

Toast To A Host Is Pleasant Old World Custom

By GAY PAULEY
UPI Women's Editor
COPENHAGEN, Denmark (UPI) — Lifting a glass to toast the health of dining companions is a custom prescribed in many countries of the world.

In the United States, on informal occasions, the message to go with the toast usually is the simple "cheers." Maybe the glasses are touched. This is the British toast too. In Germany, the toastmaster says "prosit." In Italian, it's "la sua salute." In Spanish, "salud," in French "a votre sante" and in Japanese, "kampai."

Art of Drinking
In Scandinavia, the fine art of

drinking to the health of friends has been polished and aged so well through the centuries that to think of these nordic peoples is to think almost automatically, of their "skaal," or "skool," as it has been Anglicized.

Fifteen women reporters from North and South America, Western Europe and Japan on a two-week tour of Denmark, Norway and Sweden have been skooled so frequently that when we hear the salute to our good health we automatically lift a glass, look at our host and sip even if we've switched to mineral water.

Matter of fact, it is just as correct to skool with water or with soft drink as it is with wine,

champagne, the liqueurs, or the Scandinavian national beverages of beer and aquavit.

The custom in Scandinavia is believed to have had its origins in the Stone Age, and certainly can be traced back to the Vikings, say various historical sources. Skaal in Danish literally means bowl, and is a word carried over from ancient days when a guest or guests would be welcomed into a home by the host's presentation of a bowl of grain or other food. Presenting the food was a symbol of friendship. The tradition held, but as time passed, beverages were substituted for the grain.

The Right Way
The proper way to skool, the Danish Information Office says, is for the host first to raise a glass—no one sips before the host has offered the toast—and look around at the guests at the table, then directly into the eyes of one particular guest, say "skaal," drink, then look into the same pair of eyes again.

A guest may offer a skool to

his host, but never to the hostess. But the hostess may offer a skool to the guests.

At a large dinner party, with say 25 or 30 persons present, the skooling for each individual gets so long drawn out that usually the host offers that eye-to-eye skool to one or two guests, then gives everyone a chance to sip without all the formalities by offering what is known as the

THREE PER MAN
CATTERICK CAMP, England
Lt. Col. Clive Tonry, commandant of the 8th Signals Regiment, today ordered his troops to reduce the hundreds of pinups above their bunks to three per man.

round skool.

This one is a toast offered to all at the table, and after that first sip and glance at the host or the person across the table from you guests may lift glasses without the repetition of skool each time.

In Norway, one way to get the evening's protocol out of the way rapidly was to offer an all-embracing "skaal around the coast."

I asked one Danish gentleman if there was etiquette for skool when boy dates girl.

"The same rule applies," he said, "the boy looks into her eyes, says 'skaal,' sips, and looks into her eyes again."

"Wonderful," he said, "for abetting romance."

Changes In Fabric Noted

NEW YORK (UPI) — The changes in fabric form a major part of the warp and woof of women's clothes for fall and winter.

So many new materials are in use and so many familiar ones in offbeat roles a woman needs a fabric Beadecker when she goes shopping for her wintertime wardrobe.

The fabrics are lush and plush, brushed, piled, twisted, ridged, shaggy, looped, rippled and long-haired. Everywhere there is the three-dimensional look of surface texture. The smooth finish, except in the melton cloth, revived for fall and winter and in

the ever present crepes, is rare. Tweeds are bulky looking but modern weaving methods make them light in weight. Other wools are equally light, despite their deep piled surfaces. One manufacturer bragged that a combination sheer wool coat and dress for evening weighed in at less than five pounds complete.

Reporters visiting New York for a marathon series—10 days—of fashion shows got a look at the wide range of materials offered by manufacturers in this, the nation's number one garment center. The shows will end Tuesday night.

8 The News-Review, Roseburg, Ore. — Thurs., July 25, 1963

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