



Proceedings  
1889

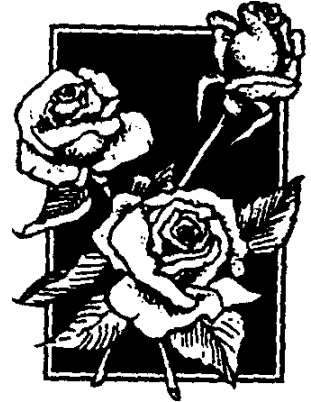
# Ladies At The Table

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## PROCEEDINGS FOR "LADIES AT THE TABLE"

### Special Notes:

*\_ Only those called upon by the Master shall rise from their chair to respond and then return to their chair. Should the Lady to whom the toast is given be present, she shall remain seated throughout the toast and drink her wine (or non-alcoholic beverage) at her leisure.*



**Master...\***

**Senior Warden...\***

**Junior Warden...\***

**Master...\*** Senior Warden, have all been seated on your left?

**Senior Warden...** All have been seated.

**Master...\*** Junior Warden, have all been seated on your right?

**Junior Warden...** All have been seated.

**Master...\*** Deacon, set the Alter and display the light.  
\*\*\* (All stand)

*(The deacon moves to the Alter, opens the Holy Bible to the Twenty-First Psalm, lights the candle in the upper left hand corner of the Alter and returns to his seat.)*

Ladies and Gentlemen.  
Give your attention to the Chaplain

**Chaplain...** (Invocation)

**Master...** This Ladies at the Table Lodge is now open.

\* Junior and Senior Warden, attend to the Ladies.

*(Both the Junior and Senior Warden pick up the roses and move directly down their column to the Master's chair. The Senior Warden offers one rose to each Lady present in his column and extends his welcome for her being there. The Junior Warden first places one Red Rose on the Alter in the upper right hand corner and then follows the Senior Warden's lead and offers each Lady a rose with a greeting on the column to the right. Both Wardens returning to their chairs together and seat themselves at the same time.)*

Thank you gentlemen.

\* Senior Warden, would you please explain the meaning of the Red Rose.

**Senior Warden...** The Red Rose signifies the level of relationship between two people. A White Rose stands for purity, a Yellow Rose for jealousy, and the Red Rose is for love. Therefore, it is only befitting that, on this occasion only the Red Rose is used.

**Master...** Thank you Senior Warden.

\* Junior Warden, would you please explain the meaning of the Burning White Candle.

**Junior Warden...** The White Candle burns for those Mason's Ladies of the past, who have been called to follow the path to a far off country, from which no one ever returns. The flame burns brightly for them to be remembered, especially on this night.

**Master...** Thank you Junior Warden. Ladies at the table, it is a great pleasure to have you here with us this evening. This evening is intended to provide you with pleasure as well as enjoyment. It is also an evening set aside for us to remember your greatly valued friendship, your loyalty and your love, without which we would never reach our goals.

\*Mr..... Would you please inform our quests, as to the history of the Ladies At The Table.

**Mr...** In France, about the middle of the 18th century, a group (in the French Rite, was established functioning parallel to Masonry known as, "Adoptive Lodges" The first of these lodges of which we have any notice established in Paris, in the year 1760, by the Count de Bernouville. Another was instituted at Nimeguen, in Holland, 1774, over which the Prince of Waldeck and the Princess of Orange presided. There were basically four degrees of adoptive Masonry, the first being: Apprentice (or Female Apprentice); Compagnone (or Craftswoman); Maitresse (or Mistress) and Parfaite Maconne (or Perfect Mason).

The fourth degree, being the summit of the Rite of Adoption, is furnished with a "Table Lodge", or the ceremony of the banquet, which immediately followed the closings of the Lodge and which of course, adds much to the social pleasure and nothing to the instructive character of the Rite.

As in regular Lodges of the French Rite, the members always use a symbolical language by which they designate the various implements of the table and the different articles of food and drink, calling for instance, the knife "Swords," the forks "Pickaxes," the dishes "Materials," and bread "Rough Ashlar;" the Lodge room was 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 being "Red Oil." To fill your glass is "To Trim Your Lamp," to drink is to "Extinguish Your Lamp;" and many other eccentric expressions.

Much taste, and in some instances, magnificence, are displayed in the decorations of the Lodge rooms of the Adoptive Rite. The apartment is separated by curtains into different divisions. Each division represented a continent, the entrance being called Europe, the right side Africa, the left side America, and the Head Table was known as Asia. As all things come to pass, this special dinner and evening was set aside, no longer to be (the French Revolution played a big part in its ending). We all do know that Ben Franklin did attend at least one of these dinners during his time in France.

In our present day, Ladies At The Table is a special evening and dinner, set aside for all the Ladies of the Lodge. By this we include the Mason's Widow, Wife, Daughter, Mother, and Sister. The toasts are given to those Ladies who

have given of themselves to the improvement and need of others, they may be from the past or present and from anyplace in the world.

**Master...** Thank you, Mr.....

\* Senior Warden, would you please explain the movements of the toast for our quests.

**Senior Warden...** Ladies and gentleman, the toasts are held in this manner:  
(*Senior Warden demonstrates and explains*)

\_ **TOUCH** - The right hand reaches to the wine glass.

\_ **GRASP** - The right hand holds the glass, but does not lift the glass from the table.

\_ **RISE TO TOAST** - With the right hand extended the glass is lifted to the dead level of the chin.

\_ **TO CAUSE** - The glass is brought to the lips.

\_ **TASTE** - Drink approximately 1/3rd of the wine in the glass.

\_ **SIP** - Drink approximately 1/2 of the remaining wine in the glass.

\_ **TOAST** - Drink all the wine that remains in your glass. Do not remove the glass from your lips.

\_ **ROTATE** - The glass is moved away from the lips and extended an arm's length straight out to the dead level of the chin. As a group working together, with the arm extended with the glass, first move the glass and arm 45 degrees to the left and return to the center, move 45 degrees to the right then return to the center and stop.

\_ **WITH HONOR** - The glass is brought to the table with only one sound (HOPEFULLY) of the glass meeting the table.

The guests have been instructed sir.

**Master...** Thank you Senior Warden.

\* Steward, cause the wine to meet the line.

**Steward...** Wine Stewards, fill the wine glasses to the line.

*(The Steward stands makes his statement in a loud clear voice)*

Those who wish to have wine for this toast please place your card letters up next to your wine glass, those who do not wish to have wine please place your card letters down next to your wine glass and you will be served a juice.

*(Remains standing until all glasses are filled to the blue line before he answers the Master)*

The wine is to the line, sir.

**Master...** Thank you Steward. I wish to make a toast at this time

\*\*\* *(All stand)* Ladies and Gentlemen.

The first toast is to a Lady by the name of .....

**Touch....Grasp....Rise to Toast....To Cause....Taste....Sip,  
Toast....Rotate....With Honor....Please be seated.**

*(Special Note - The Senior Warden should be ready with the first explanation as to why the first Lady was toasted)*

**Master...**\* Senior Warden, would you please give us a short history of.....

**Senior Warden...** *(Gives short history of Lady being toasted)*

**Master...** Thank you Senior Warden.

\* Steward, cause the wine to meet the line.

**Steward...** Wine Stewards, fill the glasses to the line.

*(Remains standing until all glasses are filled)*

The wine is to the line sir.

**Master...** The Master's Lady wishes to make a toast at this time.

\*\*\* *(All stand)* Ladies and Gentlemen.

**Master's Lady...** The second toast is to a lady by the name of.....

**Touch....Grasp....Rise to Toast....To Cause....Taste....Sip,  
Toast....Rotate....With Honor....Please be seated.**

**Master...** Serve the First Course please

*(Special Note - Near the end of the first course, the Junior Warden should be ready to give an explanation as to why the second Lady was selected)*

\* Junior Warden, would you please give us a short history of.....

**Junior Warden...** *(Gives a short history of the Lady being toasted)*

**Master...** Thank you Junior Warden.

\* Steward, cause the wine to meet the line.

**Steward...** Wine Stewards, fill the glasses to the line.

*(After all the glasses are filled)*

The wine is to the line sir.

**Master...** Thank you Steward. The Senior Warden wishes to make a toast at this time.

\*\*\* *(All stand)* Ladies and Gentlemen.

**Senior Warden...** The third toast is to a lady by the name of.....

**Touch....Grasp....Rise to Toast....To Cause....Taste....Sip,  
Toast....Rotate....With Honor....Please be seated.**

**Master...** Serve the Second Course please.

*(Special Note - Near the completion of the second course, the Junior Warden should be ready to give an explanation as to why the third Lady was selected)*

\* Junior Warden, would you please give us a short history of.....

**Junior Warden...** (Gives a short history of the Lady being toasted)

**Master...** Thank you Junior Warden.

\* Steward, cause the wine to meet the line.

**Steward...** Wine Stewards, fill the glasses to the line.

*(After all the glasses are filled)*

The wine is to the line sir.

**Master...** Thank you Steward. The Senior Warden's Lady wishes to make a toast at this time.

\*\*\* *(All stand)* Ladies and Gentlemen.

**Senior Warden's Lady...** The fourth toast, is to a lady by the name of.....

**Touch....Grasp....Rise to Toast....To Cause....Taste....Sip,  
Toast....Rotate....With Honor....Please be seated.**

**Master...** Serve the Third Course please

*(Special Note - Near the completion of the Third Course, the Senior Warden should be ready to give an explanation as to why this Lady was selected)*

\* Senior Warden, would you please give us a short history.....

**Senior Warden...** (*Gives a short history of the Lady being toasted*)

**Master...** Thank you Senior Warden.

\* Steward, cause the wine to meet the line.

**Steward...** Wine Stewards, fill the glasses to the line.

*(After all the glasses are filled)*

The wine is to the line sir.

**Master...** The Junior Warden wishes to make a toast at this time..

\*\*\* *(All stand)* Ladies and Gentlemen.

**Junior Warden...** The fifth toast is to a lady by the name of.....

**Touch....Grasp....Rise to Toast....To Cause....Taste....Sip,  
Toast....Rotate....With Honor....Please be seated.**

**Master...** Serve the Main Course please

*(Special Award, "I've Heard It All" Member stands and speaks directly to the Master)*

**Bro...** Sir, there is something I would like to say at this time, if you please.

**Master...** Please, speak my friend.

**Bro...** There are times when we must travel without our ladies to meetings and other functions. They are not always happy about being left at home with the kids. As you all know we always tell them what nights we are going to be gone for dinner, without fail. Then, of course, there are the nights when you walk into the house, smiling, you find her in the kitchen, happy to have prepared an outstanding meal for her family as you put your arm around her and remind her of the formal dinner the two of you have to attend in one hour. She isn't smiling when you say, "Sorry I forgot to tell you," or the standard

cover up, "I thought I told you two weeks ago." Then there are the times when you are having coffee with her and she reminds you that you are gone five nights a week to meetings and you answer,

Don't worry my dear I just won't volunteer for anything at the next meeting. For all these reasons, and many more, the "I've Heard it All Award" is presented to.....

*(Special Note - Near the middle of the Main Course, the Senior Warden should be ready to give an explanation as to why this Lady was selected)*

**Master...**\* Senior Warden, would you please give us a short history of.....

**Senior Warden...** *(Gives a short history of the Lady being toasted)*

**Master...** Thank you, Senior Warden.

\* Steward, cause the wine to meet the line.

**Steward...** Wine Stewards, fill the glasses to the line.

*(After all glasses are filled)*

The wine is to the line sir.

**Master...** Thank you Steward. The Junior Warden's Lady wishes to make a toast at this time.

\*\*\* *(All stand)* Ladies and Gentlemen.

**Junior Warden's Lady...** The sixth toast is to a lady by the name of.....

**Touch....Grasp....Rise to Toast....To Cause....Taste....Sip,  
Toast....Rotate....With Honor....Please be seated.**

*(Special Note - Near the end of the Main Course, the Junior Warden should be ready to give an explanation as to why the second Lady was selected)*

**Master...**\* Junior Warden, would you please give us a short history of.....

**Junior Warden...** (*Gives a short history of the Lady being toasted*)

**Master...** Thank you Junior Warden. Ladies and Gentlemen the floor is open to anyone who wishes to speak.

*(Before closing the floor, be sure to ask the Grand Lodge Staff Officer or DDGM, if he would care to have the floor. If the DDGM speaks, **NO ONE IS TO SPEAK AFTER HIM.**)*

**Master...** Serve the Final Course please.

*(Special Note - The Master should move to the inside of the tables and extend his personal welcome to each of the guests, especially the widows of the Lodge)*

*(Near the end of the Final Course, the Master gives the last toast.)*

\*Steward, cause the wine to meet the *line*.

**Steward...** Wine Stewards, fill the glasses to the line.

*(After all glasses are filled)*

The wine is to the line sir.

**Master...** I wish to make a toast at this time.

\*\*\* *(All stand)* Ladies and Gentlemen.

**The seventh toast is to our Ladies, the most important women in our lives.**

**Touch....Grasp....Rise to Toast....To Cause....Taste....Sip,  
Toast....Rotate....With Honor....Please remain standing**

The hour grows late and our evening must come to an end.

\* Senior Warden, are all present on your left?

**Senior Warden...** All are present.

**Master...\*** Junior Warden, are all present on your right?

**Junior Warden...** All are present.

**Master...** Ladies and Gentlemen.  
Give your attention to the Chaplain

**Chaplain...** (*Benediction*)

**Master...\*** Deacon, set the Alter and close the light.

*(Deacon moves to the Alter, closes the Holy Bible, snuffs out the candle, and returns to his seat)*

As Master of this dinner, I declare this Ladies at the Table Lodge be now closed.