

Vol. 3

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# NUNTIUS

NATIONAL JOURNAL OF ETA SIGMA PHI

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ARTICLES by

Alexander L. Bondurant, Ph.D.,

Robert B. Steele, Ph.D.

CONVENTION MINUTES

and Other Features

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# N u n t i u s

National Journal of Eta Sigma Phi

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Assistant Editor  
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## Editorials

### GREEK

The number of college students who make Latin their major subject and yet take no work at all in Greek has come to be deplorably large. In view of the obvious value that the study of Greek has for these students it is difficult to understand the reason for this condition. No matter what your special interest as a Latin major may be, the study of Greek will open up countless new avenues of approach to that interest, will throw the spotlight of a fuller understanding upon it, and will unfold before your eyes a running scholium, a collection of invaluable marginalia, in a word, a full commentary upon that special interest. Is it the linguistic aspect of Roman philology which fascinates you most? But a student interested in the Latin language who has no knowledge of Greek is, as Dr. Roland G. Kent, of Omicron Chapter, often says, "like a man who is blind in one eye. He does not get the proper *perspective view*."

Or perhaps you have a predilection for Latin literature. But can you have a full appreciation of Vergil without some knowledge of Homer? or of Catullus without considering Sappho? or of Cicero without Demosthenes? or of Sallust without Thucydides? Illustrations of this point could be multiplied indefinitely. And for those whose special interest centers about the private life of the Romans, a knowledge of Greek influence on Roman religion, dress, building, etc., etc., is indispensable.

Most Latin majors are willing to concede all these contentions in principle, but many offer inexpediency as a reason for not arranging to put this principle into practice.

But if Leonidas and Horatius and Regulus and the unknown guard who "stood at his post" at Pompeii had sacrificed their principles upon the altar of expediency, then verily would all that is noblest and most glorious and sublime in the human heart have ceased to be.

I do not compare a Latin major signing up for Greek 3B in a modern university to the historico-mythical heroes just mentioned. My point is that in general where expediency contradicts moral conviction, expediency must be suppressed.

During the summer you will be planning next year's courses. If you have not yet had any work in Greek, let nothing prevent your taking a beginner's course in the fall. If you have had classes in Greek or are majoring in Greek, and intend to continue, I say, "more power to your arm!"

### MEDALS

The editors have been accused of taking a Cato-like, stern, severe stand in these columns, especially with reference to the medals project; but they are grateful for being privileged to announce at this time that the campaign has been received with greater enthusiasm in the past several weeks than in the weeks of its inception. At the time of going to press, between 300 and 400 orders have been received from widely scattered sections of the country. Considering the fact that the medals were first ready for distribution not more than a few months ago, the number of medals thus far ordered is gratifyingly high. The thanks of the fraternity are due to the editors of the *Classical Journal* for their willing co-operation in giving these medals publicity among their subscribers, many of whom are teachers of the high school Latin classes stipulated in the requirements for presentation of the medals.

It must be remembered, however, that this is only a beginning; our efforts must not at this time be relaxed, but rather redoubled. If each chapter will determine to "sell" the medals idea to ten secondary schools in its own territory, the orders received next year should number well over a thousand.

### CONVENTION

Upon all who helped make the recent national convention in Columbus, Mississippi, so brilliant a success the gratitude of the delegates is showered. Every feature of the program was the *ne plus ultra* of its kind. Indeed, the welcome that was accorded the delegates and visitors gave new meaning to the term "Southern hospitality."

But it is one of the characteristics of human thinking that the reminiscence of things past but enhances our interest in speculating and reflecting about things future.

(please turn to page 8)

# M i n e r v a ' s   S e c t i o n

## CATULLUS AND HIS LOVES

by

ROBERT B. STEELE

(Honorary Member, PSI CHAPTER)

*Tell me not what well I know  
About the bard of Sirmio . . .  
Yes, in Thalia's son  
Such stains there are . . . as when a Grace  
Sprinkles another's laughing face  
With nectar, and runs on.*

SUCH is Landor's characterization of the poetry of Catullus, and it is one of the indications of men in the field of criticism who have regarded Catullus, not simply as the peer of Horace and Vergil, but as their superior. Niebuhr asserts that he was Rome's greatest poet, and that he has the same perfections as the Greek lyric poets down to Sophocles, and was fully their equal. But these do not stand alone in assigning a high rank to this poet. In 1835 Macaulay wrote: "No Latin writer is so Greek. The simplicity, the pathos, the perfect grace, which I find in the Athenian models, are all in Catullus, and in him alone of the Romans." Twenty-two years later he said: "He grows on me with intimacy. One thing he has—I do not know whether it belongs to him or to something in myself,—but there are some chords in my mind which he touches as no one else does. The first lines of *Miser Catulle*; the lines to Cornificius . . . and part of the poem beginning '*Si qua recordanti*' affect me more than I can explain. They always move me to tears."

### PART ONE: *Lesbia*

When Catullus first came from Verona to Rome, he attracted some notice by his poetry and presently met the great love of his life, the woman whom he calls Lesbia. To him their meeting was an event; to her merely an incident. It is now well agreed that this Lesbia was none other than Clodia, rich, witty, voluptuous, wife of the consul Metellus, the foremost lady of Rome. She was a prominent member of a society in which the virtues of the old Romans were not everywhere conspicuous. The picture of the ancient Roman matron was one often drawn by writers of a later time. Faithful and true, she was the co-worker, the sure yoke-fellow, in that religious unit, which with the husband as its head preserved the unbroken worship of the gods. But that stately procession of august matrons had passed by. In their place had come a generation mostly regardless of the past, careless of the future. Clodia was certainly not a model of virtue, but in the

descriptions we have of her we must make some deduction for the personal and political rancor by which they were inspired. We must also bear in mind that the faithful Lesbia of Catullus is the faithless Clodia of Metellus, and that the change in Lesbia was one of attitude toward Catullus, rather than toward the requirements of any moral law.

Her attitude toward him seems to have been dominated by political considerations and social craft. Catullus—the most brilliant poet of Rome—and Caelius—one of the wit-tiest of orators—were in turn the recipients of her favors, and to Lesbia there must have been some prestige in the fact. This social aspect, however, must be held as subordinate to political considerations, for she put them both aside when the two parties began to prepare for their final contest. She enjoyed them, used them while she could, and then flung them aside. For this she reaped a worldly reward in the supremacy of her party, but the voices of her friends were silenced in death, and through the ages have survived the words of obloquy from Cicero and from Catullus.

Lesbia seems to have taken complete possession of Catullus's thoughts. Whether it is in the voluptuous counsel of blotting out the myriad of kisses to give place for a myriad more; whether it is when he mourns with Lesbia for Lesbia's sparrow dead, she seems to have been all-in-all to him. His nadir and his zenith were in his thoughts of her (c. 86):

*I hate and love; perchance you ask how such a thing is so?  
I do not know; and yet I feel it's true—and this brings woe.*

*It is zenith and nadir in Miser Catulle:  
One time on thee the gleaming suns shone bright:  
Now she no longer smiles—and it is night.*

### PART TWO: *His Love of Beauty*

In his references to Venus and Diana, Catullus seems to be considering them as representative of beauty and chastity as well as expressing a sympathetic view of the national and religious feelings of the Romans. Professor Jebb has well translated his *Hymn to Diana*, as follows:

*Diana guardeth our estate,  
Girls and boys immaculate;  
Boys and maidens pure of stain,  
Be Diana our refrain.*

*O Latonia, pledge of love,  
Glorious to most glorious Jove,  
Near the Delian olive-tree  
Latona gave thy life to thee*

*That thou shouldst be forever queen  
Of mountains and of forests green;  
Of every deep glen's mystery;  
Of all streams and their melody:*

*Women in travail ask their peace  
From thee, our Lady of Release:  
Thou art the Watcher of the Ways:  
Thou art the moon with borrowed rays:*

*And thy full or waning tide  
Marks how the monthly seasons glide,  
Thou, Goddess, sendest wealth of store  
To bless the farmer's thrifty floor.*

*Whatever name delights thine ear,  
By that name be thou hallowed here;  
And, as of old, be good to us,  
The lineage of Romulus.*

Moore's translation of the most perfect of the poems of Catullus begins thus:

*Sweet Sirmio, thou the very eye  
Of all peninsulas and isles  
Which in our lakes of silver lie  
Or sleep enwreathed in Neptune's smiles.*

In it there is a feeling of joyousness and rest not to be found in any other poem in Latin. It is not a cold conventional consideration of the beauty of his home as he sees it on his return from the East; but an expression of love and rest and the beauty of things in general as he invokes his lovely Sirmio, and the merry waves of the lake to bid him welcome home.

PART THREE: *His Brother*

These things are the forefront of his life; in the background is his brother more loved than life (65, 10), whose untimely death in the Troiad he deplores in hopeless lamentation. These poems may have been written when Catullus himself was looking into the valley of the shadow of death, for the excuse he once offered—his cough (44, 13)—may mean that death came to him "in consumption's ghastly form."

## Some Aspects of Roman Humor

by

ALEXANDER BONDURANT

Honorary Member, LAMBDA CHAPTER)

THESE has been a strong tendency under the leadership of the Germans to endeavour to take from the Romans the position of leadership which they so long held, to deny to them any large measure of originality, and to hold that they were merely the agents for the transmission of Greek letters and art. This view came as a reaction from the opinion so long held that in the Romans were to be found the highest expressions of human endeavour in all fields, and that the highest wisdom, and the most perfect art found amplest expression on the banks of the Tiber. The truth lies between the two extremes. In the fields of law and statescraft the Roman is *facile princeps*; in the fields of art and literature the Greeks are still greater. The great historian Mommsen has well expressed it when he says "Rome is the mighty oak, and Greece the lovely rose."

To-day for a short while I wish to direct your attention not to a comparison of the relative merits of these two great people; we shall consider only "Some Aspects of Roman Humor." Humor found many modes of expression in Roman life, and the Roman dearly loved a joke even at his own expense. It was part and parcel of his nature and manifested itself in consul and peasant. The appreciation of humor was universal as the race and was found not only in every social class but in all periods, asserting itself in their conversation, in their public addresses, on their epitaphs, in their paintings, and sculpture and in their writings—not alone in comedies, satires and novels of manners, but also in their histories, orations, and serious writings in general.

This humor asserts itself in the broad burlesque and the practical joke, as well as in the clever epigram, and mirth-provoking repartee. They delighted in puns, and indulged in many jokes that today would offend polite ears.

In dealing with a subject so broad as this in a brief time, it is impossible to give anything like a complete treatment. We shall endeavour, however, to illustrate the various types of humor by specific examples. The typical Roman scorned effeminacy, but as a result of Asiatic influences it grew to be the fashion with the rich and luxurious to use the litter. A young noble was thus being carried through an Italian town, while the natives looked on with surprise, but one bolder than the rest, knowing full well the character of the burden, asked the litter bearers if they were carrying a corpse to the tomb. According to their way of thinking no man should be carried upon the shoulders of his fellows unless dead.

A sarcastic and wealthy Roman remarked: "Woman is a necessary evil; a man is miserable without one, and equally miserable with one."

Ennius, the poet, and Scipio were bosom friends. Upon one occasion Scipio called upon his friend Ennius. A maid-servant answered his knock. Ennius had seen the visitor coming and called to his servant telling her to inform his visitor that he was not at home. A few days later Ennius called upon Scipio, who heard the knock, and from an inner room announced to his visitor that he was not at home. Ennius replied: "I know you are at home for I recognize your voice." Scipio said: "Ennius, when you informed me through your servant that you were not

at home I accepted it. Now you hear from my own lips that I am not at home; you should certainly believe me."

Students are very much given to caricature. In a certain institution where there was a student whose name was Vineyard, the boys promptly nick-named him "Jug"; for it was in Pre-Volstead days. When his brother came to collège a few years later he was called "Little Jug." The student with a red head is called "Reddy," and the student who plays the piano is nick-named "Piano." The Romans showed this fondness for caricature. Scaurus means "with large swollen ankles." This epithet was applied to a certain Roman as a nick-name, and no doubt it afforded his friends much sport, but the man became very noted and the founder of the distinguished gens of the Scauri.

Many examples of Roman humor have survived in paintings, rude drawings, cartoons, and caricatures upon walls, and bits of burlesque statuary. The story of Aeneas and his devotion to his stricken father is known to all students of Vergil. A cartoon at Pompeii caricatures this incident. It represents a group of three going forth from Troy: a monkey with a long tail carrying an old monkey on his back, and leading a little monkey by the hand. In 1867 there was uncarthed at Rome the guard house of the seventh cohort. The walls were covered with scribblings and rude drawings illustrating the daily life of the soldiers. One of these represents the figure of a man clad in a short tunic. His hand is upraised in adoration of another figure hanging on a cross. It has the body of a man and the head of an ass. Underneath rudely written in Greek is the following: "Anexaménios worships his God." This is probably a contemptuous allusion to his fellow who was a Christian.

On the house walls of Pompeii are found many scribblings placed there by passers-by. One reads: "The pick-pockets demand Vatia as city commissioner." We may be sure that no friend of Vatia's posted this campaign notice. Not far away is found: "The whole company of late drinkers, and all s'uggards favor the candidacy of Vatia." In another place is found the equivalent of: "Fools' names, like their faces, are always found in public places."

Many delightfully humorous illustrations have come down to us in a MS of the plays of Terence.

The writings of the Romans afford us the most complete examples of Roman humor. It is found in greatest abundance in the plays of Plautus and Terence, but appears also in the writings of Cato, Catullus, Horace, Ovid, Lucretius, Vergil, Cicero, Juvenal, Suetonius, Pliny, Phaedrus, and others too numerous to name.

Only a few examples can be given. When Cicero was a candidate for the consulship, Lucius Cotta, a great lover of wine, was censor. Cicero during his canvass was thirsty and called for a drink of water. He said to his friends who stood around him: "You do well to conceal me, for you are afraid that the censor will call me to account for drinking water." His friends appreciated the ironic humor of his words. For it was the censor's business to super-

vise the morals of the Romans, public and private, but what could be expected from such a censor as this?

On another occasion Cicero was called in as a character witness against the notorious Clodius, who had entered the house of Caesar in a woman's garb upon the occasion of the celebration of the feast of Bona Dea. The resulting scandal caused Caesar to divorce his wife. Later in the senate in the presence of his colleagues Clodius boldly attacked Caesar in a storm of words, saying among other things: "Cicero, the judges did not believe your deposition." The orator's reply came quickly: "Twenty-five believed me, nor did the other thirty believe you for they did not vote to acquit you until they got your money." Clodius sat abashed amidst a storm of derisive laughter which followed, and made no attempt to reply. Cicero had spoken truly, for Clodius had bribed a majority of the jury, thus securing his acquittal.

The younger Cicero shared this quality with his father as is shown by the following extracts from a letter written while a University student at Athens to his father's secretary, Tiro. "I am sure, dearest Tiro, that you have heard of the good reports touching me since my reformation, and I shall continue to make them good. So you can go from place to place and 'toot my horn' most freely." The boy had been spending too much time and wasting his money, and his father was frankly concerned about him. We may be sure that he knew that Tiro would report the contents of his letter to his father.

And again (for Tiro has bought a farm): "You must now drop your city-bred ways, you are now farmer Hay-Seed. I see now my city-bred friend talking with his manager, and at a dinner party slipping the seeds into his pocket." This bit of humor has a modern parallel. On one occasion a gentleman invited two minister friends home to dinner. His wife was disturbed, and said to him: "The only thing that I have for dessert is an ice-cold water-melon." "This is fine," said he. "But," said the wife, "I have plugged it and poured in some champagne." It could not be helped. The water-melon came in, and was loudly praised by the guests. The host and hostess were further relieved when they noticed that the guests were slipping some seeds into their pockets.

Trimalchio is a rich parvenu whom Petronius, *arbiter elegantiae* of Nero, has immortalized in his novel of manners. He invites a number of guests to a dinner party and then undertakes to air his learning. To one of his guests he says: "Can you tell us the story of the twelve sorrows of Hercules, or how the Cyclops pulled Ulysses' leg? I used to read it in Homer when I was a boy." He then proceeds to speak of his Corinthian cups of bronze, and adds: "They were called after a dealer Corinthus, and the metal was invented by Hannibal at the capture of Troy."

This brief discussion will serve to make clear, I trust, that humor was the saving salt not only in Roman literature, but in their daily life—manifesting itself among all classes of people, from the humblest to the most exalted.



# Muses' Section

CATULLUS: c. 51

*tr. by*

HAROLD ROSEN

*Omicron Chapter*

That man methinks is more than man:  
A god of super-godly clan;  
He's by thy side, and still he can  
Keep hearing, seeing thee.

Now, when I hear thy laughter sweet  
My senses flee: all, all too fleet;  
For, Lesbia, so soon we meet,  
My wits depart from me.

My tongue grows numb, and through my veins  
Pulse Love's entwining yearning pains.  
My hearing's gone; no sight remains;  
I neither hear nor see.

DECIMUS MAGNUS AUSONIUS, *carmen*

*tr. by*

HAROLD ROSEN

*Omicron Chapter*

God grant we live for aye as now we live,  
And love with names that come from sweetheart glee.  
May no day find us changed; may I still be  
A youth to you, and you a maid to me.  
Though aged Nestor's years be less than ours,  
We yet can disregard old age itself,  
For Tolerance comes with Age's fleeting hours.  
And we'll not count the years; though Time doth lower,  
We'll sip the joyous nectar from Life's flower.

ILIAD I, i-xxi

*by*

PHILAESTHETICUS

Come, epic muse, and tell in song the tale about Achilles,  
The son of Peleus, and his dreadful anger, for it caused  
Unnumbered sorrows for the Greeks, and sent to Hell the souls  
Of many mighty demigods, making their carcasses  
A prey for dogs, a feast for birds . . . Thus Zeus's will was done.  
And all this dated from the first quarrel and separation  
Of Agamemnon, who was king of men, and mighty Achilles.  
Which of the gods by means of a disagreement between the two  
Roused them to strife? The son of Leto and of Zeus: Apollo.  
For, raging against the king of men, he sent a dreadful plague  
Upon the army of the Greeks, and the men kept dying off  
Because King Agamemnon had dishonored his priest, Chryses.  
Chryses, you see, had made the trip to the swift ships of the Greeks  
To ransom his daughter; and he brought rich gifts with him, and too  
He held in his hand on a golden staff Far-Shooting Apollo's garland.  
And though he addressed his plea to all the Greeks, he singled out  
The two arrayers of the host, the noble sons of Atreus.  
"You Agamemnon, Menelaus, and the other Greeks  
So well equipped with shin greaves, all of you,—I hope the gods  
Who have their palaces on Mt. Olympus will allow you  
To overthrow the city of Priam and then return to your homes.  
But free my darling daughter, and accept the gifts I bring,  
And thus honor the son of Zeus, Far-Shooting Apollo.



# Lares' and Penates' Section

## CONVENTION MINUTES

### FIRST SESSION (May 3, 10:30 A. M.)

The fifth national convention of Eta Sigma Phi Fraternity was called to order by Mr. Clark Kuebler (*Beta*), *Megas Prytanis*, on May 3, 1929, at 10:30 A. M. in the Little Theatre at the Mississippi State College for Women in Columbus, Mississippi. After Mr. Kuebler's opening remarks a telegram was read from Mr. William T. Lesh, *Megas Prytanis* during the 1927-1928 term, in which he extended his greetings and wishes for a successful convention.

The roll of chapters was called by the *Megas Grammateus*, William Gerber (*Omicron*), and the number of delegates was announced as 43; viz.

#### DELEGATES—1929 CONVENTION

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| Alpha (University of Chicago)—<br>H. Lloyd Stow ( <i>Megas Chrysophy'ax</i> )<br>Rosalia Schultz                                      | Pi (Birmingham-Southern College)—<br>Martha Belle Hilton ( <i>Megas Deuterohyparchos</i> ,<br>Ruth Gibson<br>Margaret Hamilton  |
| Beta (Northwestern University)—<br>Clark Kuebler ( <i>Megas Prytanis</i> )<br>Josephine Comfort                                       | Rho (Drake University)—<br>Sigma (Miami University)—<br>Tau (University of Kentucky)—<br>Margaret Allen<br>Elizabeth Cramer   |
| Gamma (Ohio University)—<br>Lucille Lee   | Upsilon (Mississippi State College for Women)—<br>Marie Smith<br>Mary Rowan   |
| Delta (Franklin College)—<br>Epsilon (University of Iowa)—<br>Edith Van Houten ( <i>Megas Protohyparchos</i> )<br>Evelyn Neese        | Phi (University of West Virginia)—<br>Marjorie Linderman  |
| Zeta (Denison University)—<br>Eta (Florida State College for Women)—<br>Bessie Munroe<br>Moba Raper                                   | Chi (Coe College)—<br>Psi (Vanderbilt University)—<br>Arthur Crownover, Jr.<br>Lila Lipscomb  |
| Theta (Indiana University)—<br>Charles Lesh ( <i>Megas Epistolographos</i> )<br>Elsa Kuersteiner                                      | Omega (College of William and Mary)—<br>Alpha Alpha (Winthrop College)—<br>Frances Stewart  |
| Iota (University of Vermont)—<br>Kappa (Colorado College)—<br>Lambda (University of Mississippi)—<br>Louise Cook<br>Josephine Stanton | Alpha Beta (University of Denver)—<br>Alpha Gamma (Southern Methodist University)—<br>Cornell Goerner ( <i>Megas Pyloros</i> )<br>Alpha Delta (Agnes Scott College)—<br>Lillian Russell<br>Ione Gueth       |
| Mu (University of Cincinnati)—<br>Walter F. Appler  | Alpha Epsilon (Lehigh University)—<br>Alpha Zeta (Washington Square College)—<br>Alpha Eta (University of Michigan)—<br>Esther B. Hoerner   |
| Nu (Morningside College)—<br>Thelma Jager   | Alpha Theta (Hunter College)—<br>Mary E. Flynn  |
| Xi (University of Kansas)—<br>Ada K. Wiley  | Alpha Iota (University of S. Carolina)—<br>Ruth Brown<br>Maud Brazzelle   |
| Omicron (University of Pennsylvania)—<br>William Gerber ( <i>Megas Grammateus</i> )   | Alpha Kappa (University of Illinois)—<br>Phylis Alexander<br>Alpha Lambda (University of Oklahoma)—<br>Mary Stith<br>Alpha Mu (University of Missouri)—<br>Martha E. Conway<br>Alpha Nu (Davidson College)— |

(Not Voting Delegates—Not Including Members of Upsilon Chapter)

Alpha—Mrs. Knox M. Broom

Lambda—McDonald K. Horne, Jr.  
 Lambda—Prof. Alexander L. Bondurant  
 Psi—Prof. R. B. Steele  
 Pi—Prof. Charles D. Matthews

The *Megas Protohyparchos*, Miss Edith Van Houten (*Epsilon*), presented the petitions of Lawrence College at Appleton, Wisconsin, and of Washington University at St. Louis, Missouri, for installation of chapters of this fraternity on their respective campuses. After the qualifications of these two institutions had been pointed out and discussed, the petitions were accepted by a vote of the delegates.

It was announced that Epsilon chapter (which is in charge of the high school medals project) reported receipt of over 300 orders from all parts of the country.

Dr. Gladys Martin, of the Mississippi State College for Women, who was then introduced by the *Megas Prytanis*, addressed the delegates on "Supernatural Machinery in the Post-Augustan Epic."

A recess was declared until 2:30 P. M.

### SECOND SESSION (May 3, 2:30 P. M.)

When the delegates reassembled, they had the privilege of hearing Dr. Alexander L. Bondurant, of the University of Mississippi, on the subject "Some Aspects of Roman Humor."

The *Megas Prytanis* then announced the personnel of the convention committees to be as follows:

#### CONVENTION COMMITTEES

1. *Nominations*  
 Cornell Goerner  
 Evelyn Neese  
 Lucille Lee  
 Ione Gueth  
 Marie Smith
2. *Resolutions*  
 Walter F. Appler  
 Thelma Jager  
 Josephine Comfort  
 Mary Rowan  
 Martha Conway
3. *Amendments*  
 Margaret Allen  
 Moba Roper  
 Marjorie Linderman
4. *State of the Fraternity*  
 Charles Lesh  
 Ada Wiley  
 Arthur Crownover, Jr.  
 Ruth Brown  
 Mary Stith
5. *College Expansion*  
 Edith Van Houten  
 Esther Hoerner  
 Lillian Russell  
 Josephine Stanton
6. *High School Expansion*  
 Martha Belle Hilton  
 Josephine Comfort

Elsa Kuersteiner  
 Mary Flynn

7. *Convention*  
 Frances Stewart  
 Phyllis Alexander  
 Lloyd Stow

8. *Publications*  
 William Gerber  
 Cornell Goerner  
 Marie Smith  
 Maud Brazzelle

9. *Auditing*  
 Lloyd Stow  
 Ruth Gibson  
 Louise Cook  
 Elizabeth Stanton

The report of the NUNTIUS was called for and presented.

#### NUNTIUS REPORT (Condensed)

##### A. Financial Report

###### Receipts

Subscription .....	\$282.30
Advertisements .....	87.50

\$369.80

###### Expenditures

First Issue .....	\$141.85
Second Issue .....	115.00
Third Issue .....	115.00
Miscellaneous (parcel post, etc.)	17.50

\$389.35

##### B. Cultural Report

1. Change in policy from that of a fraternity news and records journal to that of a magazine of general classical interest.

2. Publication of articles by the following honorary members:

Samuel E. Bassett (*Iota*)  
 Walter W. Hyde (*Omicron*)  
 William N. Bates (*Omicron*)  
 Robert N. Smith (*Alpha Epsilon*)  
 George Depue Hadzsits (*Omicron*)  
 \*Alexander L. Bondurant (*Lambda*)  
 \*Robert B. Steele (*Psi*)

3. Publication of about 15 translations, original poems, etc.

A discussion followed on ways and means of placing the NUNTIUS on a sounder financial basis. During this discussion it was pointed out that the traditional annual deficit of the journal was due not to intrinsic necessity but to the unresponsiveness of some chapters to even the most intensive subscription campaigns; it also became clear that the policy instituted this year of soliciting paid advertisements would pave the way for a self-supporting (and possibly a revenue-producing) journal.

The second business session was then declared at a close.

\* Current Issue.



[At 4:00 P. M. a tea was tendered to the delegates by Upsilon chapter in the Students' Building; and at 6:00 P. M. the delegates were guests of the College at an informal dinner in the Junior-Senior Dining Hall. A performance of Euripides' *Alcestis* was given in Whitfield Auditorium at 8:00 P. M., after which there was a reception in the Students' Building by members of the Senior class.]

THIRD SESSION (May 4, 9:00 A. M.)

A specimen of the charter scrolls which are being prepared for the chapters of the fraternity was exhibited, and the convention proceeded to the reports of the various committees.

HIGH SCHOOL EXPANSION COMMITTEE'S REPORT

It is suggested

1. That there be a more careful supervision of high school classical clubs by chapters of this fraternity;
2. That the Eta Sigma Phi medal be presented by every chapter to one or two neighboring high schools; and
3. That social meetings or receptions for high school seniors taking Latin or Greek be arranged by local chapters.

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE'S REPORT

It is suggested

1. That the policy of soliciting advertisements for the NUNTIUS be continued;
2. That the policy of dividing the magazine into sections (Minerva's, Muses', etc.) be continued; and
3. That the constitutional provision for universal subscription among members be rigidly enforced.

STATE OF THE FRATERNITY COMMITTEE'S REPORT

It is suggested

1. That a booklet containing the ritual, constitution, and history of the fraternity be published and distributed among the various chapters;
2. That the fraternity establish a permanent office;\* and
3. That requirements for membership be raised to a minimum of three terms' standing (second term of sophomore year).

COLLEGE EXPANSION COMMITTEE'S REPORT

It is suggested that in view of the growing strength and recognition of the fraternity it can afford to be highly selective in its consideration of petitions for the establishment of chapters.

[At 12:00 M. the delegates were taken for a ride about the city of Columbus, and at 1:00 P. M. were guests of the faculty at luncheon in the Golden Goose Tea Room. At 2:30 P. M. the delegates reconvened and were addressed by Dr. Robert B. Steele, of Vanderbilt University, on "Catullus."]

\*The fraternity does have a permanent office: Dr. Gertrude Smith, University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois.

FOURTH SESSION (May 4, 3:00 P. M.)

AUDITING COMMITTEE'S REPORT

Cash on hand June 1, 1928.....	\$1,293.37
Total receipts to May 15, 1929.....	2,087.05
<hr/>	
Total received June 1, 1928, to May 15, 1929..	\$3,380.42
Total disbursed June 1, 1928, to May 15, 1929	2,306.67
<hr/>	
Total on hand .....	\$1,073.75

It is suggested

1. That steps be taken for a percentage of the receipts for *Eta Sigma Phi* jewelry to be paid by Wright and Street to the treasury of the fraternity; and
2. That chapter treasurers be requested to make clear statements when they transmit money to the *Megas Chrysothylax* of the separate subscriptions for one year's and two years' NUNTIUS.

AMENDMENTS COMMITTEE'S REPORT

It is suggested that the constitution be amended in such wise

1. That minimum requirement for membership shall be second semester standing in the sophomore year with a B average in all Latin and Greek taken, with the provision that at each election one candidate may be admitted who holds first semester standing in the sophomore year, provided he be recommended for election by the head of the department. (In schools where there are three semesters in the year, second semester standing in the sophomore year shall be required.)
2. That absence from three consecutive meetings of the local chapter without a reasonable excuse shall automatically expel a member from his chapter;
3. That absence from any meeting without a reasonable excuse shall be punished by a fine, the sum to be determined by the local chapter; and
4. That the constitution may be amended by a 3/4 vote of the delegates at a national convention.

CONVENTION COMMITTEE'S REPORT

It is suggested, in view of the tradition by which we convene in the South one year, in the East the next year, in the West the year after that, etc., that the invitation of Omicron chapter at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia to hold our 1930 convention in that city be accepted.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE'S REPORT

WHEREAS, the fifth national convention of Eta Sigma Phi has been so excellently entertained in Columbus, Mississippi by the faculty and students of the Mississippi State College for Women, and more especially by the officers and members of Upsilon chapter,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the fraternity as a whole and the delegates in particular express their deep-felt gratitude to all who helped make this convention a success;

AND WHEREAS, the retiring national officers of the fraternity have given so generously of their time and effort toward the administration and progress of the fraternity.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the gratitude of the fraternity's members be heartily accorded to these retiring officers.

#### NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

for *Megas Prytanis*

H. Lloyd Stow (*Alpha*)

for *Megas Protopharchos*

Margaret Allen (*Tau*)

for *Megas Deuteropharchos*

Josephine Comfort (*Beta*)

for *Megas Epistolographos*

Lillian Russell (*Alpha Delta*)

for *Megas Grammateus*

Ruth Brown (*Alpha Iota*)

for *Megas Chrysophylax*

Charles Lesh (*Theta*)

for *Megas Pyloros*

MacDonald Horn, Jr. (*Lambda*)

The reports of the High School Expansion, Publications, College Expansion, Auditing, Convention (after a close vote between Philadelphia and Cincinnati), Resolutions and Nominations Committees were accepted *in toto*. Of the State of the Fraternity Committee's report, suggestion No. 1 was voted down as a 1929-1930 project because of the expense, and suggestion No. 3 was referred to the Amendments Committee.

The suggestions of the Amendments Committee were approved, but in view of the procedure for amendment prescribed by the national constitution, these suggestions were referred to the incoming administration for action.

At this juncture, Dr. Bondurant announced that a nation-wide committee has been formed to arrange for commemoration of Vergil's two thousandth birthday anniversary in October, 1930, and suggested that Eta Sigma Phi take steps to co-operate with this committee and to observe the anniversary by its own program as well. This suggestion was approved in principle and referred to the incoming administration.

The business portion of the convention's agenda was then declared at an end.

[At 4.30 P. M. there was an exhibition of Classic Dances and a Zouave Drill on the campus of the college. At 7.30 P. M. the annual formal banquet was held in the Gilmer Hotel. The banquet was concluded with the installation of the 1929-1930 national officers and an address by Dr. John A. Scott, of Northwestern University.]

#### CONVENTION

(continued from inside cover)

And so we turn our eyes toward Philadelphia where plans are already being formulated for the last Friday and Saturday in April, 1930.

In Columbus, about sixty per cent. of the chapters were represented; it is being hoped that there will be representation of closer to one hundred per cent of the chapters next year. To be sure, it will be no easy matter for chapters situated in cities which are distant from Philadelphia to arrange their budgets in such a way that they will be able to send large delegations, but it should be remembered

that in Columbus there were delegates from chapters in such widely distant places as New York City and Dallas, Texas; Iowa City and Tallahassee, Florida.

It is not too soon to begin thinking now of ways by which your chapter may raise enough money to send to Philadelphia the two delegates whom you are entitled to send. Attendance at a convention of this sort is an experience not soon forgotten. Friendships are formed and memories brought away which, being things of beauty, are joys forever.

#### ALUMNI BODY

Eta Sigma Phi is not yet so old that its charter members should have forgotten Dr. Harriman's happy comparison. In 1775, five students at William and Mary College, formed the now scholastically famous honorary society, Phi Beta Kappa. In 1924 a group of students from the University of Chicago and Northwestern University formed the now equally famous honorary society, Eta Sigma Phi. On Saturday, April 6, 1929, twelve enterprising pioneers, students and former students of the University of Chicago and Northwestern University, Ruth G. Nelson, Eunice Thompson, Henry D. Ephron, Mabel J. Luecke, Katherine Controulis, Dr. Gertrude Smith, Lucy Brokaw, Ruth White, Katherine Glick, Mona Flanders, Marjorie Cooper and Richard O. Hale, met at the La Salle Hotel, Chicago, and organized the Alumni Association of Eta Sigma Phi of the City of Chicago. Temporary officers were elected: Ruth G. Nelson, chairman; Eunice Thompson, secretary-treasurer, and Henry D. Ephron, publicity manager. This outgrowth of Eta Sigma Phi proper is so logical, so natural, that its formation might have been predicted in 1924 for this very year. In the near future, chapters will probably begin to arise in various parts of the United States, wherever there are enough alumni of Eta Sigma Phi to form the nucleus of another chapter. The members of the present group will interest itself in making this a nation-wide movement.

One explanation of the formation of this society can be found in the latter part of the sixth book of Plato's Republic (Cp. Professor Paul Shorey's article in "Studies in Classical Philology" of the University of Chicago, Vol. I, 1895). In the plane of material things the association hopes to help support Undergraduate Eta Sigma Phi, and to give practical aid to the classics. The club hopes to be able to establish scholarships and fellowships in some of the larger universities, and classical libraries in such places as it deems advisable. A tea is being planned for the Senior members of Alpha and Beta Chapters which is to be an annual event.

The importance of this new and earnestly throbbing organization, the Alumni Association of Eta Sigma Phi of the City of Chicago is that it will lend permanence to membership in the undergraduate club. No longer will Eta Sigma Phi be an inspiration to the student of classics only during his undergraduate college career—it will now be an inspiration to him for all his life, whether he enters a profession, becomes a business man or devotes his life to the study of the classics.

HENRY D. EPHRON, *The University of Chicago, A. B. '25,*  
Publicity Manager.

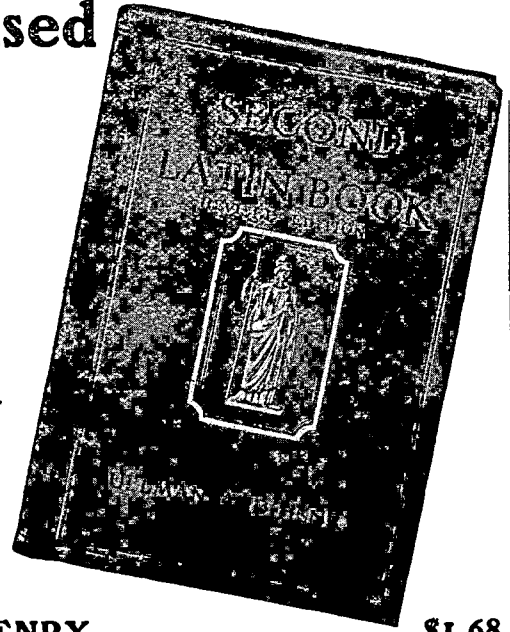
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