An Open Letter From H. Lee Perkins

A recent report has shown that since 1965 there has been an overall decline of 38% in enrollment in Latin and Greek classes throughout the country. It appears that if this trend continues, classical studies will be phased out of the academic programs of most colleges. This unfortunate event could, indeed, happen in the very near future. Already, in many colleges a person majoring in either Greek or Latin can expect to attend advanced classes composed of only three or four students. It may be true that these small classes provide an ideal learning situation, but they are, nevertheless, a dangerous luxury, for college administrators in increasing numbers have become unwilling to allow Latin and Greek courses with such small enrollments to be taught. Amid these unfavorable conditions, every member of Eta Sigma Phi should take seriously his promise “to encourage classical scholarship, to enhance the appreciation of Greek and Roman cultures, and to promote good will and friendship among classical students.”

There are many ways a local chapter can help to foster interest in classical studies. Quite a few chapters have brought in prominent classicists to speak to the student body of their college. Some chapters have promoted well-organized meetings to which they have invited members of chapters from other colleges. And, of course, many of our active chapters have sponsored programs and contests in secondary schools.

One of the goals of the present national officers is to form a committee which will attempt to locate colleges with classical departments that do not have a chapter of Eta Sigma Phi. These colleges will be sent letters informing them of the fraternity chapter admission requirements. We hope that this procedure will add more dedicated members to the fraternity. Another project of your national officers will be a revision of the fraternity’s constitution, which will allow the organization to act much more efficiently and quickly. If you have any advice concerning these goals or other matters which should be brought to the attention of the executive council, please do not hesitate to contact any of the national officers.

It is the hope of the executive council that there will be a wider participation in the fraternity’s contests and scholarship programs. In addition, we cannot stress too much the importance of regular contributions to the Endowment Fund.

I hope that each of you will have a successful year in carrying out programs which will benefit the cause of classical endeavor. I am looking forward to seeing all of our chapters represented at our national convention in the spring.

Sincerely yours,
H. Lee Perkins
Megas Prytanis
NUNIUS

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From the Secretary’s Desk

The 43rd National Convention will be held March 26 and 27, 1971 in St. Louis, Missouri at the invitation of Beta Zeta Chapter at St. Louis University. Further details will appear in the next issue of NUNIUS. Begin now to plan to come and to have one (or more) of your members run for national office. It’s your Fraternity—Be Active!

Please return the Annual Questionnaire as soon as possible. A new part has been added. In an effort to keep in contact with our graduates, we are asking for the addresses of graduating members. May we ask chapter secretaries to be very careful in spelling the names of new initiates. A mistake means a new certificate and unnecessary expense.

New Address for Medal Orders

Your attention is invited to the amendment to the Medal Fund which appears in this issue of NUNIUS. You will notice that the fund was forced to borrow $265.00 from the national treasury this year to meet its expenses, which would seem to indicate that the fund is not solvent. This is true, however, since we have on hand with the Medallic Art Co. a large number of medals for which we have already paid, whereas in years past our inventories were considerably lower, but we had more money in the treasury. The Medallic Art Co. now requires us to purchase medals in quantities of one hundred rather than in quantities inventories have increased, and our cash on hand has decreased. The fund is still solvent.

There has been a steady decrease in the sale of medals in recent years, and during this past year the decrease has been greater for all three medals. An increase in the price of medals could be anticipated. This would not only indicate a decrease in the number of schools in which Latin is taught, but also a loss of the local chapter is not able to give such good support to this project of the fraternity. Last year only thirteen chapters awarded medals in local high schools. In making your plans for the new year, please remember to include the awarding of medals in your local high schools.

Medals are now to be ordered from your Executive Secretary. I have continued to serve as Registrar of Medals since Professor Smith became the Executive Secretary because of the changing policies of the Medallic Art Co. Now I pass this additional duty on to her. But I am hoping I can urge you to support this part of the program of Eta Sigma Phi because the awarding of medals in high schools has proved to be an effective means of encouraging the study of Latin. And at the present time we need to use every possible means to maintain Latin in the curriculum of the high schools.

H. R. Butts

Sincerely thanks to those who voted on the Amendment Amendment. I am happy to report that it finally passed. Amendment voted on my collection of a 2/3 vote of two successive national conventions for interested students at Mary Washington, and will soon help to organize a Roman Banquet for some of the local high schools. We will also have a joint meeting with Randolph-Macon later this month.

Carol Peterson

Among The Chapters

BETA KAPPA
College of Notre Dame of Maryland

Beta Kappa may well be the smallest active chapter, but the size of our group has definitely not limited our activities this year. We began the scholastic year with a lecture on Ennism given by the college library by the renowned Thomas More scholar, Abbe Germain Marc' hadour. NUNIUS found us immersed in preparation for a Latin Day for high school students, complete with a three round contest and a production of the Monsignor by our members. About 120 high school students and teachers attended. In December we made the rounds of a series of lectures at Walters Art Gallery. At our February meeting, Miss Catherine Dix, a former member of Eta Sigma Phi, demonstrated her remarkable multi-sensory method for teaching of the classics. The highlight of the year was the Classics Day we presented in March for high school professors and classical lovers. This program, which drew nearly 100 guests, included a performance of the Suppliant Sibyl at the Carmine Bunas, and a talk by Dr. Dorothy Hill of Walters Art Gallery. May we bring our initiation of new members as well as our annual banquet. We also plan to attend the opera Dido and Aeneas to be presented by the New York Chamber Singers at Goucher College. Thanks to the assistance of our associate members and the ability and enthusiasm of our advisor, Sister Therese Marie, this has been a successful year for Beta Kappa Chapter.

Helen M. Morris

BETA NU
Mary Washington College

The Beta Nu chapter began the year with an initiation ceremony for members who were not able to attend last year. We were among the clubs which were represented by a display at the ICA Open House and which volunteered to serve as guides for incoming freshmen. I have spoken on my collection of Coins to two high schools. We are currently trying to organize a Senior Classical League at the request of interested students at Mary Washington, and will soon help to organize a Roman Banquet for some of the local high schools. We will also have a joint meeting with Randolph-Macon later this month.

Carol Peterson

BETTA SIGMA
Marquette University

Marquette was represented at the Colloquium held at Mount Mary in October. Marquette is the joint hostess at Milwaukee chapters at Nino's Steak Ranch in November. Mr. John Franzmann spoke at the ceremony. He felt that his talk on Women in Antiquity was enjoyed and appreciated by all who attended. We handled the night's success as, after seven new members were accepted. The Beta Sigma chapter also sponsored this year's College Day in early December. It was held in our newly constructed and recently dedicated Modern Language Building on campus. The attendance was low, but those high school students who did attend expressed their appreciation for our concern for them. We also take advantage of this opportunity to thank all the girls' students as well as advisors for Eta Sigma Phi who made the day possible. December and January proved to be the busiest months for visits to near-by high schools for our share in the speaking load for the High School Relations Board. The trips proved very gratifying to those speaking and, we hope, those who listened. In late March our chapter held a joint meeting with Sigma Delta Pi, the Spanish Honorary Fraternity on campus. Our faculty advisor Mr. Peter Theis presented an illustrated lecture on "Roman Spain." The talk was followed by an informal discussion as well as refreshments. In April Marquette sponsored a lecture entitled "A Humanist at Bay" delivered by Prof. Paul L. MacKendrick from The University of Wisconsin. It was free and open to the public. The attendance was close to 100 people. All the local chapters were invited as we are all the Classics club from the surrounding high schools. It was agreed that this event was one of the most successful of the year. April also brought a little bit of trouble to our Chapter, as we found ourselves unable to attend the annual convention due to final examination border, i.e., a lack of money. We find ourselves to be increasingly enjoying our monthly meetings where the attendance has been excellent since we have taken advantage of the kitchen cooking facilities available in the faculty lounge of the Modern Language Building. Meetings usually consisted of about one half hour business and an hour of eating and drinking. We became a very close knit fraternity as a result of these socials as well as a group of cooperative friends and workers. We also plan to have a summer picnic this Spring. Our annual elections will also take place at our next meeting.

Al Shannon

BETA UPSILON
Marshall University

In April last year members of Beta Upsilon chapter celebrated the birthday of Rome with a heavily advertised

Continued on page 4.
in downtown Huntington. The billboard board, "Happy Birthday, Rome, from Lat- in Students, Marshall University auxents from marston." Our slogan, a paraphrase of a line in Januval, was picked up by Dr. John Latimer of the American Classical League and published in the January issue of the ACL newsletter. In May medals were presented byEta Sigma Phi members to outstanding fourth-year students in Latin. On a sodder note Miss Cheryl Shu- mate, a Latin teacher at a junior high school in Charleston, W. Va. and a 1969 graduate who had been a member of Beta Upsilon for three days, died last month of spinal meningitis. Beta Upsilon Delta's annual report for the year 1965 shows a balance of $85.00 to the national scholarship in memory of Cheryl. A senior member of Beta Upsilon chapter, Miss Kathy Jarrell, has accepted a three-year NDEA Fellow- ship at Ithaca Mwr College. Miss Jarrell was in Italy and Greece last summer for study and travel. Four new members of Beta Upsilon chapter were initiated April 4 at a luncheon meeting in Huntington. This brings our total membership to 14.

Sentinel

ANNIWI REPORT ETA SIGMA PHI MEDAL FUND

Cash on hand, August 31, 1969

$200.57

RECEIPTS:

Sale of large silver medals (64) $320.00
Sale of small silver medals (88) 170.50
Sale of bronze medals (143) 118.75
Accounts outstanding paid 21.50
Overpayments 4.75
Loan from National Treasury 265.00
Total, all items $956.50
Total cash and receipts $1157.07
Accounts outstanding (5) 45.75
Total $1111.32

SEBUSEMENTS:

Payments to Medallic Art Co. for medals $1003.15
Postage 30.00
Overpayments returned 6.00
$1019.65
Cash on hand, August 31, 1970
$91.67

INVESTMENTS:

Medals in custody of Medallic Art Co. and paid for:
47 large silver medals @ $4.50 $211.50
131 small silver medals @ 1.55 203.05
79 bronze medals @ $1.20 94.80
Total $515.35

Continued on page 5.

DELTA ALPHA
Randolph-Macon Women's College

On October 9, 1969, Delta Alpha represented all clubs with a classical out- look at an activities night for Randolph- Macon undergraduates. Because of the interest shown, the Classics Club was revived and joined Delta Alpha in the presentation of this program for the second year. Under the auspices of these two clubs, and with the help of several of the departments, the color film of the Oresteia, which was made at Randolph- Macon several years ago, was shown on March 10, 1970. Miss Eleanor Struppe, who was responsible for the choreography, and Dr. Henry Halstrom, who composed the musical score, presented a lecture on the making of the movie and the fitting of the score and the chants to the action.

Sandra Evans

Continued from page 4.

DELTA GAMMA
Marywood College

During the year 1969-1970, our Chapter participated in several activities. The following are a few of the more important ones. On Saturday, October 4, 1969, Phi members participated at the Invitasive Latin Conference, the theme of which was "Latin in the Lunar Age." Those of us who took part at Marywood College, was attended by classroom teachers of Latin, consultants in foreign language study and directors and administrators. Guest speakers included Dr. Richard, a student of the University of Illinois, Mr. Henry Duke of the Pennsylvania Classical Association, Dr. Charles Gruber of New York State University, and Miss Clara Ashley, author of Living Latin. On November 11, 1969, the group invited another Phi chapter to present a program. Following the induction a party was held for both the new and the newly elected members. The most recent activity sponsored by Delta Gamma has been the Latin College Bowl held on March 14, 1970 at Marywood College. Sixteen high schools attended the Bowl. Winners were St. Cyril's Academy from Dauphin, Pennsylvania, and the Central Catholic from Kingston, Pennsylvania. The next event on our calendar is class Day, to be held on April 7, 1970. On this day seniors will be honored for their participation as members of Delta Gamma Chapter of St. Mary's College, Carbondale, Illinois.

Anna Marguthe

DELLA KAPPA
Carroll College

This past year Delta Kappa chapter in cooperation with the other Milwaukee area chapters has concentrated on our High School Recruitment Committee. The committee contacted Latin instructors in the high schools of the surrounding dis- tricts to inform them of the proposed speaking program. Each chapter was then responsible for filling the requests for those talks when their turn came up. We in Delta Kappa chapter prepared these topics: suppletions of the Roman people, the Etruscans, and Roman drama. The first two were each presented four times and the latter was given three times both for our own and for other groups from other organizations (Latin and Humanities Clubs). Our program committee also used these topics for presentation to our mem- Continued on page 6.
Continued from page 5.

The work this summer does not come to an end, speaking engagements have been made for this semester also. During the summer, members of Delta Kappa chapter participated in both the Colloquium, a discussion of the Amphibions, and in the College Day. An initiation was held on March 1, 1960. We received four new actives: Candance Demko, Robert Friedrich, David Layman, and Elizabeth Linsley. Morie Bartals and Jean Costinou were received as associate members. This semester our time and energy has been spent in preparing our annual program for high school students. We have written a script in travelogue form entitled "Idols Abroad: Cultural Odyssey" to be presented on April 30, 1970. The inspiration for this program comes from a trip to Greece and Italy which many of our members made during the month of January. Our focus this year has been toward the high school students rather than our own members. More evaluation will have to be made, but the results do not seem unfavorable.

Carol Anderson

DELTA LAMBDA College of the Holy Cross

Delta Lambda chapter of the Eta Sigma Phi reporting! Projects right and left have occupied us the last three years and, specifically, in the school year 1969-70. We take particular pride in telling you about our Classics Day, organized three years ago and flourishing now. This year Classics Day was held on Saturday, March 14. The purpose of C.D. is to encourage love and esteem of the Classics among high school students of New England. Over 200, accompanied by their teachers, came to Holy Cross and stayed for the day (10 a.m. to 5 p.m.—and later)! When the Classical Association of New England convenes at Holy Cross this year, two of us will have the honor of addressing the Association on the following subjects: John J. Dowd on Thyctides; and Alton Hurd and David G. Pagano on Thyctides and His Latin Imitators. Delta Lambda members have also assisted in the proof-reading for Classical Folk and its supplementary publications. Prytamus David Pagano, Paul Clark, Edward Vodorykis, Thomas Sienkiewicz have given special help in this regard. Besides the papers which some of us will read to CANE, the prologue of the Ajax of Sophocles, in the original Greek, will be read by the following members: Galen Graham, Thomas Patich and James Daley. In the course of the past three years members of Delta Lambda have been asked to lecture to high school audiences in the Worcester County area, while those of us who are also members of the Helenic Tradition Seminar gave lectures on themes related to the author currently studied. Recently, for example, James Daley and David Pagano gave lectures on Thyctides at a local High School. May the sanity of the Greek and Latin classics always prevail!

John J. Dowd

DELTA PI Randolph-Macon College

The Delta Pi chapter at Randolph-Macon College, though a relatively new addition to Eta Sigma Phi, is rapidly growing. Our installation proceedings for new members were carried out on April 21, 1969, when the chapter installed seven new members in addition to the active membership totaling twenty members. After the initiation, there was a banquet for the new members of the chapter; by Professor Laura C. Summer of Mary Washington College, delivered the companion paper, "Who Was Romulus?" and "Who Was Romulus?" In October of 1969, our chapter sponsored the viewing of a film entitled "Gods at Risk" by interested Randolph-Macon College students. In November of 1969, our chapter also sponsored the viewing of a film concerning life in ancient Greece. During our most recent meeting on March 12, 1970, members discussed the Hephaestus and Odysseus poems of Catullus and Ovid, commenting especially on the style and subject matter of the respective poems. The Delta Pi chapter of Eta Sigma Phi enjoyed considerable success in 1969-70 because of the happy union of the Bacchic and Apolline elements of the chapter. A stimulating discussion of Homer's "Iliad" poem, with considerable attention devoted to the function of the Melpomene, was enriched with large casts of red wine and Swiss, string and Gouda cheese. All members participated in both aspects of the meeting, to a greater or lesser degree, although it was composed that when the meeting was adjourned the Bacchic element was not in control. The above format was followed at all of our meeting discussions with the Hera-Zeus episode (II: 1-14) digested with large portions of spiced meatballs and sausages. A lack of slide lecture on archaelogy was given by one of our members who participated in a dig in Southern France, along with a dog. We found the relaxed atmosphere in which we conducted our meetings went a long way towards solving the strange and stuffiness and lack of interest that so often preys upon Classics departments. During our annual initiation ceremony ten new members were admitted to our chapter. After the ceremony we discussed ways and means of getting high school students more familiarized with Classics on the university level. A committee was appointed to explore the possibility of getting into high schools, while we are in the planning stages of our Cenai Californiensis, UCI, we hope to attend an upcoming event. Committees on ancient dress, food and drinks, and entertainment are now hard at work to ensure the authenticity of our banquet.

John Barnett

DELTA RHO Radford College

Delta Rho chapter has held monthly meetings from September through April. Although no definite project has been undertaken, members have tried to increase interest in Latin on Radford campus and have kept in touch with home town high schools, encouraging the continuation of Latin on that level.

Ruth W. Williamson

DELTA SIGMA University of California, Irvine

Venera caeneae inter florescent. The Delta Sigma chapter of Eta Sigma Phi enjoyed considerable success in 1969-70 because of the happy union of the Bacchic and Apolline elements of the chapter. A stimulating discussion of Homer's "Iliad" poem, with considerable attention devoted to the function of the Melpomene, was enriched with large casts of red wine and Swiss, string and Gouda cheese. All members participated in both aspects of the meeting, to a greater or lesser degree, although it was composed that when the meeting was adjourned the Bacchic element was not in control. The above format was followed at all of our meeting discussions with the Hera-Zeus episode (II: 1-14) digested with large portions of spiced meatballs and sausages. A lack of slide lecture on archaelogy was given by one of our members who participated in a dig in Southern France, along with a dog. We found the relaxed atmosphere in which we conducted our meetings went a long way towards solving the strange and stuffiness and lack of interest that so often preys upon Classics departments. During our annual initiation ceremony ten new members were admitted to our chapter. After the ceremony we discussed ways and means of getting high school students to attend a joint meeting with the Mary Washington chapter of Eta Sigma Phi. The existing arrangement for Eta Sigma Phi activities at Randolph-Macon involves periodic dinner meetings followed by a program during the early evening. Although a young chapter, we are confident that Delta Pi will be an asset to Eta Sigma Phi.

C. Cooper Bell, Jr.
Charles H. Leeceit, Jr.

DELTA TAU University of Delaware

In October members of Delta Tau supported the efforts of Mortar Board to launch a tour guide for the members of the National Honor Society in the Delaware High Schools. Eta Sigma Phi led the groups interested in classics, showing them the campus and explaining the curricula of the classics department. In November the Delaware Classical Association invited Eta Sigma Phi to attend their meeting. We felt it would be beneficial to learn first hand the position of classics in the high schools. The sources for the decline of enrollments in Latin courses we learned was due to the administration and the guidance counselors who advise students against Latin in preference to other courses. The convention did make the high school teachers aware that at least the University of Delaware, Latin is required of modern language majors. Hopefully this communication and the administrations will change the situation.

The convention also confirmed our plans to have direct contact with the high school students. In December, the new president of the University of Delaware, President Trabant, called upon Eta Sigma Phi to help assemble one of the biggest projects of all: a poster. It centered around the role of the new student. We helped to assemble various topics to be selected and could hold panel discussions. Among the topics of special significance to our organization were the role of the Classics in the education on the college level, and the role of classics to the modern world, American society, and the individual. The Eta Sigma Phi chapter at the College of Notre Dame in Baltimore, Maryland invited fellow members and other interested parties from the University of Delaware to attend their Latin Day on March 21. It was certainly a worthwhile trip.

Megas Christophyklis Alexander C. Graham, Jr. is a junior majoring in Classics at Hampden-Sydney College. He is a member of Beta Theta chapter, which he serves as Prytus. He is also serving Eta Sigma Phi as regional chairman this year. He was formerly historian and president of his class, and is presently the treasurer of Sigma Nu social fraternity. He is also a member of the Circle K Club, the Young Republicans Club, the Student Assembly and the school tennis team. He was awarded the David C. Wilson Memorial Greek Prize, given annually to a student at Hampden-Sydney.

Sandy plans to continue his studies after graduation, with a career in either business or law as his goal.

The special demonstration given by Miss Catherine Dux of the audio-visual methods of teaching Latin and Greek was a stimulant for all of the members looking toward a teaching career in the classics. On April 25 Eta Sigma Phi will attend the annual convention of the Junior Classical League to encourage the continued study in classics. In early May Eta Sigma Phi in cooperation with the University of Delaware Classical Association is planning an annual banquet for the high school students. A guest speaker together with the classics department faculty will be present. Also at this time the initiation of new members and elections for the next year will take place. All of the small number of active members we have been somewhat limited in carrying out all the activities we had hoped. However with the new initiation the Delta Tau chapter is looking forward to a prosperous 1970-71 year.
THE ETA SIGMA PHI

SUMMER SCHOLARSHIPS FOR 1971

The Trustees of Eta Sigma Phi Fraternity are pleased to announce that two scholarships will be offered in 1971 to enable one member of Eta Sigma Phi to attend the 1971 Summer Session of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens, Greece, and another to attend the 1971 Summer Session of the American Academy in Rome, Italy.

The Scholarship to the American Academy in Rome will have a value of $550.00, carrying a stipend of $350.00 granted by the Trustees of Eta Sigma Phi and remission of the $200.00 tuition fee by grant of the American Academy.

The Scholarship to the American School of Classical Studies at Athens will have a value of $600.00, including a stipend of $300.00 granted by the Trustees of Eta Sigma Phi and remission of the $300.00 tuition fee by grant of the American School.

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

Selection of candidates for the scholarships is exercised by the Eta Sigma Phi Scholarship Committee, whose members are Professor H. R. Butts of Birmingham-Southern College, Chairman, and Professors Brent M. Froberg of the University of South Dakota, and Philip N. Lockhart of Dickinson College. Enquiries and requests for application blanks should be addressed to Professor Mary Ann Burns, Executive Secretary, Department of Classics, The University of Wisconsin—Milwaukee, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53201.

Eligible to apply for the scholarships are Eta Sigma Phi members and alumni who have received a Bachelor's degree since January 1, 1966 or shall have received it in or before June 1971, and who have not yet 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 H. R. Butts, Birmingham-Southern College, Birmingham, Alabama 35204 by November 15, 1970. The winner of each scholarship will be announced about January 15, 1971.

For the Scholarship Committee
H. R. BUTTS
Chairman
Announcing The 1971 Contests

1) TWENTY-SECOND ANNUAL GREEK TRANSLATION CONTEST

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 or above of the study of Greek.

2) TWENTY-FIRST ANNUAL LATIN TRANSLATION CONTEST

This contest will consist of the sight translation of a passage in Latin chosen in reference to students who have had two or more years of Latin in high school (or the equivalent in college) and at least one or more semesters in college.

3) FIFTH 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.

PRIZES

First prize in each contest will be $35.00; second prize $25.00 and third prize $15.00.

ELIGIBILITY

The above contests are open only 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 8, 1971, must be sent to the Executive Secretary, Mary Ann Burns, Classics Department, The University of Wisconsin—Milwaukee, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53201. Materials will be mailed by her in time for the contests to be administered simultaneously in all competing schools during the week of February 22, 1971. Contest papers in all of the above contests are to be forwarded to the Executive Secretary and must be postmarked not later than March 1, 1971. 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 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

THEODORE BEDRICK, Chairman

CORRIGENDUM

A serious and much regretted typographical error occurred in last May’s issue of Nuntius. In the report of the Convention, the name of our most generous benefactor should have read Maurine Dallas Watkins not Wilkins.

Meet Me in St. Louis

The Forty-third National Convention of Eta Sigma Phi will be held March 26th and 27th, 1971 at St. Louis University located in the Gateway to the West city of St. Louis, Missouri. The home of the Beta Zeta Chapter has several features which we feel will be of great interest to all the attending chapters. The University’s Pius XII Memorial Library houses the unique Vatican Film Library. The Vatican Film Library collection consists primarily of microfilms of the manuscripts in the Vatican Manuscript Library in Rome. One of the richest manuscript collections in the world, the Vatican Manuscript Library has been a primary source of information for the history of Western Civilization for many centuries. Its collection dates back as far as the Fifth Century.

This Jesuit university is also fortunate in being able to claim a very fine Classical Language Department. Father John Welch, S.J., its chairman, received his degree in Classics and Linguistics from the University of Pennsylvania. Another distinguished member of the department, Dr. Chauncey Finch, who has done a great deal of work in the Vatican Film Library, has published numerous articles concerning these manuscripts. Dr. Finch is one of the country’s finest paleographers. Other members of the department include Fr. Hayworth, S.J., Fr. Heithaus, S.J., Mr. Sullivan, and Mrs. Nisbet.

We of the Beta Zeta Chapter feel that the convention should be a great one. We sincerely wish to see every active chapter represented. You will be receiving information about hotels and other details early in 1971.

Steve Bumgarner
Grammateus, Beta Zeta Chapter
VALE ATQUE AVE

The Board of Trustees of Eta Sigma Phi has lost an old member and gained a new one this year.

Professor Grace L. Beede, a member of the board since 1964, retired last June. Professor Beede has been a faithful friend of the Fraternity and of Classics for many years. Besides being a Trustee, Miss Beede has served the Fraternity in many capacities, most recently as a member of the Scholarship Committee.

As Chairman of the Classics Department at the University of South Dakota and adviser to Beta Alpha Chapter, she has inspired and encouraged a love of and enthusiasm for the Classics among her students. Beta Alpha Chapter has been one of the most active in the Fraternity and a most consistent participant in national conventions, often coming great distances to attend.

Eta Sigma Phi is most grateful to Miss Beede for her past services and wishes her many years of happy retirement.

As a replacement for Miss Beede, the Forty-second National Convention unanimously elected Professor Bernice L. Fox, Miss Fox is an adviser to Gamma Omicron Chapter at Monmouth College, another small but very lively chapter. Eta Sigma Phi is fortunate in acquiring another dedicated member for its Board of Trustees.

BLACkS IN ANTIQUITY


It seems an unlikely topic, the black man in classical antiquity: overtly Ethiopians (the commonest ancient designation for blacks) among the blond gods and light-complexioned Greeks and Romans, Africans among the first Europeans, Moors making their first acquaintance of Italy. Greeks and Rome were white civilizations with some unpleasantly familiar characteristics, ethnocentrism, a willingness to call foreign cultures barbarian, a facility in rationalising slavery as natural or divinely sanctioned. They do not seem to be likely places to search for a record of blacks.

And yet, Frank Snowden, a black clastic at Howard University, has taken this seemingly unpromising subject and produced a surprising and exciting book. It surprises us in part by the sheer mass of material. He cites over 150 ancient authors whose testimony helps clarify the role of blacks in classical antiquity. The book contains over 100 illustrations of ancient art works depicting blacks. And many of these, though rarely seen, are of extraordinary artistic as well as anthropological and historical interest. Snowden's book is a comprehensive and learned synthesis of what can be gleaned from both literary and archaeological sources about this inexcusably shamefully neglected subject.

It is, however, no mere compendium but an exciting and challenging investigation. For when the record is compiled, it emerges that despite all the signs of chauvinism among the Greeks and Romans, there is little evidence of racism. They display a fascinated, almost child-like, interest in the color and physiognomy of blacks, but no inclination to base upon these differences moral or social judgments. Even alliances to inter-racial marriages are not accompanied with denunciations of miscegenation. "There is nothing in the evidence," concludes Snowden, "to suggest that the ancient Greek or Roman established color as an obstacle to integration in society."

Nor is the reason for this, as has sometimes been thought, the comparative rarity of blacks in these white societies. The evidence collected in this book shows that blacks were not an unusual sight in Greece or Rome. Although quantitative precision is impossible, the number of references to blacks from Homer down to the early Christian writers strongly suggests that they constituted a substantial percentage of the population. Snowden does not waste time speculating whether certain well-known individuals were black or not. The impressive, and to my mind persuasive, case that the dramatist Terence was black is relegated, for example, to a footnote (of which there are over 600 in this book of 364 pages!). But his central thesis gains rather than loses credibility by this approach. The evidence persuades by bulk and cumulative effect, rather than by ingenuity of argument in detail. In particular one cannot skim through the illustrations without feeling that blacks must have been very familiar, at least to many Greek and Roman artists.

The author hesitates to commit himself about the reasons for this apparent absence of racial prejudice. It is sufficient for him to document the fact and refute the mistaken
New Initiatives 1969-1970

An Open Letter Response to H. Lee Perkins
From an Inactive But Interested Member ofEta Sigma Phi

Your open letter in the November 1970 issue of Nuntius struck the same chords of prediction and projection which were being played when I received my first copy more than ten years ago. I agree with your analysis of the current state of the American Fraternity system, and with your prediction of the negative changes which are imminent at many fraternities, but I do not agree with the type of repre
entative and remedial actions which you recommend to members of Eta Sigma Phi.

There is no doubt that total enrollment in Latin and Greek classes is declining nationwide. It will continue to de
cline, both in total numbers as well as in the per cent of all students who study any foreign language, in high school or in college. Although this may be a cause for alarm, I'm not sure that anyone can really say it is bad, or that the quality of education in the United States will be reduced if this trend is continued.

Just as the rise of sport, in the 1920's resulted in a re
examination of the role and significance of physical education, so the social movements of the 1960's have resulted in a reexamination of the role of social studies. In both cases, the pendulum is swinging between extremes, and in both cases, the arts, humanities, and foreign languages have been viewed through a series of filters: the ideal, the possible, and the necessary. This situation is continuing into the 1970's, and it is not likely to change.

As long as elementary and secondary school districts have financial problems, the introduction and expansion of the study of languages into elementary school curricula is unlikely. As long as students look towards scientific and technical careers, math and science will be pushed in high schools. (Math through calculus is now required in many Business Administration degree programs.) As long as ethnic backgrounds and travel opportunities influence students and parents, modern World Civilization courses and study of other languages is likely. As long as colleges and graduate schools admit students without a foreign language background, and as long as high school and college students have freedom of choice (and need to choose), enrollment in languages will not increase dramatically. The one exception will probably be Spanish, be
cause of the obvious involvement of teachers, social workers, medical and paramedical personnel with persons of Latin American, Cuban, and Puerto Rican heritage.

If all of us who have studied or are studying Latin and Greek joined together in one unified endeavor, we might suc
ceed in keeping Latin in all high school curricula from coast to coast. It has not already disappeared, and we might keep the classes fairly well filled. Perhaps we could accomplish the same at the college level. However, I'm not convinced that this should be done. The 1970's will see American education caught up with social, financial, and academic problems. Prioritization and reorganization must take place.

The Olympic torch must be necessary in this en
vironment; it can no longer (if indeed it ever has) shine brightly from every academic mountaintop.

In conclusion, the most effective way to combat the crisis is to use the principles outlined in this letter, which is addressed to you: an organization of men and women who have been exposed to the foreign language and who believe in the value of the study of foreign languages prepared to work toward the recognition and achievement of the goals outlined above.

Your support of this effort is requested.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
Continued from page 3.

It seems to me that the members of Eta Sigma Phi would be more successful in keeping the classics alive if their goals and methods were updated (beginning with the term "the classics"); for isn't Socrates a classical language too? 1. They can work on college and university curricular requirements (e.g., permit completion of degree requirements with a study of a new foreign language at the introductory level instead of continuous study at the advanced level of a language which was previously studied in high school). 2. They can help promote inter-institutional cooperation, so that language courses offered by one college can more easily be taken by students who are enrolled at others. 3. They can encourage the combination of existing departments via joint appointments so that the quality of teaching in all can be improved. 4. They can work with scholars in the formation of one strong department in cities which have more than one college or university, rather than weaker departments at each institution.

Each and every college cannot afford to offer Latin, no more than it can offer Portuguese or Russian or Chinese or Egyptology or nuclear physics. None can be all things to all men; each must determine what its mission is, and then attempt to do it well. The 1970's will not permit the allocation of effort, inefficient use of manpower and classroom space, nor one-man departments. Eta Sigma Phi members and all of its alumni cannot change this educational fact of life. But if the scope of our efforts is narrowed, if our goals are more clearly defined, if our leadership and ambition are well coordinated, then Latin and Greek departments will not be folded and their budgets will not be stolen away.

James S. Frey

(Jim was an undergraduate member of Delta Sigma Chapter and now Director of Foreign Student Services at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Nuntius publishes his response in the hope of arousing other responses, both to Jim's letter and to Lee's original letter. What do you think? Responses, or excerpts from them, will be published in future issues of Nuntius.)

Classical Associations

The vitality of any profession is in great part due to the effectiveness of its organizations. Such professional organizations reflect the rich traditions of the experience of a profession and foster interest in it among those outside the profession. For their members they provide many services: meetings, publications, scholarships, placement services, etc. Following is a list of some national and regional organizations and the name of the secretary of each whom you can contact for additional information. (This information is mainly excerpted from the September issue of Classical Outlook.)

American Classical League, Executive Secretary Professor John F. Latimer, George Washington University, Washington D.C.; Secretary Miss Adele Knight, Willoughby (Ohio) High School.
American Philological Association, Secretary Professor John J. Bateman, University of Illinois.
Archaeological Institute of America, Secretary Jane S. Ord, 260 West Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10013.
CURRENTLY ACTIVE CHAPTERS

Gamma: Ohio University
   Athens
Epsilon: State University of Iowa
   Iowa City
Zeta: Denison University
   Granville, Ohio
Eta: Florida State University
   Tallahassee
Theta: Indiana University
   Bloomington
Lambda: University of Mississippi
   University
Pi: Birmingham-Southern College
   Birmingham, Alabama
Sigma: Miami University
   Oxford, Ohio
Tau: University of Kentucky
   Lexington
Psi: Vanderbilt University
   Nashville, Tennessee
Omega: The College of William and
   Mary, Williamsburg, Virginia
Alpha Delta: Agnes Scott College
   Decatur, Georgia
Alpha Epsilon: Lehigh University
   Bethlehem, Pennsylvania
Alpha Mu: University of Missouri
   Columbia
Alpha Omicron: Lawrence University
   Appleton, Wisconsin
Alpha Pi: Gettysburg College
   Gettysburg, Pennsylvania
Alpha Rho: Muhlenberg College
   Allentown, Pennsylvania
Alpha Sigma: Emory University
   Atlanta, Georgia
Alpha Tau: Ohio State University
   Columbus
Alpha Upsilon: The College of
   Wooster, Wooster, Ohio
Alpha Phi: Millsaps College
   Jackson, Mississippi
Alpha Chi: Tulane University
   New Orleans, Louisiana
Alpha Psi: Washington and
   Jefferson College
   Washington, Pennsylvania
Beta Alpha: State University of
   South Dakota, Vermillion
Beta Beta: Furman University
   Greenville, South Carolina
Beta Gamma: University of Richmond,
   Virginia
Beta Delta: University of Tennessee
   Knoxville
Beta Zeta: Saint Louis University
   St. Louis, Missouri
Beta Theta: Hampden-Sydney College
   Hampden-Sydney, Virginia
Beta Iota: Wake Forest College
   Winston-Salem, North Carolina
Beta Kappa: College of Notre Dame
   of Maryland, Baltimore
Beta Lambda: Marymount College
   Salina, Kansas
Beta Mu: Butler University
   Indianapolis, Indiana
Beta Nu: Mary Washington College
   Fredericksburg, Virginia
Beta Xi: Rosary College
   River Forest, Illinois
Beta Omicron: Mount Mary College
   Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Beta Sigma: Marquette University
   Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Beta Tau: Georgetown University
   Washington, D.C.
Beta Upsilon: Marshall University
   Huntington, West Virginia
Beta Chi: Loyola College
   Baltimore, Maryland
 Gamma Alpha: Indiana State
   University, Terre Haute
 Gamma Beta: Bowling Green State
   University, Bowling Green, Ohio
 Gamma Gamma: University of
   Wisconsin—Milwaukee
 Gamma Delta: Yeshiva University
   New York, New York
 Gamma Eta: Louisiana College
   Pineville
 Gamma Theta: Georgetown College
   Georgetown, Kentucky
 Gamma Iota: Wabash College
   Crawfordsville, Indiana
 Gamma Kappa: Heidelberg College
   Tiffin, Ohio
 Gamma Lambda: St. Mary’s College
   Winona, Minnesota
 Gamma Mu: Westminster College
   New Wilmington, Pennsylvania
 Gamma Xi: Howard University
   Washington, D.C.
 Gamma Omicron: Monmouth College
   Monmouth, Illinois
 Gamma Rho: Hope College
   Holland, Michigan
 Gamma Sigma: University of Texas
   Austin
 Gamma Upsilon: Austin College
   Sherman, Texas
 Gamma Phi: Le Moyne College
   Syracuse, New York
 Gamma Chi: Lindenwood College
   St. Charles, Missouri
 Delta Alpha: Randolph-Macon
   Women’s College
   Lynchburg, Virginia
 Delta Beta: Canisius College
   Buffalo, New York
 Delta Gamma: Marywood College
   Scranton, Pennsylvania
 Delta Delta: University of Alberta
   Edmonton, Alberta, Canada
 Delta Epsilon: Belhaven College
   Jackson, Mississippi
 Delta Zeta: Colgate University
   Hamilton, New York
 Delta Eta: Seton Hill College
   Greensburg, Pennsylvania
 Delta Theta: Dickinson College
   Carlisle, Pennsylvania
 Delta Iota: College of Saint Teresa
   Winona, Minnesota
 Delta Kappa: Carroll College
   Waukesha, Wisconsin
 Delta Lambda: College of the Holy
   Cross, Worcester, Massachusetts
 Delta Mu: Illinois State University
   Normal
 Delta Nu: La Salle College
   Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
 Delta Xi: Florida Presbyterian
   College, St. Petersburg
 Delta Omicron: Texas Technological
   College, Lubbock
 Delta Psi: Randolph-Macon College
   Ashland, Virginia
 Delta Rho: Radford College
   Radford, Virginia
 Delta Sigma: University of California
   Irvine
 Delta Tau: University of Delaware
   Newark
 Delta Upsilon: Valparaiso University
   Valparaiso, Indiana
 Delta Phi: Southwest Missouri State
   College, Springfield