



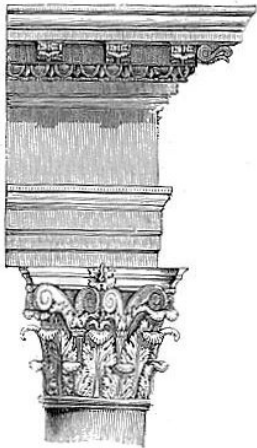
The

Entablature

Whole Number 7

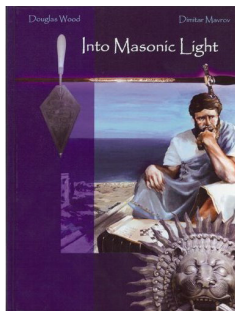
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An **entablature** refers to the superstructure of moldings and bands which lie horizontally above columns, resting on their capitals.

Take Time To Read Something Thoughtful!



Into Masonic Light

This book is one that you might never encounter if you weren't looking for it specifically but it's one you'll be glad you've bought. Exploring masonic symbolism as if through a prism lens, it looks at our Craft based on meditations (essays, really) derived from the many degrees including from York Rite. These are well illustrated although having them done in print quality color would have been so much more luscious. Don't be deterred by this being self-published: it's definitely a quality work. What really attracted me to this work was that the preface was by Bro. Kirk MacNulty, not only an acknowledged expert on Masonic symbolism but a Brother who rarely provides such endorsements. That he shares lodge membership with the two authors tells me that they've gotten some good training - and it certainly shows in this fine work which I highly recommend. It's available at Amazon for only \$30.
-- Ed King

Our Schedule

Keep up to date with our classes
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Kick the Tires - Look Under the Hood

Remember when you got your first car? Just about the best day of your life up until then. It looked good, it smelled good, and it was yours! Even better than that, it meant independence. Just push down on the pedal and you were king of the road.

Being raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason provides much the same sentiment: no more hoodwinks, no more surveillance by the older members of the lodge, no more uncertainty. You had become a Master Mason, something that you had looked forward to for a long time. And you were free to learn.

Let's look a little closer at these two great moments in your personal history. There are some parallels there. My first car was a dark green 1930 Chevrolet coupe with a rumble seat. It would go anywhere. It was a little balky in second gear and I never knew why. The leather seats were some cool—but not so much in the summer time. The wire wheels were really good looking, but they were hard to keep clean. The windshield wipers functioned only intermittently; I guess there was a leak in the rubber hose that powered them. I could have fixed them and the other minor problems if I had known a little (or perhaps a lot) more about cars.

My advancement to the status of Master Mason was a thrill. I now had access to all of the secrets of Freemasonry—just as my older brother did, and our father, and his father before him. Still, I didn't understand why we said, "So mote it be." Sometimes people were "conducted" around the lodge and sometimes they were "escorted." I was roundly criticized for walking between the Worshipful Master and the altar, but no one explained why it was wrong. I had promised to "always hail" the mysteries of Freemasonry, but I hadn't the foggiest notion how to do it—or even what it was that I was supposed to do.

After a lot of trial-and-error efforts to solve the problems of both automobiles and Freemasonry, I have resorted to essentially the same solution for both: I have taken my problems to the experts and I have read about how to understand and even to love both cars and the Craft. A service at my dealer every five thousand miles keeps me rolling unimpeded up and down the Turnpike. Attendance at Schools of Instruction and Maine Masonic College classes keeps my store of Masonic knowledge growing and my interest level high.

There is an abundance of opportunities to talk with other Masons about ritual—the words, their meaning, their origin, the many ways to make ritual more meaningful, for the candidate and for others still pursuing "more light in Masonry." And if you love arguing about cars, just suggest to another Mason that you know a thing or two about Masonic floor work.



When we consider purchasing a car—new or formerly loved—we try to find out as much as we can about it. How much more of an investment is Freemasonry? We should try to learn as much as we can about this great organization that we have already bought into. The fifty-year veteran's medal should be more than a bit of hardware signifying great physical stamina; it should represent a lifetime of learning about Freemasonry. The Maine Masonic College stands ready to help interpret the operator's manual of the Fraternity. Let us help you look under the hood at www.MaineMasonicCollege.com

Know your car. Know your Craft.

--- Steve Nichols

IONS - Huh?

One of the most interesting and controversial aspects of the Dan Brown series of books, the most recent being *The Lost Symbol*, is his use of established organizations and facts as integral to his storyline. In this most recent work, in addition to the Freemasons, he makes reference to **The Institute of Noetic Sciences**. While, as with all novelists, he uses a certain degree of poetic license, the institute does in fact exist.

This is not a full summary of the Institute itself, but describes some of its fundamentals and, I hope, encourage you to explore the research and studies of the organization as a way of enriching your own Masonic experience.

To see why Dan Brown would use this organization as an associated link with freemasonry, one need only look at the mission statement and definition of "Noetic Science": "Explorations into the nature and potentials of

(Cont. on Page 2)



When we think of architects, engineers and scientists who have influenced the Art that has created the modern world around us, we would probably think of men such as M Pei and Frank Lloyd Wright. However, these men have not changed the Art as much as they have mastered the use of it. This is one article in a series on the people who created, discovered or redefined how modern architecture, engineering and science came about.

In our last two installments of the minutes of Old Timers Lodge #1000, we learned a little bit about Sir Isaac Newton. For this installment of the Minutes, think of trying to discover something you don't know exists; something you can't weigh; and something you can't even see! Seems impossible doesn't it! But people did it. The subject of these minutes of Old Builders Lodge #1000 is one of those 'outside the box' thinkers by the name of Dr. Joseph Priestly.

He was born on March 13, 1733 in England and died Feb-

The Minutes of "Old Builders Lodge #1000"

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

ruary 6, 1804 in Pennsylvania. In between, he kept his life in constant controversy. Joseph held some ideals that we can understand today but were rather different in his day. At one point in his life his house was burned down by his fellow villagers and he was forced to flee England. The thing that really set folks off about him was that he believed that the government had no right to decide what religion one should be. In this, he was what was known as a Dissenter. These Dissenters gave rise to religious beliefs such as the Anglican Church. When the time came to leave his country, there was no question that he would go to the newly formed country of one of his best friends, Benjamin Franklin.

It was Franklin who got Priestly interested in electricity and he went on to write a book that was used for the next hundred years. In 1767 he wrote 'The History and Present State of Electricity': the first half was the history of what people knew about electricity to that time and the second was Priestly's experiments and thoughts on what needed to be tried in the future. Priestly believed that the knowledge from every new discovery opened the door for more experiments. One of his discoveries was that charcoal could conduct electricity when before it was only thought water and metals could. He also developed the first thoughts that electricity followed an inverse square law similar to Newton's law on Gravitation (Force of attraction between two masses = Gm_1m_2/r^2). This was actually developed later by Charles Coulomb who gave us Coulomb's Law which states 'Like charges repel, unlike charges attract'. Who else was influenced by this book developed by Priestly? Michael Faraday and James Maxwell who studied electromagnetism; Alessandro Volta who discovered the battery; William Hershel who discovered infrared radiation. But that is not Priestly's big discovery.

One day while experimenting with some material from a nearby brewery (No, not beer!), he discovered that you could dissolve carbon dioxide in water. In doing so he discovered soda water. He was a strong believer that discoveries need to be shared and never tried to capitalize on his discovery. Of course others

like J.J. Schweppe saw the benefits and ran with it. So, thanks to Joseph Priestly we have soft drinks today but that was not his big discovery either.

So what is Dr. Joseph Priestly best known for? What was this teacher, tutor and minister who did experimentation in his spare time best known for in the history books? The discovery and isolation of the gas we know as Oxygen. How did this come about? It was currently thought that there was a substance inside things that burned called phlogiston. When things were burning they gave off this substance. When the air was full of it, things could no longer burn. That is why things that burn got lighter. Makes sense right? The problem was, and it was recognized at the time, metals gain weight when burned (because they grab the oxygen out of the air as they oxidize or in the case of iron, rust). Despite this fact, the theory lasted for over 100 years and was wholeheartedly believed by Priestly! In fact his name for Oxygen was 'dephlogisticated' air. While in Paris he was talking about his discoveries when he met Antoine Lavoisier and told him about his 'dephlogisticated' air. Lavoisier recognized the significance of this discovery and repeated Priestly's experiments, even adding some of his own. It was Lavoisier who coined the phrase Oxygen. Interestingly enough, Oxygen was also isolated by the Swedish chemist and apothecary Carl Wilhelm Scheele, probably by 1773. Of the three people, Priestly is given the credit for the discovery.

So, how did he isolate something you can't see? By heating red mercuric oxide and collecting the gas given off, he had isolated Oxygen, inadvertently reversing the oxidation process. He then did experiments with flame and animals to prove the isolation of the 'new' gas. In Priestly's experiments, he observed that fire ate up Oxygen and that plants produced it setting up a whole new field to study leading to the discovery of photosynthesis.

Priestly believed that by studying the natural world, people would learn how to become more compassionate, happy, and prosperous.

IONS (Continued from Page 1)

consciousness using multiple ways of knowing – including intuition, feeling, reason, and *the senses*" (italics mine). The connection to our own lectures, especially the Senior Deacon's winding staircase section, is unmistakable. The institute, which was founded by Apollo 14 astronaut (and Brother Mason!) Dr. Edgar Mitchell, is not a spiritual or religious organization. There are no political or social agendas. They do have a research lab. However, it is in Petaluma California (lower rent than in D. C. perhaps?). There is a high level of scientific rigor to the institute's studies and their bibliography of published works includes collaboration with numerous universities and research institutions around the world. Although the topics may

seem more 'New Age' and 'spacey', the actual work is based on solid western scientific thought, much as Freemasonry combined ancient philosophical wisdom and esoteric symbolism with the scientific thought and paradigms of the Enlightenment. I will be describing this group more in later issues. However, I encourage you to check them out for yourselves at <http://www.noetic.org>

- Eric Kuntz

