



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



## MMC Second Convocation – Second to None

Judging from the comments received at the conclusion of the Second Annual Maine Masonic College Convocation, we are on a roll. The speakers were knowledgeable and insightful, the facilities lent themselves to an easy exchange of views, and the food was proclaimed to be even better than the previous year.

Professor Tina Passman led us through a narrative of the development of the Enlightenment and the Rosicrucians, both of which have had a profound impact on our Fraternity. One had to stay alert to follow the thread of her text and at the same time watch for her Power Point quotations, which served as “side bars” to the larger story. It was a challenging and rewarding experience.

Dr. John S. Nagy wowed the audience with his talks, aided by two wooden staffs and a hula hoop. Few of us imagined how those implements could illustrate the meaning of Masonic ritual, but we soon became believers. Dr. Nagy challenged us to define “vices and superfluities” and then illustrated how little we knew—or had even thought about—the more profound meaning of those words as they are used in our ritual. We hope to have Dr. Nagy return to Maine for an expanded presentation of his ideas.

Our own Dr. Eric Kuntz held the audience spellbound as he demonstrated how familiar we are with signs and symbols—and how little we understand them. He led us down one path after another, only to demonstrate that we need to think more about signs and symbols, especially those associated with Freemasonry. He provoked more than one “Aha!” as he turned on light after light for us.

Major General Robert “Bill” Libby spoke to us after dinner Sunday evening and described some of the challenges that he encountered in leading the Maine National Guard from its role as part of the national strategic reserve to one as a partner of the full-time Active Army. To everyone’s surprise, he was already acquainted with a great number of the Masons at the Convocation and we were treated to a small Maine National Guard reunion.

Bill Case walked us through an explanation of what ritual is and what it can do for us and to us. His talk resulted in more “Aha!” moments and left us wondering why we hadn’t thought more about our Masonic ritual before. His presentation, like the others, stimulated questions and comments from the audience and led to some very interesting exchanges of views.

This year we enjoyed three superb video presentations: One was prepared by Don McDougal and brought real understanding to the passage in our ritual that speaks of “numerous worlds are around us.” We were able to read the text of the Fellowcraft lecture and to observe photographs recently taken from the Hubble telescope. It was mind-blowing. We also were stunned by the excellent videos by Brandy and Ed King, one of which provided illustrations of many of the sights we see every day, not noticing how they illustrate the teachings of Masonry. Their second video encouraged us to find a vision of Freemasonry for ourselves. Compelling!

This year we changed from a Friday-Saturday format to a Sunday-Monday format. I don’t think that we are really happy with either. We shall consider going to a Saturday-Sunday schedule to better accommodate working people. We’d be glad to hear your opinion. You can send an e-mail message to the Maine Masonic College or send your thoughts to [senichols@sacoriver.net](mailto:senichols@sacoriver.net). We have already started planning for Convocation 2012. Before we get too far down the road, let us know what *you* would like to see on the program for next summer.

We should like to see more non-Masons at our Convocations. Not just wives of Masons, although they are most welcome, but firemen, lawyers, dentists, electricians, businessmen. It is a great way for people to learn about Freemasonry. Next year bring your neighbor.

### The Mother of All Mentors

“Well, Al, congratulations on becoming a Master Mason. I think you’re really going to enjoy being a member of this lodge.”

“Thanks, Charlie. I’ll tell you the truth, I’ve really been looking forward to this. I can’t wait to get started on acquiring more light in Masonry. I’m not sure where to begin, but I guess I’ll find out.”

“Sure you will, Al, just ask anybody.”



“Jeez, Charlie, I’ve been a Master Mason for over a year now and I really don’t feel as if I have got a whole lot of light in Masonry since I was raised.”

“What is it you’re looking for, Al?”

“You know, like some explanation of that stuff about ‘from a point to a line, from a line to a superficies, and from a superficies to a solid.’ And that part about ‘numberless worlds are around us;’ What’s that all about? And what’s it got to do with me and Freemasonry?”

“To tell you the truth, Al, I’ve never really understood those parts of the ritual myself. I suppose I could have asked, but no one else seemed to want to talk about it at lodge so I just let it go.”

“In the Maine Mason magazine there was an article recently about mentors in the blue lodges. Do we have any mentors in our lodge?”

“If we do, Al, it must be one of our best kept Masonic secrets. To be perfectly honest, I don’t really know what a mentor is or what he is supposed to do.”

(Cont. on page 2)



## #8 The Minutes of ‘Old Builders Lodge #1000’



Astronomer Copernicus: Conversation with  
God by Matejko

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.

We continue to look to the stars! This issue will tell of Copernicus. If you remember from the last installment of the ‘Minutes’ we were discussing the acceptance of the Heliocentric Theory. The Heliocentric Theory is the astronomical model in which the Earth and planets revolve around a stationary Sun at the center of a solar system. Previously we learned that Galileo knew this in the 1600s; Copernicus in the 1500s; and Aristarchus in 250 BC. We also learned that this train of thought was not generally accepted publically until 1758 and these three gentlemen faced great peril in voicing their beliefs.

Nicolaus Copernicus was born on February 19<sup>th</sup>, 1473, in the city of Toruń in Royal Prussia, which was part of the Kingdom of Poland. Copernicus was a mathematician, astronomer, physician, quadrilingual polyglot, classical scholar, translator, artist, Catholic cleric, jurist, governor, military leader, diplomat and economist. Among his many duties, astronomy figured as little more than an avocation or hobby—yet it was in this field that he made his mark upon the world.

The argument in Copernicus’s time was that if the Earth went around the Sun, then every six months there would be a huge difference in the position of the stars. It was a good argument, but there isn’t much of a noticeable difference. Copernicus sensed that something was wrong with that viewpoint. If one watched the motion of planets, one would see that every once in a while the planets moved in retro grade or moved backwards! If the planets are circling the Earth then why they all of a sudden stop and start moving backwards? To address this, astronomers came up with epicycles in which they theorized that the planets were moving in spirals around the Earth. Copernicus thought there needed to be a simpler solution to this mystery. He sided with heliocentric theory because it gave the simplest answer for all the motions he observed. He 1514, in his manuscript "Commentariolus", he wrote, *Therefore, having become aware of these [defects], I often considered (if) there could perhaps be found a more reasonable arrangement of circles, from which every apparent irregularity would be derived while everything in itself would move uniformly, as is required by the rule of perfect motion.*

Copernicus put forward a number of important assumptions including; 1. There is no one center of all the celestial circles or spheres., 2. The center of the earth is not the center of the universe, but only of gravity and of the lunar sphere., 3. All the spheres revolve about the sun as their mid-point, and therefore the sun is the center of the universe.

About 1532 Copernicus had basically completed his work on the manuscript of *De revolutionibus orbium coelestium*; but despite urging by his closest friends, he resisted openly publishing his views, not wishing, as he confessed, to risk the scorn of the church. However, Pope Clement VII and several other Catholic cardinals heard his lectures and were interested in the theory. On November 1<sup>st</sup>, 1536, Cardinal Nikolaus von Schönberg, Archbishop of Capua, wrote to Copernicus from Rome to report that he had heard much of Copernicus’ new theories and how he was interested in them and encouraged him to communicate them to other scholars. As such, Copernicus “*formulated a new cosmology*”.

In the next installment we will learn more through Galileo and how he brought the wrath of the Catholic Church down upon himself.

By: Brother George M.A. Macdougall

### Mentors (continued from page 1)...

It might seem to many that a Mason would learn a lot about Masonry by simply paying attention to what goes on in his lodge. On the other hand, without some explanation of the basics of Freemasonry, he is likely to be even further perplexed by observing the activities of other lodges that he might visit. Even in lodges noted for their good ritual work, one must concede that it isn’t enough to simply “absorb” knowledge about Freemasonry.

One has to dig for it by reading, watching films and DVDs, discussing it with other Masons who are also searching for more light—and by attending classes presented by the Maine Masonic College. The College can’t provide one-on-one lessons with new Master Masons, but we do offer classes that provide a core of Masonic information based on the seven liberal arts and sciences: Grammar, Rhetoric, Logic, Arithmetic, Geometry, Music, and Astronomy. (We have all heard about these, haven’t we?) There are also classes on leadership, ethics, symbolism, as well as the tenets of Freemasonry and other subjects that are—or should be—of interest to the Brother looking for more light.

Not all Masons are interested in becoming mentors. Indeed, some are not really suited to the task. For those who are, however, whether for their own enlightenment or in the interest of helping others, the Maine Masonic College offers courses—many of them interactive—that can prepare the curious Mason to become a mentor to others. Moreover, our experience has shown that our students are energized by the instruction to learn still more about Freemasonry; and the more one learns about the many elements of Freemasonry, the more effectively he will be able to mentor new Masons. And in so doing, will make us proud parents because in the jurisdiction of Maine, the Maine Masonic College aspires to be the nurturing Mother of All Mentors. - by: Bro Stephen Nichols, Chairman, MMC Board of Regents



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