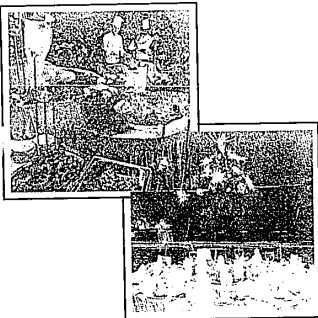


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## Whole-hearted or

Whether you fall back on traditional toasts or come up with something personal and distinctive, you'll be practicing a custom that reaches back to ancient civilizations.

While you're pondering what words to use on this momentous occasion, let's consider some of that history.

The first known drinking ceremony seems to have been the ancient practice of pouring some of the guests' wine into the host's glass and vice versa before either drank. Not only was this a hospitable gesture, it assured that neither person would even consider poisoning the wine.

Moving on to Shakespearean English, and presumably more hospitable companions, drinking ceremonies gradually became known as "toasts," after the piece of toasted bread placed in the bottom of the cup. The toast helped clarify wine by filtering out sediment.

Good health and elaborate descriptions of lovers' devotion became favorite toast topics. The ancient Romans proved their affection by downing one glass for each letter in their beloved's name.

Devoted Saxon lovers toasted each other in a ceremony which involved the

## wry toasts

letting of blood from the man's forehead into his glass of wine.

French nobles once embarked on an elaborate series of bows while giving a toast. The English preferred offering a toast on breaded knees.

During World War I, American soldiers in France reportedly headed for the wine cellar after gaining control of a chateau. Often, shells would explode around the group sampling the chateau's wine cellar, hurling dirt in all directions. Here's mud in your eye! became a popular toast and a superstitious method of avoiding catastrophe.

In the U.S., traditional toasts brought over by our collective forebears remain popular. They range from the English's "Cheers" to Israel's "L-Chaim" to Poland's "Na Zdrowie." Among the more poetic toasts given at modern weddings is "Marriage is the chalice that holds the wine of love."

If you're still unconvinced you can come up with a terrific toast for the wedding, Betty Scotch's "Extra Special" Toast Guide, a free pamphlet, can be obtained by sending a stamped, self-addressed business size envelope to 888 Seventh Ave., New York, N.Y. 10106.

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