

Fiat Lux—Volume One Edited by Jack Buta

After joining the Philalethes Society, I received this book, which is a collection of articles by various members of the society. Printed in 2009, it contains articles published in the Philalethes journal spanning the years 1956 to 1986. These are all authors who won the Certificate of Literature of the Philalethes Society.

The articles are on a wide range of subjects. Some are of more interest to Masons in specific geographical locations. Some are papers espousing definitions of words used in Masonic ritual (e.g., “*What is Law?*”; “*Oaths, Vows, and Obligations*”; and “*The soul of Freemasonry*”). Some are historical like “*Josephus: The Great Jewish Historian*”, which is a good introduction to the works of Josephus. “*Physicists, the Royal Society, and Freemasonry*” is an interesting article if you’ve not read Robert Lomas’s book “*The Invisible College*”. “*How A Cathedral Was Built*” describes the realistic work and working conditions of medieval operative masons. There is an article on our esteemed architect brother “*Sir Christopher Wren*”. Referring to several masonic allusions in Shakespeare’s play, the question is asked “*Did Shakespeare Create Masonic ritual?*”. There are a number of Lodges throughout the world named after or connected with St. Alban, and this is investigated in “*Why St. Alban?*”.

But the article which I found the most interesting, not only dealt with history, but the fundamental principles of Masonic brotherhood, with many examples quoted. In this sixty page article called “*Masonry under Two Flags*”, the author Allen E. Roberts, writes about Freemasonry during the American Civil War. He starts off telling about Freemasons’ attempts to prevent the war, then takes us through the whole war, right across the continent, citing examples of Masons, both officers and men, helping Masons on the opposite side when able to do so, and saving their lives. It tells of times when Masons’ homes were saved from looting and burning when it was discovered that a Mason lived there, of Masonic halls saved when town buildings were razed to the ground around them. There are references to men who became Masons after having seen what Masons did for each other, friend and enemy alike.

There is something for everyone here. The contents can be found at this link:
http://freemasonry.org/fiat_lux.php