

Phoenicia Lodge No. 58 F&AM
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The Trestleboard Special Edition – The Masonic Fraternity

Aug 2018



Brethren of Phoenicia Lodge,

In your hands you hold a special edition of our Trestleboard. In operative masonry, the Trestleboard is used by the master architect to draw his designs and plans, which are then used by the laborers to construct the building,

agreeable to the designs laid down for them.

The Masonic fraternity is the oldest, largest and most widely known fraternal organization in the world. Members of the Masonic fraternity come from virtually every occupation and profession, - from all stations in life. All masons meet on an equal basis as friends, regardless of income, political ideology, or religious belief. All are patriotic citizens and all have a belief in a Supreme Being.

Respectfully presented to the members of Phoenicia Lodge No. 58 F&AM,
Bryon P Howe, PM

The World's Oldest And Largest

Masonic Research Society

Article © 2001 Nelson King

The name of the Society is pronounced "fill a (as in a-bate) lay thees" with the accent on the third Syllable -- lay. It is derived from two Greek words, philos and alethes. It means lover of truth.

The Philalethes Society was founded on October 1, 1928, by a group of Masonic students. It was designed for

Freemasons desirous of seeking and spreading Masonic light. In 1946, The Philalethes magazine was established to publish articles by and for its members. For many years it has been voted the best Masonic publication in the world. The sole purpose of this Research Society is to act as a clearing house for Masonic knowledge. It exchanges ideas, researches problems confronting Freemasonry, and passes them along to the Masonic world.

Among the original 40 Fellows were the following Masons.

- Harold V. B. Voorhis
- Rudyard Kipling
- Robert I. Clegg
- Louis Black
- J. Hugo Tatsch
- Charles S. Plumb
- Harry L. Haywood
- Charles C. Hunt

Fellows of the Society have been elected from every country in the free world, proving The Philalethes Society has always been international in scope. There are several advantages of membership in The Philalethes Society:

- Six editions yearly of The Philalethes Magazine
- Fellowship in a Chapter of the Philalethes Society
- An opportunity to win the Certificate of Literature
- Bonus Books
- Participation in the Annual Assembly and Feast
- Correspond with like-minded Master Masons throughout the world
- Find an open door to More Light in Masonry
- Help select recipients for grants
- Eligible for Medal of Excellence
- Develop your leadership abilities to the fullest
- Keep informed about what is happening in the Masonic world
- Association with dedicated Freemasons internationally

Perhaps the most important feature to come from your membership will be the opportunity for self-expression. This will cover many areas, not the least of which will be in speaking and writing. Getting involved with a local Chapter can bring out your leadership qualities. Actually, there is no limit to the heights you can reach as a Member of the Philalethes Society.

Membership is available only to Master Masons in good standing from a Regular Grand Lodge. [Regular being defined as Adhering to the Ancient Charges]

For more information on the organization please visit the [Plilalathes Website](#).

The Old Past Master, Understanding

Carl H. Claudy, 33° A classic Masonic writing offers insights for every age. Illustrious Carl Harry Claudy, 33°, Past Grand Master, 1943, Grand Lodge, District of Columbia

"I have been a Mason for a year now," remarked the Young Brother to the Old Past Master. "While I find a great deal in Masonry to enjoy and like the fellows and all that, I am more or less in the dark as to what good Masonry really is in the world. I don't mean I can't appreciate its charity or its fellowship, but it seems to me that I don't get much out of it. I can't really see why it has any function outside of the relationship we enjoy in the Lodge and the charitable acts we do."

"I think I could win an argument about you," smiled the Past Master.

"An argument about me?"

"Yes. You say you have been a Master Mason for a year. I think I could prove to the satisfaction of a jury of your peers, who would not need to be Master Masons, that while you are a Lodge member in good standing, you are not a Master Mason."

"I don't think I quite understand," puzzled the Young Mason. "I was quite surely initiated, passed, and raised. I have my certificate and my good standing card. I attend Lodge regularly. I do what work I am assigned. If that isn't being a Master Mason, what is?"

"You have the body but not the spirit," retorted the Old Past Master. "You eat the husks and disregard the kernel. You know the ritual and fail to understand its meaning. You carry the documents, but for you they attest but an empty form. You do not understand the first underlying principle, which makes Masonry the great force she is. And yet, in spite of it, you enjoy her blessings, which is one of her miracles. A man may love and profit by what he does not comprehend."

"I just don't understand you at all. I am sure I am a good Mason."

"No man is a good Mason who thinks the Fraternity has no function beyond pleasant association in the Lodge and charity. There are thousands of Masons who seldom see the inside of a Lodge and, therefore, miss the fellowship. There are thousands who never need or support her charity and so never come in contact with one of its many features. Yet these may take freely and largely from the treasure house which is Masonry."

"Masonry, my young friend, is an opportunity. It gives a man a chance to do and to be, among the world of men,

something he otherwise could not attain. No man kneels at the altar of Masonry and rises again the same man. At the altar something is taken from him never to return—his feelings of living for himself alone. Be he ever so selfish, ever so self-centered, ever so much an individualist, at the altar he leaves behind him some of the dross of his purely profane make-up.

"No man kneels at the altar of Masonry and rises the same man because, in the place where the dross and selfish where, is put a little of the most Divine spark which men may see. Where was the self-interest is put an interest in others. Where was the egotism is put love for one's fellow man. You say that the 'Fraternity has no function.' Man, the Fraternity performs the greatest function of any institution at work among men in that it provides a common meeting ground where all of us—be our creed, our social position, our wealth, our ideas, our station in life what they may—may meet and understand one another.

"What caused the Civil War? Failure of one people to understand another and an inequality of men which this country could not endure. What caused the Great War? Class hatred. What is the greatest leveler of class in the world? Masonry. Where is the only place in which a capitalist and laborer, socialist and democrat, fundamentalist and modernist, Jew and Gentile, sophisticated and simple alike meet and forget their differences? In a Masonic

Lodge, through the influence of Masonry. "Masonry, which opens her portals to men because they are men, not because they are wealthy or wise or foolish or great or small but because they seek the brotherhood which only she can give.

"Masonry has no function? Why, son, the function of charity, great as it is, is the least of the things Masonry does. The fellowship in the Lodge, beautiful as it is, is at best not much more than one can get in any good club, association, or organization. These are the beauties of Masonry, but they are also beauties of other organizations. The great fundamental beauty of Masonry is all her own. She, and only she, stretches a kindly and loving hand around the world, uniting millions in a bond too strong for breaking. Time has demonstrated that Masonry is too strong for war, too strong for hate, too strong for jealousy and fear. The worst of men have used the strongest of means and have but pushed Masonry to one side for the moment; not all their efforts have broken her, or ever will!

"Masonry gives us all a chance to do and to be; to do a little, however humble the part, in making the world better; to be a little larger, a little fuller in our lives, a little nearer to the G.A.O.T.U. And unless a man understands this, believes it, takes it to his heart, and lives it in his daily life, and strives to show it forth to others in his every act—unless he live and love and labor in his Masonry—I say he is no

Master Mason; aye, though he belong to all Rites and carry all cards, though he be hung as a Christmas tree with jewels and pins, though he be an officer in all Bodies. But the man who has it in his heart and sees in Masonry the chance to be in reality what he has sworn he would be, a brother to his fellow Masons, is a Master Mason though he be raised but tonight, belongs to nobody but his Blue Lodge, and be too poor to buy and wear a single pin."

The Young Brother, looking down, unfastened the emblem from his coat lapel and handed it to the Old Past Master. "Of course, you are right," he said, lowly. "Here is my pin. Don't give it back to me until you think I am worthy to wear it."

The Old Past Master smiled. "I think you would better put it back now," he answered gently. "None are more fit to wear the Square and Compasses than those who know themselves unworthy, for they are those who strive to be real Masons."

III. Carl H. Claudy, P.G.M., 33°, wrote the above essay in 1924. One of America's most noteworthy Masonic authors, Most Worshipful Claudy was the Executive Secretary of the Masonic Service Association from 1929 to 1957. He was raised in Harmony Lodge No. 17, Washington, D.C., in 1908, serving as Master in 1932 and Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia in 1943. Before his passing

on May 27, 1957, he wrote many "Short Talk Bulletins", essays, and plays, among them The Lion's Paw, The Master's Book, and The Rose Upon the Altar.

What "fraternity" means to me as a Freemason

by Thomas A. Burke

When I hear the word "fraternity" I immediately think of my lodge. I am a member of Phoenicia Lodge #58, and it is in this lodge that I believe all things are fraternal in nature. In this fraternity, we refer to each other as brothers, reinforcing our special bond to each other. We are a group of men who come together to associate and communicate in a masonic manner. However, we come from all different walks of life, with different backgrounds and belief systems. How can we be brothers and communicate as such? What does this mean?

As freemasons, our communications are conducted within a lodge meeting. Phoenicia Lodge #58 holds regular Stated Meetings on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, starting at 7PM. On those days, brothers of the lodge as well as visitors are welcome to arrive at 6PM to share dinner and socialize before the meeting. Within the scope of a Stated Meeting, the business of the lodge is conducted following a specific format

known as masonic communication. Lodges may also hold Special Meetings for specific reasons such as conferring a masonic degree.

Beyond communication is the true fraternal nature of a masonic lodge. We as brothers share our bond of freemasonry in all aspects of our lives. We work together to do good in our communities, such as providing incentives for school achievement, or helping to beautify a school's playground. We might raise funds to donate to charities such as the Shriner's hospitals. For fun, we might get together to go bowling, or host an event such as a formal dinner where our family members can participate. As brothers, we support each other in our programs, our work, and our lives. Regardless of our specific circumstances, we are brothers who meet together and treat each other as equals.

My brothers in Phoenicia Lodge #58 are my masonic family. Brothers in every sense of the word, we are obligated to act a certain way and treat each other with brotherly love, respect, and compassion. We have a shared history, a shared knowledge, and shared goals. It is a wonderful thing to know that my chosen path in life is filled with brothers who know me, and who are always willing to lend a hand to help me, or provide guidance when I seek it. In turn, I do the same, so that I reinforce the

bonds of our fraternity. In this way, the masonic promise of taking in good men and making them better men is truly fulfilled. This is what fraternity means to me; I am a brother to these men, and they are my brothers.

my mentor

A short poem that I believe relates well to Masonry. Joe P.

My guide and I came onto that hidden road
To make our way back into the bright world;
And with no care for any rest, we climbed –
He first, I following – until I saw,
Through a round opening, some of those things
Of beauty heaven bears. It was from there
That we emerged, to see - once more –
the stars.