



PROTOCOL & ETIQUETTE ESSENTIALS

Prepared by the Grand Lodge P. & E. Committee
Issue No. 9 – December 2010

Greetings from Your P. & E. Committee

Welcome to the ninth issue of “*P&E Essentials*”. It is anticipated that these informative and easy-to-read newsletters will be published several times a year.

“*P&E Essentials*” is intended to be an interactive instrument, designed to help you make a daily advancement in Masonic knowledge. The Committee welcomes questions and/or suggestions for topics that could be addressed in future issues. Questions or suggestions not related to Protocol and Etiquette will be forwarded to the appropriate Grand Lodge Committee for response.

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Committee Members

The current Protocol & Etiquette Committee members are:

Gordon Crutcher (*Chairman*); William Elliott; Dennis Hawman; Terry Hornibrook; Jacques Lacourse Jr.; George McCowan (*Secretary*); Bryan Middleton; Jack Mittleholtz; Richard Morreau; James Pearson; Garnet Schenk (*Editor of P&E Essentials*); Brian Seaborn; David Stevens; and Terrance Van Horne.

With appropriate advance notice – and subject to travel constraints – any member of the Committee would be happy to make a presentation about P&E in your lodge, or at a District Meeting.

PRONOUNCING GLOSSARY

DIMINUTIVENESS – DIM MIN YOO TIVV NESS

GILEADITISH – GILL EE AD ITE ISH

INDEFATIGABLE – INN DEE FAT IG ABBLE

JEPHTHA – JEFF THA

MAGI – MAY JYE

VICISSITUDE – VISS ISS IT YOOD

THE WILLIAM MERCER WILSON MEDAL

Our Grand Lodge recognizes brethren who have rendered outstanding service to their lodge, to the Craft in general, to their place of worship, their community and their country. After a Grand Lodge Committee has conducted an extensive evaluation of their contributions, successful candidates are awarded the William Mercer Wilson Medal.

Named after our first Grand Master, this Medal – **the highest honour which can be bestowed on a brother in our Jurisdiction** – is given to a Mason who represents the Craft well.

This individual is one who looks for no reward or publicity for the work that he performs on behalf of Freemasonry. He is often a modest man, who for reasons of his own, has not gone on to become a Worshipful Master of his Lodge but has typically unselfishly given that opportunity to many others in his Masonic career. Generally, he is a mild mannered, soft spoken individual who labours quietly and patiently in the pursuit of brotherly love and in making life better for all with whom he comes into contact. His presence makes a difference in his lodge. These qualities are what distinguish a William Mercer Wilson Medal recipient from the rest of us.

You can recognize a William Mercer Wilson Medal (“W.M.W.M.”) recipient by the distinctive medal hanging from his breast pocket. He also wears a white collar, without a jewel attached. (The collar comes with braided silver ornamentation at its end.) **Only 234 Masons in Ontario have received this distinction during the 70 years in which the medal has been awarded.**

The following protocol should be observed when a “W.M.W.M.” recipient visits a lodge;

1. A “W.M.W.M.” recipient is deserving of special recognition when he visits a lodge, or attends a banquet.
2. However, this recognition does **not** include being brought into Lodge with the current Grand Lodge Officers.
3. He should enter as a “General Visitor”.
4. As any Worshipful Master “outranks” him, a visiting Worshipful Master(s) would usually lead in the delegation of “General Visitors”.

Please share this newsletter with other members of your Lodge – and your Masonic friends

5. No particular position in the assembly of the visitors in the West need be assigned to the "W.M.W.M." recipient. He can stand anywhere amongst the visitors, after the visiting Worshipful Masters.
6. The Director of Ceremonies could mention the "W.M.W.M." recipient as part of his introductions. However, this is not mandatory.
7. If the "W.M.W.M." recipient is not introduced before he takes his seat, (because of an oversight or for any other reason), the W.M. should subsequently recognize him after all the "General Visitors" have been seated.
8. While the "W.M.W.M." recipient is not entitled to sit in the East by right, the W.M. could invite him to sit in the East – but this is optional.
9. The Grand Honours are not to be given to a "W.M.W.M." recipient when he visits another Lodge.
10. As per the provisions of Section 15 (f) of the Constitution, the Grand Honours are only afforded to a "W.M.W.M." recipient on the occasion of the presentation of the medal to him.
11. When the "W.M.W.M." recipient is attending meetings of his own lodge, no special recognition need be given to him in his Lodge.
12. A "W.M.W.M." recipient should always be referred to during the preamble to the toast to the Grand Master and Grand Lodge at a banquet.
13. However, after the toast to the Grand Master and Grand Lodge, (when protocol has been established), the "W.M.W.M." recipient need not be mentioned in any of the subsequent salutations. (This is because it is acceptable protocol – after the toast to Grand Lodge – to abbreviate all subsequent salutations to a minimum, such as: "*Worshipful Master, District Deputy Grand Master, Distinguished Head Table Guests, and brethren*".)

WHO CAN SIT IN THE EAST?

As every candidate learns during the Junior Warden's Lecture, the East holds a special significance in Masonry. It is where our Worshipful Masters sit to direct the business and other activities of their lodge, and to provide Masonic enlightenment to the brethren.

Only a limited number of brethren are entitled, by their rank, to sit in the East.

Those so entitled are:

- The Worshipful Master;
- The Immediate Past Master;
- Anyone entitled to assume the gavel, i.e. the Grand Master, a Past Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master, and the District Deputy Grand Master in his own District.

NO ONE ELSE IS ENTITLED TO SIT IN THE EAST!

However, it is the Worshipful Master's prerogative to invite any other Mason to join him in the East. He alone decides which brother or brethren are to be afforded that

privilege, regardless of their rank.

Unless your rank or office entitles you to sit in the East, in the absence of a specific invitation to sit there, you must find a seat in the North or the South.

THE HEAD TABLE

Who should be invited to sit at the Head Table, for a lodge banquet?

- The Guest of Honour. (While this is usually the highest ranking Mason present, it could instead be someone who is not a Mason, e.g. a guest speaker);
- Anyone who is entitled to assume the gavel in lodge;
- The Senior and Junior Wardens;
- * Members of the Board of General Purposes;
- * A William Mercer Wilson Medal recipient;
- * A lodge brother being honoured that evening;
- * The candidate for the evening;
- * Other brethren who are to participate in the program.

* (When space permits)

"WORSHIPFUL MASTER" IS A RANK

Which is correct – "*Worshipful Master*", or "*Worshipful Sir*"?

"**Worshipful Master**" is an official title, as is "Grand Master".

Being elected or appointed to a Masonic office can convey a particular rank upon that individual. That rank can bring with it a title which is associated with that rank. The title signifies that individual's office.

The title "Worshipful Sir" applies to everyone who has ever been installed as a Worshipful Master, (and not achieved a higher office). So there can be several "Worshipful Sirs" in a lodge, but there is only ONE "Worshipful Master".

The Master of a lodge is therefore entitled to be – and should be – addressed by his proper title at all times – **unless otherwise called for in our rituals and ceremonies.** He is the **Worshipful MASTER.**

Incidentally, the term "Worshipful" is derived from medieval custom, being a title of courtesy and honour then in common use. Indeed, friends and relatives writing to one another in the fifteenth century frequently addressed one another as "Worshipful". To be "Worshipful" then, is to be honourable, or worthy.

No pleasure, no learning. No learning, no pleasure.
- Wang Ken, Chinese philosopher

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