

Our Composite Brethren

Brethren we are just over halfway up our staircase having touched upon the 8th step and final order of Architecture, namely the Composite. Taken at its basest definition which is “made of up disparate or separate parts or elements” we can easily see how this order got its name since it is made of elements from the Ionic, Doric Tuscan and Corinthian orders. Being of Roman design it was used primarily to mark triumphal arches. Having assigned each of the preceding orders a place in the lodge representing the craft or one of our three stationed officers, I now do the same for the Composite. After much introspection to define this role, it is my personal opinion that the Composite order best represents our Past Masters. Being symbolic of triumph, it alludes to the culmination of years of dedication to the lodge and the craft. Our Past Masters are thus composite individuals composed of many different parts/skills required to successfully run the lodge from the East.

The final sense of human nature to be covered before we make our ascent to the next step is that of smelling. I recently read that this sense is most strongly associated with evoking emotion and memory, more so than any other sense. Anatomically, this is due to the olfactory bulb having what could be classified as a “direct connection” to the brain areas dealing with emotion and memory being part of the limbic system. Even visual stimuli are not as effective in bringing up memories. Maybe this means we need to start including incense, perfumes or candles during our ritual, classes and practicing our catechisms, or would that be making too many scents? Maybe we should just rely on the memories of all the great meals we share in the dining room and allow the scents of homemade desserts to stir the memory and emotion of shared fellowship during those times.

Next month we discuss grammar, so I leave you with this thought...

The past, present and future walk into a bar. It was tense.....Ok, one more...
8 vowels, 11 consonants an exclamation mark and a comma appeared in court today. They are due to be sentenced next week.



‘The Winding Staircase - A 15 step path to improving yourself in Masonry’

By: Michael J. Caro, LEO, Tuckahoe Lodge No. 347