrontation, the discussions were lively and stimulating.

In addition to some of the best known Masonic scholars in the country, two current presiding lodge masters gave their thoughts, not on the mundane problems of lodge issues, but on the more profound questions of what our Fraternity is—or should be—all about and how best to light the fires of curiosity in our Brethren about the mysteries of Freemasonry. One of the youngest Masons in Maine—still a DeMolay—also had his opportunity to comment on the problems raised. Included in the program were generous breaks that permitted more informal debate among attendees and presenters.

And the food...! We can't say enough about the food...!!! Just outstanding!

At the conclusion of the program, there was a solid consensus that this convocation was a huge success. The Maine Masonic College will build on this with classes that will further expand our knowledge of and love for Freemasonry. Stay tuned - and **mark your calendars for July 17-18, 2011** when we'll again meet at Hollywood Slots for some terrific education. We're planning some special presentations for the ladies as well: not the customary shopping trips but actual seminar sessions on topics as suggested by those who were at this past meeting. It should be a great time and we'll look forward to seeing you - and your lady as well - then!



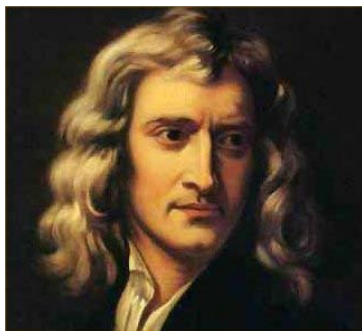
Who Cares?

By the Great Jehovah, I do! And so should you, I believe.

Have you asked your lodge officers to explain exactly what "the vital principle of life" is that is contained within the breast? Has your lodge Master described to you just how you are going to acquire more light in Masonry? And what about all this talk of almond trees flourishing and grasshoppers being a burden? Do you know what all that means? If your answer—as with too many other Masons—is, "Who cares?" then I think that we have a problem.

The words that we hear—and that many of us learn by heart—in our lodges constitute the very foundation of Freemasonry. Without this ritual we would be just another fraternal organization. Our Schools of Instruction are intended to inform us—all of us—of the precise wording of our ritual, but what good is it for us to pass these words from generation to generation of Masons if we don't know what they mean? We might just as well chant the meaningless words of little girls skipping rope: "One, two, three a-larry, my first name is Mary." Mindlessly repeating the words and paragraphs and ideas of our ritual without understanding their meaning is a great waste of time and effort.

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In our last installment of the minutes of Old Timers Lodge #1000, we learned a little bit about the laws of motion and gravity by Sir Isaac Newton. The subject of these minutes of Old Builders Lodge #1000, will again be Newton, but this time we will cover the story of Calculus.

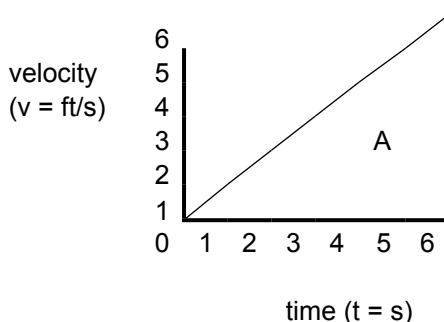
He was born on January 4th, 1643 in Woolsthorpe-by-Colsterworth, England. Educated at the King's School, Grantham, in 1661 he was admitted into Trinity College, Cambridge. At that time, Trinity College taught the teachings of Aristotle but young Newton was more interested in the works of Rene Descartes, who was a philosopher and inventor of the Cartesian coordinate system which allowed geometric shapes to be shown as algebraic equations. Later, Newton became a professor at Trinity and even was awarded the 'Lucasian Chair of Mathematics', considered one of the most honored chairs of mathematics in the world. For 35 years he kept producing fantastic discoveries and then decided to stop in 1695. At this time, he accepted a position of Warden of the London Mint and went on to become Master of the Mint. In 1705

The Minutes of "Old Builders Lodge #1000"

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

he was knighted and when he passed away in 1727 he was buried in Westminster Abbey. He was also a Fellow of the Royal Society. He was a learned theologian and viewed the primary importance of his work as proving the existence of God.

In Geometry, we were told *Theorems* could be proven but *Postulates* had to be taken for granted and memorized. It turns out that you can prove Postulates - but you need Calculus for this. Infinitesimal Calculus is based on finding the area under a plotted line from an equation like a binomial. Lets look at a basic equation for speed or velocity: $V=dt$. Distance (d) is the length covered by something moving; Time (t) is the number of seconds or minutes it took to move; Velocity (v) is the rate at which it covered that distance. Lets now plot a graph of time versus velocity.



Velocity multiplied by Time equals Distance. In this case we need to say average velocity since it is changing. So $(V1 + V2) \times \frac{1}{2} \times T = \text{distance}$ $(0 + 6) \times \frac{1}{2} \times 6 = 18$ feet. But also the area under the line (Area A) equals the distance. $\text{Area A} = (6 \times 6)/2 = 18$ feet (or count the squares. 15 whole squares and 6 half squares for a total of 18). This holds true anywhere on the plotted line. This area was easy to calculate but some are very irregular and hard to calculate or count the squares unless you keep making the squares smaller and smaller. By doing

this the 'infintisimally' small squares are a better representation of the area under the line! Hence we get Infintesimal Calculus. Calculus is a mathematical way to 'count the squares': in other words, you use equations to derive more equations called derivatives that give you the answer directly instead of counting actual squares! Simple right? Don't feel bad, my college Calculus book was three inches thick!!

The first part of this series hinted toward controversy with Calculus. The controversy was 'who actually invented Calculus'? It turns out that there were two simultaneous claimants: while Newton was working in England, Gottfried Leibniz came up with it in France and although the latter's discovery was 10 years after Newton, he published his findings 20 years before Newton did!! Timing is usually everything but in this case, Newton is usually given credit for the discovery. For a while though it depended on where you were from: Europeans went with Leibniz and English folks said Newton.

Even with all of the tremendous discoveries Newton made, he still had only this quote to say about himself: "I do not know what I may appear to the world, but to myself I seem to have been only like a boy playing on the sea-shore, and diverting myself in now and then finding a smoother pebble or a prettier shell than ordinary, whilst the great ocean of truth lay all undiscovered before me".

Our next installment of the Minutes will be about someone who believed in sharing every discovery he made and never thought of using them for profit. It turns out that his discovery is as amazing as Gravity. And even this discovery was shrouded in controversy.

Who Cares? (Continued)

Just think about it: we preclude the admission of atheists, libertines, madmen, and fools from becoming Masons, and yet what do we understand to be a "libertine"? Today it is someone who lives without any moral restrictions. Long ago, however, a libertine was understood to be someone who had been freed from slavery. That definition would seem to relate to our requirement that a candidate be "a man freeborn." If we insist a candidate conform to certain criteria, shouldn't we know what the words of those criteria mean?

How many times I have heard fellow Masons at Schools of Instruction exclaim with pleasure, "I didn't know that!" It should be our goal to ensure that more and more of the Brethren know the full meaning of our ritual so that the familiar words spoken at

lodge meetings don't simply wash over us as an old familiar melody might do, but would actually carry a meaningful message of hope, enlightenment, and lofty goals.

The resources for expanding our knowledge and appreciation of Masonry are available to us: District Ritual Instructors, Schools of Instruction, M.E.A.L.S. Committee classes and publications, Maine Masonic College presentations, and Ambassadors. And it is all FREE to the Craft! Moreover, strangely enough, the more we learn about Freemasonry, the more we want to learn. Masonic education—or should we call it less threateningly Masonic information—truly fits the model of "a gift that keeps on giving." Your Maine Masonic College is working to bring meaning and clarity to our ritual. A new round of classes begins this fall. See you there! **Steve Nichols**