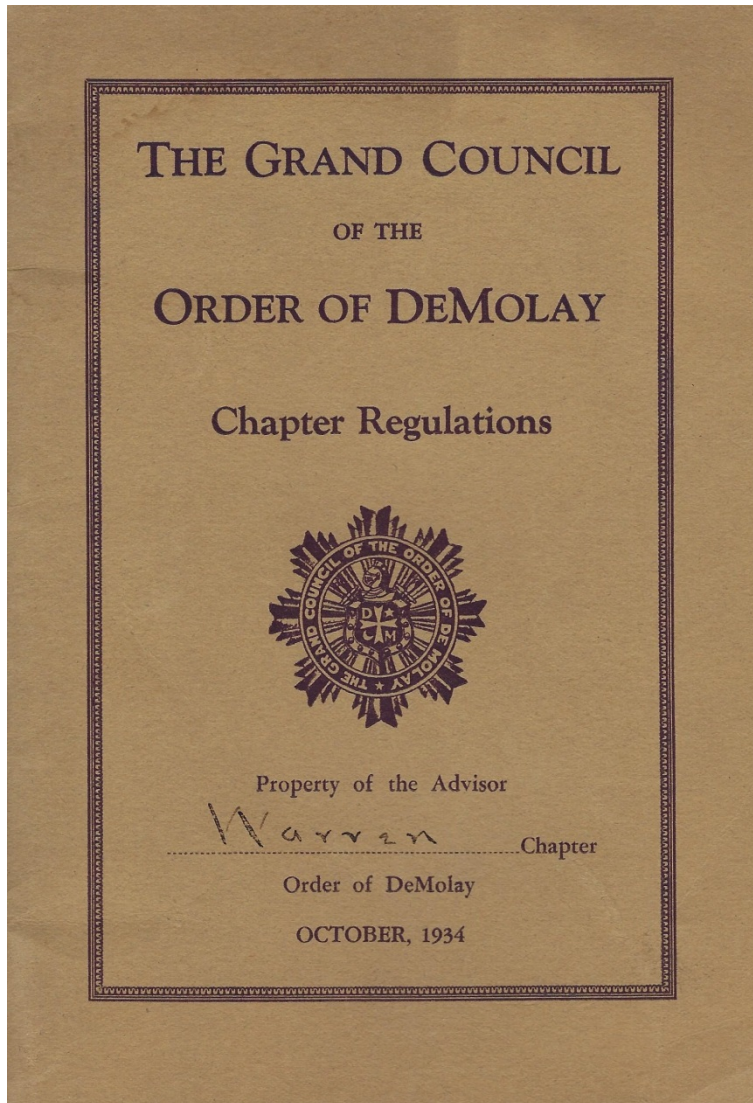


Centennial Celebration Moments # 40 (April 5, 2019)

Uncovering the “DeMolay Salute”

In the “Random Rules” file we came across this interesting item in the October 1934 edition of the Grand Council book of Chapter Regulations:



Revokable Sec. 5. A Member or Deputy may for good and sufficient reasons revoke the honor and recall the patent, cordon, ring and medallion of such member, subject to the right of such Legionnaire to appeal from the decision of said Member or Deputy to the Grand Council at its next session.

Ritual Sec. 6. The conferring of this honor upon a nominee shall be according to the ritual as prescribed by the Grand Council and may be public.

ARTICLE XII
GENERAL REGULATIONS

Wearing of Emblem Section 1. Any member of a Chapter seen wearing the emblem of the Order in any place where he would not take his mother or sister will be subject to discipline for conduct unbecoming a member of the Order of DeMolay.

Recognize Sec. 2. Every member must at all times recognize any Brother of the Order of DeMolay by a personal salute, whether known to him personally, or if wearing the DeMolay emblem, and the Brother so recognized must return the salute.

Public Use of Uniforms Sec. 3. No Chapter is permitted to appear in public in uniform, except at the funeral of a member of the Order or by dispensation issued by the Member or Deputy of the Grand Council.

Not To Be Loaned Sec. 4. No Chapter shall grant, loan or allow the use of its regalia or other paraphernalia used in the work of its degrees or ceremonials, for any other than DeMolay purposes.

DeMolay Degree When Opened In Sec. 5. When the Chapter is opened in its highest degree, all preceding degrees are opened, and it may pass from work in one degree to work in another without other form than the declaration that it does so.

Look at Article XII, General Regulations

It reads as follows:

“Recognize Sec. 2 *Every member must at all times recognize any Brother of the Order of DeMolay by a personal salute, whether known to him personally, or if wearing the DeMolay emblem, and the Brother so recognized must return the salute.”*

What salute are they referring to? Was there an official DeMolay Salute? Or are they referring to the sign of one of the Degrees of DeMolay?

To discover the answer, we had to again consult with Bro. Greg Schaeffer, former Chairman of the DeMolay International Ritual and Regalia Committee, who reported the following information:

"In the 1st-5th Editions, and there is no explanation of a "salute," except in the 1st Edition, which says:

"The usual military salute will be given whenever indicated by the ritual."

During the ceremonies, whenever an officer was addressed by the MC, he was to rise and salute, giving a military salute. That was eliminated in the 2nd Edition (1920). Apparently some Chapters were still doing it, however, because in the 4th Edition (1926) the Ritual Committee, headed by Dad Frank Marshall, added:

"Officers or members need not salute MC when addressed by him, only rise and address the MC as "Brother Master Councilor."

And apparently "*need not*" wasn't clear enough so in the 5th Edition the Ritual Committee was more explicit:

"Officers or members should not salute MC when addressed by him but only rise."

That direction lingered until the 9th Edition (1963) when it was removed completely.

At no point was there any explanation tying the first edition "salute" to either the Initiatory or DeMolay Degree sign. So the only reasonable explanation for the 1934 regulation was that it was a reaction to the direction in the 1st Edition to "the usual military salute."

1. Why do you think the military salute was built into the 1st Edition of the Ritual?
2. For what reason or reasons might the Ritual Committee have decided to remove the military salute from the ritual and customs of the Order?
3. Why did it take so long for some Chapters to drop using the military salute?
4. Do you really think the practice of giving the military salute could have lingered all through the 1940s and 1950s? Or was it just something that was ignored for a long period of time?

5. Do you know of any Chapters that insist on following old traditions that are NOT a part of today's DeMolay Program?