NEW PAMPHLET ON THE FRATERNITY

Now available at the office of the Executive Secretary is a new “introduction” pamphlet on Eta Sigma Phi. Printed as a four-page booklet, with dimensions of six inches by three and one-half inches, in blue ink on yellow paper, it indicates on the front cover the intention to tell, regarding the Fraternity, “What it is—what it does—what it hopes to do”. The last page lists the current officers and trustees, with their addresses.

The two inner pages attempt to answer the queries of the first page. “What Eta Sigma Phi is”: here information is given on dates of foundation, nationalization, and incorporation; the purpose, as set forth in the Constitution; the number of present chapters, and something on procedure in applications for new chapters.


“What Eta Sigma Phi hopes to do”: (1) Play some small role in enlarging an appreciation of the great classical tradition. (2) Increase substantially the number of colleges and universities having active chapters. (3) Increase substantially the number of active student members. (4) Recall many of its alumni to renewed ties through subscriptions to The Nuntius.

Concluding the two inner pages is the following: “Inquiries looking to a possible granting of charters are invited. They may be sent to the National Vice-President, Chairman of the Committee on Reactivation and Expansion”.

Copies of the pamphlet will be made available to all Chapters, and to national officers and trustees. Beyond the samples thus distributed, a limited number will be on hand for further mailing to Chapters, on request.

CONTEST INVITATIONS WIDELY DISTRIBUTED

During the present month, packets containing the new “introduction” pamphlet, a complimentary past copy of The Nuntius, and a mimeographed page called “An Announcement of Two Awards by Eta Sigma Phi”, are being mailed to some six hundred colleges belonging to the Association of American Colleges. In 1948-1949 a similar circularization of a contest announcement only was highly successful, in that it resulted in a participation of thirty different institutions in the Essay Contest for that year.

The purpose in 1949-1950 is somewhat more ambitious. Again, there is, as was announced in The Nuntius for November last, an Essay Contest, the fifth, with March 15 as the deadline for the post-marking of the entries being mailed in. There is also, as a special venture, the Special Greek Translation Contest, also explained in the November issue; it is to be held on March 15, but notification of the intent to participate must be sent, in writing, not later than March 1.

To bespeak participation, then, in two contests rather than one, to solicit individual subscriptions to The Nuntius, and also to open the door to petitions for new chapters from groups in qualified colleges and universities, are the aims of the circular letter in 1949-1950.

BETA MU INSTALLATION SET FOR FEBRUARY

As reported in the November issue of The Nuntius, a Chapter for Butler University, Indianapolis, Indiana, to be known as Beta Mu, has been approved by the Grand Executive Council, under special powers granted that body at the Twenty-first National Convention, for institutions from which inquiries were pending at the time of the Convention.

Word from Professor Vergil E. Hiatt of Butler, with whom negotiations have been conducted, brings information that the installation arrangements have been cleared with local authorities, and that a date in February, the second or the ninth, is now being planned. Professor P. L. Powell and Delta Chapter, at Franklin College, Franklin, Indiana, have volunteered their services to conduct the installation ceremonies.
An interesting experiment on the practicability of teaching Latin as a living language is reported from the University of Kentucky, by the Lexington Herald-Leader of July 16, 1949:

"Thirteen Lexington children Friday completed a four-week course in oral Latin at the University of Kentucky, receiving certificates written in Latin, although as yet they are illiterates in that language. . . . The principle, that a foreign language may be acquired exactly as you learn to speak your native tongue, by picking up words and phrases that you hear spoken, has long been known, and has been demonstrated in classrooms fairly often by teachers of modern languages".

Responsible for the experimental course was Professor Jonah W. D. Skiles, head of the department of ancient languages at the University of Kentucky. Collaborating with him were Dr. W. L. Carr, visiting professor of ancient languages at Kentucky, and Mrs. Geneva Bobbitt Puckett, high school teacher from Oak Hill, West Virginia, who served also as a visiting faculty member at Kentucky last summer.

Basically, the method involves question and answer, with the use of objects to be displayed and movements to be acted out. In this way, young children come to understand and to imitate, and truly surprising progress is made in the language.

A POEM: "HOMECOMING" (CATULLUS 31)

Hail! thou gem among all isles
That gleam on ocean's crest,
Or glitter silvery on the blue
Of a lake's limpid breast.

On distant Asia's sultry shore
What aching heart could know
The joy I feel as now I find
Thee safe, my Sirmio?

He knows no greater blessing, he
Who far away must roam,
Than weary, homesick, bowed with care
To find once more his home.

So forth from all thy friendly nooks
Let peals of laughter ring;
To welcome home thy lord once more,
Come Sirmio, let's sing!

--George E. Murphy

From The Humanities 9 (Fall 1949), page 15: Boston College, Boston, Massachusetts.
National President Elliott Wilkins

WILKINS A SENIOR AT WILLIAM AND MARY

W. Elliott Wilkins, Jr., National President of Eta Sigma Phi, was born and reared in Cape Charles, Virginia. He is the son of William Elliott and Ruth Jones Wilkins. After attending the public school at Cape Charles from 1934 until his graduation from high school in 1945, when he was one among twenty graduates, he enrolled as a freshman at the College of William and Mary, in September, 1945.

From March, 1946, until September, 1947, his education was interrupted by military service in World War II. Most of this period he spent at Los Alamos, New Mexico. Very shortly after his discharge, he returned to the College of William and Mary, where he is completing his work this year for the degree of Bachelor of Arts, with a major in Greek and Latin.

He is a member of the Episcopalian Church and plans to enter upon theological studies in that church, either immediately after graduation from William and Mary, or otherwise after a year of work or further study in the interim. He is President of Omega Chapter of Eta Sigma Phi and Warden of the Canterbury Club. In 1945 he was awarded, in Virginia, a Pepsi-Cola scholarship, which he is applying to his college course.

This sketch of his "vita actaque" is the first in a series, in which The Nuntius hopes to bring photographs and thumb-nail sketches of the four national officers to the readers of the Fraternity's official publication.

DONOVAN A JUNIOR AT WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

National Vice-President William Donovan has a flair for archaeology and is majoring in that subject as an applicant for the degree of Bachelor of Arts at Washington University in Saint Louis. At present he resides in Kirkwood, a suburb of Saint Louis, and commutes each day to class. He hopes to be graduated in June of 1951, and after this to pursue graduate work in archaeology leading to the degrees of Master of Arts and Doctor of Philosophy.

Donovan was born in Saint Louis on December 2, 1929, the son of John E. and Dorothy Dickey Donovan. Later the family moved to Kirkwood, and he attended the Pitman Elementary School in Kirkwood and the Kirkwood High School, completing his secondary studies in June, 1947.

In September, 1947, he was enrolled in the College of Liberal Arts at Washington University, where he is now President of Alpha Xi Chapter of Eta Sigma Phi. He is also a member of Kappa Sigma and has recently been elected to office in that social fraternity. He is a member also of the Debate Council and of the Student Senate.

During the academic year of 1948-1949, he was closely associated with the work of Travis Ussery, then in his senior year in Liberal Arts and National President of Eta Sigma Phi. He cooperated with Ussery in an extensive visual education program sponsored by Alpha Xi, and was a delegate from his Chapter to the Twenty-first National Convention of the Fraternity at Athens, Ohio.

National Vice-President William Donovan
challenged the preeminence of the classics in education. But "the conflict of science and Classics", as the late Professor Paul Shorey remarked as early as 1917, "is a dead issue. Science has won an overwhelming victory. And its real competitor in education today is, not classical humanism, but pseudo-science".

And "pseudo-science", a term used by Shorey for the then somewhat new disciplines of experimental psychology, "education", pedagogy, and the like, represents a second wave of assault, from the early decades of the present century. It was to be followed by a third wave, in the thirties, when the advocates of the "core curriculum" envisioned an integrated program of studies centered about the social sciences, with, of course, little place for Latin. And the last decade of the half-century has brought us "Life Adjustment Education for Youth", as a fourth potential wave upon the rock of classical studies.

Amid these vexing difficulties the classicist needs, obviously, to be increasingly alive and alert. A recurrent, almost a continuing, reexamination of ourselves and the real values of the classical discipline is surely an imperative need. Out of it must come a better understanding in our own minds of the place of the classics, as well as reasonable adjustments to changing needs and changing times—adjustments which need never alter the fundamental purposes and aims of the classical discipline.

And so the coming of the second half of the twentieth century brings with it for the classics a message to be wary but surely no message to despair. Rather, it brings the challenge to greater service in times that cannot be other than critical.

DISPLAY OUR INSIGNIA

Elsewhere in this issue of The Nuntius there is reproduced a page from a special Balfour booklet on Eta Sigma Phi insignia. Copies of the booklet are being sent to all Chapters, and it is to be expected that orders for jewelry will be handled with courtesy and reasonable speed.

It is important for individual members, in increasing number, to display Fraternity and Chapter insignia. It is a distinction to be a member of an honorary fraternity, and a display of its insignia should tend to strengthen the position of our organization on individual campuses and in the world of American higher education as a whole. Beyond this the present design of the Fraternity’s jewelry is in excellent taste and has given us badges and keys and pins worth cherishing for a lifetime.

EDUCATOR’S MID-CENTURY MUSINGS

Whether 1950 or 1951 begins the second half of the twentieth century—a point that seems to be causing some debate—it is yet true that education has passed through approximately five decades of very interesting history since the dawn of 1900.

Particularly is this the case with the classical languages, once so staple a discipline in secondary and collegiate liberal arts education. Their position has been much altered and transformed: so much so, in fact, that the wonder of today is the fact that they continue to exist at all, rather than that they do not enjoy proportionately the prestige they had a century or so ago. Hence, if we read signs of their improved appreciation in recent years, and of their not wholly desperate place in the coming fifties and sixties and seventies, we may be the more gratified.

In addition to the natural changes to which education is subject, the classics have been the subject of singularly vicious assault from various quarters. Even before the twentieth century began, the natural sciences—and with good cause, too—

OFFICERS

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William Donovan—Washington University, Saint Louis, Missouri . . National Vice-President


Dolores Neff—Ohio University, Athens, Ohio . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . National Treasurer

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GREEK TRANSLATION CONTEST RULES

The following regulations are now announced for the "Special Greek Translation Contest" first listed in The Nuntius of November 15 last. It is made possible this year by a special gift from the same Anonymous Donor who provides annually for the essay contest. The rules follow:

1. The Contest will be open to undergraduates enrolled at the time of participation in a course in Greek in an approved American college or university. The passage for sight translation from Greek will be suitable for a student in the second year of the language or above. The Contest will be held simultaneously in the participating schools on March 15, 1950 (for two hours), provided the number of entrants is sufficient.

2. Notification of a desire to participate must be sent in writing, not later than March 1, 1950, to the Executive Secretary. Prizes will be offered as follows: first, $50.00; second, $35.00; third, $25.00; fourth, $20.00; fifth, $12.50; sixth, $7.50. Further, any participant placing in both the Special Greek Translation Contest and the Fifth Annual Essay Contest will receive a third award equal in amount to that he gains in the Special Greek Translation Contest.

PRACTICAL ALUMNAL INTEREST

From Marian Malham, National Treasurer of Eta Sigma Phi for 1948-1949, the following letter has come; "I am enclosing, along with my check for membership in the Classical Association, a check for a subscription to The Nuntius. Due to my activities in the Fraternity, I would like to keep informed of the activities of Eta Sigma Phi. I am teaching Latin this year, and if possible would like to attend the Meeting of the Classical Association, or the National Convention of Eta Sigma Phi ".

This sort of sustained interest after graduation is in line with one of the greatest needs and hopes of Eta Sigma Phi. Miss Malham is living this year in Warren, Ohio. She is a graduate of Ohio University, where she headed Gamma Chapter of Eta Sigma Phi, and contributed generously to the success of the Twenty-first National Convention of the Fraternity.
AMONG THE CHAPTERS

GAMMA, OHIO UNIVERSITY (ATHENS)

An annual project of Gamma, repeated this year, has been the sale of Christmas cards as a means of raising funds for the Chapter treasury. A Christmas party was held at the meeting of December 13.

DELTA, FRANKLIN COLLEGE

A letter from Mrs. Margaret W. Powell, Chapter Faculty Adviser, reports that Delta had one pledge, Sue Willham, who was to be initiated and installed as president, with the expectation that two or three others would be initiated at the end of the current semester. For her first service as a pledge Sue Willham presented an exhibit of posters by the Latin students of Logansport High School.

An event of unusual interest is reported also for May 25 of last year, when Delta celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary of the nationalization of Eta Sigma Phi, and the twenty-fourth anniversary of the inauguration of Delta, with a luncheon. A talk was given by Professor Janet Macdonald of Butler University, who had been a member of the Franklin faculty at the time of Delta's founding. Alummal members of various classes attended, with several charter members included.

SIGMA, MIAMI UNIVERSITY (OXFORD)

Sigma reports the following officers for 1949-1950: President, Allergra Riefstahl; Vice-President, Francis Sedge; Secretary, Ethel Wildman; Treasurer, Terence O'Brien; Sergeant-at-arms, Frank Milliken. The Chapter roll shows a membership of twelve.

PSI, VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY

Activities in Psi Chapter are including preliminary plans for the 1950 National Convention of the Fraternity, slated for April, the exact dates still to be set.

OMEGA, COLLEGE OF WILLIAM AND MARY

National and Chapter President Elliott Wilkins reports a meeting on December 8, at which eleven new members were initiated. A reception followed. He suggests also the preparation of a regular mimeographed form, to be sent out in advance of each issue of The Nuntius, on which the Chapter reporter could fill in listings of officers and members, reports of activities, and the like. Other Chapters may wish to express an opinion as to the utility of such a form.

ALPHA EPSILON, LEHIGH UNIVERSITY

From the Secretary comes the following report of officers for 1949-1950: President, Alvord Beardslee; Vice-President, James L. Gill; Secretary, W. S. Garrett, Jr.; Treasurer, Robert A. Shackles. Professor Horace W. Wright, long a member of the National Board of Trustees, is Faculty Adviser. There are five honorary members, and sixteen active members.

ALPHA XI, WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

From William Donovan, National Vice-President and Chapter President, comes the report of a meeting of Alpha Xi on November 29. Professor Thomas S. Duncan gave a lecture on the Washington University Coin Collection, in the Rare Book Room of the Library, where all attending had an opportunity to examine the coins. On January 12 a meeting was held for the introduction of prospective members; National Executive Secretary William C. Korfmacher was an invited off-campus speaker, to tell of "Some Aims and Hopes of Eta Sigma Phi".

ALPHA OMICRON, LAWRENCE COLLEGE

Nuntius Correspondent LaVerne McKay sends news of a meeting of Alpha Omicron on November 15, at which twelve new members were initiated. On December 6, Mr. Ralph Merriam, a Chicago attorney who studies Plato for the enjoyment of the project, gave a lecture on "A Layman's Plato". He included readings from Plato's Apology and Phaedo.

ALPHA PI, GETTYSBURG COLLEGE

Officers for 1949-1950 are: President, Theodore Lindquist, Jr.; Vice-President, Louis Hamann; Secretary, Ruth Fortenbaugh; Treasurer, Theodore C. Schlack; Sergeant-at-arms, Morris Prockett. Faculty Advisers are Professors John Glenn and Frederick Schaffer. The meeting of December 8 was a Christmas party. A special project of the Chapter, during the semester, in conjunction with Phi Beta Kappa, was the sponsoring of a three-day visit by Professor A. C. Johnson, of Princeton University. Professor Johnson's program included visits to classes, interviews with students, and lectures on "The Common Man in Ancient Egypt" and "Inflation in the Roman Empire".
From the Treasurer of Alpha Rho the following roster of officers for the year has been received: President, Clarence Reeser; Vice-President, Dallas D. Doward; Secretary, Raymond Reed; Treasurer, Harold A. Iverson. There are eighteen active members.

Chapter Secretary Katherine Lorenz reports continuing plans for a very active program during 1949-1950. On December 2, a banquet was held, with sixteen Chapter members in attendance. Professor Jones gave a lecture, with colored slides, on Greece and Italy. Projected also in the Chapter is the presentation of a Latin play.

The Chapter met in September, at the home of Professor Eva M. Newman, Faculty Adviser. One new member, Niles Reimer, was initiated. Officers for the year are the following: President, Robert Reed; Vice-President, Kenneth Hart; Secretary, George Ridenour; Treasurer, Kenneth Schafer; Sergeant-at-arms, Ralph Underwood. There are seven active members.

From the Chapter Secretary comes the following list of officers: President, Claude E. Henkel; Vice-President, Thomas Lisenby; Secretary, Betty Joyce McClean; Treasurer, Helen Wimmer; Sergeant-at-arms, Vivian Cates. Mrs. Nina Nichols Pugh is Faculty Adviser. Among the planned items for the year is a debate on some topic related to the classical languages.

Ten new members were initiated by Beta Alpha in the spring of 1949. The Chapter participated in the annual Homecoming Parade at South Dakota, entering a float modeled after a Roman Chariot. On December 14, the Chapter had its annual celebration of the Roman Saturnalia. Exchange meetings have been inaugurated with Phi Sigma Iota, honorary modern languages society, and a lecture at one of the joint meetings is to be given by Professor Grace Beebe, the Faculty Adviser to Beta Alpha. Beta Alpha has, incidentally, the distinction of having been continuously active during all the recent War years.

Chapter President Loretta Vogel reports a varied program; in December, an attendance at one or more of the sessions of the American Philological Association and Archaeological Institute of America at Baltimore; in January, an illustrated lecture on Italy; in February, a reading and discussion of Sophocles’ Oedipus the King, as a preparation for the presentation of the play in March by the Catholic University Theatre.
CURRENTLY ACTIVE CHAPTERS

Gamma: Ohio University, Athens, Ohio
Prytanis: Dolores Neff

Delta: Franklin College, Franklin, Indiana
Adviser: Professor Margaret W. Powell

Epsilon: State University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa
Chrysophylax: Roy Stoddard, Jr.

Zeta: Denison University, Granville, Ohio
Adviser: Professor Lindley R. Dean

Theta: Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana
Chrysophylax: Jo Ann Hartford

Lambda: University of Mississippi, University, Mississippi
Prytanis: Florence Phyfer Krause

Pi: Birmingham-Southern College, Birmingham, Alabama
Prytanis: Ann Blocker Fleming

Sigma: Miami University, Oxford, Ohio
Chrysophylax: Allergra Riefstahl

Tau: University of Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky
Grammateus: Ann Vaughn

Upsilon: Mississippi State College for Women, Columbus, Mississippi
Prytanis: Ruth Rowe

Psi: Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee
Prytanis: William N. Hulsey, Jr.

Omega: College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Virginia
Prytanis: Elliott Wilkins

Alpha Delta: Agnes Scott College, Decatur, Georgia
Prytanis: Martha Marilyn Weakley

Alpha Epsilon: Lehigh University, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania
Prytanis: Alvord Beardslee

Alpha Theta: Hunter College, New York City, New York
Prytanis: Cyrille Solomon

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

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

Alpha Xi: Washington University, Saint Louis, Missouri
Prytanis: William Donovan

Alpha Omicron: Lawrence College, Appleton, Wisconsin
Prytanis: Lawrence Hastings

Alpha Pi: Gettysburg College, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania
Grammateus: Theodore Lindquist, Jr.

Alpha Rho: Muhlenberg College, Allentown, Pennsylvania
Prytanis: Clarence D. Reeser, Jr.

Alpha Tau: Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio
Grammateus: Katherine Lorenz

Alpha Upsilon: Wooster College, Wooster, Ohio
Prytanis: Robert Reed

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

Alpha Chi: Tulane University, New Orleans, Louisiana
Chrysophylax: Athalie Generes

Prytanis: Albert Sheriff

Alpha Omega: Louisiana State University, University, Louisiana
Prytanis: Claude E. Henkel

Beta Alpha: University of South Dakota, Vermillion, South Dakota
Grammateus: Francis N. Sever

Beta Gamma: Westhampton College, University of Richmond, Richmond, Virginia
Prytanis: Jean Tinsley

Beta Zeta: Saint Louis University, Saint Louis, Missouri
Prytanis: John T. Vitt, Jr.

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

Beta Theta: Hampden-Sidney College, Hampden-Sidney, Virginia
Prytanis: Lindley M. Winston, Jr.

Beta Iota: Wake Forest College, Wake Forest, North Carolina
Prytanis: Hugh Dover

Beta Kappa: College of Notre Dame of Maryland, Baltimore, Maryland
Prytanis: Loretta Vogel

Beta Lambda: Marymount College, Salina, Kansas
Prytanis: Cathryn Millar