

**Objectives
of the PMA**

- To promote, develop and disseminate topics of interest to Freemasons in the Hamilton Districts;
- To foster and maintain social contact among Association members;
- To continue the growth and maintenance of our vibrant organization which has been in existence since 1902.

Did You Know?

Thirty-nine states offer at least one style of specialty license plates related to Freemasonry. In thirty-six states the plates are adorned with a Square and Compass logo, with the accompanying caption FREEMASON, MASONIC FAMILY, MASONIC FRATERNITY, MASTER MASON or BLUE LODGE on the plate.

Manitoba, Ontario New Zealand and Western Australia have Masonic plates, too. Mississippi has an Elvis plate and Rhode Is, Mr. Potato Head.

P M eh!

Contributions / comments?
Contact the Editor,
Harley Auty,
at 289-239-9129 or harleyauty1944@gmail.com
Website:
www.pma-abc.ca



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Past Masters' Association of the Hamilton Districts

June 2022 vol. 2.4

THE PAST MASTERS' ASSOCIATION
OF THE HAMILTON DISTRICTS



A Message From The President

Brethren, we come to the end of another successful and productive year for our association. We enjoyed interesting and informative speakers, such as hearing from an insurance broker addressing our coverage needs, some Hamilton history from Warplane Heritage and learning about the whisky



**President
Alexander Mouriopoulos**

runners during prohibition in our city, and finally, a fascinating talk about Masonry and the connection to the Mormon Church.

All this while, and even more importantly, participating in a strategic planning session to set a course for the future of our association, and at the same time reviewing and updating our bylaws. Each of these projects by themselves is a singular accomplishment of which the members should be justly proud.

Now it is time for our Annual General Meeting and Meet the Candidates night. It will be held on Friday, June 10th. Meet and greet at 5:30 pm, Dinner at 6 pm, followed by the candidates introducing themselves individually for two minutes at 7 pm. The meeting will be a hybrid affair with both in person and virtual attendance for those candidates who must travel long distances. Members are also free to choose how they wish to attend. We hope to have a large turnout, especially in person, as we get to meet those who will govern our Craft in the future. Our business meeting and elections will follow the candidates' presentations. Come on out and enjoy the camaraderie by getting out and meeting our masonic brethren again; it has been a long time coming.

I wish to thank all members for their support throughout the year by their attendance to all events, especially the large turnout for our strategic planning session and the important input they provided to the session and in reviewing and updating our bylaws. Special thanks go to Tom Peddle and Michael Martin, of the strategic planning session, and to the bylaw committee, chaired by Alan Hale, for their hard work and dedication to seeing both projects through. The next phase is for the policy and procedure committee to now settle the day-to-day administration operations of the association.

I would also like to express my heartfelt thanks to all Board members for their total and wholehearted support. We worked hard and we had fun, too. They made my year as President so easy and enjoyable, and I could not have done it without them.

My thanks to Harley Auty for putting together a first class newsletter for the association members.

My special thanks to our secretary, Thomas Peddle, who I spent many hours with on the phone discussing association business. We had to deal with a lot of hard work at times, but we also had fun doing it. His guidance, advice and assistance to me was invaluable throughout my year as President.

Wishing everyone a great and enjoyable summer, I look forward to another great year from the association under the leadership of our new President elect, Joseph Barker.

All the best,
Alex

AGM Coming up!

The **Past Masters' Association of the Hamilton Districts** cordially invites you to our Annual General Meeting on **Friday, June 10th, 2022**. The **Agenda** includes the **Presentation of Candidates for Grand Lodge Office**.

Participate either in person at the Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite at 4 Queen Street South in Hamilton starting in the evening with:
Meet & Greet: 5:30 p.m.
Dinner: 6:00 p.m.
Cost is \$30.00.
Meeting: 7:00 p.m.

There will be **no** COVID-19 related restrictions. Masks are optional. Please register in advance for the in-person Dinner/Meeting at

<http://pm-abc.ca/event-reservations/>

You must register for dinner by 11:00 a.m. — Thurs. June 2

Or join us by Zoom video conference for the meeting portion at 7:00 pm.

Please register in advance for this Zoom meeting at

[https://us06web.zoom.us/join/register/tZ0lf-](https://us06web.zoom.us/join/register/tZ0lf-utqjovHNBxWb1AwdfmFdGqd4K1AS6)

[utqjovHNBxWb1AwdfmFdGqd4K1AS6](https://us06web.zoom.us/join/register/tZ0lf-utqjovHNBxWb1AwdfmFdGqd4K1AS6)
You must register for the Zoom meeting by 4:00 p.m. on Friday June 10.

Once registered for the Zoom video conference, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

To respond to any of the above registration procedures please contact our Secretary, Tom Peddle at thomasfpeddle@gmail.com

or (905) 741-0357.

Masonic Education:

The Essential Lessons of The S.W. Lecture in the F.C. Degree

The Junior Warden's lecture, in the first degree, briefly introduced you to the main participants who were responsible for the construction of the First Temple in Jerusalem.

The S.W. Lecture is based on 1 Kings Chapters 5 to 10 and 2 Chronicles Chapters 2 to 4. It describes the construction of Solomon's Temple. The construction of the Temple was the fulfillment of the idea that God could dwell among us and by constructing the Temple it would become the dwelling place of God on Earth. It would also be a gateway to God's dwelling place in Heaven. (Solomon reigned circa 970 to 930 BCE).

Judaism at this time was monotheistic, meaning a belief in one god, and was still a tribal religion and not what it has become today. However, the significance of Solomon's Temple to the Hebrew people at that time, is illustrated by the fact that the details of its construction takes up 8 chapters in the Bible.

According to 1 Chronicles 28; God gave David the detailed plans for the construction of the temple. In the SW lecture it gives all these details – height 18 cubits, circumference 12, et cetera. Following these detailed construction plans was essential because this temple had to be a replica of God's heavenly home.

However, God would not allow David to build a temple to house the holy relic – the Ark of the Covenant (1 Chronicles 28 vs 11 -19) because he was a warrior king and had too much blood on his hands. Solomon, David's son, would build the Temple, on Mount Moriah to house the Ark.

The Ark of the Covenant was exceptionally important because it held the two tablets engraved with the Ten Commandments that God had given to Moses on Mount Sinai over 240 years earlier. The Ark is alleged to have had super powers but it was lost when the Babylonians conquered Jerusalem in 587 B.C.

The lecture informs us that an immense number of workers were employed, in the Temple's construction. It is estimated at about 30,000. The skilled workers were paid in metallic coins (specie) and other workers were paid in food stuffs. Our Ritual states it took seven

years and upward to build the Temple and it was completed and dedicated in the month of Ethan-im, our (September/October). This coordinated with the harvest festival time and is known today as the Jewish Festival of Sukkoth. Once the Ark was placed in the Devir or the hall known as the Holy of Holies, the Temple became the Centre of the Jewish World and like Jacob's ladder was a link for the people of Judah between Heaven and Earth.

Ancient peoples' understanding of astrology and astronomy was very different from ours. Their understanding of the stars and the wonder of day and night is known as Ptolemaic Astronomy. It pictured the world as a large sphere with a double top and bottom. The lower half was filled with soil and rocks and on its surface was where people lived. The upper half was the sky where the sun, moon and stars followed a regular arranged path. It was also the place where the gods lived. Just above the clouds there could be gateways with ladders to the gods, Jacob's ladder being on example. For ancient people to take an airplane ride would have been terrifying for multiple reasons, but a main one would be, that they would encounter the gods.

At the entrance of the temple were 2 pillars. Hiram Abif was the superintendent of the work. In 1 Kings 7 verse 13 it states, "Now King Solomon sent and brought Hiram from Tyre. He was a widow's son from the tribe of Naphtali. 2 Chronicles 2:14 describes Hiram-abi, as a skilled man, endowed with understanding, who knew how to work in gold, silver, bronze, iron, stone and wood, and knew how to make all kinds of engravings and to execute any design which may be assigned to him. He came to work with his fellow skilled men of Tyre and those from Israel, along with slaves and the poor who were forced to work by Solomon's chief overseer, Adoniram.

Hiram cast the two pillars. The pillars were named "Boaz", which meant "In Him is strength" and it stood on the left when entering the Temple and "Jachin" meaning "He will establish" stood on the right. The names given to the two pillars were most likely based on the Hebrew meaning of these names rather than being named specifically after a person, like King David's great grandfather, Boaz. Hiram Abif or Hiram-Abi means Hiram the Mas-

ter. Abi was the Phoenician word for “master” (1 Chronicles 24:17). The pillars were symbolic reminders for the Hebrews of the pillars of cloud and fire that enabled their ancestors to escape from their Egyptian bondage in the time of Moses and Joshua. Even for Jews today the escape from their Egyptian bondage in the time of Moses and Joshua. Even for Jews today the escape from Egypt is very significant and is commemorated at Passover and with every Seder meal.

After our ancient brethren has passed these two great pillars, they ascended a winding stair consisting of groups of steps in sets of 3, 5, 7 or more up to the middle chamber of the temple where they were directed to certain Hebrew characters. Masonic ritual often changes biblical facts to create moral lessons. This Masonic license allows the lecture to create structural changes to the Temple that were not part of the original building or found in the Hebrew Scriptures. The Winding Stairs and the Middle Chamber are examples of these structural changes. The Winding Stairs symbolically represent our journey through life. On the lowest step the highest step is out of sight.

At the beginning of life its outcomes are unknown . The ascent represents the toil and labour of life’s experiences and our acquisition of knowledge. The Winding Staircase is symbolic of the mind going from ignorance to knowledge. The number of steps in the staircase (3, 5, 7) highlight important masonic numbers and their relations to important Masonic people and Masonic orders of architecture. There are many pieces of Masonic education that relate to these numbers, but 3 is a frequent Masonic number—anywhere from the 3 who rule a Lodge to the Holy Trinity, and 7, according to our ritual is the Perfect Number. There are many Biblical references to the power of 7— look in the Book of Revelations.

The Middle Chamber in Solomon’s Temple was called the Hekha. In Masonic Ritual it symbolizes the goal in life. As we ascend the staircase, the goal is out of sight, but as we reach the top of the staircase and enter the Middle Chamber we encounter God and His assessment of our life. Where the winding stairs will lead us and what we will find in the Middle Chamber are essential lessons for each Mason to contemplate.

The answers each Mason discovers will essentially contribute to the kind of person he will become. The fact, that there was no winding stair in Solomon’s Temple and the last hall or the Devir was the Holy of Holies or place where God dwelt not the middle chamber, in no way distracts from the lesson that the Masonic ritual teaches. One of the most important lessons, I have learned in studying Masonic and Biblical texts is “the moral, spiritual and religious values of a story does not depend on its historical, geographical or scientific accuracy” (Stephen J. Mathers A Simple Introduction to Bible Study and Theology). A story may be wrong in terms of one or all three of these criteria and still be a treasured means of teaching truth. Therefore, the Biblical structural facts of Solomon’s Temple are far less important than the meaningful & beautiful lesson the S.W. Lecture teaches .

The last part of the lecture, the Masonic, scholar, R.W. Bro. Charles A. Sankey, (after whom the Sankey lectures are named) , says the lecture is but a skeleton of Masonic truth and needs to have the muscle and flesh added. He provides some of that in a lecture he gave on “The Seven Liberal Arts and Sciences” in 1967. He asks his audience “Without consulting your neighbours see if you can remember what are the seven liberal arts and sciences?” He provided the answer.

“The first of the liberal arts and sciences is Grammar, properly defined as the science which teaches us to express our ideas in appropriate words. Grammar is no mere compendium of rigid rules. It is the format of a living and therefore dynamically changing language.

The second is Rhetoric. Today this word carries with it more than a hint of empty eloquence. But the liberal art and science of Rhetoric is not empty. It beautifies and adorns the words we use, giving them sound and speech.

Third is Logic which instructs us to think and reason with propriety and to make language subordinate to thought. Logic is at once a format for truth.

The first three liberal arts and sciences comprise a trinity to promote right communication between men.

The fourth, fifth and seventh liberal arts and sciences relate to calculations and their applications.

Arithmetic, the fourth, defined as the science of computing numbers. Calculations which would have taken thousands of man hours years ago are being done today in seconds by machines with unthinking but unforgetting memories. (Today we call these machines “computers”). The significant happening, however, lies in the programming of these machines so that they make choices, select preferred paths, and don’t repeat mistakes; Arithmetic is about making wise choices.

The fifth of the liberal arts and sciences, Geometry, is defined as the application of arithmetic to sensible quantities and by means of which we are enabled to measure and survey. In a real sense this is the art and science on which our Masonic order is based, the application of wise choices.

Astronomy, the seventh liberal art and science, is an extension of geometry as a means of contemplation and measurement of the heavenly bodies. Contemplation and themeasurement, in the Masonic sense, take on spiritual application and are represented in a FC Lodge by the letter “G” .”

Music, the sixth of the liberal arts and sciences, is the science and appreciation of harmony and of all good sounds. How badly we need the Attentive Ear as well as the Instructive Tongue!” **

The seven liberal arts and sciences as a “Masonic thing” are a further guide to live by – a life guide. They are a further example of the hidden symbolism that is in plain view and add to the richness of our Ritual.

****The Seven Liberal Arts and Sciences** - Official Visit presentation by R.W. Bro. Charles A. Sankey at St. George’s Lodge No. 15, on December 12, 1967

(Continued on page 4)

R.W. Bro. Sankey says, "The liberal arts and sciences, all seven of them found in the Ritual, invite us to extend our researches into these hidden mysteries, for we will never regret a moment spent in this endeavour in a search of wisdom."

In summary the SW Lecture is :

Based on Hebrew scripture,

Outlines the symbolism of the design and construction of Solomon's Temple,

Starts to add more facts about the master Hiram,

Connects the important Masonic numbers with a major Masonic symbol, the Winding Stairs,

Provides yet another life guide, the "7 liberal arts and sciences",

Tells what the ultimate connection is that is found in the Middle Chamber.

Finally, one of the important aspects of Masonic Education is, as R.W. Bro. Sankey points out, the Ritual is very rich but sometimes it does not go into lengthy explanations about what it may say, so to fully appreciate the many aspects of meaning you have to do some personal research.

Compiled and Written by:

W. Bro. Norman S. Madill

St. Andrew's Lodge #593 A.F. & A.M. of Canada in the Province of Ontario

Strategic Planning Report 2022

Earlier in the year, the Executive and Members of the Board met for a Strategic Planning session, under the leadership of Tom Peddle. The purpose of the meeting was to clarify for us and our members who we are, what we stand for and where we are going. The following notes are the results of our deliberations.

Vision Statement

To be an organization that attracts and retains Past Masters throughout the Hamilton Districts by providing the opportunity to enhance personal development through knowledge and fraternal friendships by providing opportunities for informational exchange and social interaction.

Mission Statement

Our Association will communicate more effectively to the Past Masters of the Hamilton Districts what we can do to support their development through education and friendship.

Core Values

Fraternal Friendship	Knowledge
Support	Harmony

Masonic Trivia

Mickey Mouse was never a Freemason, but he was a member of DeMolay, a Masonic youth organization. Mickey's creator, Walt Disney, was active in DeMolay in his youth and inducted into the DeMolay Legion of Honour. In 1931, Mickey appeared in a series of strips sporting the DeMolay insignia. The strips and individual drawings of Mickey with the insignia were signed by Walt himself. The only organization Mickey was ever identified with in any comic strip was the DeMolay.

Why is a wind blowing due East or West called a "Mason's Wind"?

Legend says that during the construction of the Temple of King Solomon, the craftsmen relished a breeze that blew East or West, as it could pass through the Temple cooling workers as they pursued their labours.

It took over 600,000 red bricks to build Mount Hermon Lodge No. 118 in Ashville, North Carolina. The brass door knobs on the second floor bear the design of a Square and Compass surrounded by a large letter "G". The brass knobs on the third and fourth floor bear the double-eagle design of the Scottish Rite.

When construction began in 1913, it cost the Lodge \$1,042 U.S. to excavate for a basement. It is a good thing the brethren spent that money. The basement is where they installed the recreational bowling alley and pool tables.

- extracted from **Masonic Trivia** (2011) compiled by Peter G. Champion

Masonic Humour.....

A man is walking through the recreation ground of his local park when he notices a huge fight going on in full fury on the football field that he is passing.

"What's going on?" he asks a spectator who was watching from the side lines.

"It's a match between the Masons and the Knights of Columbus," is the reply.

"What is the score?" asks the first man.

"I don't know. It's a secret!"

From the Editor -

Editorial tip of the hat to **Alex Mouriopoulos, Norm Madill and Tom Peddle** for the excellent material submitted.



"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."
- Helen Keller