The Maine Masonic College Newsletter

The ENTABLATURE

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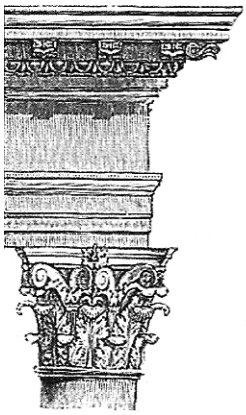

*An **entablature** refers to the superstructure of moldings and bands which lie horizontally above columns, resting on their capitols.*

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!

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4th Masonic College Celebration of the Arts and Sciences focuses on the influence of music

By Fred Whitfield
Marine Lodge #122, Deer Isle

Walter Macdougall, representing the College of Arts and Sciences, opened the event by first giving his remarks about Freemasonry, and second suggesting why celebrating the arts and sciences is so important.

He said, "Philosophically and in symbolic terms, Freemasonry as a fraternal order is concerned with humankind's purposes here on Earth and with the opposition of light vs darkness – the intellectual and emotional building process within the individual and within society vs those ideologies and actions which destroy human progress and positive achievement."

He went on to say "Freemasonry celebrates that which is constructive, creative and compassionate in the affairs of humankind." He said that "It soon became apparent to thinking human beings that the loss of enabling advances in sciences and enriching achievements of the arts was a real and present danger…" (consider the dark ages) and "Each generation must make a choice and commitment in the continual preservation of the arts and sciences."

Our celebration this year was focused on the influence of music in our lives and society. Our lessons were delivered flawlessly by Susanne Nance, formerly of MPBN. She is a wonderful singer who sang so beautifully for us in the afternoon. Susanne is also a musicologist and professor who brought to light the relationship between music and our human experience.

She drew us in immediately when she played a recording of postal workers in Uganda whistling a tune and stamping their rubber stamps to cancel postage with a rhythm that anyone could dance to. It was amazing!

Susanne Nance

She gave us examples of movie themes that grip our emotions. Who can forget the haunting song played at the end of Platoon as the wounded were lifted off in the medivac from the scene of that horrible firefight, or the ehhilarating theme from Star Wars.

Susanne then played some examples of the recordings made for a series called *Music That Moves You* which aired on Public Radio. A gentelman named Craig Campbel had just graduated from school, and his girlfriend's parents took them sailing on an 84-foot boat in the West Indies. It was a trip of a lifetime. He remembers standing at the bow of the boat listening to Enya's *Sail Away* as it broke through the waves. Surrounding him were white puffty-clouds, turquoise water, green islands and flying fish. That song brings him

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#14 The Minutes of "Old Builders Lodge #1000"

Brother George M.A. Macdougall

This is one article in a series on the people who created, discovered or redefined how modern architecture, engineering and science came about.

As we learned last time, our continuing subject probably wasn't a mason, but may have been the model for the calling out of 'Eureka' that is credited to Pythagoras in the ritual. Last time we learned about Archimedes and his Principal involving water displacement. This time we will explore some of the other discoveries he made in his lifetime. Lots of his inventions were to help out his home city of Syracuse. Remember, at the time of Archimedes, cities were their own nation, called city states, pretty much on their own as a government and usually enclosed in walls.

"Give me a place to stand on, and I will move the earth."

One of the ways Archimedes helped his city was to build the ship 'Syracusia', which was the largest vessel of its time and capable of transporting 600 passengers. Since a ship of this size would leak a considerable amount of water through the hull, Archimedes' developed the first 'bilge' pump. This was comprised of a screw shaped blade inside a cylinder. It was turned by hand, and could lift the water out of the bottom of the ship and dump it over the side. It was also used later to transfer water from a low-lying body of water into irrigation canals for watering crops.

The next experiments Archimedes did kept me pretty busy in my 'Statics' class during school at the University of Maine. Statics is the study of forces on a fixed object. (We also had to study forces that acted on moving objects; this course was called 'Dynamics'.) What was it that keeps modern day engineers still busy doing homework from Archimedes' day? It was his experiments and discoveries with the lever or leverage and how he developed pulleys and pulley systems. Although leverage had been known, he worked out the reasons that it worked. He reportedly said, "Give me a place to stand on, and I will move the Earth." He took the concepts of levers and developed pulley systems. These were used by sailors to hoist freight on to ships that would have been far too heavy to lift without the pulleys, what we call block and tackle today.

Another use Archimedes made of leverage was to create the Archimedes Claw. This was a devise to sink enemy ships invading Syracuse. It was basically a very large fishing pole that passed over a fulcrum or pivot point, outfitted with a very large hook. When a ship came in close enough, soldiers would pull one side of the fulcrum down causing the hook side to rise up quickly. The hook then catches on to the ship and flips it over. This action capsized it and caused it to sink. One of the fantastic myths (or is it) about Archimedes is that he burned a fleet of attacking ships in the Syracuse harbor with just mirrors. There have been many doubts about Archimedes weapon of the Death Ray. However in 2005 the Death Ray was proved and tested by a University class (MIT). Using over one hundred mirrors they made a dummy profile of a ship with 5 inch thick wood which ignited after focusing all the mirrors to a specific point on the ship. This experiment was then carried out again on a real boat in the water with the help of the television show 'mythbusters'. They proved Archimedes death ray was no longer a theory but a definite possibility that this 'death ray' tactic was used effectively against the roman ships in Syracuse.

* * *

Even his death is shrouded in myth. Some say he was slain by an invader who was under orders to spare Archimedes but made a mistake of his identity. The fantastic part of the story was that Archimedes asked him to wait until he finished the calculation he was working on and supposedly the soldier did!

I thought this would be the last article on Archimedes but it looks like we will need another article just to show his contribution to the world with Integral Calculus.