

THE NUNTIUS

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of

ETA SIGMA PHI

National Honorary Classical Fraternity

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THE NUNTIUS
National Journal of Eta Sigma Phi
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EXECUTIVE-SECRETARY'S LETTER

The very stimulating Nineteenth Annual Meeting of Eta Sigma Phi at the College of William and Mary (elsewhere reported in this number) makes it very clear that Eta Sigma Phi is again ready to resume and to expand its activities as a national honorary classical fraternity. The Executive Secretary is deeply appreciative of the high honor that has been accorded him in his election to his present position, and it is almost a belaboring of the obvious for him to acknowledge at once the splendid encouragement and assistance that have come to him from the National Officers, the Chairman and Members of the Board of Trustees, and many individual faculty members and students at various Chapters of the fraternity.

The present number of The Nuntius is exceedingly unpretentious. It is intended as a beginning. It comes with the hope that many in our membership will be prepared to submit articles, suggestions, comments, and the like, that may prove useful in the regular four-issue volume of The Nuntius, planned to appear in 1947-1948, in the months of November, January, March, and May. The present number is being sent to all for whom names and addresses are now available. Ample additional copies will be held and may be had on request.

It is probably a correct interpretation of the mood of the fraternity at its Nineteenth Annual Meeting to present the following five-point program for 1947-1948:

1. The reactivation of dormant Chapters.
2. The reception of duly qualified new Chapters.
3. The restoration of planned programs in all active Chapters.
4. The restitution of the traditional Essay Contest.
5. The resumption of the four-issue a year Nuntius.

William C. Korfmacher,
Executive Secretary.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE NATIONAL CONVENTION

The nineteenth National Convention of Eta Sigma Phi was held at the College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Virginia, on April 3 and 4, 1947.

Nine chapters were represented: Gamma (Ohio), Delta (Franklin), Omega (College of William and Mary), Alpha Delta (Agnes Scott), Alpha Epsilon (Lehigh), Alpha Xi (Washington), Alpha Pi (Gettysburg), Beta Gamma (Westhampton), and Beta Zeta (Saint Louis).

From the standpoint of work accomplished, this convention rates outstanding praise. New officers were elected. These officers were accorded a vote of confidence by the represented chapters in their plans for the revival of the traditional activities of the fraternity.

The new national officers are: Herbert Tucker, Omega Chapter, the College of William and Mary, president; Frank Tatum, Alpha Epsilon Chapter, Lehigh University, vice-president; C. Robert Held, Alpha Pi Chapter, Gettysburg College, secretary; Richard Wilcox, Gamma Chapter, Ohio University at Athens, treasurer.

During the time that has elapsed since the last national convention, the terms of the members of the board of trustees have expired. Professor A. Pelzer Wagener of the College of William and Mary (Omega Chapter), was reelected to the Board of Trustees as chairman, for two years. The other members of the Board will be: Professor H. Lloyd Stow, University of Oklahoma (Alpha Lambda Chapter) for one year; Professor Horace W. Wright, Lehigh University (Alpha Epsilon Chapter), for two years; Professor William C. Korfmacher, Saint Louis University (Beta Zeta Chapter), for three years; Professor W. Frederick Shaffer, Gettysburg College (Alpha Pi Chapter), for three years.

In addition to his election to the Board, Professor William C. Korfmacher, secretary-treasurer of the Classical Association of the Middle West and South, was elected executive secretary and editor of The Nuntius.

CIRCULAR LETTER FROM BOARD CHAIRMAN

Professor A. Pelzer Wagener, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, addressed a letter to the national officers of Eta Sigma Phi on August 6, 1947.

The following are excerpts from the letter.

" . . . Financially the fraternity seems to be in excellent shape. . . far more than might naturally be expected after the war years of curtailed activity. Dr. Stow informs us that U. S. Government bonds to the amount of \$3800.00 are on deposit in the Security National Bank of Norman, Oklahoma. As Registrar of the Eta Sigma Phi Medal, Dr. Stow reports a balance in that fund of between \$350.00 and \$400.00. Current funds to the amount of \$355.70 have been sent to the executive secretary by Kinchen W. Exum, acting editor of The Nuntius, and treasurer during the war period. This amount is now on deposit in the Mercantile-Commerce National Bank of St. Louis. The National Treasurer's report of June 30 shows a balance of \$85.65 in his possession which included only funds collected by him since last April 4.

" . . . We (Members of Board of Trustees), must all pull together and each contribute his share of thought and action. A serious weakness in the past has been the failure on the part of most of us to keep in close touch with what is going on. . . The members of the Board hope that the undergraduate officers will feel free to call upon us at any time for such help and advice as we can give them. . . "

Professor Wagener also states in his letter that the National Fraternity is composed, at present, of a total of 13 active chapters. A campaign has been launched to reactivate as many of the inactive chapters as possible. Mr. Frank Tatum, grand vice-president, working in conjunction with Professor William C. Korfmacher, executive secretary, has reported the formation of his committee on Expansion. Each member of this committee has been allocated a territory in which to begin the campaign.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S CIRCULAR LETTER

Professor William C. Korfmacher, newly elected executive secretary of Eta Sigma Phi and editor of The Nuntius, sent out a form letter to the faculty advisers of Chapter of Eta Sigma Phi, in May of this year. The purpose of this letter was to gain pertinent information about the existing chapters, and those which existed formerly.

Four questions were asked: Is your chapter at present Active? If not, are you likely to have an active chapter next year? If you have an active chapter, what are the names and addresses--school and home--of the chapter officers? What are the names and addresses--school and home--of all the members of the chapter?

The response to the letter was very encouraging. Seventeen chapters reported that they were active, and many sent reports of their activities. The following is a list of the chapters reported to be active: Alpha Theta Chapter, Hunter College; Alpha Psi Chapter, Washington and Jefferson College; Upsilon Chapter, Mississippi State College for Women; Westhampton College, University of Richmond; Alpha Upsilon Chapter, College of Wooster; Sigma Chapter, Miami University of Ohio; Alpha Epsilon Chapter, Lehigh University; University of South Dakota; Alpha Xi Chapter, Washington University;

Alpha Pi Chapter, Gettysburg College; Epsilon Chapter, State University of Iowa; University of Illinois; Omega Chapter, College of William and Mary; Alpha Omicron Chapter, Lawrence College; Beta Zeta Chapter, Saint Louis University.

Many other colleges reported that due to the war they had been forced to become inactive. The following are the chapters which reported their inactivation:

University of Michigan; University of Kentucky; University of Kansas; Morningside College; Westminster College; University of Missouri; University of Vermont; Louisiana State University; University of Pennsylvania.

Many of the schools which reported that their chapters had been inactivated expressed the hope that within the next year or two they would be able to reform their chapters.

REPORTS FROM CHAPTERS TO THE QUESTIONNAIRE

Many of the chapters which answered Professor Korfmacher's letter included reports of their activities.

We have included a few of them in this addition of The Nuntius, and hope to be able to report on many more during the coming year.

The Alpha Epsilon Chapter at Lehigh University included in its report to the executive secretary a list of its activities. This chapter meets once a month to discuss some work of a Greek or Roman author. Some of these works are The Clouds, Menaechmi, Apology, Nicomachean Ethics, and De Rerum Natura. The last meeting took the form of a picnic.

Mr. Herbert Tucker, national president, reports that the Omega Chapter at the College of William and Mary began

the year with an open house for all new students of Greek and Latin. During the year Dr. Miller of the Department of Philosophy at the College and Dr. Raphael Demos of Harvard addressed them. A movie was sponsored, "The Last Days of Pompeii." The Omega Chapter also concluded the year's activities with a picnic.

The Alpha Pi Chapter of Gettysburg College initiated Professor Whitney J. Oates, Princeton University as an honorary member on May 13, 1947.

The meetings of the Agnes Scott Chapter are held at the home of the faculty adviser. At the beginning of the

year a topic is chosen and it serves as a basis for discussion at the meetings.

Professor Marcus W. Collins, chairman of the department of Sociology at Pennsylvania College for Women, and visiting lecturer in sociology at St. Louis University during the summer, was initiated as an honorary member of the Beta Zeta Chapter of St. Louis University on August 1, 1947.

During 1946-47, in conjunction with the Saint Louis University Classical Club, Beta Zeta Chapter held a series of meetings at which the "Classical Roots of Literary Types" was the subject. The Chapter also sponsored its annual High School Latin Contest and Freshman College Latin Contest.