


THE NUNTIUS

Official Publication

of

ETA SIGMA PHI

National Honorary Classical Fraternity



Volume 22, Number 2

--

January 15, 1948

THE NUNTIUS
Official Journal
of
ETA SIGMA PHI
National Honorary Classical Fraternity

Volume 22

January 15, 1948

Number 2

Editor: WILLIAM C. KORFMACHER
Saint Louis University
15 North Grand Boulevard Saint Louis 3, Missouri

Published four times during the academic year: November 15, January 15, March 15, and May 15. Sent without charge to all active members who pay national dues, for the year in which they pay such fees. Price to others: \$1.00 per year.

All communications regarding items for publication or items of business should be addressed to the editor. Items presented for publication should be received not later than one month before the publication date.



*Founded
in 1914*

ETA SIGMA PHI

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

*Nationalized
in 1924*

OFFICERS

NATIONAL PRESIDENT
HERBERT TUCKER
College of William and Mary
Williamsburg, Virginia

NATIONAL VICE-PRESIDENT
FRANK TATUM
Lehigh University
Bethlehem, Pennsylvania

NATIONAL SECRETARY
C. ROBERT HELD
Gettysburg College
Gettysburg, Pennsylvania

NATIONAL TREASURER
RICHARD WILCOX
Ohio University
Athens, Ohio

HONORARY PRESIDENT
PROFESSOR GERTRUDE SMITH
University of Chicago
Chicago 37, Illinois

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
PROFESSOR WILLIAM C. KORFMACHER
Saint Louis University
Saint Louis 3, Missouri

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

PROFESSOR A. PELZER WAGENER (1949) *Chairman*
College of William and Mary
Williamsburg, Virginia

PROFESSOR WILLIAM C. KORFMACHER (1950)
Saint Louis University
Saint Louis 3, Missouri

PROFESSOR W. FREDERICK SCHAFFER (1950)
Gettysburg College
Gettysburg, Pennsylvania

PROFESSOR H. LLOYD STOW (1948)
University of Oklahoma
Norman, Oklahoma

PROFESSOR HORACE W. WRIGHT (1949)
Lehigh University
Bethlehem, Pennsylvania

TWENTIETH NATIONAL
CONVENTION

The Nineteenth National Convention was successfully held at The College of William and Mary (Omega Chapter), Williamsburg, Virginia, on April 3 and 4, 1947. On that occasion Alpha Xi Chapter of Washington University and Beta Zeta Chapter of Saint Louis University, both of Saint Louis, Missouri, invited the Fraternity to hold the Twentieth National Convention in their city. The invitation was accepted.

The Constitution, in Article xiv, provides for the holding of National Conventions, directing that such a meeting "shall be held annually in the month of April . . . on a date agreed upon by the entertaining Chapter and the Grand Executive Council". A circular letter to the Trustees and Student Officers included the item of date, and consultation has likewise been made with the two local Chapters in Saint Louis. The result indicates a preference for Monday and Tuesday, April 5 and 6, 1948.

Hence the preliminary announcement of the Twentieth Annual Convention, to be held in Saint Louis, Missouri, on April 5 and 6, at the invitation of Alpha Xi and Beta Zeta Chapters, is herewith made.

Chapters are reminded of the constitutional provision in Section 3 of Article xiv:

"Each Chapter shall be entitled to two voting delegates at the Annual National Convention, but all members of the Society may attend its meetings and enjoy all the privileges thereof except that of voting. In case a local Chapter is represented by only one delegate, he may cast two votes. A National Officer shall be entitled to one vote in his official capacity".

Clearly, the more Chapters represented, the better. Chapters are urged to plan ways and means of providing for the expenses, in whole or in part, of the one or two delegates they expect to have representing them in April. Further details on the Twentieth National Convention will be announced in the March 15 number of The Nuntius and also in a special letter to be mailed to all Chapters. Meantime, Chapters at their local meetings should consider items of business they would care to have brought up at the National Convention. Such suggestions should be transmitted at an early date to the National Secretary, C. Robert Held, Gettysburg College, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

'LATIN WEEK'
AS A PROJECT

For some years, The Classical Association of the Middle West and South has been sponsoring the observance of "Latin Week" as a period during which individuals, clubs, and schools interested in the cause of classical education may make special efforts to bring their aims and claims before the general public. Not a little expenditure of money and effort has been incurred, in all parts of the country, and a gratifying return in publicity has resulted. This year "Latin Week" will be held from April 18 through April 24. This week is chosen because it includes April 21, which even from Roman times was celebrated as the traditional date of the founding of Rome.

A splendid project for all Chapters of Eta Sigma Phi would be to plan some special activity within "Latin Week". They might pool their resources with the Departments of Classical Languages at the several institutions. Chapters should include a report of any such observances for publication in "Among the Chapters" in The Nuntius. Reports should also be sent to the State Chairman for "Latin Week" in those states which fall within the territory of The Classical Association of the Middle West and South; or directly to Miss Essie Hill, general Chairman for "Latin Week", 2311 Ringo Avenue, Little Rock, Arkansas.

Members of Eta Sigma Phi should be interested, with a view to ultimate membership, in the American Classical League, whatever their place of residence may be; and in The Classical Association of New England, The Classical Association of the Atlantic States, The Classical Association of the Middle West and South, or The Classical Association of the Pacific States, depending upon their place of residence. All of these organizations welcome both professional teachers of the classics, and non-professional persons concerned with the welfare of classical education.

Available through the office of the Executive Secretary is the Latin Week Bulletin for 1948, by Professor Clyde Murley of Northwestern University. Written under the title of "The Latin You Speak Today", the Bulletin is available at ten cents per copy, for one to twenty-four copies; seven cents each, for twenty-four to ninety-nine copies; and five cents each, for one hundred copies or more. There is no mailing charge. The Bulletin is a nine by four inch pamphlet of twelve pages.

THE ESSAY CONTEST

Through the munificence of a donatrix incognita the Essay Contest will be resumed this year. In response to a letter of December 3, 1947, to the Trustees and Student Officers of the Fraternity, these officials have expressed their agreement on the general plan of the Contest, and it is therefore possible to make the official announcement in the present number of The Nuntius.

(1) The subject of the essay is to be "Ancient Athenian Influences on American Democratic Government". The maximum number of words will be 2,250. Papers must be typed in double space, on one side only of normal sized typewriter paper.

(2) Obviously, papers must be original. Quotations of limited length may be introduced if due credit is given. Format, mode of citation, and the like, may be modeled upon that of such publications as The Classical Weekly, The Classical Outlook, The Classical Journal, or The Classical Bulletin.

(3) Any undergraduate student currently enrolled at an institution having an active Chapter of Eta Sigma Phi may participate.

(4) Papers must be postmarked not later than April 1, 1948, and are to be mailed directly to the Executive Secretary. These must be accompanied by a brief note of approval from a member of the faculty in classical languages at the contestant's school; the note shall testify to the contestant's right to participate and shall express the instructor's judgement that the paper has been fairly and originally prepared. The instructor's letters shall include the contestant's name and school and home address. There is no limit to the number of contestants in a school, but each contestant's paper must be accompanied by an instructor's letter of the sort described.

(5) The Board of Judges will be the following: Professor Clyde Murley, Northwestern University, Past President of The Classical Association of the Middle West and South, Chairman; Professor Emeritus Eugene Tavenner, Washington University, Past President of The Classical Association of the Middle West and South, and Past Editor of The Classical Journal; The Reverend Richard E. Arnold, S.J., Regis College, Past Editor of The Classical Bulletin. Contestants' papers, marked only by code number, will be sent to the Judges by the Executive Secretary.

(6) Prizes will be awarded as follows: for the paper adjudged first, \$50.00; second, \$35.00; third, \$25.00; fourth, \$20.00; fifth, \$12.50; sixth, \$7.50. Results will be announced in The Nuntius of May 15, 1948.

ROMAN LAW IN CALIFORNIA

An Associated Press dispatch from Los Angeles, dated November 5, 1947, cites a decision of Superior Judge Leo Freund based on old Roman law. In a suit against his former fiancee, a plaintiff called for the recovery of the engagement ring, valued at twenty-five hundred dollars. It was awarded to him; the Judge held "that an engagement ring was merely a symbol of troth--if the troth was broken, the ring went back to the donor".

Apparently this regulation held specifically for the ring. For we hear also (Codex 5.3.15) that if a man made a gift to his fiancee with a view to future marriage (propter nuptias donatio), and if he broke off the proposed match, he lost the right to recover what he had given.

WISE WORDS FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE

In its issue of October 28, 1947, the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, page 2c, editorializes upon recent pronouncements by Secretary of State George Marshall:

"While lamenting his own inadequate knowledge, he lamented especially the deplorable ignorance of Congressmen. 'I have felt', he said, 'in our dealing with Congress that one of our great troubles is the limitation of knowledge of what has happened in the past. I believe if there was some way, particularly on the high school level, of bringing the students to a little perception, not through dull recitations, memorized, delivered and forgotten, but through some graphic means, of what happened in Greece and Rome and the other crucial points in history, about three-fourths of the speeches would be eliminated in Congress. They would know these speeches had already been said and very well said many times in the past'".

This idea of using the past for the problems of today is no novel one to proponents of classical study. It is one of the motives influencing the supporters of the Chicago "Great Books Foundation", which is interested in setting up adult study groups all over the country. More technically, it is a basic motive of Eta Sigma Phi.

None the less, recognition from one so highly placed as Secretary of State Marshall comes as an especially happy benison in days when the classical cause is subject to such frequent rebuffs.

EDITOR LECTORI

TO MAKE IT WORTH WHILE . . .

Elsewhere in the present number, official announcement is made of the revival of the traditional Essay Contest, a move greatly aided by a generous contribution from a donor who prefers for the present to remain officially anonymous. However, her interest in the Fraternity--and in other classical ventures--looks beyond the present year. She is hopeful, if our current experience justifies such an action, of providing for the Essay Contest in perpetuity.

In any case, Eta Sigma Phi, its officers and its members, appreciate very deeply the kindness so freely offered. On the part of the membership, the best response would be a widespread and active interest in the Essay Contest. The subject is challenging, in these days when governmental uncertainties are leading Americans to re-examine the bases of their own democracy, and when it is becoming increasingly clear that today's problems must exploit all that the thinking and the experience of the past have to offer.

The Board of Judges is a distinguished one, and it is again a sign of genuine interest in our Fraternity and its aims that the gentlemen composing the Board have agreed to serve. Therefore, to make it worth while, the Essay Contest should be seriously and actively taken up through every Chapter.

In The Nuntius 18, number 1 (November, 1943), page 2, there is an interesting report on the Second Essay Contest. Twenty essays were submitted on the general topic of the "Universality of Horace's Themes and Imagery". First place was won by Henry Pipkin of Brown University, whose topic was "Horace and the English Romantic Writers". Second place went to Francis Kalson, of the University of Pittsburgh; third place to Henry St. Clair Lavin, S.J., of West Baden College: honorable mention to Catherine Austermehele, of the College of Chestnut Hill.

The winning essay of the First Essay Contest, on "The Value to Students of Milton's Paradise Lost of Having Studied Vergil's Aeneid", by Sister Teresa Wolking, Villa Madonna College, is published in The Nuntius, volume 16, number 4 (May, 1942), pages 7-12.

Thus the Essay Contest has a challenging background. With the present revival of the Fraternity, and the generous interest shown by a sincere friend of the classics, every institution having an active Chapter should respond with enthusiasm.

EDITOR--ET SECRETARIUS ADMINISTRATIVUS

SHINGLES, CARDS, JEWELRY---YES! . . .

From the Office of the Executive Secretary, individual members may obtain membership shingles and membership cards (traveling cards) by request, upon payment of a twenty-five cent fee. The fee is frankly experimental. There are on hand shingles in some abundance, but they must be individually lettered. Membership cards will have to be printed. In the case of both, mailing and handling expenses are involved.

Under date of January 6, 1948, Mr. Frank E. Hyson, of Wright and Street, Inc., 5100-5102 Foster Avenue, Chicago 30, Illinois, wrote enclosing a list of prices on Eta Sigma Phi official jewelry (as of December 1, 1945). Taxes at the time of delivery, he indicated, would be additional. Since this item, Mr. Hyson has written directly to each active Chapter.

Messrs. Wright and Street, Inc., have been for many years the official jewelers of Eta Sigma Phi and presumably have on hand needed dies for Fraternity jewelry. Individuals, preferably through their own Chapters, should place orders directly with Wright and Street.

A NEW SCHOLARSHIP IN GREEK. . .

Through The Classical Journal, The Classical Association of the Middle West and South is currently announcing a "Greek Scholarship Award". The award, worth \$500.00, is to be made to an outstanding student being graduated this year from an approved college or university within the territory of The Classical Association, to aid him towards the pursuit of a Master's degree with a major in Greek. The winner will be determined by a Committee of The Classical Association. As the award is an "undergraduate prize", it is properly being brought to the attention of Eta Sigma Phi. Inquiries are invited through the office of the Executive Secretary.

"ONE HOPE FOR PEACE" . . .

The above caption is used by CARE, a non-profit organization at 50 Broad Street, New York 4, New York, in its appeal for packages to the stricken countries of Europe. There are nine choices in packages at ten dollars each. It would be a truly fraternal act if each Chapter of Eta Sigma Phi were to send at least one package to a European student group.

DROP ALGEBRA AND FOREIGN LANGUAGES?

From Washington, under date of December 4, 1947, comes an Associated Press dispatch reporting that "For up to 80 per cent of their students, high schools might well toss out such courses as algebra and foreign languages, such literary classics as Silas Marner and Il Penseroso, a commission which wants the nation's secondary school curricula revamped suggested yesterday".

The commission in question is "on life adjustment education for youth", and has been appointed by the United States Commissioner of Education for a three-year term. It proposes to help high schools readjust themselves "to provide adequate training for the estimated 4,000,000 students --60% of their enrollments--who are attending classes aimlessly, studying subjects of no particular application to their future". One proposed remedy was "to substitute supervised work experience for classwork for students not taking vocational courses and not planning to go to college".

To those who have been for some years in the field of education, such "new plans" are not surprising. Vocationalism, shortcut approaches to utilitarian ends, are as old as the Greek Sophists, as venerable as passages in the Clouds of Aristophanes, where the then "new learning" of utilitarianism was compared with the traditional and liberal training of an older Athens.

But it is a bit disheartening to hear the suggestion that eighty per cent of the nation's high school students can not profit by liberal education, and that sixty percent are "attending classes aimlessly". It is more disheartening to hear as a proposed substitute "work experience" unless a student is already engaged in a vocational program.

World War II made it abundantly clear that as "useless" a subject as mathematics was vitally needed. Frantic efforts, too, were undertaken just before and during our participation in that War to teach students foreign languages. Many high school graduates had not even the initial introduction to foreign language that might have made them a bit more receptive when strange Asiatic tongues were put before them.

Today the nation--and the world--are floundering for leadership. It would be naive to suggest that high school courses in the classics would provide such leaders. But it is surely more naive to expect leadership--or even intelligent citizenship participation in national and local business --if students are to be limited to the narrow specification of vocational and utilitarian training.

The classical tradition has thought of the individual's training for life rather than solely for livelihood, important though the latter obviously is. It has thought that the greater number--not all--can participate in its benefits. It would surely be amazed at a selectivism that would exclude sixty or even eighty per cent of the nation's high school students from the benefits of the world's great literature and from the opportunity of coming to grips even in a small way with the thought processes of other races and other ages through foreign languages study.

Eta Sigma Phi, as a corporate body, and Eta Sigma Phi, in the individuals who make it up, remains convinced of the vitality, the worth, the high "usability", of the classical tradition and of classical training in the American high school of today. Such training is not merely "college preparatory". Reasonably intelligent--average--students not going to college perhaps need the beginnings of such liberal training all the more.

A CRISIS IN TEXTBOOKS

At the Christmas meeting of the American Philological Association, a Committee on Preservation of Textbooks was appointed, with Professor Warren E. Blake of the University of Michigan as Chairman. In a letter to the membership sent out this month, Professor Blake speaks of "the fast vanishing supply of Greek and Latin textbooks" and adds that "Most publishers are understandably reluctant to continue this commercially unprofitable line and are discontinuing these texts as their stock is exhausted".

Through a somewhat detailed questionnaire Professor Blake is attempting to ascertain present and future uses and needs in such textbooks, with the thought that the Association must act now "to save the tools of our craft".

Surely the Association, and Professor Blake along with his Committee, are to be congratulated upon this vigorous action. May it be crowned with the success it deserves!

AMONG THE CHAPTERS

Again, on the back cover, a list of forty "active Chapters" appears. This is a very encouraging number. The Nuntius would like to have news --an abundance of news--from these Chapters for the section "Among the Chapters". There should also be specific names with each Chapter-- preferably those of the Prytanis and Grammateus. Where this information is not on file at the National Office, will it come in?

EPSILON, STATE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

Jean S. Gallaher, Secretary, writes on January 1, 1948, that Epsilon is much interested in the Essay Contest and is planning "a local contest to secure the national entry from the State University of Iowa". Of course, Iowa will not be limited to one national entry.

GAMMA, OHIO UNIVERSITY

Gamma "is looking forward to a prosperous future in 1948", according to a letter from Secretary Catherine Drake, on January 5, 1948. She reports further that Christmas cards were sold as a means of building up the treasury, and that a Christmas party was held on December 16.

LAMBDA, UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI

In a letter dated November 21, 1947, Professor Evelyn Lee Way reports five active members, four faculty members, and four "active alumni members". A special greeting to alumni who still maintain interest!

OMEGA, THE COLLEGE OF WILLIAM AND MARY

From the Corresponding Secretary, Nancy Morton, a letter of December 15, 1947, lists the Chapter officers, along with twenty-seven initiates for 1947, and a membership list of thirty-one for 1946-1947.

ALPHA PI, GETTYSBURG COLLEGE

Secretary Clifford R. Miller, Jr., writes on December 17, 1947, that the Chapter "is growing rapidly, and everything is progressing well. We are looking forward to an even better Chapter in the future". The December meeting took the form of a Christmas party at the home of Professor W. Frederick Schaffer, an annual event. Scheduled for January was a meeting at the home of Professor Glenn, with the presentation of a classical play by Chapter members. In this letter and one of December 2, Secretary Miller listed thirty-two members for Alpha Pi and sixteen initiates.

ALPHA RHO, MUHLENBERG COLLEGE

Earlin H. Lutz, Secretary, asks for "shingles" for fifteen members of Alpha Rho, since the original "shingles", along with other Eta Sigma Phi material, had been lost in the fire destroying Muhlenberg's Administration Building in the spring of 1947.

A CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

As The Nuntius first passed into new editorial hands, at a time when simultaneous changes were being made in the national administration, there was an obvious need for many things to be said, many questions raised, of a purely business nature. As a result, the numbers of The Nuntius appearing under dates of August, 1947, and November 15, 1947, were pretty well used up with such material. The same thing may be said largely, of the present number.

But as we look ahead, the amount of such routine business publication should decrease. Even with the rather modest space limits The Nuntius is now employing, there will probably be room for more material of a literary nature--brief essays, original poems, translations in prose or verse, short stories with a classical setting or classical motif, short studies on the classical tradition, and other subjects of a kindred nature. Much material of this sort has appeared in volumes of The Nuntius in the past.

And so this note is an editorial call, especially to active members of the Fraternity. Contributions will be very heartily received at the editorial office, and will be published if publication is at all possible. It would be excellent to have too much to use. After all, such things keep.

AS TO THE NUNTIUS AND YOU!

Many journals include a "letters from the people" column. Whether The Nuntius should do so or not is a moot question. But it is quite clear that The Nuntius, in its present state of rebuilding and reforming, should be quite sensitive to the wishes and feelings of its readers, particularly to those readers (many, let us hope!) who are active members of the Fraternity.

Hence the editorial office will welcome letters of criticism, hostile, neutral, or friendly. A few have been received, but more are needed. Is The Nuntius fulfilling its function as the national organ or a national honor society? Does it have enough news? What type of materials not included should be there? To be brief, what can be done to make it better and more acceptable?

CURRENTLY ACTIVE CHAPTERS

- Gamma: Ohio University, Athens, Ohio
Prytanis: Richard Wilcox
- Delta: Franklin College, Franklin, Indiana
Adviser: Dean Margaret Powell
- Epsilon: State University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa
Prytanis: Robert L. Kringle
- Eta: Florida State College for Women, Tallahassee, Florida
Adviser: Professor Lynette Thompson
- Theta: Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana
Adviser: Professor Verne B. Schuman
- Lambda: University of Mississippi, University, Mississippi
Prytanis: Carl A. Megehee
- Pi: Birmingham-Southern College, Birmingham, Alabama
Adviser: Professor W. D. Perry
- Rho: Drake University, Des Moines, Iowa
Adviser: Mrs. C. C. Bartlett
- Sigma: Miami University, Oxford, Ohio
Prytanis: Harry Martin
- Upsilon: Mississippi State College for Women, Columbus, Mississippi
Member: Mary Troy Morgan
- Psi: Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee
Adviser: Professor Clyde Pharr
- Omega: College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Virginia
Prytanis: Joseph Buchanan
- Alpha Alpha: Winthrop College, Rock Hill, South Carolina
Adviser: Doctor Donnis Martin
- Alpha Gamma: Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas
- Alpha Delta: Agnes Scott College, Decatur, Georgia
Adviser: Professor Kathryn Glick
- Alpha Epsilon: Lehigh University, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania
Prytanis: David J. Sweet
- Alpha Theta: Hunter College, New York City, New York
Prytanis: Rita Wickman
- Alpha Kappa: University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois
Member: Jo Ann Ator
- Alpha Lambda: University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma
Adviser: Professor H. Lloyd Stowe
- Alpha Nu: Davidson College, Davidson, North Carolina
Adviser: Professor John C. Bailey
- Alpha Xi: Washington University, Saint Louis, Missouri
Prytanis: Virginia Hodgman
- Alpha Omicron: Lawrence College, Appleton, Wisconsin
Prytanis: Jane Straub
- Alpha Pi: Gettysburg College, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania
Prytanis: Madeline Pee
- Alpha Rho: Muhlenburg College, Allentown, Pennsylvania
Prytanis: L. Samuel Krause
- Alpha Sigma: Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia
Adviser: Professor C. E. Boyd
- Alpha Tau: Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio
Adviser: Professor J. B. Titchener
- Alpha Upsilon: Wooster College, Wooster, Ohio
Prytanis: Doris Crew
- Alpha Phi: Millsaps College, Jackson, Mississippi
Chrysothylax: Marilyn Sanderson
- Alpha Chi: Tulane University, New Orleans, Louisiana
Adviser: Professor Mary A. Allen
- Alpha Psi: Washington and Jefferson College, Washington, Pennsylvania
Prytanis: Howard F. Jack
- Alpha Omega: Louisiana State University, University, Louisiana
Adviser: Professor Lucy Austin
- Beta Alpha: University of South Dakota, Vermillion, South Dakota
Prytanis: Robert McBride
- Beta Beta: Furman University, Greenville, South Carolina
- Beta Gamma: Westhampton College, University of Richmond, Richmond, Virginia
Adviser: Professor Pauline Turnbull
- Beta Delta: University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tennessee
Adviser: Professor A. J. Moser
- Beta Epsilon: Brooklyn College, Brooklyn, New York
Adviser: Professor Alice E. Kober
- Beta Zeta: Saint Louis University, Saint Louis, Missouri
Prytanis: Ray Hutchison
- Beta Eta: Westminster College, Fulton, Missouri
Adviser: Professor Grundy Steiner
- Beta Theta: Hampden Sidney College, Hampden-Sidney, Virginia
Adviser: Doctor G. H. Thompson
- Beta Iota: Wake Forest College, Wake Forest, North Carolina
Adviser: Professor C. B. Earp