AN ADDRESS BY ANSIS V. VIKSNINS
MEGAS HYPARCHOS 1984-85

The following is a transcription of Closing Remarks given at the Formal Banquet of the 57th Annual National Convention of Eta Sigma Phi, held at St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minnesota, April 18-20, 1985.

Writing in an edition of our society’s publication, The Nuntius, our immediate past National President Arthur Sperry commented on the sense of purpose he felt at the National Convention held at Monmouth College in Illinois two years ago. I dare say that I felt a sense of purpose last March in Austin, Texas, and I hope that you will leave Northfield with a similar feeling. All this is well and good but does suggest an obvious question: What is this purpose? While it is not my intention to answer the question definitively in the next few minutes, I do think that all of us assembled here this evening can agree on a common purpose—the implementation of the highest possible standards at all levels of education, ranging from the elementary school to the university. I believe that we, as persons familiar with the Classics, have as one of our purposes the encouragement of the spread of classical language instruction as a means for creating a more well-educated citizenry.

Perhaps the areas most requiring our attention are elementary and secondary schools. After all, the National Commission on Excellence in Education published a Report in 1983 filled with such alarming statistics about American schools that the Commission titled the Report, "A Nation at Risk." The National Commission’s 1983 Report was not the first document to criticize Americans about their use of language. Edwin Newman, for instance, made $2 million from his book, A Civil Tongue, by criticizing verbosity, pomposity, and periphrasticism in the English language. But the 1983 Report was no longer concerned about a lack of sophistication or refinement; it dealt with the basic inability of many young Americans to read and to write, as it presented the alarming statistic that one of six high school graduates is functionally illiterate. Milton Goldberg, a past Director of the National Institute of Education, has provided three examples of functional illiteracy: students who cannot read and understand the proper dosages written on a bottle of aspirin, or the instructions printed on a frozen TV dinner, or the rules written in a driver’s manual.

Clearly, American students are having problems; foremost among them, they are encountering words in their reading which make absolutely no sense. Words fall outside of their vocabularies and do not have any familiar roots. It would seem logical, then, that one way to ameliorate the problem would be to teach students more building blocks of words. Greek and Latin provide these needed building blocks. Three of four English words trace their roots to the Classics. The Classical Outlook of January 1983 provides an amusing example to prove the point. A man named Frank Booth, who just happens to teach at the Athens Academy in Athens, Georgia, brought a skeptical colleague into his office, recorded their normal conversation on cassette tape, played the tape back to himself, wrote down all the words used in the conversation, and traced their etymologies. Eighty percent of the words were, in fact, classical in origin. A recent study illustrates the benefit of a classical vocabulary. Rudolph Masciantonio, the Director of the Foreign Language Programs for the Philadelphia Public School District, writes in the Foreign Language Annals that in 1971, four thousand students, chosen randomly from grades four to six in Philadelphia, were given twenty minutes of daily Latin instruction while their classmates continued to study English. The Iowa Test of Basic Skills was administered six months into the program and found Latin students outscoring their peers by eight months in word knowledge and one full year in reading comprehension.

Not only do the Classics increase the number of words you know when encountering them in reading, but they also help students who are having difficulties organizing their own words into meaningful, complete sentences. Both Greek and Latin are incredibly precise in describing who are doing something, when they are doing it, to whom they are doing it, and so on. William Riley Parker, a distinguished service professor of English at Indiana University and past President of the Modern Languages Association believes that Classics add precision to English by exposing students to such frightening phenomena as dependent clauses, participles, and conditional phrases from the outset. An experiment with Boston grade schoolers directly links the learning of Greek and Latin grammar to English composition. Students having difficulty writing complete, meaningful sentences were taught Latin grammar instead of being given additional rules of English grammar. The

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Washington Post documents that during one school year not only had these students brought their writing skills to a level appropriate for their age, but also the sophistication of their writing placed them on approximately a seventh grade level—even though these students were only in fourth grade!

These Classics programs in reading and writing are obviously successful and are growing across the country. Plato and Plutarch have penetrated Philadelphia—but they are not yet playing in Peoria. It seems to me that one of the purposes of groups such as Eta Sigma Phi is to raise our voices, to write letters, to attend school board meetings, and through other forums to demand the best possible educational institutions for our communities. A number of options are available to the elementary and secondary school in raising language skills via the Classics, in a progressive or traditional manner. For example, school districts endowed with computer facilities might consider some of the two thousand Greek and Latin lessons now available on computer discs in a series called the Programmed Logic for Automatic Teaching Operations, PLATO for short. These discs allow students to diagram and to dissect words and sentences on the screen of a word processor. For schools pursuing a more traditional approach, hiring English teachers with teaching minors in Greek or Latin may be a viable option. If a school district cannot afford a full-time Classics teacher, regionally coordinated programs, such as the one used in Philadelphia, are extremely cost efficient, where a small band of roving classicists presents lessons at various schools at various times in the school day.

Thus, it seems that part of that sense of purpose felt at Monmouth, the University of Texas, and I hope again this year here at St. Olaf College is a conviction among convention participants that time-tested educational programs such as classical languages are a valid, valuable, and verifiable course towards achieving excellence in our schools. Part of the purpose of this organization is the transformation of this conviction into concrete action. The stakes are high. As Aristotle once stated: "All who have meditated on the art of governing mankind have been convinced that the fate of empires depends on the education of youth."

1986 CONVENTION
WHERE: University of Richmond (Beta Gamma) Richmond, VA
WHEN: April 4-6, 1986
WHAT: Speakers, Banquet, Election of Officers, Convivia
WHO: All Members of Eta Sigma Phi
SALVETE OMNES:

A few months ago I received a renewal invitation from the National Geographic. This appeal made a point of showing the low cost of a year's membership. Rapidly expanding numbers of subscribers, they said, made it possible for them to hold down costs to subscribers. Eta Sigma Phi has enjoyed this same benefit of an increasing membership: so long as our membership continues to increase, we can hold down the costs of memberships and subscriptions.

This year of 1985 has been an excellent period of growth. During the year we have welcomed three reactivated chapters: Omicron of the University of Pennsylvania, Tau of the University of Kentucky, and Alpha Tau of The Ohio State University. We also added one new chapter by granting a charter to Knox College, Galesburg, Illinois, for Epsilon Phi Chapter.

A year's subscription to the Nuntius is available to alumni and to friends of Eta Sigma Phi for only one dollar. Costs of publishing the Nuntius are covered solely through subscriptions and dues of members. Modern printing techniques have reduced the cost of publication—perhaps the only cost for Eta Sigma Phi that has significantly declined in the last fifteen years.

Another rather modest publication to which I subscribe recently wrote about facing a publication deficit of some $300,000 for the current year. They said that it took about $1.1M to publish their magazine for twelve months; it will take $1.1M just to buy one minute of advertising time during this year's Superbowl. My conservative estimate is that the same money that would buy one minute of advertising for the Superbowl would pay for publishing the Nuntius for at least the next 875 years. You can see, from such a comparison, the modest level of our operation.

Even with costs so low as ours, we always welcome those who would like to become life members of Eta Sigma Phi. Life membership is available for only fifty dollars, and it includes a lifetime subscription to the Nuntius.

Professor Gertrude Smith Greenwood, honorary president of Eta Sigma Phi, died on May 10, 1985, at the age of ninety. She had been responsible for organizing and establishing Eta Sigma Phi and had been a direct link to the origins of our Fraternity. She had been, for many years, a member of the faculty in Classics at the University of Chicago and was recognized throughout the world as an authority on Greek law.

RES GESTAE

Gamma Delta

Three new members were initiated at a meeting on November 3, 1985, of the Gamma Delta chapter (affectionately abbreviated G-D) of Yeshiva University at the home of Professor Louis H. Feldman, faculty adviser for the past thirty years. Professor Feldman’s home was decorated with various slogans and quotations from Greek, Latin, and Hebrew. The meeting opened with a rousing chorus of “Gaudeamus Igitur.” The three initiates then, in accordance with the custom of the chapter, each presented a project. David Schonbrun translated into Latin and sang a chorus from Gilbert and Sullivan. Pourang Bral translated into Latin a passage from a medical textbook. Howard Kurtz translated into Greek and sang the four questions from the Passover Haggadah. While the three initiates sweated it out in the furnace room of Professor Feldman’s home, the merits of the presentations were debated by the twenty alumni who were present. The three were then unanimously voted into membership with a rousing chorus of “Est Vere Socius Bonus” (“For He’s a Jolly Good Fellow”). This was followed by the singing of “In Summo Fumosi” (“On Top of Old Smoky”), “Domus in Prato” (“Home on the Range”), and “Clementina” (“Oh My Darling Clementine”). Professor Feldman then read the latest edition of his annual list of original bilingual puns. Officers were then elected: Howard Kurtz, Prytanis; David Schonbrun, Hyparchos; Pourang Bral, Grammateus; and Jonathan Reiss, Chrysophylax. The meeting then discussed ways to increase enrollments in courses in Greek and Latin.

Our convention at St. Olaf College this past spring was highly successful and well attended. We all enjoyed a splendid production of Plautus’s Miles Gloriosus under the direction of Professor Anne Groton of the Classics Department of St. Olaf College. I hope that many of you will join us for the 1986 convention in Richmond, Virginia, where we shall be the guests of Beta Gamma Chapter, University of Richmond.

Valete,

Brent M. Froberg
Alpha Phi Adviser Recognized as Distinguished Professor

Dr. Catherine Freis, adviser to Alpha Phi Chapter, Millsaps College, Jackson, Mississippi, was awarded the Distinguished Professor Award at the Founders Day Luncheon on Saturday, February 16, 1985. A committee composed of one faculty member from each of Millsaps' departments and two students selected by the Dean of Student Affairs and the president of the Alumni Association, reviewed nominations from the students and faculty of Millsaps College; they selected Dr. Freis as the recipient of the 1985 award.

Dean King who presented the award said that Dr. Freis "is in the best liberal arts tradition of the dedicated teacher in love with learning and devoted to the learner. Students of all ages and levels of ability speak with conviction of the difference which she has made in their personal and intellectual development—not just by kindling their interest in a subject which they might otherwise have not thought worth studying, but by training their minds to discern patterns, make connections, and think with rigor in all fields of endeavor."

Dr. Freis received her B.A. degree (cum laude) in Classics from Brooklyn College, City University of New York, and her M.A. degree from the University of California, Berkeley, California. She also received her Ph.D. degree from the University of California. She has been a member of the faculty of Millsaps College since 1975 and has served as the faculty adviser to Alpha Phi Chapter. Eta Sigma Phi is proud of its many advisers who win such awards from their colleges and universities, and salutes Catherine Freis on winning this recognition from her students and peers.

NEW INITIATES

September 1984-August 1985

IOTA (University of Vermont): Christopher Dobson, Michael Gora, Pixita Hill, Amy Maynard, Tom Richardson, Elizabeth Roraback, Melinda Sargent, Adam Tschorn, Coleen Watson. Associate Member: Marjorie Drexler.


ALPHA PI (Gettysburg College): Scott Bialous, Tony Garro, Marie La Sota, Michael McDonald, Maryle Paddack, Celeste Powers, Marie Seitz, Jannette Van Siclen, Jackie Zakrewsky.

ALPHA TAU (The Ohio State University): John Sullivan, Juliana Halley, Susan Poynter, James Gauch, Simone Crist, Rosie Lim. Associate Members: Rick Boe, Julia Roehl.

ALPHA UPSILON (The College of Wooster): Elizabeth Rea, Crystal Dodd, Shawn K. Johnson, Deborah L. Suciu, Courtenay Selby, Catherine M. Jackson.


BETA KAPPA (College of Notre Dame of Maryland): Susan A. Avery, Janice E. Gerard, LaShone Handy, John McCann, Theresa M. Neumann, Mari Watanae.


BETA PI (The University of Arkansas): Mike Jackson, Keith Joyce, Patrick Smallwood, Jake Majors, Tim Kimbrell, Valerie Reese, Kevin Hammond, Diane Dee Barker, Jim Almond, Zelda Iles, Donna Medders, Lois Archer, Francis Rigg, John W. Keesee, George Hardy, Annabel L. Kellam.


BETA CHI (Loyola College of Maryland): Regina Ashburn, Kathy Boyd, Lynn Bromley, Michael Eby, Jonathan Moorman, Morris Naus, Brigitte Pocia, Lynne Porter, Paula Rollins, Charles Stembler, Jeanine Ursitti, William Venanzi, Joseph Yanich.

GAMMA ALPHA (Indiana State University): Deanna Deppen, Brian Williams, Kimberly Clingerman, Rodney Steinmet, Parke Swaim, Rebecca Clifton, Lisanne Pierson, Connie Hintz. Associate Members: Martha Payne.


GAMMA SIGMA (University of Texas): Darrel Ruthkin, Anne Marie Bulliung, Tahira Mahmooda Khan.

DELTA ALPHA (Randolph-Macon Woman's College): Lori E. Bradley, Anne D. Holcomb, Deborah J. Mason, Catherine E. Scalia, Leslie A. Shaner, Andrea E. Wooden.
DELTA ZETA (Colgate University): Alice Whetherly Baker, David M. Engel.

DELTA THETA (Dickinson College): Stephanie J. Barclay, Mark Douglas Clauser, Carl Thomas Ludden, Lillian K. Williams, Erica Budd, Nancy Hruska, Richard Lipman, Sandy Reigh.

DELTA RHO (Radford University): Lonnie Davis, Jr., Jeanne Lynn Dove, Tracy Kay McCauley.

DELTA CHI (St. Olaf College): Daniel J. Albrecht, Dean M. Apel, John M. Bjorge, Emily A. Clark, Margaret A. Corzatt, Helen Jones, Susan M. O'Shaughnessy, Amy L. Railsback, Karen M. Rask, Susan L. Ryberg.

DELTA PSI (Thiel College): Joanne M. Gable, Carol L. Shields.

DELTA OMEGA (Macalester College): Matthew R. Giannetti.


EPSILON KAPPA (Brigham Young University): Linda Oakes, Anne Perkins, Patricia Pitcher, Donna Snow, Nora Kathleen Wilson, Jane Gardner, Rebecca Reynolds, Brian Joseph Reynolds, Tom Wallace, Rick R. Brizbee, Brenda Janson, Robert G. Lilly, Brian Leon Merrill, Mirja Svanstrom.

EPSILON MU (Fordham University): Edward M. Gleason, Tim Kalavrouziotis, Robert Lauer, Irene Lignos, George Makris, Christopher Marchetti, Joseph McLaughlin, Patrick Quinn, Ottorino Costantini.

EPSILON NU (Creighton University): M. Jeanne Demma, Kandace Gerdes, Rebecca K. Rowley, Mary Jane Mertes, Mark E. Shelton, Cheryl Yentes. Honoris Causa: Virginia M. Nedley, Roland Reichmuth, S. J., Kevin Schneider, S. J.

EPSILON XI (Gustavus Adolphus College): Lisa Ann Engquist, Scott P. Frederickson, James Anthony Grosso, Cynthia Jane Kohls, David Alan Kostick, Angela W. Litton, Jay N. Sieling, Brian L. Wing.


John Thulin, a member of Beta Alpha Chapter of The University of South Dakota, models an attractive Eta Sigma Phi T-shirt. T-shirts and sweatshirts in a number of sizes and in a variety of colors are available from Epsilon Omicron Chapter, Classics, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Massachusetts 01003. Chapters, not individuals, should write Epsilon Omicron Chapter for information on current costs and availability.
1985 CONTEST WINNERS

Greek Translation, Advanced Level
1. Becky Bynum, Gamma Sigma, University of Texas
2. Ottorino Costantini, Epsilon Mu, Fordham University
3. No Prize Awarded

Greek Translation, Intermediate Level
1. Jonathan Brian Fenno, Epsilon Pi, Concordia College
2. No Prize Awarded
3. No Prize Awarded

Greek Translation, Intermediate Level, Koine
1. No Prizes Awarded

Latin Translation, Advanced Level
1. Becky Bynum, Gamma Sigma, University of Texas
2. Vanessa B. Tracy, Epsilon Kappa, Brigham Young University
3. Robert Stewart, Gamma Sigma, University of Texas

Latin Translation, Intermediate Level
1. Michael C. Poppers, Gamma Delta, Yeshiva University
2. Susan Attwood, Epsilon Omicron, University of Massachusetts
3. Lois A. Connell, Epsilon Kappa, Brigham Young University

Latin Composition, Advanced Level
1. Margaret Emond Kirkegaard, Delta Chi, St. Olaf College
2. Becky Bynum, Gamma Sigma, University of Texas
3. Diane Filkorn, Epsilon Eta, Kent State University

Latin Composition, Intermediate Level
1. Michael C. Poppers, Gamma Delta, Yeshiva University
2. Susan Attwood, Epsilon Omicron, University of Massachusetts
3. Lois A. Connell, Epsilon Kappa, Brigham Young University

Scholarships:
For the American School of Classical Studies, Athens, Greece:
- Pamela McCravy, Alpha Omega, Louisiana State University

For the American Academy in Rome:
- Margaret Kirkegaard, Delta Chi, St. Olaf College

Senior Prize:
For the tie clasp with owl key pendant:
- Bryan J. Lipp, Beta Alpha, The University of South Dakota

1986 CONTEST ANNOUNCEMENT

1) THIRTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL GREEK TRANSLATION CONTEST
Advanced: This contest will consist of the sight translation of a passage in Greek which is considered within the comprehension of students beyond the second year of college Greek.
Intermediate: 1) This contest will consist of the sight translation of a passage in Greek which is considered within the comprehension of students in the second year of college Greek. 2) This contest will consist of the sight translation of a passage of Koine Greek which is considered within the comprehension of students in the second year of college Greek.

2) THIRTY-SIXTH ANNUAL LATIN TRANSLATION CONTEST
Advanced: This contest will consist of the sight translation of a passage in Latin which is considered within the comprehension of students beyond the second year of college Latin.
Intermediate: This contest will consist of the sight translation of a passage in Latin which is considered within the comprehension of students in the second year of college Latin.

3) TWENTIETH ANNUAL LATIN PROSE COMPOSITION CONTEST
This contest will consist of the translation of a passage of English into Latin. This contest is intended for advanced students of Latin who are in their third or fourth year of college Latin. Contestants may use a dictionary (without paradigms), e.g. Cassell's.

PRIZES
Cash awards will be made to winners in both levels of competition. For the advanced contests, including Latin Prose Composition, first prize will be $50.00, second prize $40.00, and third prize $30.00; for the intermediate contests, first prize will be $35.00, second prize $25.00, and third prize $15.00.

ELIGIBILITY
The contests are open to students in classes in Greek and/or Latin in colleges and universities which have active chapters of Eta Sigma Phi Fraternity.
Written notice of a desire to participate postmarked not later than February 21, 1986, must be sent to Professor Brent M. Froberg, Box 171, The University of South Dakota, Vermillion, South Dakota 57069. Materials will be mailed by him in time for the contests to be administered simultaneously in all competing schools during the week of March 3, 1986. Contest papers in all of the contests are to be forwarded to Professor Brent M. Froberg and must be postmarked not later than March 7, 1986. Each paper must be accompanied by an identification page, which will be supplied in advance of the contest. There is a limit of three papers from any one school in each tier of each contest.
Decision as to place in the various contests will be made by members of the Eta Sigma Phi Committee on Contests, who will identify the papers by code designation only.

Committee on Contests
ANN CASTRO,
Chairman
Delta Psi
Thiel College
THE ETA SIGMA PHI
SUMMER SCHOLARSHIPS
FOR 1986

The Trustees of Eta Sigma Phi Fraternity are pleased to announce that two scholarships will be offered in 1986 to enable one member of Eta Sigma Phi to attend the 1986 Summer Session of the American Academy in Rome, Italy, and another to attend the 1986 Summer Session of the American School of Classical Studies in Athens, Greece.

The Scholarship to the American Academy in Rome will have a value of $2,000, which includes the tuition fee remitted by the American Academy.

The Scholarship to the American School of Classical Studies in Athens will have a value of $2,200, which includes the tuition fee remitted by the American School.

At either summer session, six semester hours of credit may be earned which is applicable toward an advanced degree in Classics at most graduate schools, provided that advance arrangements have been made.

Selection of candidates for the scholarships is exercised by the Eta Sigma Phi Scholarship Committee whose members are Professor C. Wayne Tucker of Hampden-Sydney College, Chairman, Professor Patricia Marquardt of Marquette University, and Professor John Rouman of the University of New Hampshire. Enquiries and requests for blanks should be addressed to Professor C. Wayne Tucker, Department of Classics, Hampden-Sydney College, Hampden-Sydney, Virginia 23943.

Eligible to apply for the scholarships are Eta Sigma Phi members and alumni who have received a Bachelor's degree since January 1, 1980, or shall have received it on or before June 1986, and who have not received a doctoral degree. In selecting the winner of each scholarship, the Committee will give attention to the quality of the applicant's work in Greek and Latin and his intention to teach at the secondary school or college level.

The applicant must submit a transcript of his undergraduate work, letters of recommendation, and a statement not to exceed 500 words of his purpose and reasons for desiring the scholarship. Applications must be submitted to Professor Tucker by December 20, 1986. The winner of each scholarship will be announced about January 25, 1986.

For the Scholarship Committee,

C. Wayne Tucker