



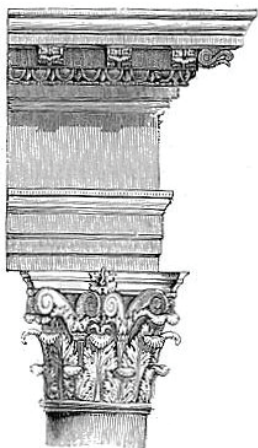
The

Entablature

Whole Number 8

www.MaineMasonicCollege.com

Spring 2011



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

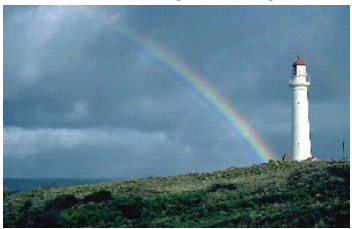
Your Daily Advancement

There are SO many things that demand our attention today that it's difficult to find the right perspective - to set priorities that allow us to see the vision of our lives as the future unfolds rather than just toiling on a daily treadmill.

This year's Convocation is a chance for you to step back and to see how our ritual, our fraternity, and our lives all interconnect. Moreover, it will be an opportunity for you to gain the skills that will give meaning to your life as well as the lives of those around you: your family and your community.

In these days when there's so much to do and so little time, we - like the weary travelers, need to stop in order to rest and refresh ourselves that we may continue the arduous journey of life.

Please take the time to join your Masonic brethren as we together seek to find a vision in our lives. Your family and friends are welcome to join you on this journey and be a part of a great learning experience. Why not sign up right now? Head to our website or call the Registrar at 296-2085 and be a part of this great program!



Our Schedule

Keep up to date with our classes by checking our website

www.MaineMasonicCollege.com

Mark the Date!

MMC's Second Annual Convocation Sunday July 17 - Monday July 18, 2011

"Our Quest for Vision - A Dialog with Ritual"

Hollywood Slots Hotel, Bangor



It's going to be a GREAT program!

Our primary presenter is Brother

Dr. John Nagy - "Coach"

CEO/Lead Business Coach, Coaching for Success, Inc.

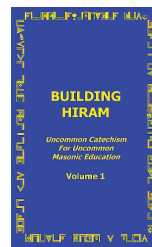
Brother Nagy is a multi degree professional business/life coach and technical advisor who provides coaching support to business professionals through his home office in the Tampa Bay area. John has been in the coaching field since January 1989, running his own coaching practice since that time.

Brother Nagy understands the concepts and methods of 'visioning' and also understands us as Freemasons. He is the author of several books dealing with the basis on which our lives as Freemasons and as human beings can be enhanced.

ALSO FEATURING

Bro. Richard Curtis

"Insightful" and "Thoughtful" are among the adjectives that come readily to mind when describing Dick Curtis. From his decades of service as Editor of the Northern Light magazine of the Northern Jurisdiction of the Scottish Rite, he has seen and heard much that can help us understand where we are going - and how our Masonic principles can provide the guide and glue for the journey.



OUR BANQUET SPEAKER

Major General John W. Libby

Adjutant General, Maine National Guard

Anyone who has heard General Libby speak knows that he understands "vision" and the need for it in our society and in our lives. He has been a forceful advocate for advancing our state's military preparedness, dealing with rapidly changing cultural imperatives. General Libby is truly a man with vision that transcends minor daily crises. We are pleased to welcome him as our banquet speaker Sunday evening.



All are welcome! Registration begins at 11:30am on Sunday. The program begins at 12:30pm. We continue thru until Monday at 5 PM. Cost for lunch on Monday is \$12. (Fast food chains nearby if you'd prefer.) Sunday evening banquet is \$30. For more details, visit our website or call Registrar Jerry Leighton at 296-2085

When we think of Architects, Engineers and Scientists that 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 this installment, as well as the next two, we will look to the stars! No, not stars like Fred Astaire or Sean Connery. I mean the stars up in the heavens. This article will deal with someone known as the 'Ancient Copernicus', Aristarchus of Samos. The next installment will be on Copernicus himself followed by an article on Galileo. What is it that ties all three of these gentlemen together? Heliocentrism!

Heliocentrism is the astronomical model in which the Earth and planets revolve around a stationary Sun which is at the center of the solar system. "What!" you cry. "I know that, I should be a famous astronomer and have my life recorded in one of these articles. I even made a model of the solar system when I was in the 5th grade, after all!" No doubt you are very knowledgeable and clever to attach all those Styrofoam balls and pipe cleaners, but the difference is that you probably built your model in the 1900s; Galileo knew this in the 1600s; Copernicus in the 1500s; and Aristarchus in...get this...250 BC. "So" you say, "Big deal. Everyone knows that". But that wasn't always true. This train of thought was not generally accepted

The Minutes of "Old Builders Lodge #1000"

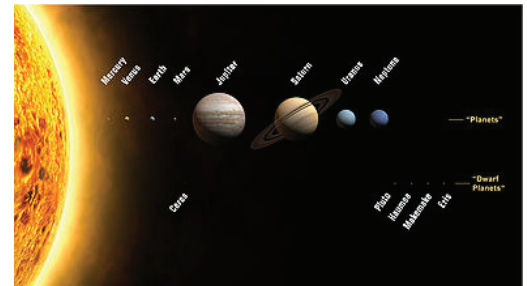
By Bro. George M. A. Macdougall, *Vice Chairman, Board of Regents, MMC*

until 1758, when the Catholic Church dropped the general prohibition of books advocating heliocentrism from the Index of Forbidden Books. That means, if you had this theory in your book, it was forbidden for Catholics to read it! It wasn't until 1822 that Pope Pius VII approved a decree by the Sacred Congregation of the Inquisition to allow the printing of heliocentric books in Rome. Our three gentlemen faced great peril in voicing their beliefs, especially Galileo as we will see. Oh, and by the way, out of you four, only Galileo and you had the advantage of a telescope - and his was about as good as a pair of cheap binoculars today!

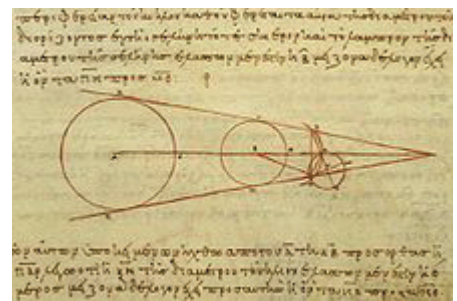
Now, let's think about it. You are standing on the Earth and it sure as heck doesn't look or feel to you like you are moving at all (if it does, you are either very sensitive to movement or should see a doctor). Up comes the sun in the East and travels across the sky and sets in the West. Then the moon comes up, goes across the sky and sets. The stars appear on one horizon, travel across the night sky and disappear at the other horizon. Pretty clear to see that everything rotates around the Earth! This is known as a Geocentric universe. The Geocentric theory placed the Earth at the center of the Universe and everything rotated around it. If your own observation isn't enough for you, the Bible and the Church were also pretty clear on this subject! In the King James Bible there are a number of passages on the subject: Chronicles 16:30 state that "the world also shall be stable, that it be not moved." Psalm 104:5 says, "[the Lord] Who laid the foundations of the earth, that it should not be removed for ever." Ecclesiastes 1:5 states that "The sun also ariseth, and the sun goeth down, and hasteth to his place where he arose." This was the basis for the Church's stand on the subject for close to two thousand years. Now, what could have happened to make someone think not only outside of the box but way outside the known Universe of their time? Not only would this person be going against Religious beliefs of their time but this person would also be up against great scientific thinkers such as Aristotle.

The first person credited with presenting the heliocentric model was Aristarchus. He was a Greek astronomer and mathematician, born on the island of Samos, in Greece in 310 BC. He has been dubbed the 'Ancient Copernicus'. He presented the first known heliocentric model of the solar system, placing the Sun, not the Earth, at the center of the known universe. He was influenced by Philolaus of Croton, who was

a Greek Pythagorean and Presocratic (Fancy word for 'before Socrates') philosopher born in southern Italy about 470 BC. In contrast to Philolaus, Aristarchus identified the "central fire" with the Sun, and put the other planets in their correct order of position around the Sun. Philolaus believed that everything rotated around a central fire including the Sun. Aristarchus was able to make observations and by these observations determine that the moon was much, much smaller than the Earth. He also determined that the Sun was much, much larger than the Earth. His thoughts were that if the Sun were so much larger than the Earth, then the Earth must travel around the Sun! He didn't even have Newton's theories on gravitation and bodies attracting each other to go by like we do today! However, his astronomical ideas were nearly universally rejected in favor of the geocentric theories of Aristotle. The heliocentric theory was pretty much ignored until it was successfully revived nearly 1800 years later by Copernicus and championed by Galileo.



Next we will explore more of why these people were able to determine that their theories were right and convince others. The next topic will be the Heliocentric theories from Copernicus. We will look at what he did and some pitfalls he fell in to. Remember, he was trying to prove these without the aid of a telescope.



Aristarchus's 3rd century BC calculations on the relative sizes of the Earth, Sun and Moon, from a 10th century AD Greek copy. He used eclipses to determine size differences among these three bodies.