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ETA SIGMA PHI

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Character in the Aeneid

By Welles Bliss, Alpha Epsilon

Aside from a few characters in the Aeneid, Vergil did not draw them with much depth. Certainly Lavinia is about as shallow as one might ask, drawn just enough to give an idea of her qualities as the chosen vessel for the Italian-Trojan union. Achates is ever only fidus, never coming out of that shadowy position at Aeneas’ side. Even Turnus is of one type, a young, mighty warrior, hot-blooded, but no leader; his character like that of all the others except Aeneas’ remains static. Iulus is the darling little boy; Pallas draws more tears, but appears in only one light. Mezentius, the soccer of the gods, is revealed to us in a more brilliant light than most of the minor and major characters. All the characters save Aeneas are, as it were, shadows and bright spots on a canvas which is bearing the portrait of the great Trojan hero, serving to bring out his character and impress him more and more clearly on the mind of the reader.

All too often Aeneas is criticized as being colorless, weak, hesitant, unfaithful, goody-goody, and all the other epithets which are applied to him by the readers who do not really understand him. It is necessary to comprehend clearly his position. It is true that he was the son of a goddess, but he also was the son of a mortal, and therefore was human. He was, for ten years only to see all that he was cherished by the Romans—Aeneas was under the thankless, so it seemed, and difficult task of being the leader of his exiled people. He had fought as one of the champions of Troy for ten long, weary years before he left Troy, in a state of constant anxiety for his city and family: then came the destruction which was in itself enough to unnerv anyone; the further addition to his sorrows after the death of his wife was his burden of responsibility in establishing his race elsewhere. Tossed about on the tempestuous sea, he longed for succor, wondering if his task would ever stop; it is no wonder that he often was tempted to give up, but was goaded on,

as the critic says, by the admonitions of the gods. I feel that this divine intervention cannot be taken too literally; it is merely the epic expression of his inward conscience, his realization that he must carry on regardless, that that is his mission here on earth and he must perform it.

Much criticism also is raised over his attitude to Dido, to the effect that she was unfairly treated by him. He had lost his father, had been travelling for seven years, had lost his wife at Troy, and was bearing alone a terrific responsibility. He met this attractive queen who was sympathetic to his tale of woe; she was asking for it, and she got it, since his resistance was pretty low. This does not necessarily excuse his actions, but she certainly was not justified in holding him in such an unfair light as she did in their encounter in Hades. The question she asked, the critic of Aeneas asks also: “Why couldn’t Dido go along with him?” The answer to this is found in an understanding of the position of the paterfamilias in regard to his children’s marriages. When we realize that Jupiter had ordained, in his position of the World’s Judge, that Lavinia would be Aeneas’ bride, he was doing exactly the same thing that was customary among the Romans—the paterfamilias arranging a marriage of convenience, not necessarily one of love. Since Jupiter was Aeneas’ maternal grandfather, he was also his paterfamilias, and therefore Aeneas was under his jurisdiction in regard to his will in choosing a mate. Therefore, Dido could have no claim on him in the eyes of a Roman, and after all, Vergil was writing not for us but for the Romans of his day. Thus, I feel that Aeneas’ conduct was excusable in the light of Roman customs. It is with the sixth book that Aeneas changes, after his interview with his father and his viewing of the pageant of the unborn souls. No longer is he hesitant; now he is the sole

(Continued on page ten)

Aene Perennius

By Professor Edgar Riley, Alpha Epsilon

[Written on the occasion of the annual banquet and initiation held in October.]

To greet ye, Eta Sigma Phis
In solemn guise
I slowly rise—

To welcome here the members green
With sober mien
And taught obscene.

To hell with him, the stupid loon,
The loud buffoon
Who laughs too soon!

For “skills of wisdom” would I show
That from the classic sources flow,
Though what they are, I do not know.

Yet this with confidence I say—
The pride of Greece was in its day
No thing of clay—

The greatness that the Roman knew
No probing iron or digging crew
Can now renew—

The vision that the Hebrew saw
Transcended ritual and law
With love, not awe.

For these were peoples richly blessed
With voice and spirit not expressed
In shield or crest,
In monumental arch or bust,
In swords that slowly rot with rust,
Or shards which crumble into dust.
Their greatness in the sanctum dwelt
Of mind and heart, and felt
The ringing laugh, the tears that melt.

If Aristophanes were lost,
Horace in the rubbish tossed,
And Sophocles to us unknown,—

If Vergil’s verses had been thrown
Like Sibyl’s leaves to every wind,
And this were all that we could find,
“I sing of fighting and the man,—

If then on ellen hearts of lead
Had fallen the gentle voice that said
“Blessed are they,”—

Page Three
Ours too would be the savage way
Of rape and death that made the hordes
Of Attila and Genghis Khan;
The Scourge of God;
Ours too the way of Hunnish lords
Who smiting now with ruthless rod
And hellish steel and fire
Slay all that love and laughter, faith and hope inspire.

Translations from Horace’s Odes
By Martha E. Hesson, Gamma

(I. XI)
"Tu ne quaesieris, scire nefas, quem
Finem di dederint, Leuceneo—"
'Tis wrong! Seek not to know, my friend,
What day capricious gods may end
This too short life for me and thee.
Leave Babylon’s astrology!
Ah, live today! Tempt not Jove’s will,
As wise, come strain the waiting wine!
But ask not, friend, what is to be!
Across the wild Tyrrhenian sea.

(I, XXXI)
"Quid dedicatum poscit Apollinem Vates?—"
What seeks the bard before Apollo’s shrine?
What seeks he, pouring out the new-mad wine?
Not rich Sardinia’s fertile harvest fields,
Not healthy herds that hot Calabria yields
Not gleaming gold or India’s ivory white,
Nor vales where Garigliano’s green jaws bite.

Those blest by Fortune with the sweet grape vine
Are pleased to prune its leaves and press the wine;
And then, the wealthy merchant drowns his cares
In brimming beakers bought with Syrian wares.
A favorite of the gods, indeed is he,
Who braves the Atlantic with impunity,
Not once, but three—nay, four—times
In a year!
But, as for me, I’ll seek my pleasures here
Where olives, endives, and mild mallow grow.
And now, Latonian offspring, ere I go:
’Tis no great boon that I would ask of thee:
A body strong, a mind from passions free,
No shame or foolish tears as I grow bent and gray,
But songs that may lure back the smiles of yesterday!

To Pyrrha
By Eloise Talley, Beta Alpha
What slender youth in sweet perfume
And wreathed with many a rosy flower
Pays court to thee on summer days
Within thy cool and pleasing bower?
Whose eyes inspire thy studied lack
Of art in dress, gold hair bound back?
Thy broken faith, the changing gods,
Alas, how oft he shall bewail;
His simple soul shall wonder at
Seas roughened by the dark winds’ blast.
He all unknowing thinks thee gold,
Hopes joy and love will e’er be bold.
Wretched is he who knows thee not:
But hallowed tablet e’er betrays
That I, old sailor, have hung up
A moistened vest in Neptune’s praise.

On December 6, Beta Gamma gave a tea at the home of Dean Keller for students taking Latin in the College and in the high schools of the city. After refreshments Christmas carols were sung in Latin. The meeting was very successful, and through these annual teas it is hoped that the interest of the students in the classics may be furthered.

On November 28 at Miller and Rhoads Tea Room a luncheon for the old members who were in Richmond was held. Members enjoyed talking over old times and discussing plans for this year.

At the meeting on January 6 the Chapter decided to take in new members on February 15, and discussed the qualifications of those eligible for membership. Further plans toward this program will be made at the next meeting.

Alpha Epsilon Chapter
Lehigh University

By Randall C. Giddings

The activities of Alpha Epsilon Chapter this year have been directed toward a study of classic mythology. Six monthly meetings have been planned and three men report at each of these meetings on various phases of the myth. The annual picnic is scheduled for the last meeting in May.

Up to this time the Chapter has not been affected by the new government plan for unassigned reserve men. However, several men at the close of this semester will report to the armed services.
Alpha Omicron Enjoys Banquet
Lawrence College
By Jeannie Tyler

Alpha Omicron held its annual Saturnalia banquet at Ormsby Hall on Wednesday evening, December 9, and had as its guests the classical language students of the college. Miss Marion Groninger, prytaneks, in the program which followed welcomed the guests and Chapter members. Miss Marjorie Olsen, hyparchos, conducted an informal quiz concerning the Saturnalia, and Professor Weston read the Christmas story in Latin.

Plans for the coming months are underway, and the chapter is looking forward to a fine year.

Party Held at Delta
Franklin College
By Virginia Hart

The Delta Chapter of Eta Sigma Phi held a Christmas party at the home of the sponsor, Mrs. Margaret Powell, on December 18. Students in all other Latin classes were invited as guests. The president opened the meeting with a welcome to the guests and Chapter members. Miss Marjorie Olsen, hyparchos, conducted an informal quiz concerning the Saturnalia, and Professor Weston read the Christmas story in Latin.

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Beta Eta Chapter
Westminster College
By John H. Vanlandingham

During the last few days of last semester Beta Eta Chapter was very fortunate to have Dr. Walter Miller of Columbia, Missouri, come to the campus and give an illustrated lecture on Greek. The lecture was very interesting and helpful and was in close keeping with the classics. The lecture was delivered in Sinope Chapel to which all the students were invited as well as those from William Woods College. A large crowd was present to greet Dr. Miller. The Beta Eta Chapter hopes to be able to have Dr. Miller on the campus again in the coming semester.

The Beta Eta Chapter also held initiation ceremonies at the end of the semester last spring. The meeting was an enjoyable one, held at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Jonah W. D. Skiles. Dr. Skiles is the adviser for the Beta Eta Chapter. After the initiation ceremony the election of officers for the coming year was held. This was followed by refreshments served by Mrs. Skiles.

The president-elect of Beta Eta Chapter, Mr. Wayne Hicks, joined the Air Force of the Army during the summer; accordingly the vice-president, Mr. John H. Vanlandingham, is serving as prytaneks of the chapter.

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the Department of Latin, entertained the juniors and seniors of the Department at her home Dec. 18 with a turkey dinner. The guests found the different articles such as old editions of books, materials from the Orient, pictures, dolls, etc., all very interesting.

After the dinner the members joined the Classical Club for the Christmas meeting. A Christmas play was presented in Latin. After a few games, refreshments were served from a table decorated with a Christmas centerpiece.

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**Beta Zeta**

Saint Louis University

By HERBERT J. GEBHART

Beta Zeta, meeting at the home of Dr. William C. Korfmacher, devoted its last assembly of 1942 to a formal installation of officers and to an initiation of pledges. The regular business meeting was held later in the evening.

Those added to the Chapter roll are Peggy Fay, Virginia Lee Muren, Pat Nowy, Betty Schweitzer, and Tom Carroll.

During the business meeting, the annual high school Latin contest was discussed, but the topic was set aside with the reservation that it would be attended to in detail at some future meeting.

The Saint Louis University Classical Club held its meeting in conjunction with Beta Zeta the following Sunday, December 13. The principal topic was a debate over the idea that Latin be shelved for the duration in favor of the languages in which the nations at war will make the peace.

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**News of Gamma**

Ohio University

By HELEN CARLE

The regular December meeting of Gamma Chapter had Professor C. N. Mackinnon of the English department as guest speaker. He gave a very interesting talk on the topic "The ABC's of Poetry." All the students of the Classical Department were invited, and light refreshments followed the program.

Later in December the members of Gamma Chapter enjoyed a Christmas party at the home of Professor and Mrs. Victor D. Hill. Miss Mary Ellen Burson presented a paper on the "Saturnalia," Mr. Ted Frye read the Latin version of the Christmas story, and Miss Jo Ann Naugle read a story, "On Santa Claus." Gifts were exchanged, and the remainder of the evening was spent enjoying games and refreshments.

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**Alpha Alpha Sponsors Play**

Winthrop College

By MARY MURRAY

The main feature of the programs of Alpha Alpha has been a discussion of the musical instruments used by the ancients and their importance in everyday Greek and Roman life.

During the Christmas season the Chapter sponsored the second performance of a play given by the faculty for the A.A.U.W. The students are always found to be enthusiastic over these faculty plays sponsored each year. This year the Chapter presented "The Snake Goddess," written by Dr. Donnis Martin of the Classics Department.

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**Alpha Xi Chapter**

Washington University

By EMMA JEAN FREUND

The first two meetings of Alpha Xi, held on October 23 and on November 6, were short business meetings at which plans for the subsequent meetings were discussed. The third meeting was a social one at which Dr. Eugene Taven-

ner read a very interesting paper entitled "Ancient Superstitions and Their Modern Counterparts." There were invited to this meeting all students taking Latin and Greek, as well as Eta Sigma Phi members, and the attendance was most encouraging.

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**Alpha Phi News**

Millsaps College

By KINCHEN W. EXUM

This year Alpha Phi Chapter of Eta Sigma Phi plans to study Plato's Republic. A systematic division of the subject matter has worked out into a rather intensive review of the great philosopher's greatest work.

The first program of the year consisted of a consideration of the life of Plato. This was presented by Dr. J. Reece Lin, professor emeritus of philosophy and history. He put considerable stress on the weight that Plato's doctrines are carrying in the world of today. A keen insight was given in the development of Plato's thought and of his subsequent philosophy. This introduction, by way of background, will put the chapter in a position to understand better the proposed study.

The following programs will concern Plato's Republic. The main idea of the school year is to present Plato as living thought rather than as a neglected method. Each student will have a part on some one of the programs, and it is felt that participation is necessary on the part of all students. Honoraries are likely to become stagnant unless all members have a part in the activities. The more likely divisions of the Republic will constitute the programs.

Dr. A. P. Hamilton, president of the Southern Classical Association, recently attended the annual meeting and read a paper on "Immortality in Plato." At some later date this year he will read this paper to Alpha Phi.

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**Upsilon Chapter**

Mississippi State College for Women

By JOYCE ANDERSON

"Audi Jupiter, audi Juno divina, duque audite . . . .
Veniam petimus, nobis favete."

This invocation to the gods of ancient Greece and Rome heralded the beginning of a new year for the Upsilon Chapter of Eta Sigma Phi. Here a feast in true classic style was in progress. Dignified patricians in purple-bordered tunics (members of Upsilon) reclined in the important positions on the head couches, while the members of Classical Club bedecked in gayly colored togas and ornaments occupied less important places and in short tunics served as slaves. The Roman atmosphere was truly here—in the costumes, in the cus-
Character in the Aeneid

(Continued from page three)

In December the Chapter enjoyed a Christmas meeting with the Biblical story of Christ’s birth from Luke being sung in Latin verse. Also in the period of recreation these students of the club enjoyed a talk on classical authors whom he contrasted hatred of war. His stripping of the dead Pallas is shown in opposition to Aeneas’ mercy to those seeking the bodies of the dead and in his treatment of Mezentius and Lausus.

Sigma Has Initiative

Miami University

By BETTY LYDING

Sherman Avenue

Sigma Chapter held its first regular meeting on October 15. New members were elected, and, to further Miami University’s efforts to conserve time, tentative plans were made for combining several meetings this year with those of the Miami Classical Club.

Miss Jean Wakeman and Miss Marjorie Walt were formally initiated by tentatively planned for combining several meetings this year with those of the Miami Classical Club.

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THE NUNTIUS

CHAPTER DIRECTORY

SIGMA—Miaml University, Oxford, Ohio

Prytanis: Helen Shaffer, 239 South Hall

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Epistolographos-Grammatares: William R. Williams, Leon Hall

Chrysophylax: Robert Ramsdell, 316 West Peachy Avenue

Pyloros: Anthony C. Fortino, 1607 E. 4th Street

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Prytanis: Betty E. Seitzman, 2347 Morris Avenue, Bronx

Hyparchos: Marilyn Mauk, 308 W. 176 Street

Epistolographos: Betty Satterlee, 304 W. 176 Street

Grammatares: Karen L. Holman, 300 W. 176 Street

Chrysophylax: Wilma Luce, 300 W. 176 Street

Page Eleven
ALPHA LAMBDA—UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA, Norman, Oklahoma
Prytanis: Marcia Mullendore, 702 Lahoma
Hyparchos: Elza Sue Kierczak, 109 Bellewood
Grammateus: Ruth Collier McSpadden, 112 University Place

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Prytanis: Erskine Parks
Hyparchos: W. C. Robinson

ALPHA XI—WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY, St. Louis, Missouri
Prytanis: Judith Lee, 16 W. Glendale Road, Webster Groves
Hyparchos: Maryann Kaimann, 4529 Red Bud
Epistolographos-Grammateus: Emma Jean Freund, 2515 S. Kingshighway
Chrysophylax: Ashley Pappin, 5291 Lindell Blvd.

ALPHA OMICRON—LAWRENCE COLLEGE, Appleton, Wisconsin
Prytanis: Marian Groninger, Russell Sage Hall
Hyparchos: Marjorie Olsen, Russell Sage Hall
Grammateus: Betsy Ross, Peabody Hall
Chrysophylax: Dudley Dalton, Brokaw Hall

ALPHA PHI—MILLSAPS COLLEGE, Jackson, Mississippi
Prytanis: Janice Trimble
Hyparchos: Kichan Eksum, Babcock Hall
Grammateus: Catherine Richardson, 629 Majestic Place
Chrysophylax: Dolores Craft, 318 Fredrica Avenue
Pyloros: Bobby Holfield, 424 Marshall Street

ALPHA CHI—SOPHIE NEWCOMB MEMORIAL COLLEGE, THE TULANE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA, New Orleans, Louisiana
Prytanis: Atche Genereux, 260 Homestead Avenue
Hyparchos: Anna M. Mangione, 629 Majestic Place
Grammateus: Thia Leopold, 2400 Palmer Avenue
Chrysophylax: George Marks, Jr., 4176 Bienville Ave.

ALPHA PSI—WASHINGTON AND JEFFERSON COLLEGE, Washington, Pennsylvania
Prytanis: Ralph Snyder, 38 Penn Street
Hyparchos: W. John Turner, 109 E. Main Street
Grammateus: J. Victor Murland, III, Hay Hall
Chrysophylax: Tracy K. Boyer, Hay Hall

ALPHA OMEGA—LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY, University, Louisiana
Prytanis: Rita Ducamus
Hyparchos-Epistolographos: Robert Schuelingkamp
Grammateus-Chrysophylax: Ray Brown

BETA ALPHA—UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH DAKOTA, Vermillion, South Dakota
Prytanis: June Hargrove, 4010 W. Franklin Street
Hyparchos: Louise Cardozo, 3110 Kensington Avenue
Epistolographos: June Hargrove, 4010 W. Franklin Street
Grammateus: Elizabeth Webb, 313 North Street, Newport
Chrysophylax: Sam Monk
Pyloros: Ellen Mercier Clark

BETA GAMMA — WESTHAMPTON COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY OF RICHMOND, Richmond, Virginia
Prytanis: June Hargrove, 4010 W. Franklin Street
Hyparchos: Louise Cardozo, 3110 Kensington Avenue
Epistolographos: June Hargrove, 4010 W. Franklin Street
Grammateus: Elizabeth Webb, 313 North Street, Newport
Chrysophylax: Sam Monk
Pyloros: Ellen Mercier Clark

BETA DELTA—THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE, Knoxville, Tennessee
Prytanis: Roy Sherrod, 1727 White Avenue
Hyparchos: Geraldine Burhartz, Route 4
Epistolographos: Harmon Long, Blountville
Grammateus: Joyce Reynolds, 313 North Street, Newport
Chrysophylax: Sam Monk
Pyloros: Jams Tubba, 1001 Houston Street

BETA EPSILON—BROOKLYN COLLEGE, Brooklyn, New York
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Grammateus: Marie Albert, 3140 Kent Road
Chrysophylax: Mildred Jacoby, 167 Beach 59 Street, Rockaway Beach, Long Island

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