

A mere mouthful hungry ancestors

How anyone ever managed to get beyond the second course is a mystery, perhaps the stomachs of the time were constructed differently from ours? Of course such vast consumption necessitated frequent trips from the table for 'natural' purposes. In those days however, 'close stools', commodes, etc., were placed at convenient intervals around the room behind carefully-placed screens so diners didn't have to travel very far!

By the nineteenth century, the Christmas pudding had become solidified and was boiled in a cloth, so it was round in shape.

It was iced before being brought to the table and a sprig of holly placed on the top. It was served both at the beginning and at the end of the meal, and was often accompanied by a delicious hot sauce made by boiling sugar with wine, brandy, and a favourite liqueur. Alternatively it was sometimes eaten with a more substantial sauce made from cream, eggs, wine, brandy and nutmeg.

The scope of the meal too changed somewhat, although fifteen courses were still quite common right up until Victorian times. Whether anyone ever



really enjoyed the aftermath of such over-indulgence is hard to say, little has been written about it.



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come & party...

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