

THE NUNTIUS

Official Publication

of

ETA SIGMA PHI

National Honorary Classical Fraternity

Volume 22, Number 1 :- November 15, 1947

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*Founded
in 1914*

ETA SIGMA PHI

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

*Nationalized
in 1924*

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GREETINGS FROM THE NATIONAL
PRESIDENT

On behalf of the National Officers of Eta Sigma Phi, I wish to extend to you a most sincere welcome to another year in our Fraternity. As you know, the Convention last year attempted to reorganize the national office. During the years, many Chapters had become inactive, and as a result the entire Fraternity was weakened. Now a plan has been devised by the National Vice-President which, we hope, will revive many dormant chapters. This is one of the attempts which is being made to help Eta Sigma Phi, once more, to become strong as a whole.

We must all remember that the success of any organization depends on the strength and interest of its Chapters. If the local groups lose interest and become inactive, the Fraternity will do likewise. Therefore, I strongly urge that every local Chapter have a full program for the school year. Suggestions for such a program may be found with the Minutes of the National Convention, which I trust each Chapter is receiving.

I feel sure that if we all plan for an active year in our individual Chapters Eta Sigma Phi will have indeed a very successful term, and will accomplish, to a great extent, its purpose--"to develop and promote, in our colleges and universities, interest in classical study, and to promote fraternal relationship among students who are interested in such a study".

Herbert N. Tucker,
College of William and Mary.

GREETINGS FROM THE CLASSICAL WEEKLY

Friends of the Classics will rejoice to learn that Eta Sigma Phi has entered upon a period of renewed activity, and that The Nuntius will be in capable and efficient hands. I congratulate the Fraternity upon this fortunate arrangement. It will be a real pleasure to see the publication come through the mail. In greeting the publication, the Editor of The Classical Weekly wishes to express his personal happiness and to volunteer his aid for anything in which he can assist the project.

Edward H. Hefner, Editor,
University of Pennsylvania.

GREETINGS FROM THE CHAIRMAN
OF THE BOARD

If you had been in contact with your national officers during the months that have passed since the Williamsburg Convention, you would be as heartened as I have been. They are working zealously to rebuild the Fraternity financially and spiritually. The life of our Fraternity, however, as that of every organization, depends upon the interest of the various Chapters and the zeal of individual members.

All of you know the objectives of Eta Sigma Phi. It is our obligation to promote a love of the classical heritage within the student bodies of the institutions where we are represented. This means exemplifying in our own manner of living and in our campus activities the peculiar benefits, both academic and cultural, which come from a classical training. Furthermore, we should determine to carry our influence after college days into our various home communities and their schools.

There is one practical way of doing so open to you all. If study of the classics is to persist and flourish, there must be a supply of well-trained and enthusiastic teachers for the high schools of our country. As compared with only a few years past, very few even of our classical majors are planning to teach. Eta Sigma Phi Chapters can perform a great service by encouraging an entrance into the teaching profession in the field of Latin on the part of those among their members who are qualified. We belong to Eta Sigma Phi, not only for our own enjoyment and benefit, but with the privilege as well of acting as apostles in an atmosphere often unresponsive. If we truly love the classics, and translate this love into action, we shall have the satisfaction which comes more to those who give than to those who only receive.

A. Pelzer Wagener,
College of William and Mary.

Frusta Sapientiae

Ab alio expectes alteri quod feceris.

Alienum aes homini ingenuo acerba est servitus.

Publilius Syrus, Sententiae 2, 11.

GREETINGS FROM THE CLASSICAL JOURNAL

It is a pleasure to welcome The Classical Journal's junior colleague back into the ranks of active classical periodicals. The Nuntius can play a very valuable role in advancing the interests of American students of the classics; and its value will be in proportion to its success in working towards the classical ideal of education--that the educated person use his learning, not for occupational success alone, nor only for cultural self-gratification, but for playing his part as a good man and a good citizen. Good citizenship depends upon moral character, which in itself is that which holds education together and makes it a useful organic whole. This does not mean that we have to be uncomfortably serious about our work in Greek and Latin--absit omen!--but it does suggest that we should know what we are doing, in the long run. Good luck to The Nuntius!

Norman J. Dewitt, Editor,
Washington University

GREETINGS FROM THE CLASSICAL BULLETIN

The re-activation of Eta Sigma Phi is indeed a hopeful sign that the classics will survive this chaotic period of world emergency. We need enthusiastic undergraduates to keep the classics where they belong in general education. The scholars will see to it that the cause flourishes on the graduate level. Members of Eta Sigma Phi, whose love of the classics is not merely sentimental, but whose ambition is thorough mastery of the ancient tongues, can and must make a major contribution to the cause today. Their enthusiasm must attract and inspire other young people who have the intelligence to appreciate the best and the character and industry to choose and pursue it.

Francis A. Preuss, S.J., Editor,
College of Arts and Sciences
at Florissant, Saint Louis
University

GREETINGS FROM THE CLASSICAL OUTLOOK

As a charter member of the Iowa Chapter, and the founder of the Chapter at the University of Kansas, I have long had a deep personal interest in Eta Sigma Phi. I wish the organization all good luck in its plans for postwar reactivation, and I promise to it the continuing cooperation of The Classical Outlook.

Lillian B. Lawler, Editor,
Hunter College

RESTITUTION OF THE ESSAY CONTEST

One of the fine traditions in the past has been the Annual Contest, and it is definitely planned to restore it this year. Details will be announced in the January number of The Nuntius. Present indications point to a two thousand word essay on some classical topic, open to any undergraduate currently enrolled in a course of Greek or Latin. Incidentally, a question has been raised as to whether the Annual Poetry Contest should also be revived. Suggestions on this question would be most welcome.

CHARTERS, "SHINGLES", JEWELRY, CARDS

Now available through the office of the Executive Secretary are the Fraternity's handsome charters for new chapters, and also a limited supply of "shingles" for individual members; new "shingles" will be devised as needed. Correspondence is being initiated, too, with regard to the Fraternity's official jewelry, and it is hoped that definite information may be announced in the January Nuntius. Finally, a simple membership card, available at a slight charge, is also being planned for individual members of all classes.

ALUMNAL MEMBERS--A LISTING?

At least once in the past efforts were begun at the challenging task of preparing a current list of alumnae members. Ought the Chapters and Executive Secretary's office start again?

EDITOR LECTORIA GLANCE TO THE PAST

Eta Sigma Phi has had a distinguished history. Founded at the University of Chicago as a local society of Phi Sigma in 1914--the first year of World War I--it increased sufficiently in importance and appeal to become nationalized in 1924. Three years later--on June 20, 1927--it was incorporated under the laws of the State of Illinois, for these specific objectives:

(1) To develop and promote interest in classical study among the students of colleges and universities.

(2) To promote closer fraternal relationship among students who are interested in classical study, including intercampus relationship.

(3) To engage generally in an effort to stimulate interest in classical study and in the history, art, and literature of ancient Greece and Rome.

Hence the Fraternity is now in its thirty-third year if one reckons back to the original foundation as a local society and in the twentieth year as a national and incorporated organization. During the years of its growth almost sixty Chapters were authorized, in widely separated geographic centers--as far to the northeast as Vermont, to the east as New York, to the southeast as Florida, to the south as Louisiana and Texas, to the west as Colorado, and to the north as Michigan.

During the years, certain of these Chapters have been dropped or have become dormant. World War II was particularly disastrous to an undergraduate honorary classical fraternity, and it is a testimony to the vision and long-range planning of the founders that the Fraternity survived at all.

THE NUMBERING OF THIS VOLUME

In May, 1946, an issue of The Nuntius called Volume 20 appeared. To maintain a kind of sequence, since there was no publication during 1946-1947, the "Special Reactivation Number" of August, 1947, is being considered Volume 21. Hence we now begin Volume 22 (November 15, 1947).

EDITOR--ET SECRETARIUS ADMINISTRATIVUSA GLANCE TO THE FUTURE

When representatives of nine active Chapters convened at Williamsburg, on April 3 and 4, 1947, for the Nineteenth Annual Meeting of the Fraternity, they came with serious purpose and achieved notable results. Basically and emphatically, their deliberations came to this: "The Fraternity must stage a revival of activities and must expand".

In consonance with this theme, the Executive Secretary's Letter in the "Special Reactivation Number" of The Nuntius proposed a five-point program of action for 1947-1948:

(1) The reactivation of dormant Chapters.

(2) The reception of duly qualified new Chapters.

(3) The restoration of planned activities in all active Chapters.

(4) The restitution of the traditional Essay Contest.

(5) The resumption of the four-issue a year Nuntius.

Of these points, numbers (1) and (2) are primarily in the hands of the National Vice-President, Frank Tatum (Lehigh University), chairman of the Expansion Committee, along with Isabelle Schwerdtman (Washington University), Margaret Yancey (Agnes Scott College), Jack Scott (Franklin College), and Helen Condyles (Westhampton College). Number (3) must rest with the initiative of individual Chapters. Numbers (4) and (5) are the responsibility of the Executive Secretary.

DIES FESTOS CELEBREMUS!

This number of The Nuntius will arrive after Thanksgiving, but before Christmas and New Year's Day. Omnibus igitur lectoribus nostris, hoc tempore festissimo, Dies Christi Natalicium sit laetus sanctusque--et Annus Novus iam imminens sit vere felix faustus fortunatissimus. Give a thought, too, to our student associates in Europe and the Near and Far East.

AMONG THE CHAPTERS

On the back cover of the present number of The Nuntius there appears a list of Chapters "known to be active". They are "known" partially as the result of replies to a circular letter from the Executive Secretary "To Faculty Advisers of Eta Sigma Phi", dated May 15, 1947. A goodly number of responses was received.

It would be utterly delusive optimism to hope that the back cover list is entirely correct, and nothing would be more delightful than to have a series of indignant letters by return mail saying, "Our Chapter is active, and its name did not appear, and still we have been doing thus and so".

After all, the Nineteenth Annual Meeting, and Fraternity actions thereafter, have been more or less from scratch. The National Officers and their faculty associates have been hard put to it to know just where to start. What we would like to have--and soon--is an entirely correct list of all active Chapters, including: (a) an exact statement of Chapter officers, with their class years, their school addresses, and their home addresses; (b) an exact statement of all active members, with the same information; (c) an exact list of all faculty associates of each Chapter, along with associate members and honorary members, and their school and home addresses. Some Chapters have done much to supply this sort of information, and the office is duly grateful.

News of what individual Chapters are doing is always most welcome at the editorial office of The Nuntius. In each local group, some one person, perhaps the Secretary, should be formally delegated to supply such information in compact and orderly fashion.

Here are some jottings from reports that have been submitted:

LAMBDA, UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI

Professor Evelyn Lee Way reports a reorganization meeting at her home on April 18, 1947.

Seven persons were initiated on May 9, and on May 19 Professor Frank Kent of Southwestern (Memphis) spoke on "Corinth in the Days of Saint Paul", an illustrated lecture. The first meeting of the current year was held in the week of November 2.

ALPHA THETA, HUNTER COLLEGE

In a letter dated January 13, to Mr. Kinchen Exum, past Executive Secretary and Editor, Rita Wickman, President, reports two meetings for the first semester, along with the initiation of an honorary member, Professor Frederika Beatty, of the Department of English. Later, Professor Lillian B. Lawler, distinguished editor of The Classical Outlook, writes under date of April 16: "We have an excellent Chapter; the annual initiation meeting is regularly addressed by a scholar of some standing, in a talk of real merit, and the graduates undertake serious projects".

ALPHA XI, WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

Secretary Virginia Hodgman reports a reorganization meeting at the home of the then sponsor, Professor Eugene Tavenner, on December 11, 1946, at which twenty-five persons were initiated. During this year the Chapter, in conjunction with The Classical Association of Washington University, and with the cooperation of University College, is sponsoring a very ambitious Eta Sigma Phi Series of motion pictures and lectures, to be held at eight o'clock on eight evenings of the year, beginning on December 12 and concluding on May 7. A payment of two dollars makes one a member of the Association and entitles him to admission at all the meetings.

ALPHA RHO, MUHLENBERG COLLEGE

Early in 1947 Alpha Rho sent word that it had "just gotten off to what promises to be a very active season". In December, 1946, twelve men had been initiated at the home of the faculty sponsor, Professor R. C. Horn. Four major meetings were planned for the year, to be climaxed by a Roman banquet in May, at which the Classical Club of Cedar Crest College was to be entertained.

ALPHA UPSILON, WOOSTER COLLEGE

Secretary Constance Wallett reports on January 16 that the Chapter at Wooster is a nucleus about which a larger club, the Classica Sodalitas, revolves. This latter organization is open to all present or past students of Greek or Latin. The Chapter proper has as its main activity a large banquet late in the spring, to which pledge members are given formal invitations. The occasion is made a sort of reunion, and active members, pledged members, honorary members, and former members are urged to attend.

ALPHA PI, GETTYSBURG COLLEGE

Professor John G. Glenn writes enthusiastically, on October 19, 1947, that Alpha Pi Chapter has thirty-three undergraduate members, including fifteen who were initiated on October 16. A program of seven additional meetings, November through May, is announced, the last meeting to be a picnic held jointly with Phi Sigma Iota, Honorary Language Society. The letter adds: "Professor Schaffer and I have found that our Chapter has been a genuine stimulus to our work and even to enrollment in our classes. We feel that we have the most vital and active organization of this kind on our campus".

BETA ALPHA, UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH DAKOTA

From Secretary Claricie Visser comes a letter of October 29, 1947, reporting thirteen active members and continued activity throughout the war period. A half dozen or so meetings are planned for the year. The Chapter entered a float in the Dakota Day Homecoming Parade on October 18, and will again sell Christmas cards to build up the Keith Memorial Scholarship Fund. This memorial honors Dr. Arthur L. Keith, formerly professor of Latin at South Dakota.

BETA ZETA, SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY

Berry Maguire's report of March 1, 1947, recalled the holding of the Annual High School and Annual College Freshman Latin Contests during the past year. During 1947-1948, Beta Zeta, again in conjunction with The Saint Louis University Classical Club, will hold a series of six meetings, October through April, studying the general theme of "Greek and Roman Drama". The High School Latin Contest will again be conducted, and plans are being considered to convert the College meet to an Essay Contest.

BETA IOTA, WAKE FOREST

A list of fifteen active, two associate, and two honorary members in Beta Iota is reported by Professor C. B. Earp, in a letter dated January 11, 1947.

OUR THANKS, AND A BOW

Various professional journals have recently been generous in giving space to accounts of Eta Sigma Phi hopes and plans. In The Classical Journal 43 (October 1947), page 38, there is a half-page account of the Nineteenth Annual Meeting. The editor, whose "greetings" appear in the present number of The Nuntius, is Dr. Norman J. DeWitt, professor of Latin and Greek and director of the department of Latin at Washington University in Saint Louis.

The Classical Bulletin, published at Saint Louis University, in volume 24 (November, 1947), gives a similar half-column report on page 7. We have, too, greetings from the editor, who is The Reverend Francis A. Preuss, S. J., professor of classical languages at Saint Louis University, and associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Florissant, Missouri.

In The Classical Outlook 25 (November, 1947), page 16, a generous third-page is given the Fraternity. Again, we have greetings from the editor, Dr. Lillian B. Lawler, associate professor of classics at Hunter College, New York City.

CURRENTLY ACTIVE CHAPTERSGamma: Ohio University, Athens, OhioDelta: Franklin College, Franklin, IndianaEpsilon: State University of Iowa, Iowa City, IowaEta: Florida State College for Women,
Tallahassee, FloridaTheta: Indiana University, Bloomington, IndianaLambda: University of Mississippi,
University, MississippiPi: Birmingham-Southern College, Birmingham,
AlabamaRho: Drake University, Des Moines, IowaSigma: Miami University, Oxford, OhioUpsilon: Mississippi State College for Women,
Columbus, MississippiPsi: Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TennesseeOmega: College of William and Mary,
Williamsburg, VirginiaAlpha Alpha: Winthrop College, Rock Hill,
South CarolinaAlpha Gamma: Southern Methodist University,
Dallas, TexasAlpha Delta: Agnes Scott College, Decatur,
GeorgiaAlpha Epsilon: Lehigh University, Bethlehem,
PennsylvaniaAlpha Theta: Hunter College, New York City,
New YorkAlpha Kappa: University of Illinois, Urbana,
IllinoisAlpha Lambda: University of Oklahoma, Norman
OklahomaAlpha Nu: Davidson College, Davidson, North
CarolinaAlpha Xi: Washington University, Saint Louis,
MissouriAlpha Omicron: Lawrence College, Appleton,
WisconsinAlpha Pi: Gettysburg College, Gettysburg,
PennsylvaniaAlpha Rho: Muhlenberg College, Allentown,
PennsylvaniaAlpha Sigma: Emory University, Atlanta, GeorgiaAlpha Tau: Ohio State University, Columbus, OhioAlpha Upsilon: Wooster College, Wooster, OhioAlpha Phi: Millsaps College, Jackson,
MississippiAlpha Chi: Tulane University, New Orleans,
LouisianaAlpha Psi: Washington and Jefferson College,
Washington, PennsylvaniaAlpha Omega: Louisiana State University,
University, LouisianaBeta Alpha: University of South Dakota, Vermil-
lion, South DakotaBeta Beta: Furman University, Greenville,
South CarolinaBeta Gamma: Westhampton College, University
of Richmond, Richmond, VirginiaBeta Delta: University of Tennessee, Knoxville,
TennesseeBeta Epsilon: Brooklyn College, Brooklyn,
New YorkBeta Zeta: Saint Louis University, Saint Louis,
MissouriBeta Eta: Westminster College, Fulton, MissouriBeta Theta: Hampden Sidney College, Hampden-
Sidney, VirginiaBeta Iota: Wake Forest College, Wake Forest,
North Carolina