



THE LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES IN FREEMASONRY

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PURPOSE

Most lodges suffer from a problem when it comes to education: either it is focused on pure ritual performance, or the learning of catechisms, the ring-pas-not for admission to the next degree.

Even jurisdictions with a comprehensive educational system tend to focus on ritual excellence, masonic protocol, history (most often what I term “famous dead masons” talks) and management skills (“how to run your lodge”).

All useful, no doubt, but none of these really focus on the core purpose of freemasonry.



No secrets in freemasonry



THE THREE DEGREES

The First – initiation

- The status
- The welcome into freemasonry



THE THREE DEGREES

The Third – raising

- A later addition
- Recognition of *primus inter pares*



THE THREE DEGREES

The Second – passing

- The sublime teachings of the craft
- The acquisition of knowledge
- Quest for enlightenment



MYSTERIES

... Something that is not understood or known about



MYSTERIES

... SOMETHING THAT IS NOT
UNDERSTOOD OR KNOWN ABOUT

The arts and sciences as a means
towards *development*:

- Moral
- Intellectual
- spiritual

Experimental, and Intellectual



OPERATIVE AND SPECULATIVE

By **Operative masonry**, we allude to the proper application of the useful rules of architecture, whence a structure will derive figure, strength and beauty;

and whence will result a due proportion and a just correspondence in all its parts

... It demonstrates that a fund of science and industry is implanted in man, for the best, most salutary, and beneficial purposes.

Duncan's masonic ritual and monitor
1986, New York, Crown Publishers. Pp 72-73



OPERATIVE AND SPECULATIVE

By **Speculative** masonry, we learn to subdue the passions, act upon the square, keep a tongue of good report, maintain secrecy, and practice charity.

It leads the contemplative to view with reverence and admiration the glorious works of creation, and inspires him with the most exalted ideas of the perfections of his divine creator.

Duncan's masonic ritual and monitor
1986, New York, Crown Publishers. Pp 72-73



Our ancient brethren worked at both operative and speculative masonry;

they worked at the building of king Solomon's temple, besides numerous other masonic edifices.

Duncan's masonic ritual and monitor
1986, New York, Crown Publishers. Pp 72-73



... but as we are not all
operative masons,
but rather free and accepted or
speculative



THE LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES

What about the
Il-liberal arts and sciences?



LIBERAL AND ILLIBERAL ARTS

Aristotle

- the liberal arts make people free, or anyway contribute powerfully to their freedom.
- It trains people to think independently.

- A slave is fundamentally a person who has been turned into a tool, an instrument.
- A slave is therefore not trained to think independently, to collaborate in deciding what matters, to debate values and aims, to shape policy and action.



it makes much difference what
object one has in view in a pursuit
or study



THE SEVEN LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES

Grammar, Rhetoric, Logic,
Arithmetic, Geometry, Music,
Astronomy



GRAMMAR

RHETORIC

LOGIC

ARITHMETIC

GEOMETRY

MUSIC

ASTRONOMY

The set of rules underlying the use of a language



GRAMMAR
RHETORIC
LOGIC
ARITHMETIC
GEOMETRY
MUSIC
ASTRONOMY

The theory and practice of persuasion in spoken and written discourse.



GRAMMAR
RHETORIC
LOGIC
ARITHMETIC
GEOMETRY
MUSIC
ASTRONOMY

The science that deals with the principles and criteria of validity of inference and demonstration

The science of the formal principles of reasoning



GRAMMAR
RHETORIC
LOGIC
ARITHMETIC
GEOMETRY
MUSIC
ASTRONOMY

The branch of mathematics that deals usually with the non-negative real numbers including sometimes the transfinite cardinals and with the application of the operations of addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division to them.

A long-winded way of saying, the number theory



GRAMMAR
RHETORIC
LOGIC
ARITHMETIC
GEOMETRY
MUSIC
ASTRONOMY

The branch of mathematics that deals with the measurement, properties, and relationships of points, lines, angles, surfaces, and solids.



GRAMMAR
RHETORIC
LOGIC
ARITHMETIC
GEOMETRY
MUSIC
ASTRONOMY

Music teaches the art of forming concords, so as to compose delightful harmony, by a proportional arrangement of acute, grave, and mixed sounds.



GRAMMAR
RHETORIC
LOGIC
ARITHMETIC
GEOMETRY
MUSIC
ASTRONOMY

That art by which we are taught to read the wonderful works of the almighty creator in those sacred pages, the celestial hemisphere.

Assisted by astronomy we observe the motions, measure the distances, comprehend the magnitudes, and calculate the periods and eclipses, of the heavenly bodies.



That's all Folks!