

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



## Convocation 2012 Was a Success!

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

The third annual Maine Masonic College Convocation proved to be of the high quality as were its two predecessors. As we explored the multiple facets of "Masonry in Our Time" - the theme of the Convocation—we heard views concerning our life-long quests to be better men and to learn more about Freemasonry. We heard fresh commentary on "the Masonic inquisitive mind" and its absence from some our lodges. Bro. Richard Fletcher explained that there are certain values that seem to pervade all ages and remarked that these are values that we hold to be essential aspects of our Fraternity. John Nagy returned from Florida to tell us that there are more kinds of ashlars than we describe in our ritual. He named seven of them—to the astonishment of us all. It was not all heavy going: Bro. Gary Crocker regaled us at the Saturday night supper with hilarious stories about Maine and Mainers. On Sunday morning, MW Walter Macdougall brought us back from the ridiculous to the sublime as he made the case for the need for Masons to seize and hold the moral high ground. Film clips from the movie, 'Gettysburg' helped to illustrate the essentiality of claiming the high moral heights which are an essential part of our obligations. We learned later in the day that ethics and morals are not always synonymous and that there are difficult problems that can be successfully addressed only if we are morally—and ethically—well grounded in our Masonry.

### 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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### #10 The Minutes of 'Old Builders Lodge #1000'

By: Brother George M.A. Macdougall

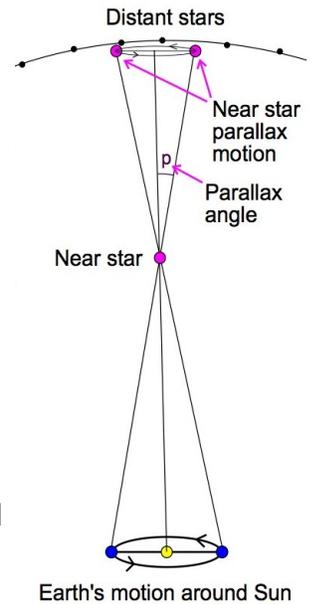
*This is one article in a series on the people who created, discovered or redefined how modern architecture, engineering and science came about.*

Have you ever wondered how scientists know how far away a star or galaxy is? For instance, you will be reading an article on Astronomy (the study of the stars) and all of a sudden the fact pops out that the Hiram galaxy is 300 light years across and 220 million light years away from the Earth. A light year is defined as the distance that light travels in one year. One light-year is 5,900,000,000,000 (5.9 trillion) miles. That means that if the Hiram galaxy is 220 million light years away, it took the light that forms the image of the galaxy 220,000,000 years to reach your eye! The galaxy might not even be there anymore! Well, obviously, no one jumped in their space ship and flew out there and measured the distance on their odometer. So how do they know? Scientists and Astronomers are able to do this by using Parallax and the Pythagorean Theorem. In our last three installments of 'The Minutes' we talked about the idea of heliocentrism. In doing that research I came across the discussion of Parallax (remember in the article on Copernicus, they used paral-

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lax against him). Because of the Earth's revolution about the sun, near stars seem to shift their position against the farther stars. This is called parallax shift. By observing the distance of the shift and knowing the diameter of the Earth's orbit, astronomers are able to calculate the parallax angle across the sky. The smaller the parallax shift, the farther away from earth the star is. Once they know the angle, Astronomers use the Pythagorean Theorem to calculate the distance. This method is only accurate for stars within a few hundred light-years of Earth. When the stars are very far away, the parallax shift is too small to measure.

The method of measuring distance to stars beyond 100 light-years is to use Cepheid variable stars. These stars change in brightness over time, which allows astronomers to figure out the true brightness. Comparing the apparent brightness of the star to the true brightness allows the astronomer to calculate the distance to the star. This method was discovered by American astronomer Henrietta Leavitt in 1912 and used in the early part of the century to find distances to many globular clusters.



## Maine Masonic College Course Schedule 2012 – 2013

- Vitruvius and the Master Mason's Secret** – September 15. Instructors: George Macdougall, Walter Macdougall, and Donald McDougal. Harwood Lodge in Machias. 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM. Lunch served (\$5.00)
- Tenets and Cardinal Virtues** – September 29. Instructor: Reginald Wing. Monument Lodge in Houlton. 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM. Lunch served (\$5.00) Diploma course.
- Understanding Masonry** – Fall 2012 – time /date TBA. Instructor: Richard Bowden. Diploma course.
- Understanding Masonry** – Fall 2012 – time/date TBA. Instructor: Dr. Eric Kuntz. Diploma course.
- Critical Thinking/Logical Systems** – October 20. Instructor: Sam McKeeman. Deering Lodge in Portland. 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM. Lunch served (\$5.00) Diploma course.
- Understanding World Religions – What the well informed Mason should know**– October 27. Instructor: Dr. Charles Plummer. Meridian Splendor Lodge in Newport. 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM. Lunch served (\$5.00)
- Symbolism** – November 17. Instructor: Dr. Eric Kuntz. Lygonia Lodge in Ellsworth. 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM. Lunch served (\$5.00)
- Astronomy – A Planetarium Opportunity** – December 2012. Instructor/ location TBA. (Portland area).
- Persuasive and Informative Speech** – Probable date January 12, 2013. Instructor from University of Maine at Orono. Bangor Masonic Center in Bangor. 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM. Lunch served (\$5.00) Registration requested.
- Annual Celebration of the Liberal Arts and Sciences (Focus on art)** – February 16. Leader: Professor Michael Grillo, University of Maine at Orono. Bangor Masonic Center in Bangor. 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM. Lunch served (\$5.00)
- Myth and Ritual** – March 16. Instructor: Dr. Charles Plummer. Meridian Splendor Lodge in Newport. 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM. Lunch served (\$5.00)
- Ethics** – April 6. Instructor: Sam McKeeman. Bangor Masonic Center in Bangor. 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM. Lunch served (\$5.00). Diploma course.
- Tenets and Cardinal Virtues** – May 18. Instructor: Reginald Wing. Auburn Masonic Temple in Auburn. 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM. Lunch served (\$5.00)
- The King's Speech – Grammar made fun** – June 20. Instructor: Professor Jay Hoar. United Lodge in Brunswick. 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM.
- Annual Convocation** – July 27 – 28. Bangor. Details TBA.
- Our Registration Policy:** The Maine Masonic College does not require participants to register; however, only those who do register will be notified of cancellations and changes in schedules.



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