The Ordinary Summer Service of Thin Tea,
According to the Enshû School
Part Two: From Offering the Accompanying Guests
Initial Bowls of Thin Tea to the Conclusion
of the Service

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Key words
① thin tea  ② kinaesthetic logic  ③ aesthetic cooperation  ④ structured service

キー・ワード
①薄茶  ②所作の論理  ③美的協力  ④点法の構成
Signs Used

A = This concerns activities peculiar to the host’s assistant (半東).
H = This concerns activities peculiar to the host (亭主).
S = Summer. That is to say, what is explained applies only to the warmer months of the year, when the floor-brazier has replaced the sunken hearth, and is situated to the left of the utensil-segment of matting (i.e., as far as possible on that segment from the guests’ seats).
U = This concerns only dealing with thin tea (usu-cha (薄茶)).
★ = Although the text on any page on which this is found chiefly will primarily concern the actions of the host and his assistant, any paragraph preceded by this sign specifically concerns the conduct of one or all of the guests.

Conventions Used

・ For simplicity of expression, I have (largely) arbitrarily assumed that the host and his assistant are male, while all guests are female. This has nothing to do with my perception of reality; and, although doing the opposite would have been just as convenient, I rather fancy the notion of men entertaining and serving women….

・ In order to indicate the positioning of something in relation to a (usually round) utensil, I have used the idea of a clock-face, and done this on the assumption that the point on that utensil that is closest to the person using it can be indicated by the term ‘6 o’clock’. Directly translating from Japanese terms, a position on the matting that is closest to 6 o’clock of a vessel is referred to as being ‘below’ that vessel, while one closest to its 12 o’clock is expressed as being ‘above’ it.

viii) Tea for one or more accompanying guests

[The following, somewhat more-abbreviated process will be repeated until the tail-guest has been provided with tea. At a large, public Tea-meet, however, it will be repeated only once, for the second guest, the remainder of the guests being served with bowlfuls prepared in the preparation-room.

In the case of a lesson during which there is time to serve only a single guest, no secondary bowl will have been brought in, and so, as soon as the host has inquired as to the quality of the tea, he proceeds directly to supplying the cauldron with intermission water (see (ix), below).]
Cleansing the secondary tea-bowl

When preparing tea for a subsequent time, an abbreviated sequence of movements is used.

- The host’s assistant having, as described in Part One, replaced the chief [or a preceding] guest’s full tea-bowl with another, secondary one, the host now takes this with his right hand at 3 o’clock, places it briefly on his left-palm and inspects its interior, right hand in supporting position, and then, with right hand, sets it on the matting, on his axis-of-seat.

- Taking up the ladle, he first repeats the whole set of stages of warming and cleansing a bowl:
  a) pouring a ladleful of hot water into the bowl;
  b) taking up the tea-swab from the cauldron-lid;
  c) rinsing the bowl round once to cleanse it, and warm it and the swab;
  d) emptying the bowl;
  e) using the swab to cleanse the bowl;
  f) depositing the bowl before him, refolding the swab as before, and returning that to the cauldron-lid.

Preparing a secondary bowlful of tea

- He then makes tea, with, however, five major differences:
  i) he no longer needs to open the lid of the water-vessel;
  ii) he takes up both scoop and caddy entirely simultaneously;
  iii) he does not cleanse the rim of the caddy-body, so he spreads the tea-powder with the scoop, once, while the caddy is still open; meanwhile the left hand ‘floats’ the caddy-body on his left-hand knee; and then he executes only the double-tap;
  iv) he picks the caddy-lid up as he put it down, scoop-shaft passing between knees and tea-bowl, and the closed caddy and scoop are returned to the left of the whisk again simultaneously;
  v) he does not employ the water-mixing movement.

[(ii) ~ (v) are abbreviated because the other guests have been kept waiting for their tea, and so should be provided with this as speedily as possible.]

Everything else, however, is repeated.
Variations:

- In the case of an intimate Tea-occasion, just two bowls may be alternated, or the host’s assistant may bring in, always on his presentation-napkin folded in four-ply, a different bowl for each accompanying guest. In whichever case, the host’s assistant makes sure that it is the principal bowl that is returned to the host after Intermission-water (see below), and will remove any secondary bowl[s], always on his presentation-napkin, having in all cases first bowed to the relevant guest, and said, “Permit me to relieve you of this bowl [[お下げいたします]]”, and then got out and opened by one ply his presentation-napkin.

- For a large Tea-meet comprising multiple sittings, however, the procedure is, in the interests of efficiency, rather different:
  
  a) A secondary bowl (which, like the principal bowl, should be one of some distinction) is brought in for the host himself to prepare tea in for the second guest, and is exchanged for the principal bowl, as above.

  b) The rest of the guests are served from the preparation-room by other helpers, using a set of supernumerary bowls (数茶碗, which set may be either of a uniform ware and style, or else all entirely different.

  c) Once the chief guest has finished her bowlful, the host’s assistant seats himself before her, bows, and says, “Allow me to relieve you of this bowl. Having cleansed it, it will finally be set out for your examination. [[お下げいたします。清めまして、後ほど詳見に出させていただきます]]”. And the same treatment is accorded to the secondary bowl.

  d) As soon as the host begins the Intermission-water procedure, without employing his presentation-napkin, the host’s assistant brings in a motif-less, plain substitute-bowl [[お替茶碗]], which he sets out for the host to take up. The latter having done this, placed the substitute briefly on his left-hand palm, supported by his right hand, and then set it before him (see (x), below), he bows and says, “Allow me to clear away using a substitute-bowl [[お替茶碗にて仕舞わせていただきます]]”, and then [since the bowl has not been used, and the guests are not being offered secondary servings], he immediately proceeds with (xi), Wet cleansing (see below).

ix) Replenishing the contents of the cauldron: Intermission water

Host [takes up] ladle and performs the firming-ladle gesture.

- As soon as whichever is the final guest to be regaled has replied to the host’s question to her, “Does that meet with your approval?” 「お服加減は何でございましょうか？」, the host’s right hand goes to the shaft-node of the ladle, which utensil is at present resting upon the mouth of the opened cauldron, and he places his thumb upon that shaft-node.

- Having raised the shaft to horizontal position (cup still propped
on cauldron), he brings the ladle before him, to the diagonal firming-ladle position, and, taking the two sides of the shaft-node between thumb and forefinger of his left hand, and keeping the sides of the ladle-cup parallel to the matting, he slides his right hand down to the shaft-tip, there to take its two sides, while he inconspicuously swells his elbows away from his torso, and, while so doing, once more lets all tension drop from his shoulders and neck, and discards irrelevant thoughts.

- He next raises the tip of the ladle-shaft, until the bottom of the cup is, instead, parallel to the matting, to his left, and the shaft parallel with the axis of his knees. He then places his thumb on the shiny upper surface of the shaft, and slides his opened right palm (beneath the shaft) down the shaft and into his opened left palm (the left thumb still steadying the ladle-shaft); there, he at last takes the shaft in the pen-grip, smartly inverts/pronates the ladle-cup, and takes the ladle this time to his right, over the tea-whisk to approach the opened water-vessel and its contents, via 6 o’clock of the former.

- He takes a whole ladleful of cold water from the mid-depths of the water-vessel, and, passing the ladle-cup out from 6 o’clock of the water-vessel, back over the whisk, round past himself in a U-shaped path, and up to 6 o’clock of the cauldron-rim, by pronating his right hand he then smartly trickles the cold water into the centre of the cauldron-mouth, allowing the ladle-cup only to tilt, and keeping the swiveled shaft in the same position until all the water has left the cup.

- Having introduced cold water into hot, the host next performs the water-mixing movement, followed by the drawn ladle-movement [— the most frivolous of all Tea-manouevres, and therefore not employed in services of any greater degree of solemnity], which sets the supinated ladle-cup at 10:30 of the cauldron-mouth, and the shaft-tip so as to lie exactly above the nearer right-hand corner of the brazier-plinth.
x) *Asking about further tea*

★ When host has [placed] last returned bowl before self, guests that have drunk all [bow] and [thank] him.

Host [pours] ladleful of hot water into bowl, [rinses round] and [empties] bowl, [deposits] it before him, and [returns] the ladle to the cauldron.

★ The guest[s] will then [all together] bow fully, and thank him by saying 「ご馳走様でございました」, which he will acknowledge with a silent bow.

・ Having filled the bowl before him with a ladleful of hot water (the shaft taken up on the ring formed by thumb and forefinger), and returned the ladle-cup pronated until it passes over the left-hand cauldron-lug, whereupon he supinates it in order to place it at 10:30 on the cauldron-rim, but lowers the shaft, again diagonally, this time (and from here on) with the swiveling ladle-movement.

・ He rinses the bowl round, right palm against the right of the bowl in the securing position, and then, taking it first in the right hand at 3 o'clock and then the left at 9 o'clock, he empties the water into the slop-bowl as before, on his axis-of-seat wipes the drip upwards with right hand and returns the bowl to his right hand, and deposits it before him.

・ Bowing, he asks, “Would anyone care for a further bowlful?…”

(If the guests request further tea, (viii–ix) will be repeated.)

・ ★ If no more tea is required, the chief guest will reply, “Since we have all been most sufficiently regaled, please feel free to conclude.…”

・ ★ To this, the host will respond with, “If that be the case, then allow me to clear away.…”

**Variation:**

For the chief guest's impromptu request to examine the cleansed primary bowl, and the host's response to this, see the Appendix, below.
xi) **Wet cleansing**

*Cleansing the whisk and tea-bowl*

- Taking the ladle-shaft up with the ring of right-hand thumb and forefinger, and then in the **pen-grip**, the host inverts the cup as it passes over the left-hand cauldron-*lug*, and brings the ladle past himself, to move up over the tea-whisk and take a ladleful of cold water from the middle of the water-vessel, which he approaches from its 6 o’clock. Returning the ladle-cup to the tea-bowl *via* 5 o’clock of the latter, he pours all the water into the bowl, and returns the ladle as far as the left-hand cauldron-*lug* with cup still pronated, and then supinates this to place it back on the rim as before, employing the **swiveling ladle-movement**.

- Having left the ladle-shaft with **lingering heart**, his right hand takes up the **whisk**, thumb at 6 o’clock, and, as it approaches the tea-bowl, he uses his fingers so as to invert the whisk (i.e., tines now pointed downwards), and grip its handle once more from the side. As the whisk enters the tea-bowl, from 5 o’clock of its rim, the left hand goes to the **steadying position** on the left-hand part of that rim. The host swishes the whisk briskly through the cold water several times, being careful to use the sides of the outer tines to remove any smears of tea from the inside of the bowl, and finally draws it out horizontally, tines facing left, at 3 o’clock on the bowl-rim, on which he wipes the tine-tips, and, bringing it upright, replaces it before the water-vessel.

- With his right hand, and using the **egg-grip**, he picks up the bowl at 3 o’clock, and, having transferred it to his left-hand palm, with his right hand he takes up the **tea-swab** from the cauldron-lid, from above, and once more presses it to the base of the right-hand side of the bowl, while he **rinses round**, and then takes the bowl at 9 o’clock in his left hand, again with the **egg-grip**, but finger-tips securely within the **bowl-foot**.

- While his right hand with thumb uppermost holds the **swab** hovered just above his lower right-hand thigh, his left hand empties the bowl into the slop-bowl; he immediately brings the bowl hori-
horizontal once more, and, on his axis-of-seat, manipulates the bowl back onto his left-hand palm, while using the swab in his right hand to wipe the drips upwards, at 3 o’clock on the outer surface of the bowl. Right-hand thumb facing downwards, within the bowl he uses the swab to cleanse from 12 to 6 o’clock, and then, thumb uppermost, places the swab in the bowl where it was when he first brought the tea-bowl in (i.e., with its ‘back’ to 12 o’clock of the rim). His right hand now takes the bowl in the egg-grip at 3 o’clock, in order to deposit it before him.

・Leaving the bowl with lingering heart, the host’s right hand now takes up the whisk, and restores that too to its original position in the bowl.

xii) Dry-cleansing

Cleansing the tea-scoop

Host returns whisk to bowl [RH].

・From his bosom, with his right hand the host now extracts his service-napkin, still in in-folded form. This he rolls on his left-hand palm (placing it so that the longer sides are parallel to his axis-of-seat), and taking up the uppermost pointed-lappet (if the lappets are pointing towards him, as they should be), performs the napkin-inspecting movement, and then folds the napkin flat-style, and transfers it to his left hand.

・From the lid of the caddy, and taking it by its shaft-tip, thumb upwards, he brings the tea-scoop to the napkin, but this time places the bowl of the scoop in the middle of the right-hand half of the napkin; the left-hand thumb at once folds the left-hand half of the napkin to cover and grip the scoop-bowl, while the right hand slips up the shaft until its thumb-tip is resting against the shaft-node. Once there, the right hand raises the shaft a little way vertically, thus causing the pressure of the left hand through the napkin onto the scoop-bowl to wipe that bowl clean of tea-powder.

[The shaft is thus retaken at its node in order to obviate the possibility of snapping the former, which is weakest at the latter point.]
Both hands now travel together to a position above the middle of the slop-bowl, where the left hand thumb carefully opens up the doubled napkin, and the right, holding the scoop only in forefinger and thumb, uses its 3 remaining fingers, extended, in order slowly to tap the napkin next to where the tea-powder has adhered to it, twice, in order to cause as much as possible of this to fall into the slop-bowl. [What as a result now falls is only what has remained but loosely adhering to the napkin, and could otherwise fall anywhere during subsequent use of the napkin; what does not fall can be removed after the service has been concluded, by rubbing that area with another part of the napkin, or using a stiff-napped lint-remover.]

Both hands at once return to either side of the axis-of-seat, and now, having inched the shaft of the scoop into the grip of the last two fingers of his right hand, the host reverses his service-napkin, by with his right hand turning the napkin over, folded as it is, and from right to left on his left-hand palm, taking the upper of the two pointed-lappets thus revealed, and giving this to his left-hand thumb and forefinger. His right hand forefinger and thumb then take the second (i.e., lower, but now uncovered) pointed lappet, and both hands simultaneously pull the napkin taut at right-angles to the host’s axis-of-seat, thus revealing the so-far unused triangular half of the napkin (the one that bears the Grand Master’s abstract signature). Now pincering the left-hand pointed lappet between fourth and fifth fingers of the left hand (fifth finger on top of the napkin, fourth beneath), moving his left hand so that the napkin stays horizontal, and next using his left thumb to pincer the napkin from beneath, the host refolds it in the flat style [this has to be demonstrated], and finally places it on his left palm, for use.

Now his right hand manipulates the tea-scoop so as to invert this (anti-clockwise) and places it so that its shaft-node is in the centre of the right-hand half of the napkin.

The host now performs only the second and third movements that he used in the initial cleansing of the scoop, finishing by (with

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his left hand, and through the napkin) briefly gripping the scoop-
bowl so that his right hand can retake it at its **shaft-tip**, pass it on
his **axis-of-seat** over the folded napkin, and replacing it on the rim
of the **tea-bowl**, as it was when the latter was brought in.

・ Having once more **in-folded** his service-napkin, he returns that
to his bosom.

**xiii) Closing up the arrangement**

・ With his right hand, thumb at 6 o’clock, he returns the caddy to
its original placement centre of the **front** of the **water-vessel**, and,
having withdrawn that hand with **lingering heart**, using the **egg-grip**
picks up the tea-bowl from 3 o’clock with the same hand,
transfers it to his left hand (at 9 o’clock) at the height of his knees,
and the left hand places the bowl once more three matting-divi-
sions to the left of the **caddy**, being careful of the position of the
bowl & scoop **vis-à-vis** the water-vessel, as at the very beginning of
the service. [**The present position of the caddy requires the use of
the left hand in depositing the bowl beside it.**]

**xiv) Final replenishment of the contents of the cauldron: Conclusion-water**

・ His right hand now fits its thumb-tip to the **shaft-node** of the
**ladle**, and takes the ladle straight across towards the water-vessel,
pronating his forearm as it travels. He then props the now-inverted
cup at 6 o’clock on the **rim** of the **water-vessel**, shaft running
parallel to both surface and borders of the matting-segment, and
there changes his grip on the shaft to the **pen-grip**.

・ He scoops up a ladleful of cold water, and, passing the ladle
straight left to above the **cauldron-mouth**, from (and maintaining)
an appropriate height, he pronates his right hand & ladle so as to
slowly trickle the water into the cauldron, until the ladle-cup is
empty. [**According to how diminished the hot water has become,
due to the number of bowlfuls of tea that he has served, he may
repeat this ladling, but (at least during a lesson) only at most
twice. In such a case, the ladle-cup always travels back to the**]
water-vessel supinated]

- Having performed the water-mixing movement, he now props the inverted cup of the ladle on the cauldron-rim at 6 o’clock, and, with the shaft pointing towards him parallel to the long sides of the utensil-segment, from bent thumb (on top) and bent forefinger (beneath), he performs the ejecting ladle-movement; having paused over the firming ladle-gesture, again to release tension from his neck and shoulders, with the ladle-shaft still held before him in his left hand, he returns the lid to the cauldron, fitting it completely into place from 12 o’clock of the cauldron-mouth, and finally returns the ladle-cup to the lid-rest, handling the shaft just as he did at the start of the service. [At this point, the lid is closed completely in order to help with the heating of what has been added to the cauldron.]

- In an almost exact reversal of the manner in which he removed it, the host’s right hand now, and using the same grip as he employed in depositing this object, takes up the lid of the water-vessel, which has hitherto remained propped against the appropriate side of the body of that vessel. This he once again brings to a vertical position over the slop-bowl, takes it in his left hand as before at 11 o’clock, and uses his right-hand fingers once more to wipe away any condensation and/or matting-dust from the bottom part of the lid-edge. Then the thumb and first two fingers of his right hand take the (horizontal) lid-handle, thumb on top, and, switching the whole lid to horizontal position by pronating his right hand (thumb towards self), he replaces it, passing over 6 o’clock of the vessel’s body, thumb still towards self, and lid-handle aligned with the 9 ~ 3 o’clock axis of the vessel-body.

xv) Request for examination of vital utensils and response to this

★ Chief guest

bows fully and
requests examination
of the vital utensils.

- ★ The faint sound of the lid of the water-vessel being set back in place is the signal for the chief guest to request that she and her fellow-guests be allowed to examine the caddy and scoop at close quarters; and so she bows fully (the other guests doing the same)
and says, ‘ Permit us to examine the two vital utensils’ [[ご両器拝見]].

- The host responds to this with a full but silent bow.
- [The first thing he does is to deal with the shaft of the ladle, which is pointing towards him, and is thus in his way.] With his right hand, he picks up the ladle shaft-tip (forefinger and thumb to either side of this), and, using the cup on the lid-rest as a pivot, he swivels the shaft until it points to his right, running parallel to the front edge of the brazier-plinth. [一文字に置き換える]

- Having deposited the ladle-shaft in this position, his right hand now takes up from the front of the water-vessel the caddy, thumb at 6 o’clock, and supporting it also with his left palm, he slowly shifts his axis-of-seat by 90 degrees to his right, to face the segment of matting next to the utensil-segment. [In doing this, he is careful to leave enough space between his knees and the segment-border in front of him for him comfortably to be able to deposit the caddy on his new axis-of-seat.]

- With his right hand (thumb still at 6 o’clock) he places the caddy before him on his new axis-of-seat, within the border of the utensil-segment.

- As the arrangement in front of the water-vessel is now asymmetrical, his left hand reaches out to take the tea-bowl at 9 o’clock, in the egg-grip, and, in one movement, shifts it to replace the caddy, in front of the water-vessel.

- From his bosom, with his right hand the host now extracts his service-napkin, still in in-folded form. This he rolls on his left-hand palm (placing it so that the longer sides are parallel to his axis-of-seat), and, taking up the uppermost pointed lappet (if the lappets are pointing towards him, as they should be), performs the napkin-inspecting movement, folds the napkin in the gathered-style, and then, as his left hand picks up the caddy, thumb at six o’clock, he tucks the folded napkin into the grip of the last two fingers of his right hand.
Variation:
If the caddy is one that is broad-of-beam, the host will first take it up (as normal) with his left hand, but then take it with the thumb and first two fingers of his right, thumb on lid, to transfer it to his left palm. After he has inspected and cleansed the caddy, he will reverse this process to take it with left-hand thumb at 6 o’clock on the caddy body, in order to place the caddy upon the folded napkin.

- With thumb at 6 o’clock and first two fingers at 12 o’clock, the host lifts the caddy-lid slightly, and shifts it to his right until 9 o’clock of the lid is exactly above 3 o’clock of the body-rim; having briefly inspected the contents, he replaces the lid, and, bringing his folded service-napkin back into a normal grip, he cleanses the lid with the katakana character 「マ」.
- He then slides the napkin under the base of the caddy, and takes both napkin and caddy onto first the bent fingers of his right hand, the heel of his right-hand palm helping to steady the caddy. Next, palm-heel similarly uppermost, the left hand replaces the right, freeing that hand to turn the whole caddy twice by 90°, so that its front now faces away from him. With his right hand, he sets out the caddy where he has previously set out bowls of tea.
- Taking the folded napkin and, by pronating his right hand, reversing the former towards himself on his left-hand palm, he pincers the upper of the two pointed lappets now pointing towards him, and, having repeated the napkin-inspecting movement, he refolds the napkin in flat-style, and transfers it to his left hand.
- With his right hand, he reaches to his left and takes the tea-scoop from the tea-bowl by its shaft-tip, thumb on top, but pronates it as he brings it to his axis-of-seat, where he lays it in the middle of the right-hand half of the napkin, and only the underside and sides are cleansed, as before. When the shaft-node has emerged from the far side of the napkin, however, his right hand takes the node with thumb to his right, little finger furthest from him, so that by then shifting his hand so that his thumb is now to

Host inspects interior of caddy, and then cleanses lid.

Having mounted caddy on folded napkin on LH fingers, host rotates the caddy clockwise, 90° x 2.
Host sets out caddy for guests, beyond matting-border.
Host refolds napkin in flat-style, and transfers it to LH.

From tea-bowl, host takes up [RH] and pronates tea-scoop, and brings it to napkin.
Host cleanses scoop, and sets it out on its side, shaft-tip away from self, to left of and facing Host inspects interior of caddy, and then cleanses lid.
his left, he can put the scoop, on its side three matting-divisions to the left of the caddy, with the upper surface facing the caddy, the shaft-tip pointing away from him, and the shaft-node aligned with the 9 to 3 o'clock axis of the caddy. [It is placed on its side so that as little of it as possible touches the matting.]

・ Finally, he reverses the bunched-up napkin towards himself on his left palm, by taking it thumb upwards and then pronating his right hand (thumb downwards), and, having taken the second lower of the pointed lappets so revealed, and repeating the napkin-inspection movement, he folds it back into a triangle by bringing the two pointed lappets together away from him, and returns the napkin to hang from his belt as it did at the beginning.

The arrangement of utensils now achieved is as shown in the following diagram:

xvi) Removal of the other utensils

・ Now he returns to his original axis-of-seat, aligned with the right-hand edge of the brazier-plinth.
Removing the ladle, lid-rest and slop-bowl

Host [RH] takes up tip of ladle-shaft, supinates cup, takes shaft at node, and raises ladle before him; then [LH] takes up lid-rest, and gives this to RH thumb and first two fingers.

Host prepares to leave with slop-bowl, ladle and lid-rest.

Host takes up slop-bowl LH and rises on axis-of-seat.

Host takes the three-steps-backwards.

- The host taking the shaft-tip of the ladle up between forefinger and thumb, and swiveling the shaft to point towards himself once more (so that the cup is completely upright on the lid-rest), his right hand slides down to the shaft-node, which it grips with its last two fingers, and he brings it in front of him, parallel to the axis of his knees, and with the cup upright, with its bottom parallel to the matting (its shaft is therefore at a diagonal angle, with the shaft-tip to the upper right); immediately, his left hand takes the lid-rest, with thumb at 6 o’clock, and fits it into the grip of his right-hand thumb and first two fingers, in such a way that its front now faces towards the chief guest.

- Taking the full slop-bowl in his left hand, from above, with thumb pointing down the inside of the rim at about 4:30, and with the ladle and lid-rest still held before him in his right hand, the host rises to his feet [his what?], from the right knee, and remaining facing as he has been sitting [this is to conceal the slop-bowl as much as possible from the guests]; he then slides his right foot back as far as just before the join between the two matting-segments abutted behind him, next slides his left foot back to cross the join, and finally takes a third step backwards with his right foot, before turning away from chief guest, to face the service-entrance. [This is because he is carrying slops.] Now walking normally, he passes through the open service-entrance by the foot further from the chief guest’s seat.

Removing the tea-bowl

Host re-enters and removes tea-bowl.

- He returns to the utensil-segment mat, sits on his normal axis-of-seat, and takes up the tea-bowl in his right hand, at 3 o’clock, sets it on the joints between his left-hand palm and fingers, places his right hand in the securing position, and stands, this time to rise to his feet facing at 45° to the right of his axis-of-seat. Turning as he did when bringing the utensils in, he carries out the tea-bowl.
Removing the water-vessel, and shutting the door to the service-entrance

- He returns for the water-vessel, but, when he has brought it back across the sill of the service-entrance, he turns (in the direction of the display-alcove), sits outside the sill, places the water-vessel in the position in which he put it at the start (i.e., near where he has left his ceremonial fan), and closes the sliding door by pulling it almost closed with the hand further from the display-alcove, about ten centimeters from the floor, and then with the other hand, fingertips in the finger-plate, completely shut with a tiny bang. [This closure allows the guests to discuss the caddy and scoop in privacy.] He then takes the water-vessel to the preparation-room, and either refills it, or empties it, as necessary in the situation. While he is waiting for the guests to finishing examining caddy and scoop, he does whatever else is necessary.

- As soon as the host has left with the water-vessel, the host’s assistant goes to seat himself to face the vital utensils, and takes them both up simultaneously, caddy in left hand (thumb at 6 o’clock), and scoop (still kept facing leftwards) with right-hand thumb-tip on the shaft-node. He holds them at the height of his solar plexus, about three matting-divisions apart, and so as, when seen from above, to form the character 「八」.

- Having shifted his axis-of-seat to face the chief guest, again simultaneously, he places both utensils, grouped as they were first put out by the host, near his left knee.

- With his right hand, thumb at 6 o’clock, he takes up the caddy (the 12 ~ 6 o’clock axis of which is presently parallel to his own axis of seat, with the front nearer him), places it upon his left-hand palm, turns it twice, from 12 to 3 o’clock, so that its front now faces the chief guest, and places it before her, central on her own axis-of-seat, outside the segment-border between her and himself.

- With his right hand, thumb on shaft-node, he takes up the tea-scoop, handles it a little below the node with his left hand, and retakes it on the node with his right hand, but now pronated so that its little finger is farthest from him, and sets out the scoop.
three matting-divisions from 3 o’clock of the caddy, as seen by the chief guest.

- Having retreated by one shuffle, he **bows fully** but silently.

- **Chief guest bows fully in return.**

- A Just as whenever he has previously delivered something to a guest, he rises, takes two half-steps backwards, turns and leaves the chamber, turns round, sits, and closes the door to the service-entrance. *He does not need to bow first.*

**Variation:**

If the **host’s assistant** is to present the **vital utensils** to the chief guest, the host will remove the water-vessel but leave the **service-entrance** open; the door to this will be closed by the assistant, after he has delivered the utensils to the guest.

15) **Settling the cauldron-lid and removing the examined utensils**

- When the host concludes that the caddy and scoop have been returned to where he set them out (usually by the **tail-guest**), but now turned to face where he will finally sit, he sits outside the service-entrance, and opens the sliding-door as appropriate, rises, and goes to sit on his **axis-of-seat**.

- Taking his **service-napkin** from his belt exactly as he did when he first cleansed the caddy-lid, he performs the **napkin-inspection** movement and then the **gathered-style** of folding.

- With napkin held in right hand, thumb towards himself, he **cleanses** the **lid of the cauldron** with the **katakana** character 「マ」, and then, gripping the **lid-knob** from its right-hand side, by sandwiching it with the folded napkin, he sets the lid **ajar**, so that the furthest portion of the lid tilts upwards, leaving a small gap that runs from about 10:30 to 2:30 of the cauldron-mouth. *This signals that everything is ready, in case an unexpected guest should suddenly arrive.*

- Reversing the napkin towards himself on his left palm, by pronating his right hand, with that hand he now takes the upper of
Host shifts rightwards to face vital utensils.

★Guests [bow fully]
Dialogue about vital utensils.

Host [takes up] vital utensils, [leaves], but sits beyond sill.


the two pointed lappets (now pointing away from him), and, having inspected the napkin, folds it and replaces it in his belt.

・Now he shifts his axis-of-seat to face the returned caddy and scoop.

・★ All the guests bow fully.
・Having responded to the bows of the guests, and then, with finger-tips still on the matting, answered the chief guest’s questions concerning these (‘What is the lacquer?’ ‘Who was the craftsman?’ ‘What episodes are associated with the caddy?’ ‘What name has the scoop been given?’ ‘Who carved it?’; and so on as appropriate), host and guests bow fully to one another once more, the host picks up the caddy with his left hand, thumb at 6 o’clock, and the scoop in his right, thumb-tip on shaft-node, and, holding them both before his breast, three matting-divisions apart, and so as to suggest (if seen from above) the Chinese character 「はち」, he carries them out, outside the sill once more turning and seating himself.

・Having deposited the caddy and scoop as they were set out for him, but now in the place where he first set the water-vessel, with his right hand the host reaches round them for his fan, which he takes from above its middle; and, after having handled it before himself with his left hand, with his right he places it between his knees and the sill from above, parallel to the latter, and, bowing fully, says to the guests, ‘I’m afraid you must have been dreadfully bored.’ ['お退屈様でございました'].

・★ The guests all handle and set their ceremonial fans before them in time with the host, and the chief guest will express their thanks for them.

If this is a lesson, he will then bow again, and say 「宗○先生、お稽古、どうもありがとうございました」.
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H Host closes door, and returns fan to belt.

- Only then does he close the service-entrance and restore his fan to his belt, handling it first.

What must be done as the last part of each individual lesson during which thin tea has been served

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- A The learner that has acted as host’s assistant should replace the sweetmeat chopstick-tips in standing water, and switch the remaining wet sweetmeats around before adding a fresh one/fresh ones (this ensures that no wet-sweetmeat is left to dry and dry for the whole lesson, thereby becoming ever less appetizing), thus readying the sweetmeat-vessel for the next lesson.

If dry sweetmeats are also being served, these too should be replenished.

- A He should also wash out the tea-swab, to remove any marks of wet tea-powder, rinse off the whisk, and stand it back in water, and cleanse the tea-bowl.

- A Finally, he should replenish the water in the water-vessel, and rinse out and wipe dry the slop-bowl.

H Meanwhile, the learner that has acted as host should replenish the tea-powder in the caddy, reshape the mound, and cleanse the caddy as described concerning preparations.

- If, however, the learner’s lesson has been the last for that day, she will instead return immediately to the Tea-chamber, in order to exchange concluding salutations with her teacher and the other pupils. Then everybody will start clearing up.

Appendix: the Host’s Procedure for Responding to an Impromptu Request to Examine a Cleansed Tea-bowl, and Related Matters

★ Chief guest requests to be allowed to examine primary bowl, once cleansed.

- ★ When the host enquires as to needs for further tea (see the final part of (x), above), if one of the guests has been particularly impressed with the primary tea-bowl, she will have communicated this matter to the chief guest, and the latter will bow fully, and then consequently respond to the host’s enquiry by saying, “Of tea you have afforded us a sufficiency, but might we examine the primary tea-bowl? 「お茶は十分に頂戴いたしましたが、お茶碗拝見」”.
The host’s obedient response to this requires a small variation in the subsequent stages.

The host takes up the ladle, and scoops a full cupful of hot water so that the bowl shall still be warm when the guests examine it, and pours this into the bowl, returning the ladle to the cauldron-mouth with the swiveling ladle-movement.

Having cleansed the whisk, and taken up first the bowl and then the swab, he rinses round, and empties the hot water into the slop-bowl (all as above), but then he performs the thorough bowl-cleansing sequence, and, having placed the swab on the heel of his left-hand palm, right hand pronated, and then turned the bowl twice through 90°, from 12 o’clock to 3, he shifts his axis-of-seat so as to face the right-hand edge of the utensil-segment (and thus his guests), and sets out the bowl in the place indicated above for the vital utensils (see the diagram on p. 22, above), the fingers of his still-supinated left hand immediately closing over the swab.

Having returned to his permanent axis-of-seat, he briskly re-places the swab in the centre of his left-hand palm, again with pronated right hand, but so that its lappets spread clearly out, and then performs the second re-folding of the swab, which he returns to the cauldron-lid.

Meanwhile, the chief guest fetches the tea-bowl on her presentation-napkin folded in four ply, and the bowl is immediately examined by each guest in turn, placed on her fully-opened presentation-napkin.

What follows is necessitated by the lack of a tea-bowl in front of the host.

The host meanwhile performs all of Conclusion-water, except the water-mixing movement and what normally follows that, and returns the ladle to the cauldron-mouth, again using the swiveled ladle-movement.

He next cleanses and closes the lid of the water-vessel as described above, but then with his right hand takes up the swab
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water-vessel and deposits swab on its lid, then propping whisk on swab.

Host dry-cleanses scoop, and places it on water-vessel lid.

Host shifts caddy back to original position, and completes Conclusion-water, closing cauldron and replacing ladle on lid-rest. ★Chief guest requests examination of vital utensils.

from the cauldron-lid, with his left hand bends its left-hand "plover's wing" back behind its "body", and sets the swab just in front of, and against, the handle to the lid of the water-vessel, so that this handle keeps the bent wing in place. [This is done to make space for the tea-scoop; see below.]

· Now with right hand he takes up the whisk from beside the caddy, and places the whisk-handle handle on the "foot" of the swab, so that the whisk leans away from him at a slight angle.

· Following this, he final-dry-cleanses the tea-scoop as described above, but deposits it on the left-hand portion of the lid of the water-vessel, parallel to the 12-6 o'clock axis of that vessel, and with its shaft-tip just protruding beyond the lip to the mouth of the vessel.

· That done, with his right hand he shifts the tea-caddy to its original position before 6 o'clock of the water-vessel, takes up the ladle in the pen-grip, at last performs the water-mixing movement, the ejecting ladle-movement, and the ladle-firming gesture, and returns to the cauldron its lid, and the ladle to the lid-rest, all as described above.

· ★ This becomes the signal for the chief guest to request to be allowed to examine the vital utensils [whereupon this variation is completed, except for the following details].

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Host removes whisk and swab, and then water-vessel, closing service-entrance.

· Having removed the slop-bowl from the chamber, the host returns, sits on his permanent axis-of-seat, and takes up from the lid of the water-vessel the tea-whisk with his right hand, and then the swab with his left. Holding the swab at navel-height, with foot away from himself, and the whisk with tines likewise pointing away from himself but downwards at an angle of 45°, so that the tine-tips are vertically above the swab [so that the latter will catch any drips from the former], he rises and removes these from the
chamber, returning for the water-vessel, as described above.
· ★ Once the host has taken out the water-vessel and closed the service-entrance, the tail-guest, who presently has charge of the examined bowl, consults the chief guest as to how it is to be returned, and, carrying it on her presentation-napkin now folded four-ply, as requested either delivers it to the chief guest (who will advance from her customary seat to receive it), or else returns it to the place in which the host set it out, first turning it so that its front faces away from herself.
· H Having re-entered and dealt, as above, with the lid of the cauldron, the host shifts to face the tea-bowl, and, bowing, responds to the chief guest’s salutation and questions concerning it. That done, he carries it out of the chamber.
· ★ The tail-guest repeats consultation with the chief guest, this time as to the return of the vital utensils, and then does whatever the latter has asked her to do. [What is done subsequently is as already described above.]

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Notes
1) See Gibbs (2013), pp. 77-78.
The Ordinary Summer Service of Thin Tea, According to the Enshû School (Gibbs)

Reference
Gibbs, A. Stephen (2013). ‘The Ordinary Summer Service of Thin Tea, as Conducted According to the Practice of the Enshû School of Tea: Part One: From Preparation to Presentation of a Serving of Tea to the Chief Guest’ 『関西大学外国語学部紀要』第9号. pp. 41-82.

Variation (i):  
Should the height of the water-vessel be less than the diameter of its mouth 平ひらみずさし水指, if the host props the lid at 3 o'clock of the vessel-body, such a lid will necessarily obscure the vessel-body almost entirely from the gaze of the guests. Therefore, having cleansed its lower edge, he pincers the lid with his right hand at 5 o'clock, thumb nearest to and pointing towards himself, and tilts the lid so that its obverse surface faces left, and props the lid against 9 o'clock of the vessel-body, with its handle pointing left, and parallel to the matting-surface.