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Eta Sigma Phi

Founded in 1914

Incorporated under the Laws of the State of Illinois, June 20, 1927

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NEW NATIONAL OFFICERS OF THE FRATERNITY

One of the most important functions of the Twentieth National Convention was, as it is at all Conventions, the choosing of National Officers for the coming year. During the sessions at Saint Louis, on April 5 and 6, a great deal of thought was naturally devoted to this matter.

Joseph Buchanan, Jr., of Omega Chapter, College of William and Mary, served as Chairman of the Committee on Nominations. He presented the following slate, which thereupon was unanimously approved at the Third General Session, held on the evening of April 5 at Maryville College of Saint Louis University.

Megas Prytanis: Travis Ussery, Alpha Xi Chapter, Washington University.
Megas Hyparchos: William Johnson, Pi Chapter, Birmingham-Southern College.
Megas Grammateus: Mary F. King, Beta Zeta Chapter, Webster College of Saint Louis University.
Megas Chrysophylax: Marion Malham, Gamma Chapter, Ohio University, Athens.

According to Constitutional provision, these officers begin their terms this coming September 1, the present staff remaining in office through August 31. The office of Megas Chrysophylax offers certain difficulties in transfer because of the handling of current funds and the keeping of financial records. Hence it will be a matter of great convenience that the Treasurer-elect, Marion Malham, is a member of the same Chapter (Gamma) as the present incumbent, Richard Wilcox.

OTHER APPOINTMENTS

At the Fourth General Session, held at Washington University on April 6, National Secretary C. Robert Held, presented the following recommendations of the Grand Executive Council, which were subsequently accepted unanimously:

That Professor Gertrude Smith of the University of Chicago be reelected as Honorary President of the Fraternity.

That Professor H. Lloyd Stow of the University of Oklahoma succeed himself as a Trustee for a three-year term, and that he continue to serve as Custodian of the Medal Fund.

That Professor William C. Korfmacher continue as Executive Secretary and Editor of The Nuntius.

Though no change in office is here involved, these persons similarly begin their new terms on September 1 of this year. The present Chairman and other Members of the Board of Trustees remain in office without change, as their terms of service have not expired.

REPRESENTATION AT THE NATIONAL CONVENTION

The full and official "Minutes of the Twentieth National Convention", as held in Saint Louis on April 5 and 6, 1948, on the invitation of Alpha Xi and Beta Zeta Chapters, are being prepared for mailing to each Chapter, Trustee, and National Officer. However, the following items are among those of particular interest.

Present were the four National Officers: Megas Prytanis, Herbert N. Tucker, Omega Chapter, College of William and Mary; Megas Hyparchos, Frank C. Tatem, Alpha Epsilon Chapter, Lehigh University, who also represented his Chapter; Megas Grammateus, C. Robert Held, Alpha Pi Chapter, Gettysburg College, who also represented his Chapter; Megas Chrysophylax, Richard F. Wilcox, Gamma Chapter, Ohio University.

The following official delegates were present:

Gamma, Ohio University: Jim Hontas and Marion Malham.
Delta, Franklin College: C. Jack Scott.
Epsilon, State University of Iowa: Robert Leon Kringel.
Pi, Birmingham-Southern College: William Johnson.
Omega, College of William and Mary: Joseph W. Buchanan, Jr., and Elliott Wilkins, Jr.
Alpha Xi, Washington University: George R. Sneed and A. Travis Ussery.
Alpha Chi, Tulane University: Ray G. Huss (graduate student and not a voting delegate).
Beta Alpha, University of South Dakota: Robert E. McBride.
Beta Zeta, Saint Louis University: Ray Hutchison and Mary F. King.

There was therefore representation from twelve Chapters, in schools exemplifying a considerable geographical spread. Thus the three members of Omega came from Williamsburg, Virginia; William Johnson of Pi came from Birmingham, Alabama; Roy G. Huss of Alpha Chi, from New Orleans; and Robert E. McBride of Beta Alpha, from Vermillion, South Dakota; Frank C. Tatem and C. Robert Held, respectively, from Bethlehem and Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

At the First General Session a letter of Greeting, embodying the Report of the Board of Trustees, was read, as sent by Professor A. Pelzer Wagener, of the College of William and Mary, Chairman of the Board of Trustees.
SOCIAL NOTES FROM THE CONVENTION

At the First General Session, The Reverend Robert John Henle, S.J., Dean of the School of Philosophy and Science at Saint Louis University, welcomed the delegates to the institution and spoke emphatically of the value of the classical tradition in the world of today.

Following the Second General Session, there was a Tea in Chouteau House at Saint Louis University, and a talk by Professor W. C. Korfmancher, director of the department of classical languages, on "Stones That Talk", dealing popularly with Latin epigraphy.

The chief social event of the evening after the Third General Session was an Informal Dance in the Gymnasium of Maryville College of Saint Louis University, under the auspices of The Saint Louis University Classical Club. At the Session itself, Mother Marie Odeide Mouton, R.S.C.J., President of Maryville College, welcomed the delegates to this affiliated college of Saint Louis University.

On Tuesday, April 6, all meetings were held at Washington University. Following the Fourth General Session, the delegates were entertained at lunch in the Dining Room of McMillan Hall, where Professor Stuart A. Queen, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts, voiced the welcome of his institution to the visiting delegates.

After the Fifth and final General Session, the Head of the Department of Latin at Washington University, Professor Norman J. DeWitt, also Editor of The Classical Journal, presented two motion pictures with classical associations. Thereafter the delegates adjourned to the home of Chancellor and Mrs. Arthur Holly Compton, where a delightful Reception and Tea had been arranged. Here in an attractive window setting overlooking the spacious gardens of the home, President Herbert Tucker installed the new National Officers of the Fraternity and brought the Convention to an official close.

CONGRATULATIONS TO PROFESSOR WAGENER!

At the Forty-fourth Annual Meeting of The Classical Association of the Middle West and South, held in Milwaukee on April 1, 2, and 3, Professor A. Pelzer Wagener, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Eta Sigma Phi, was unanimously elected President of the CAMWS for 1948-1949. This high honor climaxcs many years of generous service Professor Wagener has given to the Association. Incidentally, the Forty-fifth Annual Meeting will be held in Richmond, in the immediate neighborhood of Professor Wagener's institution, the College of William and Mary, at Williamsburg, Virginia.

Omega Chapter of Eta Sigma Phi, at Williamsburg, has been one of the most active in the Fraternity and will probably lend its aid at the Meeting of the Classical Association next year.

EXCERPTS FROM REPORTS

Richard F. Wilcox of Gamma Chapter, Megas Chrysophylax and one of the ablest persons that have held that important office, reported on the current funds of the Fraternity for the period of April 4, 1947, to April 1, 1948. Total receipts for the period were $968.45. Total expenses were $587.82. The balance on hand amounted to $380.63. Receipts, of course, included a transfer of "old funds" and an item of $225.00 from the "Medal Fund" administered by Professor H. Lloyd Stow. In addition, there were heavy items of expense ahead.

Reporting for the Board of Trustees by letter, Professor A. Pelzer Wagener announced that he had cashed bonds of the Fraternity to the amount of $300.00 "to supplement current funds". This sum was to be transmitted to the Megas Chrysophylax. The remaining bonds of the Fraternity, in the amount of $3,500.00, are on deposit in the Peninsula Bank and Trust Company in Williamsburg, Virginia, in the safe deposit box of Professor Wagener.

The Executive Secretary reported cash on hand on April 1, 1948, in the amount of $209.00. Of this, however, $200.00 belongs to the special Annual Essay Contest Fund, for prizes and expenses arising from that Contest. The report also stated that, of the forty Chapters listed on the back cover of The Nuntius, five had now reported themselves as inactive: Alpha Alpha, Alpha Tau, Beta Beta, Beta Delta, and Beta Epsilon. Since the Annual Convention, however, Tau Chapter at the University of Kentucky has been reactivated with Professor Jonah W. D. Skiles as Faculty Adviser. It therefore appears among the currently active Chapters in this issue of The Nuntius.

The Committee on Expansion and Reactivation, headed by Megas Hyparchos Frank C. Tatem, reported at the Second General Session on inquiries and petitions from the following institutions: De Pauw University, Indiana; Illinois State Normal University, Illinois; Marymount College, Kansas; Moravian College for Men, Pennsylvania; College of Notre Dame, Maryland; College of St. Catherine, Minnesota; Sam Houston State Teachers College, Texas. At the Fourth General Session it was voted to authorize the Grand Executive Council to accept the petitions, if, upon submission prior to June 15, they indicated that the proposed Chapters met the Fraternity's requirements for membership.

PROFESSOR WRIGHT BEFORE THE CAAS

Professor Horace W. Wright of Lehigh University, member of the Board of Trustees of Eta Sigma Phi, gave a brief talk on the history and purposes of the Fraternity on April 23, during the sessions at the Annual Meeting of The Classical Association of the Atlantic States, at Pittsburgh. "The talk", he says in a letter of April 30, "appeared to arouse very considerable interest. Two ladies from a college in central New York inquired of me afterward regarding the necessary steps that they should take to form a Chapter".
THOUGHTS, PLUS LANGUAGE...

"The neglect of the literature of antiquity is lamentable," remarks a most interesting editorial appearing in The Journal of General Education, volume 2, for January, 1948, under the caption "The Ancient Literature and Modern Life." And in development of this theme the article continues with the thought that "Too little attention has been given to the fact that though we have penetrated many of the secrets of nature, the persistent problems of life go unresolved".

The writer believes strongly that "the expressions of ancient genius concern the persistent problems of mankind," and he is therefore emphatic in his advocacy of a return of the classics to the academic program.

Such thoughts have been the claim of the protagonists of the classical tradition for generations, and it is good to see agreement in increasing degree for our contentions. Yet there is some reason for alarm in the implications of the editorial's statement that what the classical masterpieces "have to say can be understood even by those who do not possess all the esoteric knowledge of the linguist or the literary specialist".

There's the rub--felt with increasing frequency in these days of the rethinking of education. True it is that there is a place for "the classics in translation"; true, too, that, if any one is to teach such courses, classicists should teach them. But are they to represent today the full measure of the contribution of the classics to American education?

The languages themselves, in their original excellence, must remain the ideal--and the attainable ideal--if we are not to sacrifice a large portion of that contribution. Education, especially in this shrunken, post-war world of increased international complexities, must not make Americans a race of single track minds, linguistically considered. And if any one language only, in addition to English, is to be studied, what one language can offer riches to be compared with the many-sided advantages of either Greek or Latin?

A CHANGE OF FORMAT...

With this number, volume 22 of The Nuntius bows out--whether gracefully or otherwise is for the reader to decide. The editor will welcome suggestions during the summer as to a possible change of format. Would it be desirable, for example, to have only a simple heading at the top of the cover or front page and then to begin text there, and so add something like a page and a half of reading matter? And how extensively will readers be interested in contributing short and interesting articles, poems, and the like?
ANCIENT ATHENIAN INFLUENCES
ON AMERICAN DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT

(Note: It has been traditional for The Nuntius to publish the winning contribution to the Annual Essay Contest. The format of the present volume makes complete publication impossible, but extensive excerpts from the paper written by Ray Hutchison, of Beta Zeta Chapter, are here withheld. An announcement on the Contest appears elsewhere in this issue of The Nuntius.)

"Our government is called a democracy because its administration is in the hands, not of a few, but of the many".

These words are a succinct description of our American form of government. They state very briefly and concisely the essential point in our, or any, democratic government. A democracy differs from a monarchy or oligarchy in that the ultimate power is not in the hands of one or of the few but in the hands of the many. Such is the government of our nation.

Whose Are the Quoted Words?
The above-quoted words, which define our government so well, were not, however, meant to describe our state. These words were a description of the government of another state far removed from ours in space and time. These were the words of Pericles, the great statesman of antiquity, in his famous "Funeral Oration", reported by the historian Thucydides; and they were meant to describe the government of the birthplace of democracy, the ancient city-state of Athens.

That this description of the government of ancient Athens applies so well to our American democratic government shows us at once that the basic concept of democracy was the same in the Athens in which Pericles spoke these words as in the United States in which Lincoln, under similar circumstances, spoke his famous description of democracy: "...government of the people, by the people, and for the people."

Ours a Varied Inheritance

Our democratic government in its theory, its forms, and its actual functioning, has been influenced by numerous factors. Many forms of democracy and republicanism, many governmental theories advanced by philosophers and statesmen, much practical experience—all these influenced, and are influencing, the founders and leaders of our nation. The Greeks, Romans, and Hebrews, the teachings of Christ, the scholars of the Middle Ages, the limited monarchy of England, the political thought of the eighteenth century—all these and many more were factors which contributed to the formation of our government.

The Reform of Cleisthenes

In the development of democracy at Athens, one of the most important steps was that taken by Cleisthenes' destruction of the factionalism based on old group loyalties by setting up a geographical rather than a social distribution of the people. Formerly the people of Athens had acted in social groups; now they were forced to act in geographical groups. In our country, too, there is a geographical, not a social, division of the voters.

Under Cleisthenes the Athenian government began to assume the form it was to have during the city's most glorious years. The public assemblies, gatherings of all the citizens of the city-state, became the legislative bodies. The chief executive functions were assigned to a representative people's council of five hundred members, chosen from the body of citizens. The judicial functions, too, were in the hands of the people and were directly controlled by people's juries.

Pertinent Periclean Dicta

"Although all men are equal in the sight of the law, they are rewarded by the community on the basis of their merit; neither social position nor wealth, but ability alone, determines the service that a man renders..."

"We open our city to all the world..."

"In our attitude toward neighboring states we are most generous, for we acquire friends, not by receiving favors, but by conferring them, with no self-interest in mind but in a spirit of confident liberality..."

The Field of Economics

Private economic interests were regarded and treated in ancient Athens as subordinate to the general welfare. In this we have followed the Athenian example. Just as in some cases, the Athenian government clamped restrictions on business, so our national government has passed restrictive laws in the economic field. We have also followed the Athenian example in the levying of import and export duties as economic safeguards for residents. In the matter of public work projects to provide employment, we have again been influenced by the Athenian practice.

Similarities and Differences

One cannot expect to find the city-state of ancient Athens with the same democratic government as that functioning in America today. Athens was a small city with a relatively small number of people and relatively simple problems of government. The vast area, the huge population, the intricate problems of government of twentieth-century America were unknown and unimagined in the Athenian democracy. Yet, in its basic and essential notions, and in many of its specific functions, our American democratic government has been, and still is, greatly influenced by ancient Athens. The words of Pericles and the words of Lincoln are essentially the same. (Translations in Thucydides are from Walter R. Agard's What Democracy Meant to the Greeks: Chapel Hill, University of North Carolina Press, 1942.)
AMONG THE CHAPTERS

GAMMA, OHIO UNIVERSITY

With thirteen active members, four pledges, and two faculty advisers, Gamma has had a successful year. Highlights include an illustrated lecture by Professor Victor Hill on the Vergilian Cruise, and the concluding banquet in May, at which new officers are installed.

DELTA, FRANKLIN COLLEGE

Though Delta has only two active members, it has had an interesting year. One of its activities was the entertainment of alumal members residing in Franklin. Plans are under way for an active program again in 1948-1949.

EPSILON, STATE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

Epsilon boasts nine active members, twenty-three associate members, and twelve faculty members. Regular meetings were held during the year, and plans are under way on several projects to stimulate interest in classical study among other students.

PI, BIRMINGHAM-SOUTHERN COLLEGE

Meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month, and there is one initiation every two quarters. There is a theme program for the year--in 1947-1948 this was the Greek and Roman theatre.

OMEGA, COLLEGE OF WILLIAM AND MARY

Omega schedules meetings for every third Thursday. In March the Chapter discussed its Greek and Latin courses as a panel. A picnic is scheduled for May.

TAU, UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

Recently reactivated, Tau has as its faculty sponsor Professor Jonah W. W. Skiles, Head of the Department of Ancient Languages. On April 22 to 24, Professor Skiles directed a very successful “Foreign Language Conference” at the University.

ALPHA EPSILON, LEHIGH UNIVERSITY

One theme of study is decided upon for the year, and at each meeting one member presents the treatment of a topic assigned to him. Annually, there are a banquet for initiations and installation of new officers, and a concluding picnic.

ALPHA PI, GETTYSBURG COLLEGE

There are thirty-five active members and two faculty advisers. Visiting lecturers this year were Sawyer McArthur Mosser, secretary of the American Numismatic Society, and William Ridginton, professor at Western Maryland College.

ALPHA XI, WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

Alpha Xi has thirty-four active members and eleven pledges. The year has been very successful. The Latin Week project was to invite all the secondary schools of the community to attend the Chapter’s motion picture series on April 23.

ALPHA CHI, TULANE UNIVERSITY

Alpha Chi has had joint meetings with the Oreades, a classical club group at Newcomb College. A highlight of the year was a lecture on Greek music by Professor Maxwell, of the department of music at Newcomb College.

BETA ALPHA, UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH DAKOTA

Under the leadership of Professor Grace Beede, faculty sponsor, Beta Alpha was able to maintain itself during the war years and has augmented its activities since that time. It has had lectures and discussions from faculty members outside the department of classical languages.

BETA ZETA, SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY

On April 18, Beta Zeta initiated thirty-two new members, from the University and three affiliated colleges, Fontbonne, Maryville, and Webster. Ray Hutchison, President, recently placed second in the Intercollegiate Latin Contest held annually among the colleges and universities--nine in all--on the Jesuit Missouri and Chicago provinces.

BETA ETA, WESTMINSTER COLLEGE

There are at present six members in Beta Eta, with Professor Robert Hoerber as faculty sponsor. Meetings are held on the first and third Thursdays of the month. This year the topic of discussion was the dialogues of Plato.

THE TWENTY-FIRST ANNUAL CONVENTION

Tentative plans are already in mind for the Twenty-first Annual Convention, which by constitutional regulation will be held in April, 1949. As these gatherings give an opportunity for Chapters to meet their associates from other institutions, and also to have a direct voice in the framing of national policies, it is well for plans in individual Chapters to be made early.

One of the difficulties is the expense of travel. Chapters might well make it an annual project to raise sufficient money to send one or two representatives to the Annual Meeting.

Invitations, somewhat tentative, were extended at the last Annual Meeting asking the Fraternity to meet in 1949 either in Athens, Ohio, as the guests of Gamma Chapter at Ohio University, or in Birmingham, Alabama, as the guests of Pi Chapter at Birmingham-Southern College. Since the meeting in Saint Louis, these invitations have been made more definite, and a decision will have to be reached as between the two schools.

In any case, the Fraternity will surely have a place to meet. Chapters wishing to make suggestions for business at the Convention should confer with the new National President.
CURRENTLY ACTIVE CHAPTERS

Gamma: Ohio University, Athens, Ohio
Prytanis: Richard Wilcox

Delta: Franklin College, Franklin, Indiana
Grammateus: C. Jack Scott

Epsilon: State University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa
Prytanis: Robert L. Kringle

Eta: Florida State College for Women, Tallahassee, Florida

Theta: Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana
Adviser: Professor Verne B. Schuman

Lambda: University of Mississippi, University, Mississippi
Prytanis: Carl A. Megehee

Pi: Birmingham-Southern College, Birmingham, Alabama
Prytanis: Hubert H. Harper

Rho: Drake University, Des Moines, Iowa
Adviser: Mrs. C. C. Bartlett

Sigma: Miami University, Oxford, Ohio
Prytanis: Harry Martin

Tau: University of Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky
Adviser: Professor Jonah W. D. Skiles

Upsilon: Mississippi State College for Women, Columbus, Mississippi
Prytanis: Mary Troy Morgan

Psi: Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee
Adviser: Professor Clyde Pharr

Omega: College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Virginia
Prytanis: Joseph Buchanan, Jr.

Alpha Gamma: Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas

Alpha Delta: Agnes Scott College, Decatur, Georgia
Adviser: Professor Kathryn Glick

Alpha Epsilon: Lehigh University, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania
Prytanis: David J. Sweet

Alpha Theta: Hunter College, New York City, New York
Prytanis: Rita Wickman

Alpha Kappa: University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois
Prytanis: John H. Smith

Alpha Lambda: University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma
Adviser: Professor H. Lloyd Stow

Alpha Nu: Davidson College, Davidson, North Carolina
Adviser: Professor John C. Bailey

Alpha Xi: Washington University, Saint Louis, Missouri
Prytanis: Virginia Hodgman

Alpha Omicron: Lawrence College, Appleton, Wisconsin
Prytanis: Jane Straub

Alpha Pi: Gettysburg College, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania
Prytanis: C. Robert Held

Alpha Rho: Muhlenberg College, Allentown, Pennsylvania
Prytanis: L. Samuel Krause

Alpha Sigma: Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia
Adviser: Professor C. E. Boyd

Alpha Upsilon: Wooster College, Wooster, Ohio
Prytanis: Doris Crew

Alpha Phi: Millsaps College, Jackson, Mississippi
Chrysophylax: Marilyn Sanderson

Alpha Chi: Tulane University, New Orleans, Louisiana
Grammateus: Roy G. Hess

Prytanis: Howard F. Jack

Alpha Omega: Louisiana State University
University, Louisiana
Grammateus: John G. McLean

Beta Alpha: University of South Dakota, Vermillion, South Dakota
Prytanis: Robert McBride

Beta Gamma: Westminster College, University of Richmond, Richmond, Virginia
Adviser: Professor Pauline Turnbull

Beta Zeta: Saint Louis University, Saint Louis, Missouri
Prytanis: Ray Hutchison

Beta Eta: Westminster College, Fulton, Missouri
Adviser: Professor Robert Hoerber

Beta Theta: Hampden, Sidney College, Hampden-Sidney, Virginia
Adviser: Doctor G. H. Thompson

Beta Iota: Wake Forest College, Wake Forest, North Carolina
Adviser: Professor C. B. Earp