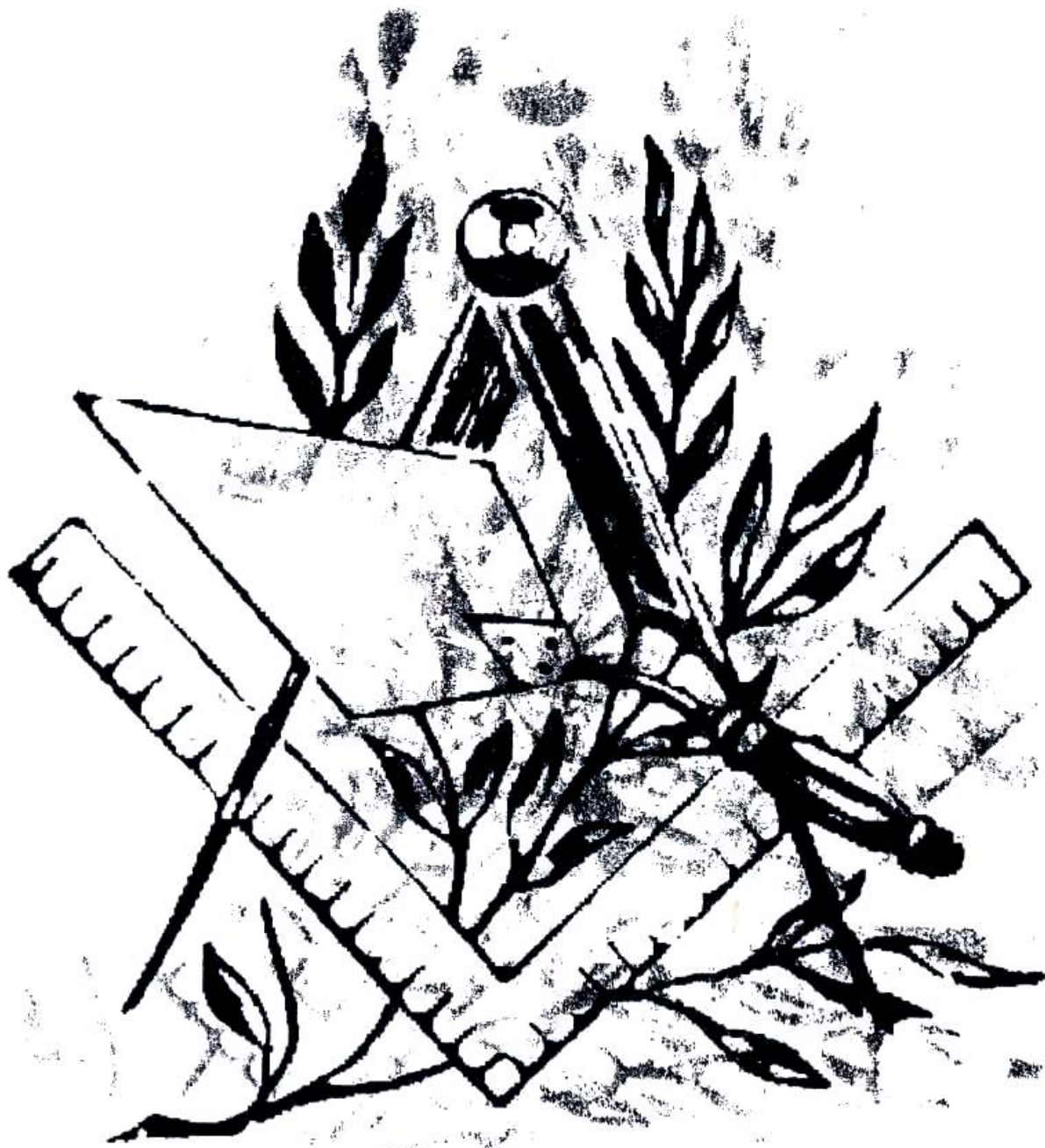


# Ladies at the Table



# BACKGROUND INFORMATION FOR THE HOST LODGE

## I. INTRODUCTION:

The average Mason spends time away from his wife and family for Masonic functions and dinners. On many occasions the Mason's Lady is left at home with the children. Some of the more modern Masonic Lodges realize the Masonic Ladies play a very important roll in the Masonic way of life. Those Lodges are slowly beginning provide functions for their Masonic Families more especially the Mason's Lady. One such event is the "Ladies at the Table". Please understand, **“THIS IS NOT A MASONIC FUNCTION OR RITUAL OF ANY TYPE. NOR IS IT INTENDED TO BE, but it does come under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Vermont.”** "Ladies at the Table" is only a method for a Lodge to Honor and give Respect to the Mason's Widow, Lady, Daughter, Mother, Sister and to those women who have helped build this nation of ours.

## II. SCOPE:

This one night is especially set aside for the Ladies and Widows of the Masonic Lodge and provides an excellent opportunity to invite prospective members, community leaders and their Ladies. The dinner is designed to be informative as well as entertaining

## III. RECOMMENDATION FOR A LADIES AT THE TABLE DINNER:

1. A Lodge should **NOT** use their Eastern Star Chapter to prepare this meal. The Majority of these Ladies should be at the dinner with their husbands.
2. Widows of the Lodge should not have any expenses for this evening and dinner and should be considered guests of the Lodge.
3. Widows of Masons without escort, should be seated next to a Warden and his Lady.
4. To invite non-Masons and their escorts, most especially the individuals in the community most deserving of their contribution to that community (i.e. person to be toasted.)
5. There should be only five (5) food courses and seven (7) toasts,
6. **EACH TOAST SHOULD BE ONE (1) OZ. OF WINE, AND NOT TO EXCEED TWO (2) OZ. OF WINE.** For those who do not care to consume wine, a substitute of non-alcoholic drink will be provided.

## IV. SELECTION OF LADIES TO BE HONORED BY TOASTS:

The selection of those Ladies to be honored with a Toast should be taken very seriously. **It is strongly recommended that you do not make selections based on political or religious fact; neither subject matter has a place at this dinner.** Selections should be sought from those Ladies who have given of themselves to benefit the Nation, State and/or Community. However, the seventh (7th) toast shall always remain the same, **"To our ladies, the most important women in our lives."**

*Remember: The Lodge's selection of Ladies to be toasted will reflect to your community, the action of not only your Lodge, but the entire Masonic Organization. **Select Well.***

## **V. HISTORY OF "LADIES AT THE TABLE"**

"Ladies at the Table" is a new name given to this type of dinner which came from "ADOPTIVE MASONRY" in Paris, France during 1760

According to Mackey's Revised Encyclopedia, page 30, paragraph 2 (and Cavel's History. page 34), so states *"The Rite of Adoption has established a technical vocabulary, to be used only at the table. Thus the Lodge room is called "Eden", the doors "Barriers", the minutes a "Ladder", a wine glass is styled a "Lamp", and its contents "Oil", water being "White Oil", and wine "Red Oil". To fill your glass is "To trim your Lamp", to drink is "To extinguish your Lamp" with many other eccentric expressions."*

Here in the United States, it is **not** our intention that this dinner be Masonic, but for the Lodge's Ladies and friends. Therefore, only the eccentric expressions are used and there shall be no Masonic jewels or aprons displayed before the dinner, during or after, except after showing due cause and gaining explicit permission from the Grand Lodge.

## **VI. OBJECTIVES OF THE "LADIES AT THE TABLE" DINNER:**

1. To provide interest, understanding and care for the Lodge Widows.
2. To establish a line of communication between, the Lodge and the Lodge Widows ensuring them they have not been forgotten.
3. To Honor the Masons' Ladies, Daughter, Mothers, Sisters and the other fine Women about the world, Nation, State and Community.
4. To give prospective masons and their Ladies a chance to meet members of the Lodge and their Ladies.
5. To ask questions and receive answers, thereby gaining a better understanding of Masonry.
6. To give members of the community and their ladies the opportunity to understand what the Masonic Fraternity does in a community.
7. To provide the occasion to have visitors in your Lodge; to see and inform others of what they have seen.

## **VII. THE LODGE DINNING ROOM:**

The tables shall be so arranged as to form the letter "U" with each corner at a ninety degree angle.

Seating at the table will be at the outside only

Each chair should be no closer than forty two (42) inches, center to center, with a clear view of each chair. The National Colors shall be displayed.

The Alter shall have upon the Holy Bible centered. White Candle in holder stationed in the upper left hand corner and a Red Rose in a vase will be stationed by the Junior Warden in the upper right hand corner of the Alter.

### **VIII. THE TABLE SETTING:**

White table linen shall be used for this dinner

Blue table napkins will be at each table setting.

Each setting shall consist of the following:

**First Line** - Plate, Napkin, Knife, Fork, Soup Spoon, Tea Spoon.

**Second Line** - Cup and saucer, Water glass, Wine glass

**Note: Wine glasses are to be the exact same size and marked for 1 oz. of fluid.**

2 Bouquets with one Red Rose for each Lady to be presented by the Wardens, plus one for the Alter.

### **IX. RESEARCH NOTES:**

Each Lady to whom a toast is presented should have at least a two paragraph statement as to why and how she deserved the toast.

### **X. SPECIAL NOTE:**

*This dinner and script was written by William Richards, Past Master of Webster Lodge F. & A.M., No. 61, 5<sup>th</sup> Masonic District in the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Vermont.*

*All rules and regulations meet with the approval of the Grand Lodge of Vermont and the Grand Master.*

**This script has been approved for the use in any Masonic Lodge, under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Vermont.**