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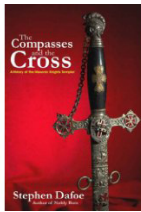
*An **entablature** refers to the superstructure of moldings and bands which lie horizontally above columns, resting on their capitals.*

### Great Reading!
*Take Time to read*

Two terrific books for your consideration:

*The Compasses and the Cross* by Templar expert SK Stephen Dafoe is perfect whether you want to learn about the historical Knights Templar or the Masonic ones. A beautiful near coffee-table sized work, it contains many unique pictures and is printed on high quality glossy paper. The author explores the myths, legends, and facts and presents material that will help you understand Templar Masonry worldwide as well as in your own jurisdiction. This is a book you'll truly enjoy.
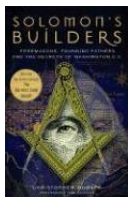
Rumors abound that there WILL be a book about Freemasonry as a follow-on to the extraordinarily successful "The DaVinci Code". Get ready now with Bro. Chris Hodapp's *Solomon's Builders*. All you'll ever want to know about Washington, D.C.'s supposed 'Masonic connections' - and more!

**See the MMC web site for more recommendations!**

# What does it mean to YOU?

*By Bro. Steve Nichols, Chairman, Board of Regents*

In the preamble to "*On Yonder Book*" we hear the question: "Will you be worth anything or nothing to Freemasonry and will Freemasonry be worth anything or nothing to you?" The new Master Mason doesn't really have an answer because he isn't yet sure what Freemasonry is all about. For some, it's "a way of life." For others, it's "making good men better." For still others, it's "a journey of the mind."

The Maine Masonic College offers each Brother tools and implements with which to construct his own Masonic edifice and reach his own personal definition of Freemasonry. The curriculum is founded on the seven liberal arts and sciences and touches on the tenets of our profession as Masons: Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth. It includes courses that have a direct or indirect bearing on the four cardinal virtues: Temperance, Fortitude, Prudence, and Justice. It is our profound hope that the pursuit of more light in Masonry at Maine Masonic College courses will help to reveal to members of the Craft the "real meaning of Freemasonry"-- as they come to see it.

For more information about the College, contact any Regent, or feel free to contact me by phone at 727-3368 or by e-mail at senichols@sacoriver.net There's loads of information including up-to-date class schedules on our web site at

**mainemasoniccollege.com**
We look forward to seeing you at a class soon!

# Upcoming Courses!

**March 13 (Friday)** - Masonically Speaking - Kelley Carter - 7-9pm - Newport

**April 4 (Saturday)** - Development of Masonic Ritual - Christian Ratliff - 9am-3pm - Newport Masonic Hall

**April 25 (Saturday)** - The Tenets of Freemasonry - Reginald Wing - 9am-3pm - Newport

**September 12 (Saturday)** - Music and Architecture - Susan B. Wesley, Ph.D.

**October 12 (Saturday)** - Psychology and Symbols - Eric Kuntz, M.D.

**January 9, 2010 (Saturday)** - Critical and Logical Thinking - Sam McKeeman

Registration and further details are on our web site or by calling the Registrar, Bro. Jerry Leighton, at 368-4903. Please be sure to register in advance so we can have an accurate count for handouts and food. Mark your calendar for these great programs!

## AGAPĒ   *by Bro. Walter M. Macdougall*

Experiencing our Masonic Ritual is like climbing a tower in which there are many windows. As often as we climb, we discover new vistas and look out on expanding horizons of understanding and inspiration. Nothing is as confined or one dimensional as we first thought.

Take, for instance, the tenet of Brotherly Love. Looking carefully we discover that this tenet is not just about love between brothers but rather a love for our fellow human beings without exclusion of race or creed. In Greek this type of love is expressed in the word agapē which has been defined as "a deep cherishing care for each individual because each has intrinsic worth."

Saint Paul uses agapē in his amazing description of love in First Corinthians. As Masons, we hear agapē translated "charity," but if we listen to the text we also hear: "And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor... and have not charity (agapē), it profiteth me nothing." Certainly there is something more profound intended in the word "charity" than is often understood..

As Saint Paul or Plato or Aristotle or our Masonic ritual proclaims, charity involves a "deep cherishing care" for the Good in which every human being has his or her significant being. It is a truth which society seems prone to forget and which it is our duty and our happiness, as Masons, to practice and proclaim.

# The Minutes of "Old Builders Lodge #1000"

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

In our second installment of influential people in Architecture and Engineering, we must not forget, according to Bertrand Russell in 'A History of Western Philosophy', "one of the most influential of all western philosophers" and according to the ritual, "the great Pythagoras". As masons we hear about "this wise philosopher…" in the third or Master Mason degree. He has a very prominent part in the lecture of that degree when we learn about the exoteric emblems of Masonry, namely the '47th Problem of Euclid'. Now, here I have to admit, I always wondered why the Pythagorean Theorem was referred to in this manner. The answer lies 200 years after Pythagoras when Euclid, known as the father of geometry, wrote a textbook called 'Elements' in 300 BC.

This math book was actually 13 books; it reads like a modern day geometry book and, according to several sources, was the most successful and influential textbook ever written. Book One dealt with 'Basic Propositions of Geometry' and Postulate #47 was (you guessed it!) The Pythagorean Theorem.

$$a^2 + b^2 = c^2$$
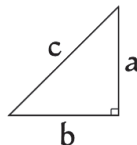
Pythagoras was born on the Greek island of Samos between 580 to 572 BC and died somewhere between 500 to 490 BC. Whatever way you do the math, he died at about the age of 90 years! In my research for this article I did not discover if he became a Mason or not, but he did study with priests of Memphis, Egypt and in the temples of Tyre and Byblos in Phoenicia. It is said that on the way to these places he founded a secret religious society where the followers are referred to as Pythagoreans. Among other things, Pythagoreans believed that playing the lyre could cure illnesses of the soul and body. Not only did Pythagoras influence mathematics, he was one of the first Music Therapists! His notable ideas are in fields such as metaphysics, music, ethics, politics and of course, mathematics.
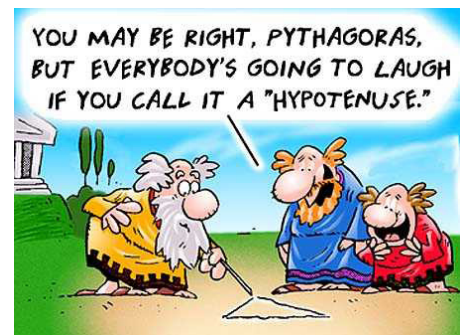
His most famous discovery became known as the 'Pythagorean Theorem'. Simply stated the theorem is $A^2 + B^2 = C^2$ and relates the proportions of the sides of any right triangle. In English, the sum of each leg squared of a right triangle equals the square of the hypotenuse.

Here is a brief explanation of geometric terms for those of us that had geometry many, many years ago.

A triangle is a three sided figure where the internal angles add up to 180. A right triangle is a triangle which has an angle of ninety degrees in it. The sides on each side of the ninety degree angle are known as the legs (A & B) and the side opposite the ninety degree angle is the hypotenuse ( C ).

A theorem is a mathematical statement that can be proved on the basis of previously accepted or established statements. You can find the proof of the Pythagorean Theorem on the internet.

The Pythagorean Theorem, a simple sounding statement that many of us take for granted, is the cornerstone for Architecture, Engineering, Mathematics, Surveying, Coordinate Geometry and so much more. This is usually the key tool for solving problems of today and it was derived 2,500 years ago!



YOU MAY BE RIGHT, PYTHAGORAS, BUT EVERYBODY'S GOING TO LAUGH IF YOU CALL IT A "HYPOTENUSE."

# We are not alone...

As a general rule, the new Mason hears about geometry when he is passed to the degree of a Fellow Craft and thereafter dismisses the subject from his conscious consideration. In fact, geometry, as we are clearly told, is the basis on which the superstructure of Masonry is erected. Thus, we neglect the study of geometry at our peril.

The Teaching Company, producer of "*Great Courses*" in CD/DVD format, has only recently announced a series of 24 lectures entitled "Mathematics from the Visual World" in which they delve into the study of geometry as "a gateway to the highest realms of human thought." This sounds remarkably like the pursuit of more light in Masonry.

Is it possible that a commercial company sees more opportunity in the study of geometry than we Masons do? Are there others out there waiting for a chance to outpace us in our search for greater truths?

Watch for the opportunity to attend the Maine Masonic College's course "Practical Geometry and the Secrets of a Master Mason," showing soon at a Masonic lodge near you. Don't be among the last to learn the valuable lessons of "the first and noblest of sciences."