

THE MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND LODGE OF ANCIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS

OF THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT

POLICY AND PROCEDURES MANUAL

TABLE LODGE

Applicability and Responsibility

Every Connecticut Lodge is encouraged to participate in a Table Lodge each year, whether hosted by themselves or in conjunction with another Lodge.

Responsibility for maintaining this document rests with the Committee on Ritual and Ceremonies, with the approval of the Grand Master.

References

Section 3407. Special Communications, Where Held.

Special Communications must be held at the Lodge room, or some other place which has been previously authorized by a Grand Master's Dispensation. Table Lodges may be held in the Lodge banquet facility without a Grand Master's Dispensation provided that the banquet facility can be properly tiled.

Section 7002. Method of Opening Lodges

..... Where a special or stated communication is called for the purpose of conducting a Table Lodge, the Lodge may open and close on the Entered Apprentice degree in the banquet hall or other facility where the Table Lodge is conducted provided the charter of the Lodge is present and all other requirements of a regular Lodge are met.

Discussion

THE TABLE LODGE – A RICH HERITAGE

Adieu; a heart-warm, fond adieu;
Dear brothers of the mystic tie,
Ye favor'd, ye enlighten'd few,
Companions of my social joy!
Though I to foreign lands must hie,
Pursuing fortune's slidd'ry ba',*
With melting heart, and brimful eye
I'll mind you still though far awa'.

Oft have I met your social band,
And spent the cheerful festive night;
Of, honour'd with supreme command,
Presided o'er the sons of light;
And by that hieroglyphic bright,
Which none but Craftsmen ever saw!

Strong Mem'ry on my heart shall write
Those happy scenes, when far awa'.

Robert Burns' Masonic Farewell

* Slidd'ry ba' = slippery ball

Traditionally, Freemasonry has two great festivals, the Feast of St. John the Baptist (June 24) and the Feast of St. John the Evangelist (December 27). Of these Masonic Feasts much has been written, but to little account. The two Feasts, coming at the time of the summer and winter solstices, are of course older than Christianity, being reminiscences of the old Light Religion, in which Masonry had its origin.

Connecticut Masons are perhaps more cognizant of the Feast of St. John the Baptist, since it has been their prevailing custom to attend, as a Lodge, a divine church service on the Sunday nearest the date of the summer festival.

The observance of the Feast of St. John the Evangelist, is one of the noble old traditions of our Craft that has been allowed to fall into disuse in the Twentieth Century. In the belief that this festive occasion can be revived to the enlightenment and pleasure of the Brethren, the ritualistic observance and the suggested program for the Festive Board which follow have been prepared.

The earliest "ritual" of the French Table Lodge was long and elaborate. In a modified form a similar ceremony was then used in England. The ceremony suggested for use in Connecticut Lodges is abbreviated and simplified, but retains all the significance of former times.

The Table Lodge is no mere banquet with entertainment; it is a special Lodge ceremony in itself, with a ritual, formalities and a special terminology which is of some interest. Particular care should be taken, therefore, to see that the observance is conducted in the proper spirit of the occasion with the utmost dignity and decorum.

WHEN TO OBSERVE - The winter festival long was a favorite time for installation of officers; but it is not recommended that installation be combined with a Table Lodge observance. Each is a distinct ceremony within itself, and each is filled with meaning. To attempt to crowd both into one evening would greatly prolong the program and detract from the enjoyment of each.

Procedure

ADVANCE PREPARATIONS

A TILED LODGE - It must be remembered that a Table Lodge is a tiled Lodge open on the Entered Apprentice Degree, authorized by the Grand Master for a specific time, place and occasion. Thus, arrangements should be made for proper tiling of the dining room throughout the Table Lodge observance. Any invited guests must be Masons, and the membership of any visiting Brethren should be verified. For a Table Lodge observance, it is not necessary that the charter of the Lodge be moved to the dining room.

A dispensation from the Grand Lodge is required if the Table Lodge Ceremony will be held outside of the Lodge Building.

The Table Lodge is a Lodge of Entered Apprentices to enable the Entered Apprentice and Fellowcraft to benefit by table instruction and to enjoy Masonic fellowship early in his Masonic life. Also, it was an old custom that the initiates served during the Hour of Refreshment.

All the Brethren should be clothed as Entered Apprentices, and none should wear the uniform or regalia of any other organization.

Note particularly that a special ritualistic ceremony for opening and closing a Table Lodge is provided. At the appropriate time the Master opens a Table Lodge, using the brief ritual which is included herein. Immediately following the singing of "Auld Lang Syne", the Table Lodge is closed.

The Library of the Grand Lodge of Iowa possesses a "Ritual for Table Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons," translated and adapted from an old French ritual in possession of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts. The ceremonies of opening and closing, and of the Seven Toasts, have been abbreviated and adapted to use for Connecticut Lodges.

TABLE LODGE MANNERS - Our Brethren need not be reminded, we trust, that they should appear at the Festive Board attired in a manner that will reflect their respect for their Lodge and for Freemasonry. One reminder perhaps should be emphasized on the printed program, or by announcement of the Master, or both: The Brethren always refrain from smoking while the Table Lodge is open.

ARRANGING THE DINING ROOM - In arranging the dining room for a Table Lodge, follow closely the diagram shown elsewhere in this booklet (page 11). Arrange the tables in elongated horseshoe pattern if at all possible, with the speakers table representing the East. The Brethren should be seated on the outer rim of the horseshoe, with the Altar in the center. Try to avoid seating the Brethren along the inner rim if at all possible. If the size of the group in attendance will not permit the traditional arrangement, then set tables for the Brethren at right angles to the speakers' table, leaving ample room for the Altar immediately in front of the Master's chair. Do not crowd the Altar - give it a position of honor in the Lodge.

ENTERTAINMENT - The ritual for a Table Lodge does not offer an opportunity for any type of secular entertainment. It is not an occasion for comedians, nor magicians, nor vaudeville artists, nor tap dancers. Music during the dinner is to be encouraged, but it should be appropriate to the occasion, and it must be provided by Masons.

SINGING THE ODES - Freemasons traditionally were known for their singing. They sang a great deal, and they enjoyed it. Regrettably, singing among the Craft also has fallen into disuse, but many of the fine old Masonic odes have been handed down to us. The Table Lodge provides an excellent opportunity for the custom to be revived. The help of some Brethren who are good singers should be enlisted. They should be made familiar with the odes, all of which are set to well known tunes. If possible, secure a Mason who is a good pianist to be accompanist. If the Lodge has a choir, the effect can be especially impressive.

SPEAKER - The success of a Masonic festival depends to a great extent upon the quality of the Brother who delivers the address. Bear in mind four important points: (1) The address should be limited to no more than 20 minutes, (2) it should be inspirational in tone, (3) vulgarity and suggestive stories should never be permitted, (4) any type of subject matter not appropriate to the occasion should be avoided. Insist that the address be strictly Masonic. The Festive Board of Freemasonry is not a time for talking up a pet movement, nor for selling a project, nor for

solicitation of funds. Denunciations are out of place, and certainly there should be no discussions with sectarian or political overtones, however cleverly concealed they may be.

THE GRAND MASTER'S MESSAGE - The message from the Grand Master should be one of the highlights of the occasion. If the Grand Master is not in attendance at the Table Lodge, select a Brother who is an effective reader to present the message. Take particular pains to see that the Brethren are able to hear both the speaker's address and the Grand Master's message. Permit no interruptions, no conversation or clatter of dishes in the kitchen while the Table Lodge is in progress.

THE TRADITIONAL TOASTS - The Ceremony of the Seven Toasts should be the high point of the evening's fellowship. Alcoholic beverages may be used at a Masonic banquet in Connecticut. If the Lodge prefers, instead of an alcoholic beverage, a good fruit punch may be used, especially a hot spiced punch. Several recipes for such a preparation are included in this booklet. When an alcoholic beverage is provided an alternate of nonalcoholic nature shall be provided for those whose preference is such. The recommended plan is to have 1½ oz. beverage glasses with the table setting, and leave them at each place when the tables are cleared. At the proper time, Entered Apprentices, Fellowcrafts and newly raised Master Masons may retire, bring in the beverage, fill the glasses, and then take their places at the table. It is helpful if a Brother who is familiar with the practice of drinking Masonic toasts can give a few words of instruction prior to the ceremony. Above all, the Master should not permit levity nor burlesque during such a solemn rite.

REHEARSALS - For best results, some rehearsal by the officers of the Lodge in advance of a Table Lodge festival is recommended in order that there shall be no confusion. The rehearsal should include the rituals of opening and closing, and the Ceremony of the Seven Toasts, described in the paragraphs which follow. A successful Table Lodge ceremony can not be held unless the plan is thoroughly understood and carried out with precision. If the officers are familiar with it, others will quickly conform.

THE TRADITIONAL TOASTS

INTERESTING BACKGROUND - Traditionally, the ceremony of the Toasts makes use of a fascinating nomenclature. The moment the Table Lodge is opened, everything in the dining room assumes a name of a martial nature. Thus, glasses become cannons, the beverage becomes powder, bread is rough ashlar, food - materials, knives - swords, etc. Military commands are given when executing the toasts.

For example, when the "cannons" are "charged" the Master conducts the toast using the terms "Right Hand to arms . . . Ready . . . Aim . . . Fire. Good Fire. Fire All! . . . Present Arms" etc.

It is emphasized that the meal should be incorporated into and become a part of the Table Lodge. The entire proceeding must be conducted within the confines of tiled quarters. If the room where the food is to be served is such that it cannot be properly tiled, then the meal must be served prior to Table Lodge. It is, however, urged that effort be made to combine the meal with the Table Lodge since this is traditional and should make the whole occasion more meaningful and hence more enjoyable.

The traditional toasts are seven in number and may be interspersed with the courses of the meal at the discretion of the Master. The following is a suggestion:

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 st Toast | During explanation |
| 2 nd Toast | After completion of First Course |
| 3 rd Toast | After Main Course served to all |

4 th Toast	After completion of Main Course
5 th Toast	After Dessert
6 th Toast	After recognition of visitors
7 th Toast	After Speaker

The Seven traditional toasts usually include the following combination and in the order given:

1. To our Country (always given by the W.M.)
2. * To the Holy Saints John
3. * To the Memory of our Departed Brethren
4. * To the Grand Master
5. To Lodge (always given by J.W.)
6. To our Visiting Brethren (always given by S.W.)
7. To all Freemasons Wheresoever Dispersed (always given by the Tiler)

*May be given by any Brother designated by the Master.

TOASTS THAT MAY AND MUST BE USED - Two toasts are always used on all occasions: The Toast to Our Country and the Tiler's Toast (To All Freemasons Wheresoever Dispersed). On proper occasions, other toasts may be substituted for one or more of the seven listed above, such as: To the President of the United States, to our Brethren in the Armed Forces of the United States, to the Initiates, to the Past Masters, to the Founders of Our Lodge, to the Masonic Health Care Facilities and our Guests therein, to our Ancient Craft, to the Memory of the Illustrious Three, and many others.

RESPONSES - Oftentimes, brief and appropriate responses are given to the toasts. It is not recommended that only printed responses be included in the program.

TRADITIONAL VOCABULARY OF TABLE LODGE
(From early ritual of French Table Lodge)

<u>Present Day</u>	<u>Early Day</u>		
Tablecloth-	Standard	Meals -	Materials
Napkins-	Flags	Bread -	Rough Ashlar
Table -	Tracing Board	Red wine -	Strong red powder
Dishes -	Great Plates	White-	Strong white powder
Plates -	Tiles	Water -	Weak powder
Spoons-	Trowels	Beer -	Yellow powder
Knives -	Swords	Liqueurs -	Fulminating powder
Forks -	Pickaxes	Coffee -	Black powder
Bottles -	Casks	Salt -	White sand
Glasses-	Cannons	Pepper -	Cement
Lights -	Stars	To eat -	To masticate
Snuffers -	Pincers	To drink -	To fire
Chairs -	Stalls	To carve -	To hew

HOW TO CONDUCT THE CEREMONY - The traditional manner of conducting the ceremony of the seven toasts is as follows:

When the time comes to propose the first toast, the Master calls the Brethren to order:

WORSHIPFUL MASTER: - Brethren in the Columns of the North and South, in all your grades and stations, charge and align your arms for the First Toast of Obligation which is about to be proposed.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER: Are the Cannons charged and aligned.

(Worshipful Master: Rises, raps three times - all rise.)

WORSHIPFUL MASTER: Brethren, I have the honor to propose a toast to Our Country: Long may our land be bright with Freedom's holy light; Protect us by Thy might, Great God our King!

WORSHIPFUL MASTER:

Right hand to arms - The right hand touches the glass

Ready - The glass is raised, the arm extended to the height of the breast.

Aim - The glass is brought to the lips

Fire, Good Fire, Fire all! - All drink

Present arms - The glass is brought to the second position, all imitating the W.M. Then the glass is carried to the left breast, then to the right breast, and then again to the second position, so the motion makes a triangle. When this has been done thrice, the glass is brought to the table, in three movements, that is to say, at the first it is carried horizontally a little to the left, then to the right, and then forcibly to the table. The Battery and the acclamation "VIVAT" is given thrice.

Exactly the same procedure is followed in proposing and drinking the remaining toasts.

WHO PARTICIPATES - All the Brethren participate in the toasts at exactly the same instant except those whose health is being proposed. Thus, when the Junior Warden offers a toast to the Lodge, the Master remains seated and does not participate; when the Senior Warden proposes a toast to the visiting Brethren, the visitors remain seated and do not join in the drinking.

Those whose health has been drunk then respond with a toast in the same manner.

RECIPES FOR PUNCH

HOT WASSAIL CUP

(Serves 36)

1 lb. 4 oz. sugar
1 qt. & 1 pt. water
¼ tsp. whole cloves
5 cinnamon sticks
5 allspice berries
2 ½ tsp. chopped, crystallized ginger

Boil for 10 minutes. Cover and let stand 1 hour in warm place. Strain, then add:

1 qt. strained orange juice
2 ½ cups strained lemon juice, mixed
2 ½ qts sweet cider

When ready to serve, heat quickly to boiling point. Pour over crabapples or roasted apples in punch bowl. Yield: 1 gallon and 1 quart. (Courtesy of Indiana Memorial Union)

COLD FRUIT PUNCH

(Serves 50)

Juice of 18 oranges
Juice of 12 lemons
Juice of 4 grapefruit
4 lbs. sugar

Add ice water to make 2 ¾ gal. of liquid. When ready to serve add 1 qt. ginger ale.

COLD CRANBERRY PUNCH

(Serves 50, ½ cup each)

6 pts. cranberry juice cocktail
1 ½ qts. orange juice (12 oranges)
2 ½ cups lemon juice (12 lemons)
3 cups pineapple juice
3 cups sugar
1 ½ qts. water

HOT SPICED CRANBERRY PUNCH

(Serves 30)

2 qts. cooled tea, made double strength
1 six-oz. can undiluted frozen lemonade
1 qt. sweetened cranberry juice
1 qt. orange juice

Heat mixture with 6 or 8 sticks of cinnamon bark, 2 tsp. whole cloves, 2 tsp. allspice, tied in cheese cloth bag.

BUBBLING JADE PUNCH

1 package lime-flavored gelatin
1 cup hot water
2 cups cold water
1 can (6 oz.) frozen concentrated lemonade
1 cup pineapple juice
1 qt. bottle sparkling water

Dissolve gelatin in hot water. Add cold water, concentrated lemonade and pineapple juice; blend well. Before serving, add sparkling water. Makes 15 to 20 four ounce servings.

FRUIT MEDLEY PUNCH

1 can (6 oz.) frozen concentrated lemonade
1 can (6 oz.) frozen concentrated orange and grapefruit juice
1 can (6 oz.) frozen concentrated tangerine juice
6 cups cold water
1 cup cold tea
2 qts. cold ginger ale

Combine juices, water and tea, and mix well. Add ginger ale. Pour over block of ice in punch bowl. Makes about 4 qts. (without ice) or enough for 35 four-ounce servings.

RASPBERRY SHRUB

4 pkg. (10 oz. each) frozen raspberries,
thawed
1 can (6 oz.) frozen lemonade concentrate
2 qt. bottles sparkling water, or 1 qt. bottle
sparkling water plus 1 qt. water

Cook raspberries 10 min. Strain and cool.
Add lemonade concentrate and sparkling
water. Serve immediately with crushed ice.
Makes 12 servings. Note - All ingredients
except sparkling water may be mixed ahead of
time.

PARTY PUNCH

4 qts. water
3 cups sugar
2 cans (6 oz.) frozen lemon juice
1 qt. apple juice
2 qts. cranberry juice
1 pt. orange juice
1 pt. strong black tea

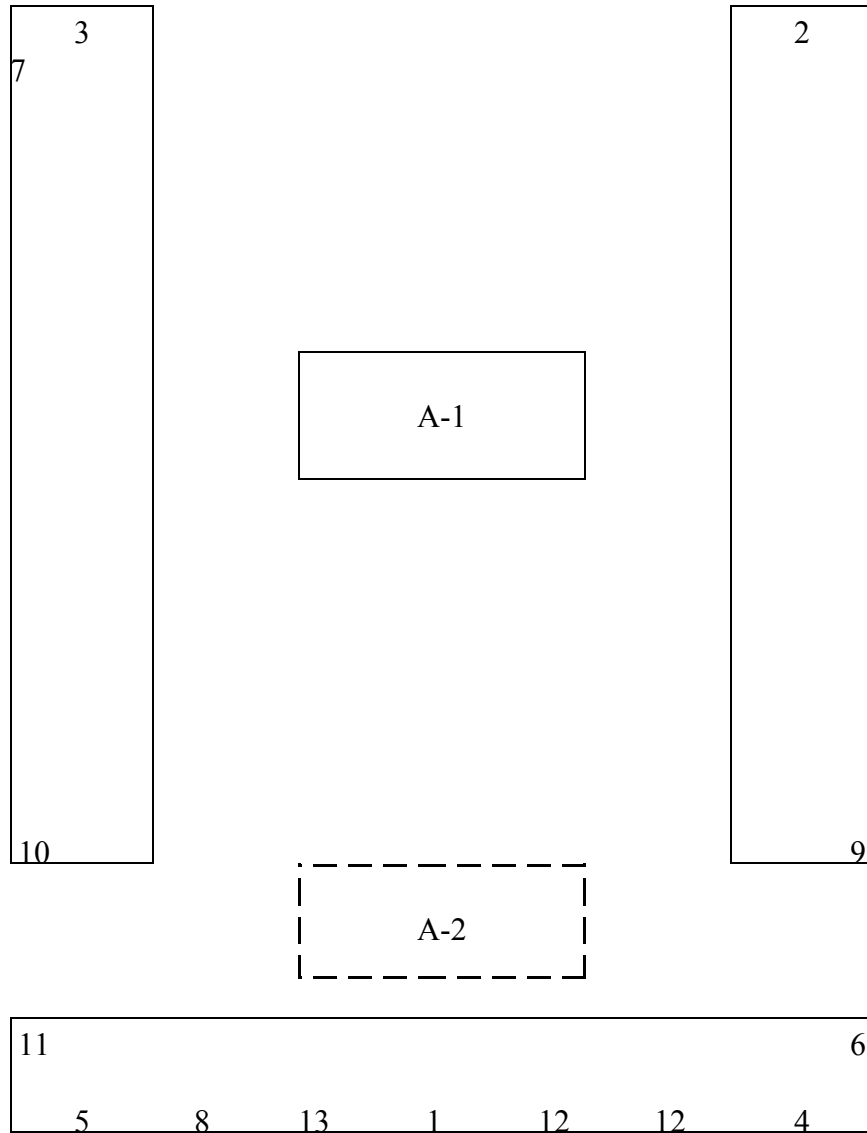
Mix water and sugar; bring to boil. Combine
with rest of ingredients. Mix well. Chill
before serving. Makes 2 gallons or 40
servings.

CRANBERRY PARTY PUNCH

2 cans (6 oz.) frozen concentrated limeade
4 cups cranberry juice
6 cans water

Combine limeade, water and cranberry juice;
mix well. Serve over ice in punch bowl.
Garnish with orange slices and maraschino
cherries. Makes about 2 ½ qts. (without ice)
or enough for 16 to 20 servings iced.

DINING ROOM ARRANGEMENT FOR TABLE LODGE



- | | | | | | |
|---|--------|---|----------|----|----------------------------|
| 1 | W.M. | 6 | S.D. | 10 | J.S. |
| 2 | S.W. | 7 | J.D. | 11 | Tiler |
| 3 | J.W. | 8 | Chaplain | 12 | G. L. Representatives |
| 4 | Treas. | 9 | S.S. | 13 | Other Distinguished Guests |
| 5 | Secy. | | | | |

A-1 Position of Altar

A-2 Alternate position of Altar

RITUAL AND PROGRAM FOR A TABLE LODGE

Opening of Lodge on the Entered Apprentice Degree The Worshipful Master
(May be done in the Lodge Room or in the Banquet Hall)

W.M. calls up Lodge ***.

Opening of a Table Lodge

W.M. calls on Chaplain for invocation.

Chaplain: Supreme Ruler of the Universe, we would reverently invoke Thy blessing at this time. Wilt Thou be pleased to grant that this meeting, thus begun in order, may be conducted in peace and closed in harmony. *Amen.*

Response: So mote it be.

*WM. seats Lodge **

W.M. Brothers Senior and Junior Warden, invite our Brethren on the columns of the North and South to assist us in opening a Table Lodge.

S.W. Brethren in the column of the North, assist us in opening a Table Lodge.

J.W. Brethren in the column of the South, assist us in opening a Table Lodge.

W.M. Brother Senior Warden, are you a Mason?

S.W. All my Brethren know me as such.

W.M. What is the first care of a Mason?

S.W. To see if the Lodge is duly tiled.

W.M. Satisfy yourself.

S.W. It is, Worshipful.

W.M. What is the second?

S.W. To see if all the Brethren are in order. (*After looking about.*) They are, Worshipful.

W.M. Why are we met together?

S.W. To erect Temples to virtue and dig dungeons for vices.

W.M. How long must we work?

S.W. From midday to midnight.

W.M. How long a time is required to make an Entered Apprentice?

S.W. Three years.

W.M. What is your age?

S.W. Three years.

W.M. What is the hour?

S.W. Almost midday.

W.M. In consideration of the hour and age, inform our Brethren that a Table Lodge is now open, and that we are about to begin our Works in the usual manner.

S.W. (*Calls up Lodge ****): Brethren in the column of the North, in consideration of the hour, a Table Lodge is now open, and we are about to begin our Works in the usual manner.

J.W. Brethren in the column of the South, in consideration of the hour, a Table Lodge is now open, and we are about to begin our Works in the usual manner.

W.M. seats Lodge *.

RECEPTION OF DISTINGUISHED GUESTS

W.M. *calls up Lodge ****.

W.M. Brethren, you will join in giving Grand Honors, taking time from the East.

(Grand Honors to be given only to Grand Master or his representative. Other distinguished guests will be greeted with a hearty round of applause.)

Brethren follow W.M. in giving battery (Grand Honors), three times three.

WM. seats Lodge *.

THE LESSON (Psalm 133) The Chaplain

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for Brethren to dwell together in unity!
It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard,
even Aaron's beard, that went down to the skirts of his garments;
As the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion;
for there the Lord commanded the blessing, even life for evermore.

PROLOGUE (*The Worshipful Master or someone delegated by him*)

W.M. - Brethren, in ancient times the Masonic Feast was an honored custom and a significant event of Masonic Life, constituted for the laudable purpose of promoting social feeling and cementing the bonds of brotherly love and friendship. It was a lodge of Entered Apprentices, so that all Brethren, regardless of rank or station, were joined together for social enjoyment. Food and drink were plentiful, and business was not transacted.

It was more than just a meal. It was a time when the lodge was at table, duly tiled against all Cowans and Eavesdroppers, opened in form and governed by the Master in accordance with prescribed ritual for a festive occasion within due bounds.

Brethren on this day of in the year of light 60__, agreeable to our Masonic heritage we are now a lodge at table.

EXPLANATION OF CEREMONY of the Toasts and Sword Manual, the Battery, “Vivat”, and reference to terminology guide. (*Given by the Worshipful Master or someone designated by him.*)

There are to be seven ritual toasts. Choice of beverages is provided. Please choose according to your preference. **Glasses are 1 ½ ounces for each toast.** The Stewards and their assistants will service the glasses.

All accouterments for this feast assume new names:

Glasses are Cannons
Bottles are casks
Knives are Swords
Red wine is Red powder
etc.

You will find a listing on the back of the program.

Each toast is to be given thus:

At the command *Right Hand to Arms!* the right hand touches the glass (demonstrate) *Ready!* the glass is raised, the arm extended to the height of the breast (demonstrate) *Aim!* the glass is brought to the lips (demonstrate) *Fire, Good Fire, Fire all!* all drink. *Present arms!* The glass is brought to the second position, all imitating the Worshipful Master, (demonstrate) then to the left breast (demonstrate) then the right breast (demonstrate) then again to the second position (demonstrate), so that the motion makes a triangle. When this has been done thrice, the glass is brought to the table in three movements, thus: first carried horizontally a little to the left, then to the right, then forcibly to the table (demonstrate). The battery, three times three, is then given and the acclamation “Vivat” is given thrice. (demonstrate).

TOAST #1 - To Our Country -- *Always given by the Master.*

W.M. Brethren in the Columns of the North and South, in all your grades and stations, charge and align your arms for the First Toast of Obligation which is about to be proposed.

W.M. Brothers *S.W.* and *J.W.*, are the Cannons charged and aligned?

S.W. and J.W. respond: The Cannons are charged and aligned.

*W.M. rises, raps three times - *** - all rise .*

W.M. Brethren, I have the honor to propose a toast to Our Country: Long may our land be bright with Freedom’s holy light; Protect us by Thy might, Great God our King!

W.M. Right hand to arms - *The right hand touches the glass*

Ready - *The glass is raised, the arm extended to the height of the breast*

Aim - *The glass is brought to the lips*

Fire, Good Fire, Fire all! - *All drink*

Present arms - *The glass is brought to the second position, all imitating the W.M. Then the glass is carried to the left breast, then to the right breast, and then again to the second position, so the motion makes a triangle. When this has been done thrice, the glass is brought to the table, in three movements, that is to say, at the first it is carried horizontally a little to the left, then to the right, and then forcibly to the table. The Battery and the acclamation "VIVAT" is given thrice.*

*W.M. seats Lodge **

ODE "Let Masonry From Pole to Pole"
Tune: Coronation: (All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name)

Let Masonry from Pole to Pole	That virtue hath not left behind
Her sacred laws expand;	Her sacred tenets prove,
Far as the mighty waters roll	For stamped upon a Mason's mind
To wash remotest land,	Are unity and love,
Far as the mighty waters roll	For stamped upon a Mason's mind
To wash remotest land.	Are unity and love.

THE GRACE Chaplain

DINNER (*The Festive Board*)

TOAST #2- To The Holy Saints John *May be given by the W.M. or any Brother designated by him.*

The Master calls brethren to order.

W.M.: Brethren in the Columns of the North and South, in all your grades and stations, charge and align your arms for the Second Toast of Obligation which is about to be proposed.

W.M. Brothers S.W. and J.W., are the Cannons charged and aligned?

S.W. and J.W. respond: "The Cannons are charged and aligned."

*W.M. rises, raps three times *** - all rise*

W.M. Let us now drink a toast to the memory of the Holy Saints John: May their saintly qualities inspire each of us to live a life of more exalted usefulness.

W.M. Right hand to Arms

Ready

Aim

Fire, Good Fire, Fire All!

Present Arms!

The ceremonies attending these commands are the same as in the First Toast.

CHARGE TO THE BRETHREN Worshipful Master

W.M. Brethren, in this solemn hour I charge each of you to rededicate yourself as a Freemason to the noble and glorious purpose of bringing Light to dispel darkness . . . to the service of Him in Whom you put your trust . . . to the precepts set forth in the Great Light in Masonry, the rule and guide of our faith.

I charge you to keep your apron an emblem of innocence, unspotted by the world . . . to practice that most excellent gift of charity . . . to make constant and proper use of the Square of Virtue, the Level of Equality and the Plumb of Rectitude.

Craftsmen in the quarries, I summon you to greater loyalty to your Lodge and your Fraternity . . . to integrity in all your dealings with your fellow men . . . to study to show yourself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed.

Guard against innovations, my Brethren. Preserve the Landmarks. Maintain the reputation of our Fraternity. Aid and succor the needy. Remember your Brother's welfare. Be circumspect always in speech. Assist and support him who is falling. Whisper good counsel in the ear of him who needs encouragement.

Let each of us make use of the Trowel to spread the cement of Brotherhood. Let us labor with the Common Gavel that these Rough Ashlars may be Perfect Ashlars. And finally, my Brethren, remembering how once you stood in the Northeast Corner a just and upright Mason, I give it you strictly in charge ever to walk and act as such.

Response: So mote it be.

*W.M. seats Lodge **

Toast #3 - To the Memory of Our Departed Brethren. *May be given by the W.M. or by any Brother designated by him.*

The Master calls brethren to order.

W.M. Brethren in the Columns of the North and South, in all your grades and stations, charge and align your arms for the Third Toast of Obligation which is about to be proposed.

W.M. Brothers S.W. and J.W., are the Cannons charged and aligned?

S.W. and J.W. respond: "The Cannons are charged and aligned."

*W.M. rises, raps three times *** - all rise .*

W.M. May I propose a toast now to the memory of our departed Brethren: May their contribution to our Brotherhood inspire us more earnestly to dedicate our lives to the service of our fellowmen.

W.M. Right hand to Arms!

Ready!

Aim!

Fire, Good Fire, Fire all!

Present Arms!

The ceremonies attending these commands are the same as in the First Toast.

*W.M. seats Lodge **

MESSAGE from the Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons in the State of Connecticut. *To be given just prior to toast no.4.*

Toast #4- To the Most Worshipful Grand Master *May be given by the W.M. or by any Brother designated by him.*

W.M.: Brethren in the Columns of the North and South, in all your grades and stations, charge and align your arms for the Fourth Toast of Obligation which is about to be proposed.

W.M. Brothers S.W. and J.W., are the Cannons charged and aligned?

S.W. and J.W. respond: "The Cannons are charged and aligned."

*W.M. rises, raps three times *** - all rise.*

W.M. Brethren, I have the honor to propose a toast to the Most Worshipful Grand Master, symbol of our continuing relationship to an ancient Craft; and to the Grand Lodge over which he has been called to preside. May he direct with wisdom, decide with justice and plan with a vision worthy of the Fraternity he serves.

W.M. Right Hand to Arms!

Ready!

Aim!

Fire, Good Fire, Fire All!

Present Arms!

(The ceremonies attending these commands are the same as in the First Toast.)

RESPONSE of the M.W. Grand Master.

Ode “Great Source of Light and Love”
Tune: St. Thomas (I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord)

Great Source of Light and Love,
To Thee our songs we raise!
O, in Thy Temple, Lord, above,
Hear and accept our praise!
Shine on this festive day,
Succeed its hoped design,
And may our Charity display
A love resembling Thine.
May this fraternal band,
Now consecrated, blest,
In union all distinguished stand,
In purity be dressed.

*W.M. seats Lodge **.

Toast #5- To Our Lodge(s) - *Always given by the Junior Warden.*

W.M. Brethren in the Columns of the North and South, in all your grades and stations, charge and align your arms for the Fifth Toast of Obligation which is about to be proposed.

W.M. Brothers S.W. and J.W., are the Cannons charged and aligned?

S.W. and J.W. respond: “The Cannons are charged and aligned.”

*J.W.. rises, raps three times *** - all rise except W.M. who remains seated.*

J.W. Brethren, it gives me especial pleasure to call for a toast to Lodge: the Lodge so close to the hearts of its members, commanding through long years an interest and loyalty unshaken by adversity and unspoiled by prosperity. So may we reflect its integrity and stability in our daily lives.

J.W. Right Hand to Arms!

Ready!

Aim!

Fire, Good Fire,

Fire All!

Present Arms!

The ceremonies attending these commands are the same as in the First Toast.

RESPONSE: of Worshipful Master

*W.M. seats Lodge **.

Ode “Hail, Brother Masons, Hail!”
Tune: Moscow - (Come, Thou Almighty King)

Hail brother masons! Hail!
Let friendship long prevail,
And bind us fast;
May harmony and peace
Our happiness increase
And friendship never cease
while life doth last.

We on the level meet,
And every brother greet,
skilled in our art;
And when our labor’s past,
Each brother’s hand we’ll grasp,
Then on the square at last,
Friendly we’ll part.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS.

Toast #6 - To Our Visiting Brethren - *Always given by the Senior Warden.*

W.M. Brethren in the Columns of the North and South, in all your grades and stations, charge and align your arms for the Sixth Toast of Obligation which is about to be proposed.

W.M. Brothers *S.W.* and *J.W.*, are the Cannons charged and aligned?

S.W. and J.W. respond: “The Cannons are charged and aligned.”

*W.M. rises, raps three times *** - all rise except visiting brethren who remain seated.*

S.W. Brethren, a toast to our Visiting Brethren: our guests of the evening who will not doubt the cordial hospitality of our welcome. May this occasion persuade them to share our hospitality whenever their circumstances permit.

S.W. Right Hand to Arms!

Ready!

Aim!

Fire, Good Fire, Fire All!

Present Arms!

The ceremonies attending these commands are the same as in the First Toast.

*W.M. : seats Lodge **

RESPONSE: Spokesman for Visiting Brethren (who invites all visiting brethren to rise and respond to the toast.)

*W.M. : seats Lodge **

INTRODUCTION of Guest Speaker Worshipful Master

Address Guest Speaker of the Evening

Toast #7- To All Freemasons Wheresoever Dispersed - *Always given by the Tiler.*

W.M.: Brethren in the Columns of the North and South, in all your grades and stations, charge and align your arms for the Seventh Toast of Obligation which is about to be proposed.

W.M. Brothers S.W. and J.W., are the Cannons charged and aligned?

S.W. and J.W. respond: “The Cannons are charged and aligned.”

*W.M. rises, raps three times *** - all rise.*

Tiler: And now let us drink the age-old, traditional toast of the Craft - To All Freemasons wheresoever dispersed over the face of the earth: May our Brethren of all Nations be united under the mantle of universal friendship and brotherhood for the benefit of all mankind.

Tiler: Right Hand to Arms!

Ready!

Aim!

Fire, Good Fire, Fire All!

Present Arms!

The ceremonies attending these commands are the same as in the First Toast.

Traditional Ode “Auld Lang Syne”
Brethren cross arms and join hands, forming a chain.

Should auld acquaintance be forgot,
And never brought to mind?
Should auld acquaintance be forgot,
And auld lang syne!

Chorus

For auld lang syne, my dear,
For auld lang syne,
We’ll tak’ a cup o’ kindness yet
For auld lang syne!

Then here’s a hand, my trusty frien’,
And gie’s a han’ o’ thine;
We’ll tak’ a cup o’ kindness yet
For auld lang syne.

(Repeat Chorus)

*WM. seats Lodge **

CLOSING OF A TABLE LODGE

W.M. Brothers Senior and Junior Warden, are all the Brethren in order?

S.W. and J.W. They are, Worshipful.

W.M. What is the hour?

S.W. Midnight.

W.M. What is your age?

S. W. Three years.

W.M. In consideration of the hour and age, inform all our Brethren both on the column of the North and South, that we are about to close this Table Lodge, ending our Work in the usual manner.

S.W. (Calls up Lodge): Brethren in the column of the North, I inform you, on behalf of the Worshipful Master, that we are about to close this Table Lodge, ending our Work in the usual manner.

J.W. Brethren in the column of the South, I inform you, on behalf of the Worshipful Master, that we are about to close this Table Lodge, ending our Work in the usual manner,

*W.M. rises, raps three times - all rise ***.*

W.M. Brethren, our National Anthem.

Brethren join In singing first and last stanzas of the National Anthem.

O say can you see, by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming,
Whose broad stripes and bright stars, through the perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watched, were so gallantly streaming?
And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there.
O say does that star-spangled banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

O thus be it ever, when free men shall stand
Between their loved homes and the war's desolation!
Blest with vict'ry and peace, may the heav'n-rescued land
Praise the Power that hath made and preserved us a nation!
Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just,
And this be our motto, "In God is our trust."
And the star-spangled banner in triumph shall wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!

W.M. Brother S.W. and J.W. inform the brethren that the table lodge is closed.

S.W. and J.W. My Brothers, the Table Lodge is closed.

*WM. seats the Lodge *.*

Closing of Lodge on the Entered Apprentice Degree The Worshipful Master

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Library of the Grand Lodge of Iowa, A. F. & A. M.
The Grand Lodge F. & A. M. of Indiana
Short Talk Bulletin: THE TABLE LODGE; Masonic Service Association of the United States,
August 1951.
Digest: MASONIC FEASTS; Masonic Service Association of the United States. December 1, 1949.

OFFICIAL RITUAL

Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of Connecticut

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February, 1997

Approved December 4, 1997

Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of Connecticut
William F. Carpenter, M.W. Grand Master