



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



## Maine Masonic College Stretches Its Legs

On Saturday, December 3, 2011, the Maine Masonic College hosted a panel discussion at the Bangor Masonic Center under the rubric of "Freemasonry in Our Time." To open the discussion, MW Wayne T. Adams presented a paper in which he gave a broad overview of the condition of the Fraternity as it is today. Following this, the panelists— Brothers Kelley Carter, Brian Messing, and Dannel Starbird—added their comments on the paper and raised additional considerations bearing on the topic. The audience—both Masons and non-Masons—then asked questions and gave their opinions regarding the subject. After this the master of Ceremonies, RW Eric Kuntz, wrapped up the session, leaving the participants to continue the discussion over a light lunch .

This stimulating panel discussion is a forerunner of the Maine Masonic College's Convocation 2012, to be held at the Hollywood Slots Hotel in Bangor on Saturday and Sunday, July 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. We shall address the same topic, "Freemasonry in Our Time," and have invited distinguished speakers from around the country to participate in the event.

In addition, we have made contact with the Philaethes Society, a premier Masonic research society, regarding their intended Masonic education forum to be held in New England next summer. We don't yet know the subject of their forum, but we are sure that it will be of interest to Masons all over the north-eastern United States. We may even be able to contribute in some small way to their agenda.

All good news for Masons in Maine looking for more light.



The next class scheduled by the Maine Masonic College entitled **The Seven Liberal Arts and Sciences** will be held on Saturday, February 4<sup>th</sup>, at the Newport Masonic Building. Professor Kirsten Jacobson of the University of Maine in Orono will conduct the class and it promises to be one of our best yet. The class will last from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m., with a short break for a light lunch. You may have seen recent articles in the Portland Press Herald, one by the president of the University of Southern Maine and one by a leading Maine businessman, extolling the virtues of an education in the liberal arts and sciences. There is a lively discussion going on in Maine about the advantages of an education in the industrial arts versus an education in the liberal arts and sciences. We should be both informed and a part of that discussion.

*by: Bro Stephen Nichols, Chairman, MMC Board of Regents*

### The College Briefly...

Our name inspires us to a 'higher educational calling'. We are not a bricks and mortar school but a 'Temple of Knowledge', offering a growing variety of learning opportunities in various modalities.

We believe that Freemasonry is relevant in society today, helping to create a continuum of knowledge for those who are interested in personal enrichment.

Masonic ritual exhorts us to broaden our knowledge of the seven liberal arts and sciences. Thus, our programs include topics of interest to anyone with an inquisitive mind: ethics, astronomy, logic, public speaking and more. We have molded the Maine Masonic College on the best features of not only traditional and modern Masonic-oriented education but also 'senior college' and lifelong learning endeavors.

In addition, we are developing audio and video material along with reading lists and more. At the Maine Masonic College, we encourage your input, your recommendations, and - most of all - your INVOLVEMENT!

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## #9 The Minutes of ‘Old Builders Lodge #1000’



Portrait of Galileo Galilei by Giusto Sustermans

Some folks are known simply by their last name such as (Amadeus) Mozart, (Ludwig van) Beethoven or (Sir Isaak) Newton. If you say these names people know who you mean. Even fewer people are known by their first name alone. People know who Michelangelo (di Lodovico Buonarroti Simoni) or even Beyonce (Knowles, for our younger readers) are, just by their first names. Like the later group, our subject of these minutes is known by his first name alone; Galileo Galilei better known as just Galileo.

If you remember from the last installment of the ‘Minutes’ we were discussing the acceptance of Heliocentric Theory. This theory is the astronomical model in which the Earth and planets revolve around a stationary Sun at the center of a solar system. We learned that even though it wasn’t officially accepted until the 1700s people knew about it as early as 250 BC. It was the work of Galileo that moved this theory to mainstream thought and he faced great peril in voicing his beliefs. In fact, in 1633 Galileo was convicted of suspicion of heresy for "following the position of Copernicus, which is contrary to the true sense and authority of Holy Scripture," and was placed under house arrest for the rest of his life.

Galileo was born February 15, 1564 in Pisa, Duchy of Florence, Italy. He died January 8, 1642 at the age of 77. Galileo's achievements included: building the first high-powered astronomical telescope; inventing a horse-powered pump to raise water; he showed that the velocities of falling bodies are not proportional to their weights (remember the tower of Pisa); he described the true parabolic paths of cannonballs and other projectiles; came up with the ideas behind Newton's laws of motion; and confirmed the Copernican theory of the solar system.

Interestingly enough, the people questioning this theory were just working off from a misconception. They developed very good arguments for their side of the argument. One being that if this was true, then there would be a big difference in the position of the stars every six months. This is known as parallax and is actually how astronomers calculate the distance of new stars. Even though this shift does exist, it is so small they had no way to measure it at the time. The shift angle is less than  $1/60^{\text{th}}$  of a degree! The stars are actually much further away than they could have imagined. The other argument that had Copernicus puzzled was that if his theory was correct, then Venus, the closest planet to us, would have phases just like the moon. At that time all they had to look at the planets were their eyes; no telescopes yet! It was impossible to see anything such as a phase of a planet. Along comes Galileo. He improved the telescope so that he is generally considered the inventor of the modern telescope. He not only sees the phases of planets but also sees that planets have moons revolving around them, some have many moons. He is the first person to see that our moon has craters and is not smooth as thought at the time.

Even though it was Copernicus who put the idea out there, it was Galileo that was persecuted by the Church. Galileo was attacked when he took up the charge. One of the reasons was thought to be Galileo’s strong personality. Much more likely is the fact that Copernicus was going on an Occam’s Razor principle of ‘usually the simpler idea is the right one’. Remember, his theory explained why all of a sudden planets started to go backwards. But he didn’t really have proof. At that point it was ‘his word against ours’ with the Church. The difference between Galileo and Copernicus was that Galileo was using the telescope to prove Copernicus’ theory and he showed that the Church was wrong on this point.

In the next installment, we will deviate from the norm in that instead of a person, I will talk about Parallax and other facts that I came across in researching this series of articles. - By: Brother George M.A. Macdougall



**Our Schedule** – Keep up to date with our classes by checking our website  
[www.MaineMasonicCollege.com](http://www.MaineMasonicCollege.com)