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The Alphabet, Spring 1960

Alpha Beta Alpha

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Recommended Citation

"The Alphabet, Spring 1960" (1960). *Alpha Beta Alpha*. 38.
<https://ir.library.illinoisstate.edu/abarso/38>

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THE ALPHABET

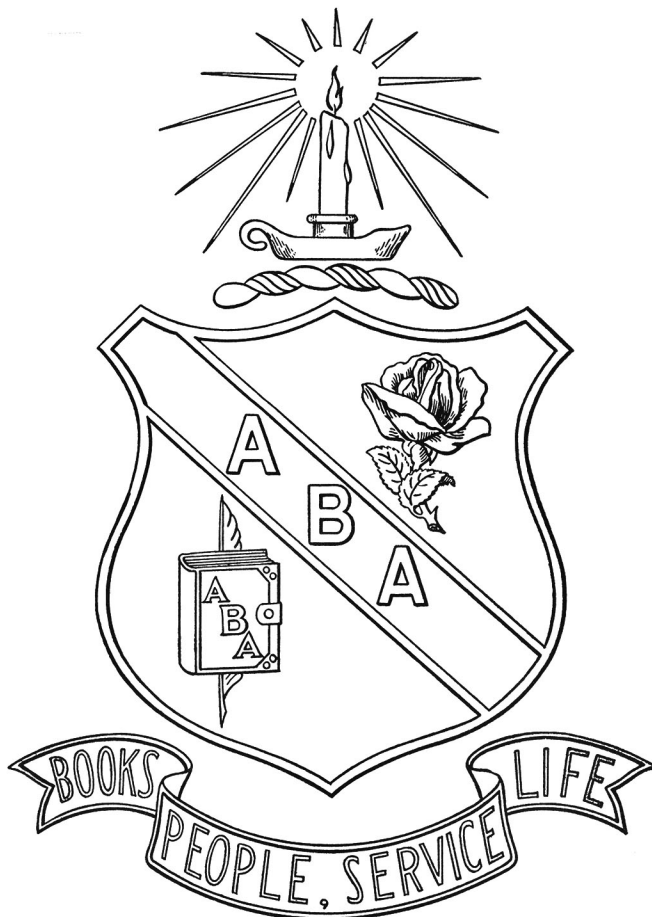
VOLUME X

SPRING, 1960

NUMBER 3

TENTH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

1950-1960



DEDICATION

To Dr. Eugene P. Watson for ten years of unselfish service, we affectionately and gratefully dedicate this issue.

Executive Secretary's Column

A decade has now gone by since that momentous day, May 3, 1950, when Alpha Beta Alpha was born. And this issue of *The Alphabet* appropriately commemorates that Founders' Day and the ten years which have followed.

This is my final "official column," as this will be the last issue of *The Alphabet* prepared during my tenure as Executive Secretary; so I will take this opportunity to tell all of you how much pleasure and inspiration I have derived from my ten years of working with you, and of watching Alpha Beta Alpha grow from its feeble beginnings into a truly national organization. I have no intention of retiring from active participation in the affairs of the Fraternity—during the year 1960-61, I will be a member of the Executive Council, in accordance with the provisions of the National Constitution; and I plan to continue working with ABA for the remainder of my life (after all, I am a paid-up life member—and I must get my money's worth!).

In closing, let me urge and exhort that all of you extend to my successor, Miss Eunice Speer, the same wonderful help and cooperation that you have given me. I have not the least hesitation in transferring the Executive Secretaryship to Miss Speer; she is widely known and respected throughout the Nation, and she is a zealous worker with a strong devotion to Alpha Beta Alpha. I am completely confident that under her capable leadership in the years ahead, the Fraternity will continue to grow and prosper, and will attain to ever greater glories!

And now, "au revoir!"

National Officers

(Executive Council)

President, Elsie M. Wilken (Mu)
 Vice-President, David Spohr (Gamma)
 Treasurer, Lenora Woolley (Alpha)
 Executive Secretary, Dr. Eugene P. Watson (Alpha)
 Councilmen: District No. 1, Pearl Gondrella (Lambda); No. 2, Lauren Doggette (Delta); No. 3, Nancy Rice (Sigma); No. 4, Larry A. Miller (Rho); No. 5, Barbara Dummermuth (Theta).

President's Message



Elsie Wilken

Congratulations to Alpha Beta Alpha on her tenth anniversary! In a few short years the Fraternity has grown from a single Chapter to twenty-three Chapters in fifteen states. During these first years we have strongly emphasized quality; and we have been rewarded with recognition by various national professional library associations, and by important people in the library profession.

In our next ten years, and always, we must continue to emphasize quality, both in the Fraternity and in the profession. The quality of the Fraternity rests upon the quality of the member Chapters. What importance is attached to Alpha Beta Alpha on each of your campuses? How do your fellow students look upon your profession? The quality of your local Chapter depends on you. Do you profess a faith in Alpha Beta Alpha and in the profession of Library Science? Are you upholding the purposes of our Fraternity as set forth in the National Constitution?

Much of the credit for the present flourishing state of our Fraternity goes to our Dr. Watson who was responsible for our founding and who for ten years hovered over us with his excellent foresight and guidance. Our sincere thanks to you, Dr. Watson, for your ten years of unselfish service; and our thanks also for the services yet unrendered as you place the Executive Secretaryship in the capable hands of Miss Eunice Speer.

Let us, as we look forward to the

EDITORIAL

Happy tenth anniversary!! This has been a wonderful ten years for Alpha Beta Alpha. We have grown and prospered into a well-known and respected fraternity. We will never be able to thank Dr. Eugene P. Watson for rendering so much service to so great a cause.

Because many of you have not met Dr. Watson in person, I feel now is the time to get acquainted with him.

Dr. Watson, Here is your life!!

Dr. Eugene Watson in his short lifetime has made many outstanding contributions to the library profession, none of which is more important



Eugene P. Watson

than the founding of Alpha Beta Alpha.

Dr. Watson was born in Natchitoches, Louisiana, June 29, 1911, the son of Eugenie Chopin Watson and Arthur W. Watson, a banker.

He was graduated with honors from St. Mary's Convent in Natchitoches; then went to the State Normal College (now Northwestern State College of Louisiana) where in 1933, as the honor graduate, he was selected to give the class oration, a real honor in those days.

He received a masters' degree in English in 1934, from Louisiana

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next ten years, and the future, strive to match the remarkable progress of Alpha Beta Alpha's first ten years, and let us contribute to the dignity and service of librarianship.

CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES RECEIVED

Hearty congratulations to Alpha Beta Alpha on its Tenth Anniversary and best wishes for the future. May the Fraternity grow in membership and importance.

Telegram

David H. Clift, Exec. Dir.
American Library Association

taneous reaction to a sensed need. You are doing a fine work in crystallizing the early intent in librarianship into some positive expression. May Alpha Beta Alpha continue to flourish.

Harold Lancour
Executive Secretary
Beta Phi Mu

Beta Phi Mu sends its affectionate regards and anniversary greetings to its younger brother (we were ten years old last year). It is no accident that those ten years plus cover also the period of greatest growth of the Greek letter associations in library science. That our two organizations were conceived and began their growth the one completely unknown to the other is, I think, evidence that they were in many ways the spon-

All individuals, all organizations, all institutions experience anniversaries whether or not they are desired. Regardless of how we may feel about our "annual increment" as individuals, I believe we can agree that for organizations anniversaries they are desirable and necessary. They are desirable because they provide an opportunity for commemorative observance and celebration; they are necessary because they provide a

fitting time and occasion to take inventory of the accomplishments and program of a group.

Looking back from this significant ten year mile-post it may be said that Alpha Beta Alpha has continued to move in directions suggested—if not chartered—by Mrs. A. B. Thomas, in her rich statement, "Lending Our Minds Out." Among the many apropos quotations cited by the University of Alabama English instructor on the occasion of Delta's installation, was that attributed to Sir Roger Ascham, tutor of Queen Elizabeth I, who held that "Learning teacheth more in one year and more safely than twenty years of experience." Was ever there a more logical expression of reasoning on the merits of professional education for librarianship? And Alpha Beta Alpha, in its continuing efforts on recruitment to the

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EDITORIAL Cont. from 2

State University, taught English in 1934-5 at the State Normal, received a bachelor's in Library Science from Louisiana State University in 1937, and that year began his career as a librarian on the staff of the State Normal Library. In 1951, he received his Ph.D. from the University of Texas.

During the latter part of the 1930's, Dr. Watson was also a teacher of Library Science and the advisor for the Library Science majors. His students and advisees soon learned that they had a real friend on the campus. No matter how busy he was, there was always a friendly welcome for all who knocked on his office door, and he listened sympathetically to accounts of their problems and to their joys and successes. His interest in his students prompted many to choose or to continue a career in Library Science.

Dr. Watson's contributions to the library profession in Louisiana are innumerable. He has worked untiringly in the interest of improving library service in the school, the public, and the college library fields. He has served on many local and state committees, has served in various offices including the presidency of the Louisiana Library Association.

The influence of Dr. Watson is felt beyond the state. He has served in many capacities in the Southwestern Library Association and in the Amer-

ican Library Association. His greatest accomplishment on the national scale has been the organization of Alpha Beta Alpha.

Dr. Watson has not only made contributions to the library profession, but to education in general and to the community in which he lives. One wonders where he finds the time and the energy to accomplish all that he does. He either has served or is serving on practically every civic committee in Natchitoches. In 1940, the Young Men's Business Club awarded him a cup as Natchitoches' Citizen of the Year. Each year since, he could well have been presented the award. One of his greatest community interests has been in acquiring and restoring documents and landmarks to preserve the history of Natchitoches, which is the oldest town in the original Louisiana Purchase. The Louisiana room in the college library will some day be a monument to his success.

Dr. Watson is a very devout and active member of the Catholic Church and its organizations, which he serves well and faithfully.

Dr. Watson has many personal interests and hobbies. He is a discriminating collector of recordings of classic music. He is an excellent chess player and enjoys matching wits with fellow townspeople and with the grand masters of the game in state tournament competition. In keeping with his usual performance in any group, he has served as president of the Louisiana Chess Associ-

ation. But he has done more than to simply enjoy the game himself. He has taught a group of young people to play the game, and today the Young People's Chess Club in Natchitoches is one of the town's finest teen-age groups.

Though his contributions have been and continue to be great in a variety of fields, there is no doubt that, if Dr. Watson had to pick just one thing for which he will be remembered, it would be his work in organizing and developing Alpha Beta Alpha. He always believed that a strong library science club is one of the most effective methods of attracting desirable undergraduates to the field of librarianship and of encouraging them to continue their training at the graduate level.

When Alpha Beta Alpha finally became a reality instead of merely a dream, every member of the charter group knew that this achievement was a tribute to the vision and determination of Dr. Eugene P. Watson, who was immediately elected to the office of Executive Secretary. His ten years in this office have been marked by the rapid growth of the fraternity from its one chapter in 1950, to twenty-three chapters today found throughout the length and breadth of the nation, a fraternity that is exerting a truly important influence for the betterment of libraries and librarianship in America.

Dr. Watson, we salute you!

MESSAGES RECEIVED

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profession—to cite but one of its programs—has demonstrated its growth and vitality.

Congratulations tenfold, Alpha Beta Alpha, on the occasion of this, your Tenth Anniversary.

Robert L. Gitler, Exec. Sec.
Library Education Division, ALA

Alpha Beta Alpha is the pioneer fraternity in the field of undergraduate library education, an area in which many of us believe lies the solution to the recruitment of young people for graduate library work and to the problem of lessening the national shortage of trained librarians. In its ten very active years, with chapters on some twenty-three campuses at present, it has been a constant aid in persuading able young men and women to enter the profession and in encouraging higher standards of scholarly achievement by these young people. College and university librarians everywhere are deeply indebted to this fraternity for its interest and support, and I predict for it an even more active role in our profession in the decade just ahead. Our best wishes go with it in its work.

Edmon Low, President-Elect
Assoc. of College and Research
Libraries, ALA

The opportunity to send congratulations to Alpha Beta Alpha on the occasion of its tenth anniversary is much appreciated. I recall talking with you when this fraternity was only in the discussion stage, and you were one of its principal sponsors. Its growth to twenty-three chapters, with two more soon to be installed, is evidence that such an organization was needed. I hope that Alpha Beta Alpha will continue to grow and to inspire more undergraduate students to excel in their preparation for librarianship.

B. E. Powell, President
American Library Association

The impressive growth of Alpha Beta Alpha augurs well for the Fraternity's future, just as the undergraduates' interest in it promises much for the future of librarianship. Sooner than we may think, we shall be looking to these young people for leadership in our libraries and for our libraries. We hope that a good

portion of them will become professional librarians, but awareness by our citizens of the full worth of libraries is important too. Each member of Alpha Beta Alpha can contribute to librarianship from now on because of this awareness of the importance of libraries that began as an undergraduate.

Richard Harwell,
Associate Executive Director
American Library Association

In the name of the Library Education Division of the American Library Association, I offer heartiest congratulations to Alpha Beta Alpha on its tenth anniversary. The Fraternity has played a significant role in promoting and encouraging careers in librarianship. With the growing interest and activity in recruiting and training in librarianship on the undergraduate level, the function of Alpha Beta Alpha is destined to be even more influential. May its tribe increase! May it contribute more and more to a realization of high standards in ideals, scholarship, and service in one of the most challenging and satisfying of professions.

Rev. James J. Kortendick, S.S.,
President, Library Education
Division, ALA.

Alpha Beta Alpha, the National Undergraduate Library Science Fraternity, is a dynamic force encouraging continuing interest in librarianship as a career. It forms a common meeting ground where students may discuss professional topics of mutual interest. The ACRL College Libraries Section is happy to salute this growing organization on its tenth birthday.

Morrison C. Haviland, Chrm.
College Libraries, Sect., ACRL

It is with great pleasure and professional pride that I greet Alpha Beta Alpha, the National Undergraduate Library Science Fraternity, on the occasion of its tenth anniversary. Its growth and expansion in these ten years attest to its vitality as an organization and to its significance in the lives of its members.

As an organization presenting to undergraduates the concept of librarianship with its philosophies and practices, it is an influential agency in recruiting into the library profession able and eligible young men and women. This places upon it an

especial responsibility to maintain its high standards and to publish them abroad.

Congratulations on the outstanding record of Alpha Beta Alpha during the past ten years, and all good wishes for continuing development and service through many decades ahead.

Frances Lander Spain,
President-Elect
American Library Association

The progress of Alpha Beta Alpha, which has established 23 chapters in our colleges and universities in its first ten years, is most gratifying to all those who have felt from the beginning that such an organization was worthy of their support. Every issue of *The Alphabet* tells its story of new chapters and new activities. May your next ten years tell a story of even greater progress, to match the forward strides of American librarianship!

Samray Smith, Editor
ALA Bulletin

The Association of College and Research Libraries congratulates Alpha Beta Alpha on its tenth anniversary and wishes the society success in its important program of strengthening the professional standards of the library association through fraternity and scholarship.

Wyman W. Parker, President
Association of College and
Research Libraries, ALA

Congratulations to Alpha Beta Alpha on this your tenth anniversary! The ever growing number of chapters is indicative of the increasing interest on the part of college students to promote professionalism in school librarianship. The motto, "Books, People, Service, Life," truly expresses the spirit that was responsible for the creation of your Fraternity.

Thelma C. Bird, Chairman
Teacher Ed. Libraries Sect.,
ACRL

As Alpha Beta Alpha enters its second decade of encouraging capable young men and women to enter the profession of librarianship, of providing them with opportunities to develop their leadership abilities; and of instilling in these young people the high sense of purpose of the library

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HISTORY OF THE FRATERNITY

On October 30, 1945, the twenty-two Library Science students and the eight members of the college library staff held a banquet in the Private Dining Room of the Student Center at Northwestern State College of Louisiana. The guest speaker for the occasion was Miss Nora Beust, Specialist in School Libraries, U. S. Office of Education; accompanying her were Miss Sue Hefley, Louisiana State Supervisor of School Libraries, and Miss Mary W. Harris, Assistant Librarian of the Louisiana State Library. Miss Beust spoke on "The Rewards of Librarianship." At the conclusion of the formal program, the group decided to organize a Library Science Club on the campus, with a view toward the eventual development of a national Fraternity. Dorothy Mae Moses was chosen as Chairman and Agnes Clark as Secretary of a temporary "Committee of the Whole"

to prepare for the actual organization of the Club.

On January 10, 1946, the group of students and librarians met again, adopted a constitution, and formally organized the "Northwestern State College Library Club." Azoline Stevens was elected its first President. Mrs. Lucille Carnahan was chosen as Sponsor and Mr. Eugene P. Watson as Adviser. The other charter members of the club were Charlotte Bailey, Agnes Clark, Winfred Eagleton, Lucille Hanks, Annette Hays, Bessie Head, Lajoice Lilley, Bobby Jean Mathews, Dorothy Mae Moses, Betty Jean Norred, Jeanne Redding, Mary Jacqueline Rembert, Willie Merle Robinson, Jeanette Royston, Maxine Squires, Ruth Ray Stokes, Eva Loyce Stubblefield, Leila Flo Touns, Marjorie Tubre, Doris Tullos, and Ruby Weaver. In the spring the club held a tea in honor of Miss

Helen Ridgeway, Public Library Specialist, American Library Association.

Frances Smith served as President in 1947-48. In the fall the name of the Club was changed to "Charlie E. Russell Library Club" honoring the recently-retired College Librarian. During this year the Club started publishing a "Library Science Newsletter" for the alumni; the newsletter was issued semi-annually until 1952. The first annual award given to the most outstanding senior graduating in Library Science was made this year also. In April Mr. Orwin Rush, Executive Secretary of the Association of College and Reference Libraries, spoke to the group; and this same month several members attended the Convention of the Louisiana Library Association.

Bernice Jackson Evans was President during the following school session. In October the members seriously discussed the advisability of going ahead and founding a National Fraternity, but decided that the time had not yet arrived for such action. This fall, the Club held a tea for Mrs. Florrinnell F. Morton, Director of the Louisiana State University Library School; Mrs. Morton told of the varied types of library work done by the LSU graduates. In the spring the Club was host to Dr. Lawrence S. Thompson, Director of Libraries at the University of Kentucky, who spoke on "Library Schools and Their Graduates." In April delegates attended the Louisiana Library Association Convention.

Helen Belisle's term as President of the Club began in September, 1949. In March 1950, delegates went to the Louisiana Library Association Convention; and the following month, Mr. Arthur Hamlin, the newly-appointed Executive Secretary of the Association of College and Reference Libraries, was guest speaker at a tea.

During this entire year, the group had been thinking constantly about the establishment of the long-dreamed-of-fraternity; and in the spring a decision was made to go forward with the plans.

On May 3, 1950, at 7:00 p.m., in the Drawing Room of Varnado Hall, Northwestern State College of Louisiana, at Natchitoches, Louisiana, the following persons assembled: Students: Helen Belisle, Marguerite Bozeman, Billie June Cory, Randall Detro, Mary Alice Driscoll, Patsy Eason, Bobby Elkins, Ruth Ann Ellender, Yvonne Ewing, Myrtle Freeze,

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MESSAGES RECEIVED

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profession, it is a great pleasure to extend my best wishes for its continuance and growth. The "pursuit of excellence" is a necessary goal for librarians as it is for those whom they serve. Alpha Beta Alpha has encouraged and provided opportunities for the future leaders of the library profession to carry on this pursuit. That it will continue to do so in the years ahead, is my Birthday Wish for Alpha Beta Alpha.

Dorothy Kittel
Membership Promotion Project
American Library Association

In the name of the officers and members of the Catholic Library Association I extend hearty congratulations and best wishes to the members of Alpha Beta Alpha on the tenth anniversary of your organization.

May you meet with continued success in your efforts to encourage young men and women to become librarians.

Arthur L. Goerdts, S.M.
President, Catholic Library Assn.

I am pleased to be able to extend greetings to Alpha Beta Alpha on its tenth anniversary. I speak for all university librarians when saying may the next decade see an even

greater growth and development of the Fraternity.

Alpha Beta Alpha, in fulfilling its purpose of encouraging undergraduate students to become librarians and of promoting professional activity, has made a definite contribution to librarianship. If each of us would keep these purposes in mind, the problems of the profession would soon seem small.

It is the hope that this, your tenth anniversary, will serve to rededicate your members and alumni to the goals of the Fraternity.

Richard E. Chapin, Chairman
University Libraries Sect., ACRL

On the attainment of your first decade of life, I salute you, Alpha Beta Alpha, and wish you healthy growth and a future of achievement. Though young in years, you are old in purpose, for the forming of societies to honor learning and maintain professional ideals is an established custom. Librarianship needs new members to assure its vitality and leaders to point the way. Its devotion to continuous learning carries with it the responsibility of helping toward the democratic way and a better world. May you, Alpha Beta Alpha, increase your years of service to this end.

Florence Boochever, Chrm.,
Lib. Periodicals Round Table,
ALA

FRATERNITY HISTORY

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Sue Gilmore, Maureen Gray, Sallie Harper, Katherine Hopkins, Audrey Jo King, Freida Squyres, Charles Thigpen, Tommie Jean Tullos, and Avis Jean Windham; Professionals: Mrs. Lucille Carnahan, Miss Agnes Clark, Miss Julia Duke, Miss May Hammett, Miss Dorothy Keyser, Mrs. Johnnie Mallory, Miss Irene Pope, Miss Olive Roberts, Mr. Warren Tracy, Mr. Eugene P. Watson, and Mrs. Ora G. Williams. These persons voted to found a national, undergraduate Library Science Fraternity, and then proceeded to adopt a constitution which had previously been drawn up in preparation for this occasion. Thus was born Alpha Beta Alpha (Amerikaniki Bibliophylaken Athelphotos—American Librarians' Fraternity) the world's first undergraduate Library Science Fraternity. The first National Executive Committee (Council) was composed of: President, Helen Belisle; Vice-President, Sallie Harper; Treasurer, Katherine Hopkins; and Executive Secretary, Mr. Eugene P. Watson.

Immediately after the organization of Alpha Beta Alpha was completed, the Scharlie E. Russell Library Club, of Northwestern State College of Louisiana, petitioned to be admitted as a Chapter of the Fraternity. The petition was approved by the National Executive Committee, and the Club was admitted forthwith as Alpha Chapter. Mrs. Lucille T. Carnahan became the first Chapter Sponsor. Bobby Elkins and Mrs. Lucille Carnahan were the first persons elected to serve as Alpha's representatives on the Executive Committee. Patsy Eason was the first Chapter President, and Yvonne Ewing the first Chapter Vice-President. The same day that the Fraternity was founded, honorary memberships were conferred upon Mr. Arthur T. Hamlin, Executive Secretary, Association of College and Reference Libraries; Mrs. Florrinnell F. Morton, Director, Library School, Louisiana State University; Dr. Lawrence S. Thompson, Director of Libraries, University of Kentucky; and Mr. Willis Wright, Librarian, Williams College.

On June 6, Sarah Reedy, President of the Library Science Club at Mississippi State College for Women, Columbus, wrote a letter inquiring about the Fraternity; Miss Anita Hostetter had referred her to Alpha Beta Alpha. Beta Chapter was installed on the MSCW campus, on December 2, 1950, by the National Officers, assisted by Mrs. Carnahan.

The first persons to become "pledges" were Patsy Leroy, Claire Lucius, Jimmie Parker, and Sally Thibodeaux; they were initiated into Alpha on December 19. On this same occasion, the following were elected as Honorary Members—Mr. Charles M. Adams, Librarian, Woman's College of the University of North Carolina; Miss Anita M. Hostetter, Secretary, Board of Education for Librarianship, American Library Association; and Mr. Francis St. John, Director, Brooklyn Public Library.

Shortly afterwards there appeared in mimeographed form, the Vol. 1, No. 1; Fall, 1950, issue of the semi-annual official magazine of the Fraternity, *The Alphabet*.

During the first two years of Alpha Beta Alpha's existence, much time and effort were devoted to designing an official coat of arms, a crest, a key, a key-pin, and a pledge pin; to designing membership cards, and official and social stationery; and to preparing ceremonial rituals for installing new Chapters for initiations, for pledging, and for installing Chapter Officers. From the time that the Fraternity was founded, the L. G. Balfour Company has served as the official jeweler and stationer.

Beth Koho, President of the Bibliophile Club, Indiana State Teachers College, Terre Haute, wrote on February 22, 1951, expressing an interest in affiliation. On February 8, 1952, the Fraternity expanded beyond the land of its birth when Honorary Member Mr. Arthur Hamlin installed Gamma Chapter at I.S.T.C.

The February 1, 1951, issue (pages 160-161) of the *Library Journal* carried an article about the new fraternity.

The following persons were elected to Honorary Membership on November 26, 1951: Dr. Tommie Dora Barker, Dean, School of Librarianship, Emory University; on December 10, 1951, Dr. Lewis Steig, Director of Libraries, University of Southern California; on February 18, 1952, Miss Esther V. Burrin, Indiana State Supervisor of School Libraries; and on May 9, 1952, Miss Margaret V. Girdner, Library Supervisor, Unified School District, San Francisco, California.

Alpha hosted the first biennial National Convention, on March 15-16, 1952. National President Jo Ann Scott, of Beta, presided. All three Chapters were represented; the Official Delegates were: Alpha, Claire Lucius; Beta, Mary June Murphree; and Gamma, Marianne Peters. The speak-

ers were Mr. James Aswell, novelist and short story writer; Mrs. Doris Gates Hall, author of juvenile books; Mr. Grieg Aspnes, Research Librarian of Brown and Bigelow Co., and Miss Margaret V. Girdner, Library Supervisor of the San Francisco Unified School District. Participants in a panel discussion, "Librarianship, a Future," included Miss Essae M. Culver, Louisiana State Librarian and Past President of American Library Association; Mrs. Lena de Grummond, Louisiana State Supervisor of School Libraries; Miss Sue Hefley, School Library Supervisor of Webster Parish, Louisiana; Mr. Edmon Low, Director of Libraries, Oklahoma A. & M. College, and President of Southwestern Library Association; Mr. Guy R. Lyle, Director of Libraries, Louisiana State University; Mrs. Florrinnell F. Morton, Director, Library School, Louisiana State University; Miss Evelyn Peters, Librarian, Orleans Parish School Board Professional Library, and President, Louisiana Library Association; Mr. W. Dosite Postell, Librarian, School of Medicine, Louisiana State University, and President, Medical Library Association; Major Robert W. Severance, Director of Public Relations, HRRC, U. S. Air Force, and President-Elect of Association of College and Reference Libraries; and Dr. Garland F. Taylor, Director of Libraries, Tulane University. Forty-five members of the Fraternity and an approximately equal number of guests and visitors participated in the convention. The convention and the fraternity were the subject of a full-length article in the *Wilson-Library Bulletin*, September, 1952 (pages 57-58, 61).

The Vol. II, No. 2, spring, 1952, issue of *The Alphabet* was the first printed issue, The Vol. III, No. 1, issue set the format pattern which has been followed ever since. This issue contains the first picture of the Fraternity jewelry. The printing of the magazine is done at the Print Shop at Indiana State Teachers College, Terre Haute. Until fall, 1956, the Editor of *The Alphabet* also was Vice-President of the Fraternity.

During the year 1952-53, a contest was announced for the production of a "Fraternity song"; but no song has been adopted yet. A contest for designing an "advertising leaflet" for the Fraternity was conducted, with Mr. Grieg Aspnes serving as judge; the first prize of \$25.00 was won by Mrs. Olivia Cascadden, alumni member of Gamma. The Association of

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FRATERNITY HISTORY

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College and Reference Libraries contributed \$100 toward the publication cost, and Mr. Aspnes donated his advisory services; but, in order to fit the printing costs to the funds available, considerable modification of the prize-winning design was necessary.

The first half of the year of 1953 was a period of phenomenal growth for the Fraternity, with six new Chapters being established. Delta was installed by the Executive Secretary, at the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, on January 10. On January 17, Miss Rezina Senter, acting on behalf of the Executive Secretary, installed Epsilon at Murray State College, Murray, Kentucky; later Honorary Member Dr. Lawrence Thompson presented the Chapter with its official charter. Honorary Member Mr. Arthur Hamlin conducted the ceremonies for Zeta, at Concord College, Athens, West Virginia, on April 11. The Executive Secretary installed Eta at Texas State College for Women, Denton, on May 6. Theta was installed on May 23 at Arizona State College, Tempe, by Mr. Harold Bachelor, acting on behalf of the Executive Secretary. And Honorary Member Mrs. Margaret Girdner installed Iota, on June 6, at San Jose State College, San Jose, California. The Executive Secretary presented Iota and Theta with their charters in June. With nine widely-spread Chapters, more than six hundred members, and more than \$1,000 in its treasury, the Fraternity was now definitely "in business." On February 8, 1953, the Fraternity received the national Field Award for outstanding work in the field of recruiting; the award consisted of a citation and a check for \$100.

During the earliest years of the Fraternity, the Sponsor and one elected member from each Chapter constituted the National Executive Committee; but after the number of Chapters had expanded beyond three, a change was necessitated because the National Constitution limits the number of Councilmen to six. Accordingly, effective in the fall of 1953, five Districts were set up—District No. 1, Louisiana and Texas; District No. 2, Alabama and Mississippi; District No. 3, Indiana and Kentucky; District No. 4, West Virginia; District No. 5, Arizona and California. At this time, the name "Executive Committee" was changed to "Executive Council." The first District Councilmen were Rebecca Adams (Eta), Joan Neal

(Beta), Brinda Smith (Epsilon), Miss Mary Helvy (Zeta), and Mr. Robert Jones (Theta).

In 1953, two wall-plaques, representing the fraternity crest and the fraternity coat of arms respectively, were designed, and were made available to the Chapters.

The fall, 1953, issue of *The Alphabet* contains a bibliography of twenty-eight articles and news notes regarding Alpha Beta Alpha published in *Wilson Library Bulletin* "Clearing House Newsletter," *Library Journal*, *ALA Bulletin*, *Louisiana Library Association Bulletin*, *College and Research Libraries*, "Louisiana Chapter SLA Bulletin," "ACRL Quarterly Newsletter," and *Special Libraries*.

The second, biennial National Convention was held on March 19-20, 1954, at Murray State College, Murray, Kentucky, with Epsilon as host Chapter; President Betty Barrow, of Delta, presided. The official Chapter Delegates in attendance were Fleming Thomas, Alpha; Mary Jane Weaver, Beta; Donna Bailey, Gamma; Rubie Jean Aultman, Delta; Brinda Smith, Epsilon; Joan Hurlley, Zeta; and Rebecca Adams, Eta; Theta and Iota were unable to send delegates. The speakers were Mr. David H. Clift, Executive Secretary of the American Library Association; Dr. Harold Lancour, Associate Director of the University of Illinois School of Library Science, and Executive Secretary of Beta Phi Mu, the Honorary Graduate Library Science Fraternity; Mr. Arthur Hamlin, Executive Secretary of the Association of College and Reference Libraries, and Honorary Member of ABA; Miss Louise Meredith, Tennessee State Supervisor of School Libraries; and Dr. E. J. Humeston, Director, University of Kentucky School of Library Science. Mr. William H. Jesse, Director of Libraries, University of Tennessee was present also. Dr. Ralph Woods, President of Murray State College, took an active part. Honorary Membership was conferred upon Mr. Clift on March 19, during the convention.

Kappa Chapter was installed by Mr. Arthur Hamlin, at State Teachers College, Millersville, Pennsylvania, on April 12, 1954; and two days later Lambda was installed by the Executive Secretary assisted by Alpha, at Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge. With the installation of Lambda, Louisiana became the first two-chapter state.

In 1954, for the first time, the Fraternity lost members through

death; the spring issue of *The Alphabet* contains an "In Memoriam" for Cornelia Eastland, Alpha; Lorena Cullison, Gamma; and Sarah McCulrkin Motherwell, Delta.

The college year 1954-55 was a quiet one for the Fraternity, a year of consolidating past gains and planning for the future. No new Chapters were added, but the total membership increased about fifteen percent.

The November, 1954, issue of *Education* magazine contained an article about Alpha Beta Alpha (pp. 133-36); and a write-up of the Fraternity appeared in the *American Library Annual*, 1956, of which Honorary Member Mr. Wyllis E. Wright is editor. In 1957, the *World Almanac* began including ABA in the list of fraternities. And the forthcoming third edition of the *Encyclopedia of American Associations* will contain a write-up of the Fraternity.

Three Chapters were added to the roll in the year 1955-56; Mu was installed at Illinois State Normal University, Normal, on February 25, by Gamma; Nu was installed by Zeta, on April 15, at Marshall College, Huntington, West Virginia; and Xi, was installed by Mu, at Iowa State Teachers College, Cedar Falls, on May 26. At the close of the school year, the national treasury contained more than \$2,000.

The third, biennial National Convention was scheduled to be held at the University of Alabama, on April 5-6, with Delta as host Chapter. But a last-minute cancellation was necessary because an unfortunate situation developed which was beyond the control of the University or of the Fraternity.

The 1957 edition of *Baird's Manual of American College Fraternities* contains a full write-up of Alpha Beta Alpha with an illustration of the pin.

On April 5, 1957, Omicron Chapter was installed at Florida A. & M. University, by a special representative of the Executive Secretary—Dr. Louis Shores, Dean of the Florida State University Library School; and eight days later, Eta installed Pi Chapter at Our Lady of the Lake College, San Antonio, Texas.

After three years had elapsed since the meeting at Murray, a National Convention was held at Indiana State Teachers College, Terre Haute, April 26-27, 1957, with Gamma serving as host Chapter. Inasmuch as Miss Mc-

(Continued on next page)

FRATERNITY HISTORY

(Continued from page 7)

Calla was in Lebanon, Susan Bush and Mrs. Ruby Weinbrecht served as local co-chairmen. National President Kathryn Ann Bryson, Zeta, presided. The official Chapter Delegates were: Kay McFarland, Alpha; Barbara McMillen, Beta; Shirley Resener, Gamma; Nancy E. Bell, Delta; Linda Dillard, Epsilon; Shirley Evans, Zeta; Janice Rich, Eta; Lillie King Shaw, Theta; Mary Ann Simas, Iota; Ella Worrell, Kappa; Eleanor Eastwood, Mu; Francis Green, Xi; and Betty Shannon, Omicron. Lambda and Nu were unable to send representatives. The speakers included Mrs. Grace Stevenson, Associate Executive Director, American Library Association; Dr. Harold Brigham, Indiana State Librarian, and 2nd Vice-President, American Library Association; Dr. Richard Harwell, Executive Secretary, Association of College and Research Libraries; Miss Sarah Fenwick, faculty member, Graduate Library School, University of Chicago; and Miss Alice Lohrer, faculty member, School of Library Science, University of Illinois. Seventy-eight persons registered officially, and a number of others attended one or two sessions.

This was the first Convention to feature "Circles of Information on Chapter Improvement"; three circles were conducted, dealing with "program planning," "financing," and "recruiting," respectively. Several important business matters were discussed, and some significant policies were determined at the business session. Honorary membership was conferred upon Mrs. Stevenson and Dr. Harwell the first day of the Convention.

During the year 1957-58, three Chapters were added: Rho Chapter, at State Teachers College, Kutztown, Pennsylvania, was installed by Kappa, on November 20; Sigma was installed by Gamma on March 22, at Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo; and on May 18, Mu installed Tau Chapter at Northern Illinois University, DeKalb.

It was during this year that The Alphabet changed its publication schedule from a semi-annual basis to three issues per year. And in the spring newly-created membership certificates, suitable for framing, were supplied to all members. At about this same time the National Constitution was printed in booklet form and distributed to all Chapters and members of the Executive Council. In ac-

cordance with a resolution adopted at the 1957 Convention, all Chapters were urged to conduct book-fairs in the spring, preferably during "National Library Week," as being a most appropriate and effective method of raising funds.

In September, 1958, Miss Daisy Cox, a long-time member of Alpha, was employed on an hourly basis to serve as a clerical assistant to the Executive Secretary, the record-keeping at the Executive Office having increased in volume to such an extent that it could no longer be handled satisfactorily on a volunteer basis; Miss Cox continued to serve in this capacity until May, 1960.

Upsilon Chapter was installed at Shepherd College, Shepherdstown, West Virginia, on November 1, 1958, by Zeta; West Virginia thereby became the first three-Chapter state. Miss Eunice Speer, Sponsor of Mu, represented Alpha Beta Alpha at the inauguration of President Lewis Knoblauch at Western Illinois University, on November 6; this was the first time that the Fraternity had been invited to send an official representative to an inauguration.

The fourth, biennial National Convention was held at Illinois State Normal University, Normal, Illinois, on April 24-25, 1959, with Mu Chapter serving as host, and National President Patsy Teague presiding. This was the first convention for which travel funds were provided from the National treasury for National Officers only; on prior occasions every Chapter sending a delegate had received a subsidy from the Fraternity.

The official Chapter Delegates were Billie Joiner, Alpha; Sarah Ann West, Beta; Gene Norman, Gamma; Julia Reeves, Epsilon; Nancy Miller, Zeta; Vanita Lee, Eta; Janet Cooper, Kappa; Pearl Gondrella, Lambda; Valerie Wilford, Mu; Marvia Bryant, Omicron; Kitty Tovar, Pi; Jack Moyer, Rho; Patricia Corkey, Sigma; and William Sherman, Tau. Delta, Theta, Iota, Nu, and Xi were unable to send delegates. The principal speakers were Dr. Harold Lancour, Associate Director, School of Library Science, University of Illinois, and Executive Secretary of Beta Phi Mu; Miss Kathleen B. Stebbins, Personnel Director, Detroit Public Library, and President, Library Education Division, American Library Association; Honorary Member Miss Esther V. Burrin, Librarian, Westlane Junior High School, Indianapolis, Indiana, and President-

Elect, American Association of School Librarians; and Miss Dorothy Kittel, Consultant Library-Community Project, American Library Association, Chicago.

Again the "Circles of Information" were conducted, as in the 1957 Convention, and again they dealt with program, recruiting, and financing. Much business was taken up, and a number of important decisions made. Dr. Harold Lancour was made an Honorary Member on April 24, immediately after the convention banquet.

The fall, 1959, issue of *The Alphabet* was the first "Handbook Issue," with a table of dates and deadlines, a directory of National and Chapter officers, an analysis of the Chapter Reports for the previous year, and suggestions for programs at Chapter meetings.

Winter and spring, 1960, witnessed the addition of three new Chapters. On January 16, Sigma installed Phi Chapter, at Central Michigan University; Chi Chapter was installed at North Texas State College, on March 31, by Eta; and on May 22, Psi Chapter was installed by Epsilon on the campus of Southeast Missouri State College, Cape Girardeau.

A National Award Certificate of Merit was created, to be given annually by each Chapter to its most outstanding member. The first certificates are to be presented at the close of the 1961 spring semester.

On May 3, 1960, all Chapters held celebrations in honor of the tenth birthday of the Fraternity. Alpha surprised the Executive Secretary with a "this is your life" program, centering around the birth and development of the Fraternity.

At the close of the year 1959-60 the membership had reached a total of 1,576; and petitions for the establishment of additional chapters had been received from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville; Madison College, Harrisonburg, Virginia; and Francis T. Nicholls College, Thibodaux, Louisiana.

In accordance with his announcement made at the 1959 Convention, Executive Secretary Dr. Eugene P. Watson retired from the position he had held for a decade; and Miss Eunice H. Speer, Mu, was elected to take over the Executive Secretaryship, effective November 1, 1960, thus transferring the National Headquarters of the Fraternity to the campus of Illinois State Normal University, Normal, Illinois.

Our Presidents

Helene Belisle (Alpha), May, 1950—January, 1951; Sallie Harper (Alpha), February, 1951—January, 1952; Jo Ann Scott (Beta), February—March, 1952; Ann Baird (Beta), April, 1952—January, 1953; Mary Rose Clipp (Gamma), February, 1953—August, 1953; Betty Barrow (Delta), 1953-54; Rebecca Adams Hogan (Eta), Fall, 1954; Jane Horner (Gamma), Spring and Summer, 1955; Marilyn Markert (Iota), 1955-56; Kathryn Ann Bryson (Zeta), 1956-57; Marilyn Mellott, (Kappa), 1957-58; Patsy Teague (Epsilon), 1958-59; Elsie M. Wilken (Mu), 1959-60; Patricia Pledger Moore (Eta); 1960—.

Librarians, Too, Are People

James Aswell

You are the custodians of all the civilization there is. A case might be made for the proposition that there is not much civilization anywhere in the world—but such as there is, is in your care.

Men speak of the needs of the age: of security from womb to tomb; of higher wages, lower prices; of the atomic bomb's threat; of dictators; of Communism; of flood control; of highway accidents; of U.N.'s; and Big Fours and Big Fives and Big Shots.

But all these things would blow away if men would partake of the contents of those shelves and stacks you guard—guard to open and give of them to all comers; if men would read, not as a chore—not for self-improvement—but for fun.

I would rather see our literacy rise in this state than our income. It will rise when people read for fun. When they read because reading is the only pleasure of man—the only pleasure which isn't open to the charge that it costs more than its worth—the only pleasure which, unlike Security and the other shibboleths, actually increases and grows greater from womb to tomb.

You modern librarians, as this program of several days testifies, are doing your part to open up the golden excitements of the mind to all.

You know you can only offer, you cannot force. You know that you are the custodians, not of any transitory social taboos, but of the whole stream of our culture. You seek no more to

Our Sponsors

Alpha — Mrs. Lucille Carnahan, (May 3, 1950)

Beta — Mrs. Kenneth Gatchel (December 2, 1950)

Gamma — Miss Nelle McCalla (February 8, 1952—August 31, 1959) Mr. Walter T. McCauley (September 1, 1959)

Delta — Mrs. Pauline M. Foster (January 10, 1953)

Epsilon — Miss Rezina E. Senter (January 17, 1953)

Zeta — Mrs. Virginia H. Fanning (April 11, 1953)

Eta — Mrs. Frances DeCordova (May 6, 1953)

Theta — Mr. Harold Bachelor (May 23, 1953—August 31, 1956) Mrs. Inez W. Moffitt (September 1, 1957)

Iota — Miss Dora Smith (June 6, 1953—August 31, 1959) Mr. Leslie H. Janke (September 1, 1959)

Kappa — Miss Coral Melson (April 12, 1954)

Lambda — Miss Norris McClellan (April 14, 1954—January 20, 1958) Dr. Shirley K. Stephenson (January 21, 1958)

Mu — Miss Eunice H. Speer (February 25, 1956)

Nu — Miss Virginia Locke (April 15, 1956—August 31, 1959) Miss Julia Schwartz (September 1, 1959)

Xi — Miss Gertrude Voelker (May 26, 1956—February 12, 1957) Mr. Everett Howell (February 13, 1957—August 31, 1959) Miss Eileen Noonan (September 1, 1959)

Omicron — Miss Emily Copeland (April 5, 1957—August 31, 1959; and September 1, 1960) Mr. James S. Miller (September 1, 1959—August 31, 1960)

Pi — Sister Jane Marie (April 13, 1957)

Rho — Mr. Nicholas G. Stevens (November 20, 1957)

editor, but only to transmit. The lock is strong and the gate is high but you will do your part—you are doing it nobly in this meeting—to break down the barriers and open up man—to himself.

(From the Address which he delivered at the first National Convention.)

Sigma — Miss Esther Carter (March 22, 1958)

Tau — Miss Bernadine Hanby (May 18, 1958—August 31, 1959) Mr. Jonathan R. Ashton (September 1, 1959)

Upsilon — Mr. John S. Maine (November 1, 1958)

Phi — Mr. Orville L. Eaton (January 16, 1960)

Chi — Dr. David A. Webb (March 31, 1960)

Psi — Mr. Graham Sadler (May 22, 1960)

Editors of the Alphabet

Members of Alpha Chapter—Fall, 1950; members of Beta Chapter—Spring, 1951; members of Alpha Chapter—Fall, 1951; Mary Rose Clipp (Gamma) — Spring, 1952, through Fall, 1952; Donna Bailey (Gamma)—Spring, 1953; Virginia Shillings (Gamma)—Fall, 1953, through Spring, 1954; Goldie Johnson (Gamma)—Fall, 1954, through Spring, 1955; Susan Bush (Gamma)—Fall, 1955, through Spring, 1958; Darlene Meki (Gamma) — Fall, 1958—.

The Sounding Furrows

David H. Clift

... Books are the bench marks in man's search for knowledge, the enduring weapons in man's right to knowledge. We must never, as librarians, take away one whit from man's Freedom to Read and the Free Use of Knowledge. Rather, we must advance those rights as the never ending responsibility and privilege of librarians.

(From the Address which he delivered at the National Convention in 1954.)

Librarianship . . .

Librarianship provides the stimulation of work with all kinds of people, the broadening experience of contact with books and many other kinds of materials, the opportunity of utilizing special subject interests, the satisfaction of identification with a worthwhile service, the chance to work in various parts of the world.

—Louisiana Library Assn.

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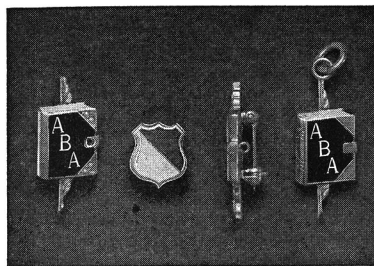
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THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

The National Executive Council of ABA is the administrative and policy-making body of the Fraternity, the Council is composed of the President, the Vice-President, the Treasurer, the Executive Secretary, and a Councilman from each of the six regional Districts. The Executive Council governs the Fraternity in accordance with the provisions of the National Constitution. The Chapters, which are

grouped into Districts according to their geographical location, are the basic units of Alpha Beta Alpha. Each Chapter has its own officers and its own Constitution, and is largely autonomous within the general organization of the Fraternity.

establishment of new libraries and the expansion and improvement of library services, there will be continuous demand for young men and women of ability to fill the positions in America's libraries.

—American Library Assn.

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All that Mankind has done, thought, gained or been: it is lying as in magic preservation in the pages of Books. They are the chosen possession of men. —Thomas Carlyle

THE ALPHABET

Official publication of Alpha Beta Alpha, national undergraduate Library Science Fraternity. Vol. X, Number 3. Published at Indiana State Teachers College, Terre Haute, Indiana. Subscription price 25 cents per year.

Darlene Meki Editor
Eugene P. Watson Exec. Sec.

Executive Office of Alpha Beta Alpha: P. O. Box 1117, Northwestern State College of Louisiana, Natchitoches, Louisiana.

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