

Fire in the Rose Croix

The following explanation may be used to great advantage at the festive board at which a newly perfected Prince is present in order that he may know the reverential manner of the Fire:

Explanation:

‘Fire’ in this Order is a solemn act, and the five movements are:

Left shoulder, right hip, right shoulder, left hip, point - using the index finger of the right hand.

The first four movements form a St. Andrew’s cross. For the last movement, the Brethren point to their front with the index finger of the otherwise closed right hand; this must not be done in such a way as to indicate any person or object.

The five points of the ‘Fire’ may be explained thus:

The first four points correspond to the marks (stigmata) of the nails in the hands and feet. The last point may be associated with the spear thrust in the side of our crucified Saviour, or to the cruel Crown of Thorns upon our Master’s head.

Whichever view is used it should be carried out with the deepest reverence and in memory of him who died to ensure our salvation, and not in any irreverent or flippant manner by any Brother not possessing this information.

Notes:

Fire should be given immediately after the toast has been honoured, and the Brethren are still upstanding. The spoken directions are given by the Brother proposing the toast or by the Director of Ceremonies.

Giving ‘Fire’ after toasts is optional, but if given for one toast it must be given for all toasts and must not be selective. Nevertheless it is never given following the Loyal Toast (i.e. ‘The Queen’); this toast should be proposed and honoured without ‘Fire’ being given.

Whilst ‘Fire’ as such is not a secret, it is inappropriate to give it in the presence of non-Masonic waiting staff. They should be asked to leave the dining room whilst the toasts and subsequent ‘Fire’ are given, and all doors should be shut.