



# Maine Masonic College Board of Regents Meeting

September 30, 2007

The Board of Regents met at Central lodge #45 in China, Maine with the following present: Richard Bowden, Edward King, Kern Kelley, George Macdougall, Walter Macdougall, Don McDougal, Charles Plummer, David Richardson, A. James Ross, and Stephen Nichols presiding. The Chairman instructed the Secretary to note that the meeting was started promptly (just like last month!) so the Navy Senior Chief received the order from the Army General and it is duly recorded that Mickey's little hand was on the 9 and Mickey's big hand was on the 12.

The minutes of the preceding meeting were reviewed and approved without correction. Bros. Kuntz and Wing had sent regrets they were unable to attend today's meeting.

Steve began with a discussion of Freemasonry and the Enlightenment and others added comments about these connections with a mention included of Margaret Jacob's work in this area. Perennial problem-child, Ed, took exception noting that a self-styled "renowned Masonic historian" (now expelled from Freemasonry, with no recognitions whatsoever for his historical works, and not even a member of his state's Lodge of Research) had been quite hot on this particular topic. Ed commented that while Professor Jacob's works were groundbreaking, they apply much more to Continental Freemasonry, especially French Freemasonry, and that the Enlightenment was a much more broad movement. He noted that the French experience of Freemasonry was quite different than that of the United States. Ignoring rolling eyeballs and yawns, Ed further elaborated on things like the French Revolution, Boston Tea Party and the Masonic Membership of Voltaire. He summarized saying that he felt FAR too much was made of Freemasonry's attachment to the Enlightenment. Charlie added that we as Masons often try to tie things to Freemasonry which have only a tenuous connection at best and that the Enlightenment was a world-wide Movement affecting everyone, not precipitated by Masons nor stifled by them.

This, of course, moved us naturally towards a prime topic at most meetings: where are we going and what should we be doing to get there faster? Discussion was similar to many held in the past. We reviewed material comparing Regent/Regent family attendance versus that of others. While we had been of the belief that the greater portion of attendance was from our own, the numbers show that we're about even with non-Regents seeming to gain an edge the further we move along. We also reviewed a cost accounting for courses completed during this College year and we looked at the evaluations for Christian Ratliff's course. Interspaced throughout were comparisons, suggestions, ideas, and thoughts, all of which were designed to determine – as Charlie said – what we are doing not that's good and what we should be doing better that we're not doing.

While talking about what the Craft needed and wanted, we also philosophized about what the Craft really had time to commit to. With so many other pressures on time (work, family, lodge, etc.), shoe-horning in 'education' becomes quite problematic.

We moved to the details of our upcoming courses. It was reported that Roch LeBlanc had moved back to Canada but Walter suggested that there might be an option on doing a course based on a

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book titled “Vitruvius: The Ten Books on Architecture” (Dover Press - ISBN-13: 978-0486206455 \$8.76 from Amazon.).

The subject of preparing a course for the Masonic Ambassadors suggested by the Grand Master was then broached. Ed distributed a background paper on this. There were many questions raised: What do they (or the GM) want? What do they need? We discussed the problems of the College trying to present material for a group of people under a program that was begun (and apparently abandoned) by the Scottish Rite including what responsibilities we’d be taking on if we were to do this. There were certainly strong feelings that we could be of help in preparing the Craft for the upcoming National Treasure II movie and Dan Brown’s book supposedly to follow shortly thereafter. The group’s multiple mini-discussions lapped into a de facto break. Following this, the Chairman summarized the discussion in his group which was that we really need to create a curriculum which can be followed. This led on to the need to create a College Handbook.

We discussed what successful practices good Public Relations people use as we tried to wrap our minds around the training needs for disparate groups.

The Chairman then brought us to the discussion of Reggie Wing’s book. After considerable discussion and some angst, it was moved, seconded and passed that we express to Reggie our understanding and appreciation of the effort he made and appreciate it greatly. However, while we admire those efforts, we do not feel we are in a position to publish.

Discussion returned to basic curriculum and creation of a booklet. There was also discussion of creating a survey for distribution in the Maine Mason magazine plus an e-mail survey. An ad-hoc committee consisting of Bros. Nichols, Richardson, Bowden and Ross was formed to consider this.

Although, as usual, we’d barely scratched the surface, several members were committed to events and were forced to depart at noon while others stayed for some great pizza <YUM!>. The Secretary was observed leaving with more than one of the delicious desert jelly bismarks in his briefcase – as if he needed them....

Respectfully submitted,

*Edward L. King*

Secretary, Board of Regents, Maine Masonic College