

## **Masonic Dining and its History by W.Bro. Ron Selby**

The paper takes a look at the customs and traditions of the Festive Board and the history behind them. Going back to pre-history, ancient Egypt, Greece, and the Romans, it traces some of our dining customs. The effect of rabbinical interpretation of various biblical instructions on early formal dining is explained, as is the Grace before and after meals.

Through the early Church and army, these customs can be traced back hundreds of years before Freemasonry. How Freemasonry adopted these rituals is discussed, as is the role of the early stonemasons and the guilds.

You will learn about the dining history of some early and well-known Lodges and the excesses that some of them went to with the financial ruin that resulted, and disagreements that split Lodges from Grand Lodge down.

Toasting and Masonic Fire and the reasons behind them are examined: why do we "Fire" and why do we Tyle the Festive Board?

This and more will be answered in this Paper.