



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



What Has Masonry Done for the World?



This article is adapted from the Masonic Information Center, an affiliate of the Masonic Service Association of North America, which publishes the Short Talk Bulletins, among its other activities. The Maine Masonic College is procuring copies of this brochure for distribution at its classes.

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!

LIKE us on Facebook



Freemasonry has done more for the world in which we live than most people, even most Masons, realize. In the last few years, educators and historians have begun to realize that Freemasonry runs as a significant thread through many of the events which have shaped the political, economic, cultural and social world we know today. An exciting story is unfolding.

Historians, sociologists, cultural anthropologists, professors of architecture and music, and representatives of other disciplines, for the most part having no association with the Masonic Fraternity, have been led in their own areas of research to the Lodge as a "major player" in shaping the world.

Individualism. We pretty much do what we want to do today with regard to dress, hair style, diet, what we read, what we say. In A.D. 1230 stone masons were ordered by the church to shave off their beards and cut their hair. The masons resisted this order and won, striking the first blow for individualism. Throughout the Enlightenment the idea spread from Masonic Lodges to the society as a whole that men and women were entitled to respect as individuals.

Democracy. Historians now realize that Masonic Lodges in Europe served as the first models of democracy. Members in Lodges made their own bylaws and elected their own leaders. This was unheard of except in the Lodge. It is fair to say that this model was finalized in the United States, exists in many nations today, and was an invention of the Masonic Lodge. Many of the political debates in North America in the 1700's involved leading Masons such as George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, Paul Revere and Joseph Warren and led to the creation of the new nation, the adoption of the Bill of Rights, and the establishment of democracy as we know it today.

Human Rights. Throughout the great majority of history, people were valued on the basis of their wealth and social position. Even in the churches, there were separate seating areas for the upper and lower classes. Masonic Lodges were the first organizations to break down those barriers. Even actors (regarded as near the bottom of the social scale) were permitted to sit in Lodge as equals with members of the aristocracy. Masonry, although a fraternity, has always taught respect for women as equal human beings entitled to equal consideration.

(Continued on page 2)



Rights of Workers. Masonic ritual taught that it was wrong to exploit workers by obliging them to work as long as there was daylight or light from artificial means. It taught that men and women were entitled to part of the day as their own; that the day should be divided into 3 parts, with 8 hours going to work, 8 hours going to the service of God and others, and 8 hours for rest and relaxation. Albert Pike taught in the rituals of the Scottish Rite that an employer had responsibility to employees to see them well housed and well fed, that exploitation of workers was morally indecent and even criminal.

The Arts and Architecture. Freemasonry has had a strong influence on the art and architecture of the United States, especially on large public buildings and parks. Basic Masonic themes which appear in architecture include design elements in groups of three, the use of equilateral triangles, the obelisk, and the vertical division of a building into three sections. In music there are hundreds of Masonic composers in every genre from opera to rock, among them Mozart, Sibelius, John Phillip Sousa, and W.S. Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan. In literature, works by Masonic authors or featuring Masonic themes as *War and Peace*, *The Man Who Would Be King*, *Kim*, and the poetry of Robert Burns are well known. Masonry and its lessons have helped to shape the cultures of the world.

Public Education. Education has always been important to the fraternity. In the Middle Ages, Masons trained in geometry and architecture using an apprenticeship system. Masonry was one of the very few occupations in which literacy was required, and apprentice masons were taught reading and writing as well as arithmetic and geometry. Masons helped to establish the first non-sectarian public schools and worked for tax-supported, compulsory education for all children. The Masonic Fraternity has been credited with securing passage of the legislation that established land-grant colleges.

Health. Some of the first hospitals and the first programs to provide income for families whose breadwinner was killed or disabled arose among the masons of the Middle Ages. In the United States, Masonic Lodges started many hospitals, most of which were later turned over to communities. Today, of course, Masonic involvement in health, especially the health of children, is well known.

Maine Masonic College Classes – Curriculum Guide Winter 2013

Saturday, January 12th – Persuasive and Informative Speech - University of Maine Orono professor Dr. Diane Keeling will lead a class that ought to be of vital interest to Masters of Lodges and Committee Chairs. This class will be held at the Bangor Masonic Center and will run from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM with a break for lunch (\$5.00). Please preregister if possible. Spouses and friends are welcome.

Saturday, February 16th – Annual Celebration of the Liberal Arts and Sciences - An exposition of the value of the liberal arts and sciences about which we hear so little in the Winding Stairs ritual. Professor Michael Grillo of the University of Maine will lead the class. This has proved to be an interesting and stimulating presentation in the past and will broaden your appreciation for the deeper meaning of our Fellow Craft lecture. The class will be held at the Bangor Masonic Center from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM with a break for lunch (\$5.00). Please preregister if possible. This class is open to the public.

Saturday, March 16th – Myth and Ritual - Dr. Charles Plummer will discuss the origins and impact of the myths that permeate our daily lives and how they are frequently reflected in our ritual work. The class will be held at Meridian Splendor Lodge in the Newport Masonic Building from 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM with a break for lunch (\$5.00). Please preregister if possible.

Saturday, April 6th - Ethics - Sam McKeeman continues his fascinating series of lectures on ethics. He'll have you saying, "Oh, that's what that means," over and over and "Gee, I never looked at my behavior that way before." The class will be conducted at the Bangor Masonic Center from 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM with a break for lunch (\$5.00). Please preregister if possible.

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

