



**Sigma Delta Pi:  
A Brief History  
The First Seventy-Five Years  
1919-1994**

**By T. Earle Hamilton  
(June 10, 1905 – October 2, 1996)**

Copyright © by Sigma Delta Pi  
[www.sigmadeltpi.org](http://www.sigmadeltpi.org)  
Published by Sigma Delta Pi in the U.S.A.  
First Edition (paperback): 1994  
Electronic Edition: 2004



Ruth Barnes, founder, inspiration, and guiding spirit of Sigma Delta Pi; we remember with gratitude and appreciation.

## Contents

<b>Electronic Edition</b> .....	vi
<b>Preface</b> .....	vii
<b>Chapter I</b> The Alpha Years, 1919-30 A Society Founded and Governed by Students.....	1
<b>Chapter II</b> Leavitt O. Wright, 1931-37 Nationalization of Sigma Delta Pi.....	10
<b>Chapter III</b> John T. Reid, 1938-41 A Voice and a Guide for the Society.....	22
<b>Chapter IV</b> F. Dewey Amner, 1942-48 Contribution to the War Effort.....	30
<b>Chapter V</b> Carl A. Tyre, 1948-59 A Decade of Successful Meetings, Triennial and Regional.....	42
<b>Chapter VI</b> T. Earle Hamilton, 1960-68 Improvement in Quality and in Numbers.....	54
<b>Chapter VII</b> Dolores Brown, 1969-71 Continued Expansion.....	72
<b>Chapter VIII</b> T. Earle Hamilton, 1972-77 Rapid Expansion, Financial Growth, and a New Edition of the Ritual.....	74
<b>Chapter IX</b> Richard E. Chandler, 1978-92 The Golden Years of Sigma Delta Pi.....	82
<b>Chapter X</b> John H. LaPrade, 1993-95 Awakening of the Dormant Chapters.....	120

<b>Appendix A</b>	
"The Sigma Delta Pi Charter and Certificate"	
by Robert Frederick Lane.....	122
<b>Appendix B</b>	
The Ritual.....	124
<b>Appendix C</b>	
Recruitment and Reactivation.....	129

## Electronic Edition

Commemorating the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Sigma Delta Pi in 1994, T. Earle Hamilton published this history of the Society to provide an important account of the numerous contributions made by our members and friends since the founding of Alpha Chapter at the University of California-Berkeley in 1919. Now in honor of Sigma Delta Pi's 85<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we are pleased to present this special online edition of Hamilton's book that will be followed later in 2004 by a supplement in electronic and hard copies covering the Society's history since the first printing of *A Brief History*.

To update the first edition for the current version, three editorial changes were implemented: 1) the correction of printing errors; 2) the addition of footnotes (which were not used in the first edition); 3) various formatting changes that better accommodate the online environment.

Assisting with this project was Ms. Mollie Jenkins, the Administrative Specialist of the Department of Modern Languages at The Citadel, who spent many hours converting *A Brief History* to an electronic format that could be prepared for its eventual, current form. Although ahead in the "Preface" Hamilton mentions "the computerization of the manuscript" (viii), the electronic copy was never located; therefore Ms. Jenkin's scanning of the book was essential.

I am also grateful to John H. LaPrade, President Emeritus of Sigma Delta Pi, for his invaluable editorial feedback.

Finally, on behalf of the current Executive Committee of Sigma Delta Pi (Germán D. Carrillo, President; John H. LaPrade, Past-President and President Emeritus; Richard E. Chandler, President Emeritus and Honorary President; Mark P. Del Mastro, Executive Secretary-Treasurer), I hope that the increased availability of Hamilton's book as this online edition affords all our Society's members and friends a greater knowledge of and appreciation for not only the history of this organization, but also for the accomplishments of the many individuals who so selflessly dedicated much of their professional lives to the noble mission of La Sociedad Nacional Honoraria Hispánica.

*Mark P. Del Mastro*  
*Charleston, South Carolina*  
*January 2004*

## Preface

When the writer was president of the society, he decided that a history should be written while it was still possible to consult some of the important participants. He was acquainted with a historical article by Professor Stuart M. Gross ("La Sociedad Nacional Hispánica, Sigma Delta Pi," *Hispania* July 1974, 67-70), but he envisioned a book-length account; so in 1973, he asked Dr. James O. Swain to write a history of the society. Even though his eyesight was failing—he had suffered from glaucoma for 30 years—he gladly agreed to do so; and at once he began writing what became largely a series of his own memories, for his acquaintance was wide and often intimate. In 1977, he sent Dr. Hamilton the completed manuscript, mostly handwritten. Shortly thereafter, an arsonist destroyed Dr. Hamilton's home and all its contents; so, assuming that Dr. Swain had retained a xeroxed copy, he immediately asked for another copy, but learned that someone had "cleaned out his files."

Some years later, at the suggestion of colleagues, Dr. Hamilton set himself the task of writing a history with emphasis upon the development of the national organization but with scant treatment of the individual chapters. Later, perhaps, someone will write a complete, detailed chronicle of each chapter and then assemble all these narratives in a more ambitious volume to supplement this little work.

In order to compile an accurate and authoritative history based on official records and correspondence rather than on memory, the writer acquired adequate source material through the kindness of friends. Outstanding among these was Dr. Charles B. Faulhaber, for many years chairman of the Department of Spanish and Portuguese at the University of California-Berkeley. He xeroxed the minutes of all the meetings of Alpha Chapter held during its first ten years and then presented the assembled pages to the writer as ". . . a gift of Alpha."

Earlier, one of the professors in this department wrote: "Unfortunately, there are no records of any minutes of the meetings of Alpha, so I cannot say whether they have simply been lost over the years, or were never kept." Nevertheless, Dr. Faulhaber was determined to find them, and finally he wrote with enthusiasm: "¡Albricias! After a certain amount of rummaging through the offices of my colleagues, I managed to find the letter file containing the records of Alpha." According to Dr. Faulhaber, the minutes were ". . . written in a typical cloth-covered ledger of the period with red leatherette comers." Although the book was officially called "Libro del Secretario y Tesorero," it was generally known as the "Record," and it is so called in this history. So if this professor had not been so persistent, this history might not have been written, at least certainly not in its present form. Obviously, then, our debt to him is immense.

Also, Dr. Faulhaber put the writer in touch with University Archivist William M. Roberts, who quickly located a picture of Ruth Barnes, founder of the society, and he promptly supplied the copy used as the frontispiece of this little book.

Dr. Anthony J. Cascardi, adviser of Alpha chapter, furnished the writer information on Juan C. Cebrián and on William Berrien, and a history of the Department of Spanish and Portuguese at Berkeley by Dr. S. G. Morley.

When Dr. Carl A. Tyre completed his tenure as president in 1959, he shipped the writer a two-drawer oak filing cabinet containing the folders on the installation of all chapters from Alpha to Gamma Pi, and the writer filled the cabinet by adding chapter

folders through Epsilon Phi (1965). The drawers contained also the correspondence of President Leavitt O. Wright and of President John T. Reid, including their "General Letters." The latter were issued six or seven times a year to keep the chapters fully informed. They were also of great value to the writer. This cabinet and several additional drawers of correspondence were stored in another house, so they escaped the fire mentioned above. These drawers of correspondence, along with the other source material mentioned, enabled the writer to document nearly every statement made in this history. He relied heavily on his almost complete file of *Entre Nosotros*, many early numbers of which were made available to him by Professor Stuart M. Gross.

The writer is indebted to Miss Maurene Merritt, marketing manager for the L. G. Balfour Company (fraternity jewelers), for sending him a copy of the original Sigma Delta Pi contract dated June 22, 1932, and copies of other important material.

Dr. William Moellering was called upon for his recollections based on his personal acquaintance with Drs. John T. Reid, Aurelio M. Espinosa, *padre*, S. G. Morley, and others of that community and time. Too, he was asked for some interpretations, and his replies were elucidating.

The writer is especially appreciative of Dr. Richard E. Chandler, who was always willing, when asked, to devote his time and thought at every stage in the production of this little history: helpful suggestions on the writing, sound advice on the choice of the style and size of type, the selection of the printer, and his service as a consultant in the computerization of the manuscript.

Dr. Hamilton asked Mrs. Ivy Strahle, formerly Dr. Chandler's bilingual secretary, to computerize the history, and Dr. Chandler generously made all arrangements, and then guided his capable secretary in carrying out the writer's wishes. This task required Dr. Chandler to drive across town to the university many times and to engage in considerable correspondence to offer valuable suggestions to the writer and to ascertain his preferences. Secretary Ivy Strahle, a perfectionist, was quick to catch any inconsistent or erroneous statement. Using brackets, she felt free to interrupt any passage to challenge a questionable phrase or sentence. The writer's choice was a fortunate one.

The writer is grateful to Dr. Ignacio R. M. Galbis for his encouragement and for his helpful suggestions for the improvement of various passages.

Finally, the writer acknowledges the patience of his wife, Juanita, in reading all copy. Her sharp eyesight enabled her to find errors that escaped his defective vision.

The MLA Style Manual (1985, p. 2) clearly states the importance of writing in such a way as to avoid giving offense to any class, and emphasizes one aspect. "Discussions and statements concerning nondiscriminatory language has forced particular attention on avoiding language that could be labeled 'sexist.' For example, most scholarly writers no longer use 'he' to refer to someone of unspecified sex."

Consider this sentence: "When Professor Dorothy Gibson offers a qualified student membership in the local chapter, sometimes he is financially unable to accept the invitation." Since the noun "student" may be masculine or feminine, some of the writer's colleagues insisted that this use of "he" is "sexist," and advised him to substitute "he or she" or "he/she"; and one, whose style was informal, even suggested the widely used "they." After mature consideration, the writer decided to ignore the caveat of the highly respected authority quoted and instead to continue his "generic" use of "he" as preferable

to the awkward or ungrammatical alternatives, confident that the reader would understand his motives.

The writer expresses his deep appreciation to all not mentioned above who have unknowingly contributed to this brief history. Among these, the writer remembers a gracious lady, Doña Joaquina Navarro, who kindly sent him a detailed biography of her father, and in her covering letter, she wrote: "Le incluyo un ejemplar, el último que tenemos de su último libro, La voz y la entonación en los personajes literarios." Sigma Delta Pi is grateful to Dr. Navarro Tomás for his fifty-two years of unselfish service and for his associating his illustrious name forever with the history of this society.

*T. Earle Hamilton  
Columbus, Texas  
November 14, 1994*



T. Earle Hamilton when he became President at 55.

## Chapter I

### The Alpha Years, 1919-30

#### A Society Conceived, Founded, and Governed by Students

By the shores of San Francisco Bay on the old Rancho San Antonio, that was granted by the governor of California to the Peralta family in 1820, a great center of learning was built, and there Sigma Delta Pi had its beginning. Did some providential power guide the pen of the official as he chose a custodian for the land that ninety-nine years later would give rise to an honor society dedicated to the dissemination of Spanish culture? We can only wonder, but we do know that the government of Spain later recognized and encouraged the work of this society.

The year was 1919, and the chill autumnal breezes from the bay swept across the Berkeley campus exhilarating hurrying students, reawakening their ambitions, and lifting their spirits, spirits already high because many who had put aside their books to answer the stem call of urgent duty had just returned with stirring tales of Château-Thierry, St. Mihiel, the Meuse-Argonne, and Belleau Woods. One student, Ruth Barnes, will be especially remembered, for it was in her mind that an honor society in Spanish was first conceived. On the evening of November 14, she invited six friends, all outstanding students with a deep love of Spanish culture, to her home at 2545 Dwight Way. Ruth enthusiastically explained to them her plans to form an honor society in Spanish similar to some other societies on the campus, such as Pi Delta Phi (French) and Tau Beta Pi (engineering), each of which established a chapter in 1906. Actually, the French society was founded there, but was then only a local club. After hearing Ruth's presentation and her assurance that she had discussed the proposal with members of the Spanish staff and had received their encouragement, all were elated and immediately voted unanimously to form the society. Following the pattern set by Phi Beta Kappa in 1776, Greek letters were selected, but they represented a non-Greek name, "La Sociedad del Prado," instead of a motto in Greek, the former a practice all too common among later honor societies.

Most honor societies were founded by university professors or administrators, but Sigma Delta Pi, it should be noted, was conceived, planned, founded, and then directed entirely by students until Dr. Leavitt O. Wright became the first national president in 1931. Although the seven founding members (Ruth Barnes, president, Miriam Burt, Ferdinand V. Custer, secretary, Anna Krause, Margaret Priddle, Ruth Rhodes, and Vera Stump) and many later members were outstanding academically, idealistic, and zealous, they lacked the experience and the knowledge needed to guide efficiently the development of an honor society. Since they had no long-range plan, they sometimes took important measures haphazardly and inconsistently. The minutes often omitted important proceedings and details, and this fact undoubtedly created some problems for later officers, and certainly renders difficult the task of a historian. As the society continued to grow and to establish chapters at other universities across the land, and the officers of Alpha chapter, as required by their constitution, tried to direct what had become a de facto national organization, the burden of their studies and the growing

apathy of local members finally caused them to falter and in desperation to beg one of their former leaders, then a university professor, to save the society.

Today the constituent members of the Association of College Honor Societies, of which Sigma Delta Pi has been a respected member since 1966, confess that one of their most serious problems is keeping a competent adviser in each chapter, for they have all found that if the sponsor is inefficient, or leaves, the chapter often becomes inactive. In view of this fact, we must admire the members of Alpha chapter who created an honor society, nourished it for ten years, aroused the interest of esteemed scholars in California and other states, and established chapters in fifteen other universities-and they accomplished all this entirely on their own without an adviser to guide and coerce them! So, even with all their imperfections, they deserve the highest praise, for what they achieved is unparalleled in annals of the honor-society movement.

### **Presidency of Ruth Barnes**

The fledgling society held its second meeting on December 25 and chose for its insignia the coat of arms of Spain during the Golden Age with the Greek initials placed in the center in the colors of the Spanish flag, red and gold, and President Barnes was authorized to have the art work prepared. Before March 23, 1920, when the third meeting was held, all seven members had received a copy of the insignia, and we may assume that a contract for gold pins was negotiated with the Gualterio Shaw Company of San Francisco, although the first mention of this does not appear in the Record (the collected minutes of all the meetings) until the meeting of April 14, 1922, when the members decided to investigate this jeweler because they had not received their pins. Before this meeting, it is probable, also, that the first constitution was written, for reference was made to it at the meeting on December 2, 1920. It is probable, too, that certificates of membership were printed after the preparation of the art work, although they were never mentioned in the Record. It is clear, too, that a ritual was prepared early, for a discussion of the need for changes was mentioned at the December meeting in 1921. At the third meeting, in the home of President Barnes, the society began the performance of one of its principal functions, the recognition of meritorious students and prominent professors, selecting eight students, including L. B. Simpson, for active membership, and six professors for honorary membership. At the following meeting, in the home of Miriam Burt (1629 Walnut) on May 1, all the students were initiated, but only two of the professors, Dr. S. G. Morley and Dr. Carlos Bransby, attended to receive the honor. Following the initiation, all were served refreshments and then played games.

In summary, the academic year of 1919-20 at the University of California at Berkeley will be long remembered for the impetus given Hispanic studies by the creation of Sigma Delta Pi. Out of Ruth Barnes's deep love of Spanish culture arose a dream, and she spent a year bringing it to reality and establishing it firmly so that future leaders would have a foundation on which to build. First, she persuaded professors of Spanish to approve her idea, then she invited six other students to join her in forming a society, and with their help selected a coat of arms, had art work prepared, and used this for the printing of certificates and the manufacture of gold pins; and she probably directed the writing of a constitution and a ritual. She closed the year with the initiation of eight student members and two professors.

## Presidency of Herberto Sein

During the second year of the society, 1920-21, Ruth served on only one committee, but surely the new officers (President Herberto Sein and Secretary-Treasurer Ricardo Ehlers) must have sought her counsel and guidance, and she probably contributed considerably to their success. As the second year began, the first decision made was that only Spanish should be spoken during the meetings, but a second decision, to extend invitations to other universities to establish "sucursales," was of far greater importance, for it revealed the vision of these student members. This was the very first step that determined that Sigma Delta Pi should become a great national society instead of a local club. The members showed their enthusiasm and their dedication by voting to present plays from time to time, and they immediately selected three, *Mañana de sol*, *Sin amar*, and *El encanto de una hora*. Parts were assigned at the next meeting.

On April 15, 1921, the financial struggle of a growing society surfaced for the first time, precipitated by the charge for a page in the *Blue and Gold*, the yearbook, and expenses incidental to recruiting new chapters; so each member was assessed fifty cents. Two amendments to the constitution were proposed: one, to accept candidates with a minor in Spanish, defeated; and the other, to eliminate the limitation on the number of new members, approved. Thirteen new active members, including Robert Spalding, and one honorary member, Mrs. Beatrice Cornish (who became one of their favorite professors), were accepted for the annual initiation. After meeting once in the Sigma Kappa House, it was decided to hold all future meetings in fraternity and sorority houses, one of many decisions made without sufficient thought. Most of their later meetings were held in Wheeler Hall.

In their second term of office, 1921-22, Herberto Sein and Ricardo Ehlers proceeded boldly and confidently, and were particularly successful in setting in motion a drive to recruit new chapters. On November 2, 1921, Alpha chapter approved the petition of the University of Missouri to install Beta chapter, but chose to return the petition of the University of Oregon for some changes. It was later accepted, however, and Gamma chapter was installed. Consideration of a petition from the University of Idaho to found Delta chapter was postponed. Standards for the admission of new chapters were adopted, and the fee was increased from fifteen to twenty-five dollars.

During the academic year 1921-22, two initiations were held, one in October and the other in March. In the fall, fourteen active members were admitted, and Dr. Rodolfo Schevill attended. Afterward, a banquet was held, followed by songs. In the spring, eighteen active members joined along with four honorary members, including Dr. David P. Barrows, president of the university. One elected candidate was unable to attend the initiation, but nevertheless he was admitted to membership. This, of course, is not permitted in the society today.

The rapid growth of Alpha chapter demanded some changes to increase efficiency, so the constitution was amended to require each candidate to be a Spanish major with at least nine semester hours in the upper division, and those who had a grade of "C" were required to have a cumulative grade point average of at least 1.9. A committee of student members was appointed to look up the grades of prospective members, a practice strictly forbidden in the society today. For the first time, membership dues were voted, a dollar each semester.

The direction of all the activities of the society proved to be too much for the two officers, so an executive committee consisting of the officers and two other members was appointed. This did not solve the problem, so an amendment to the constitution provided for five officers: a president, a vice president (publicity director), a recording secretary, a corresponding secretary, and a treasurer. It was decided to elect officers for the ensuing academic year at the last meeting in the spring; but at the first meeting in the fall, a flaw became apparent when it was necessary to hold another election to provide replacements for the two secretaries who did not return to the campus, a problem that occurred again and again through the years.

### **Presidency of Ferdinand V. Custer**

Ferdinand V. Custer, one of the founding members and the first secretary, was elected president for the fourth academic year, 1922-23, and at the first meeting he presented a petition from the University of Maryland. It was approved, and Maryland was granted Delta chapter. President Custer expanded the executive committee by including all five officers and two other members. The chapter empowered this committee to conduct all the affairs of the society, but specified that it should not contract any debts, and that it should meet "cuando sea preciso y prudente." The chapter decided that all regular meetings of the society should be devoted to literary and social activities, and that the other meetings, except for initiations, should be open to invited friends of the Spanish language. The parenthetical restriction clearly informs us that all initiations in Alpha chapter were secret, as they continued in the national society until 1984. Although it appears that no provision was made for business meetings, the chapter continued to conduct business at nearly every meeting.

To enable the chapter to have stationary printed, the members voted to increase their dues from a dollar to two dollars a semester. At the next meeting, the first report of the treasurer was presented: \$43.00 on hand! No progress in recruitment of new chapters was reported during Custer's term. In order to encourage members to attend the next initiation, it was decided to send a postal card to each one, announcing that coffee, tamales, and sandwiches would be served, but the Record is silent about the response to this enticement and about the names or numbers of the initiates.

### **Presidency of Anna McCune**

Anna McCune, president in the fifth year, 1923-24, placed emphasis on the recruitment of new chapters, on encouraging the members of the Spanish staff to work with the 7 society, and making the operations more efficient. She was successful in all these endeavors and more.

The Record states that the president read several articles of the constitution to the chapter, and that the members then made a momentous decision: ". . . el asunto más importante de la sociedad era de establecer otros ramos." Although no copy of any early constitution is extant, this reference implies that very early the student members envisioned a large national organization, and, the Record relates that they worked diligently to this end. At this same meeting, the first of the fall of 1923, it was decided to appoint a standing committee to recruit new chapters, and this committee was instructed

to make special efforts to establish a chapter at Stanford University and at the University of California a Los Angeles. The University of Southern California submitted a petition, but the chapter decided to await additional information before considering it. At the meeting on April 21, 1924, President McCune presented a petition from the College of Wooster, and the members voted to authorize the executive committee to approve the petition and to assign the college Epsilon chapter. At one of the meetings, a letter from Beta chapter, Missouri, was read, and at another meeting, a visiting representative from Gamma chapter, Oregon, gave a report.

As a part of her plan to enlist the cooperation of the members of the staff, President McCune invited the first honorary member, Dr. S. G. Morley, to attend the meeting in October 1923, and he gave an interesting talk on the Hermanos Quintero. At the meeting in December, ten active members were initiated, followed by a talk by Dr. E. C. Hills, refreshments, and *cuentos* related by each person. At the initiation in March 1924, eight new members were admitted, refreshments were served, and two other members of the teaching staff, Mrs. Cornish and Miss Goddard, gave talks. At another meeting, the members voted to accept as honorary members all the "profesores de español" not already members, except Professor Buceta, who, incidentally, did not take offense, if we may judge by the fact that he attended later meetings and appeared on one of their programs. He was made an honorary member later.

As a final act, the president took an unprecedented step, proposing the election of advisers. Four were nominated: Cornish, Goddard, Hills, and Morley, and Cornish and Hills were elected. The earlier statement that the affairs of the society were conducted entirely by students without the help of advisers appears to be fully justified, for Mrs. Cornish and Dr. Hills cooperated by offering encouragement and giving advice only when sought, but it seems that the initiative was entirely that of the students, and we hear no more of advisers in the later years of Alpha chapter.

So that the work of the chapter might be done more efficiently, the members voted to appoint several outstanding committees: a committee to find speakers and to arrange social functions, another to select new members, and a third to recruit new chapters. The members voted to reaffirm the executive committee and strengthen it by authorizing it to take charge of all the affairs of the society. The chapter decided to have as a speaker at each meeting a teacher, a consul, or another person interested in the Spanish language and in Spanish culture, and to meet the first Wednesday of each month, but like all their other inflexible decisions, these were largely ignored.

A few unrelated matters completed a very full year. Again, an assessment of a dollar was made to pay for a page in the *Blue and Gold*, the university yearbook. The University Alumni Association asked Sigma Delta Pi to entertain visitors during Homecoming Week, but the members voted to do this jointly with the *Círculo Cervantes*, the Spanish club, and they decided on a program of Spanish songs and dances. Finally, the chapter signed a contract with Burke and Company to supply pins to all the chapters for two years.

### **Presidency of Eugene Lueders**

Eugene Lueders was elected president to serve during the sixth year, 1924-25, and the national organization was his principal concern. At the meeting on March 10, 1925, he announced, according to Secretary Saima Regina Koski: "Debido a los esfuerzos de la

señorita Verna Whittaker, antigua secretaria corresponsal de Sigma Delta Pi, nuestra sociedad se ha hecho una organización nacional, el último ramo siendo de Austin, Texas." There were then six chapters in the society: Alpha, the University of California at Berkeley; Beta, the University of Missouri; Gamma, the University of Oregon; Delta, the University of Maryland; Epsilon, the College of Wooster; and Zeta, the University of Texas at Austin. President Lueders declared that the officers of Alpha would continue to serve as national officers in accordance with the requirements of the constitution. The members of the chapter therefore decided to leave all details of the national organization in the hands of a committee composed of the officers of Alpha.

Two changes were voted: 1) Only those who paid their dues would be considered active members; and 2) The corresponding secretary was to mail cards to members to announce each meeting.

Two initiations were held during the academic year of 1925-26, one in November and one in April. At the fall meeting, thirteen active members were initiated and then each was required to speak. Refreshments were served, and all engaged in general conversation. At the spring meeting, the chapter admitted seven new members, six active members, including Leavitt O. Wright, who impressed the members with an address on the influence of the United States on education in Mexico, and one honorary member, Dr. Horace I. Priestley, who spoke on Mexico. This talk was followed by a few words from each of the other initiates, and then refreshments were served.

Among the matters of business, the members voted to take a full page in *Blue and Gold*, and to have Treasurer Walter Smith take charge of the purchase of the jewelry and stationery. He announced that \$7.00 were on hand, so the chapter authorized him to purchase carnations for Mrs. Beatrice Cornish.

### **Presidency of Leavitt O. Wright**

Leavitt O. Wright, president in the seventh year, 1925-26, was a human dynamo. He was charged with enthusiasm and was very ambitious for the society. His first interest was in expanding Sigma Delta Pi nationally. Of his work, Secretary May Stewart wrote in the Record: "Ha sido infatigable, y tiene muchas cartas de unas diez universidades interesadas, y otras cartas de los capítulos de esta organización. Parecen ser interesados y activos." He called the first meeting of Alpha for August 31, and put three committees to work: Expansion, Membership, and Social. On October 22, he announced the founding of Eta chapter at the University of Southern California. On January 26, President Wright fully explained his plans to expand the society, and added that Dr. Hills had prepared a list of universities suitable for chapters. An application arrived from the University of Ohio, but action on this was delayed pending the completion of the petition of the University of Illinois. Baker College in Kansas also applied, but was rejected because it did not have a chapter of Phi Beta Kappa. About this time, Theta chapter was granted to the University of Idaho and Iota to the University of California at Los Angeles, although the Record makes no allusion to this, and Kappa was installed at Stanford University on March 2, 1926. On this occasion, President Wright led thirty members of Alpha chapter to Palo Alto by bus at the cost of \$2.00 each, and initiated sixteen active and two honorary members, Drs. Allen and Espinosa. A banquet followed, Dr. Espinosa and

President Wright spoke, and the Stanford initiates told *cuentecitos*. The members of Alpha chapter then returned to Berkeley by bus, undoubtedly inspired to redouble their efforts to bring more chapters into the family of Sigma Delta Pi.

At the next Alpha meeting, notice was received from the University of Illinois that the petitioning group had proposed Drs. Fitz-Gerald, Seymour, and Van Home for honorary membership, and at the same meeting there was a discussion of the national constitution. It was agreed that all authority should continue to be vested in Alpha for two more years with the executive secretary (the corresponding secretary) directing the business of the national organization. A corresponding secretary was then designated to handle the chapter correspondence. The chapter also elected a national committee of "four honorary members from four chapters," but actually two, including the chairman, were from Alpha. They were: Drs. E. C. Hills, chairman (Alpha), Aurelio M. Espinosa (Kappa), John D. Fitz-Gerald (Lambda), and Rodolfo Schevill (Alpha). These names were submitted to all the chapters for approval. The functions of this committee were not described, and the Record does not mention the committee again.

President Wright brought about many changes during his year in office, and several of these became permanent. Noteworthy was the decision that membership should not be denied because of race. In addition to the purely scholastic requirements for membership, in force since the founding, recommendations of professors was now added, but no reference to character as a requirement was made. Through the years a few "special members" were admitted, but no official status was given to this category that later evolved into associate membership. President Wright's most important contribution, however, was his writing of a new ritual that continued in use for many years. It was not until after he became national president that he made the revisions which made it essentially the ritual which the society has used for over half a century. It seems strange that the Record should contain no reference to this work, but perhaps the secretary did not recognize its value and so could not foresee the praise that some of Spain's greatest scholars would lavish on it.

The chapter decided to have the jeweler prepare a key in addition to the pin, and authorized the printing of new stationery with the society's insignia. The pricing of the stationery is interesting: \$1.00 per pound for paper and \$1.60 per pound for printing, a total of \$2.60 per pound.

As has been mentioned, the name of this honor society was La Sociedad del Prado, and the founders, evidently not students of Greek, simply chose Greek letters for the Spanish name. Leavitt O. Wright, who was versed in Greek and Latin as well as in Spanish and other languages, and who had developed a sense of propriety, set about to correct this anomaly by devising a motto in Greek to correspond to the letters already selected. He suggested what may be transliterated fairly accurately "Spanías didagéi proágomen," which, of course, has become an essential part of our ritual and of our insignia.

Many years ago, Dr. Wright told the writer that the letters "Pi Delta Phi" stand for the French "Pour défendre le français," and that the letters in the Italian society, Pi Mu Iota, stand for the Latin words "Pro musa italica." He therefore prepared Greek mottoes for both; that for Pi Delta Phi is still being used, but Pi Mu Iota is now defunct. Incidentally, he established very close relations among the French, Italian, and Spanish societies, and

one joint meeting was held during his term, and that close relationship between Pi Delta Phi and Sigma Delta Pi has continued to this day on a national basis.

The members of the Spanish staff began to show a greater interest in Sigma Delta Pi. Dr. Hills suggested a list of universities suitable for a chapter, Dr. Schevill wrote "an amusing letter," which President Wright read, Mrs. Cornish spoke on the paintings of Velasquez, and others spoke at the next two initiations. In September of 1925, the chapter initiated ten active members and three honorary members, Drs. Charles E. Chapman, Richard Holbrook, and Herbert H. Vaughan; and Dr. Vaughan spoke on Dante's *Inferno*. In February of 1926, the chapter admitted twenty-two active members, including John A. Cook, and one "special member," Alberto Rembad. Dr. Schevill then explained the reasons that students take Spanish, and told of the difficulties they encounter.

The interest aroused by the frequent meetings, thirteen in all, and by the notable achievements of the chapter was reflected in the treasurer's spring report of \$171.12 in the bank. Finally, President Wright suggested that a budget be prepared for the next year, 1926-27.

### **Presidency of Saima Regina Koski**

The momentum developed by Leavitt O. Wright carried President Saima Regina Koski forward, and she guided the local and national affairs proficiently during the eighth year, 1926-27. The society continued to expand with two new chapters, Lambda at the University of Illinois, and Mu at Middlebury, both admitted in 1926, and inquiries were received from the College of the Pacific, Cornell, and Southern Methodist University. The College of the Pacific was turned down because their department of Spanish was too small at that time, and S.M.U. was rejected because it did not have a chapter of Phi Beta Kappa. The chapter decided that every member should pay dues of fifty cents each semester, half of which should go into the national treasury.

Among the activities and projects of the chapter, the Record tells us that decisions were made to arrange for Dr. Kany's concert of Spanish music, to join a council of foreign language honor societies, and to consider establishing an international house for students of all nationalities and religions. A standing committee on the constitution was appointed, and another to submit names of prospective members to the professors before looking up their grades. Also, cards were printed to invite candidates to become members, and other cards to announce meetings to the members. Treasurer Hermenegildo Corbató proved to be very efficient. He gave four reports, showing a growth from \$153.69 in the chapter treasure and \$15.00 in the national funds to \$210.00 and \$25.00 respectively. At the meeting in November 1926, he delighted the members with a talk on his native Valencia.

At the initiation in October, eight members were inducted, and at the banquet Dr. Hills gave an interesting talk on children's songs. In February of 1927, fourteen members were initiated, and Dr. Chapman "nos habló de la importancia y el valor del idioma español." Then each initiate spoke, pretending to be a fictional character created by some Spanish author.

### **Presidency of W. Vernon Smith**

In the ninth year, 1927-28, W. Vernon Smith presided over a chapter that had lost its momentum and was deteriorating rapidly. The Record makes no mention of any effort to continue the expansion of the society, but it tells us that the "national secretary," a graduate student, resigned because of the demands of his studies. This was just one symptom of the malignancy that was destroying a body that was so robust and that had such a zest for achievement when Leavitt O. Wright shared his dreams and his enthusiasm. The staff members, too, lost interest in the declining chapter. At the meeting in September of 1927, Dr. Leavitt O. Wright, then employed in the department of Spanish at the University of Oregon, brought greetings from Gamma chapter, and at the banquet following the initiation in October, when six new members were inducted, both Dr. Hills and Dr. Morley spoke. When the next initiation was held, in February of 1928, eleven active members were admitted, and a banquet was held in the Hotel Lexington in Oakland. A special committee had been appointed to persuade some professor, any professor, to speak, but the Record shows that one of the student members of the chapter, Hermenegildo Corbató, spoke on this occasion, and another student recited a poem on Schubert's *Sonata*. It seems that the chapter was unable to induce any faculty member to attend.

The chapter prepared a list of all members initiated from 1919 to 1922, and approved plans for "una noche española" and a night of Spanish art. Also, it was decided to send a representative to the Committee on Freshman Orientation.

### **Presidents for 1928-30**

Officers were elected in January for the tenth year, 1928-29. Isabel Magana was elected president and Hermenegildo Corbató, treasurer. A vice president, a recording secretary, and a corresponding secretary were also elected, but no officer was designated a "national secretary" to look after the affairs of the national organization.

This is the last entry in the Record, but the correspondence files show that a newly arrived doctoral candidate, William Berrien, was president in 1928-29, and another graduate student, Luz Alonso, the last Alpha president to act as director of the national organization, served in 1929-30, a year of crisis in which the very survival of the society was in doubt. On this sad note ends the first chapter of the history of Sigma Delta Pi.

## **Chapter II**

### **Leavitt O. Wright, 1931-37**

#### **Nationalization of Sigma Delta Pi**

When Alpha chapter admitted five new chapters with wide geographical distribution during the years from 1921 to 1925, Sigma Delta Pi unquestionably became a national society, but the members of the founding chapter, justifiably proud of their accomplishments, were unwilling to relinquish their control of the organization, for that would have reduced Alpha to the state of coequality with each of the other chapters. This condition continued for five more years during which time the society increased to sixteen chapters; but in the fall of 1930, when Luz Alonso was president, a remarkable change had taken place in Alpha chapter: the members had lost their zest for building a great national organization, and even when they attended chapter meetings, they did so out of a sense of duty rather than because of any real interest.

At this time, William Berrien, an outstanding doctoral candidate destined to serve on the staff at Harvard University and who was president of Alpha in 1929-30, did all possible to assist Miss Alonso; but recognizing that administering the affairs of the national organization had become too great a burden for members immersed in their studies, he sent a plaintive call for help to his good friend Leavitt O. Wright who, having completed the doctorate at Berkeley, was then teaching Spanish at the University of Oregon. In the very first sentence of his letter, he said, "I'm writing to you to ask you if you would be willing to take over the national presidency of Sigma Delta Pi and have the head chapter at Oregon for the next two years." Later, he suggested a five-year term, and he added that Dr. Wright was the only one who could save the society. He explained that Alpha chapter was "moribund," and therefore incapable of managing the national organization.

#### **Acceptance of the National Presidency**

In a later letter, Berrien wrote, "As you know, I am no longer president here at Berkeley. Miss Luz Alonso, a charming graduate student in our department, has scarcely enough time or experience to permit her managing the national welfare of the society." Thus he put pressure on Wright to accept the presidency.

Earlier, Wright wrote Berrien a frank letter expressing some disillusionment and doubt, but still some hope. Because this turn of events marks the greatest crisis in the history of the society, much of Dr. Wright's letter is quoted here:

I have decided to write and ask you some questions which you can answer easily on the paper without taking time to write me an opus. I know your situation and sympathize with you sincerely in your battle for time to do what you have to do. Everything else must be secondary to the goal you have set for yourself. I did not practice this, and so lost at least six months by puttering with Sigma Delta Pi.

1. Do you honestly believe that Sigma Delta Pi should continue?
2. Is it too much "just another crass society" to merit existence?
3. If abandoned, should it be merged into a larger Rom. Lang. Soc. such as Missouri is sponsoring, or definitively killed off?
4. Have you any reason to believe it is filling a place in U.S. colleges and Univ.'s [sic] which justifies its existence?
5. Have any of the new societies [chapters?] written enthusiastically about it?
6. If it is kept, do you think it has enough future and sufficient present clientele to justify a large forward movement which would involve a part-time paid national secretary?
7. How many chapters are alive now?
8. How many petitions are you now considering?  
How many have you refused?

Personally, I am not interested in the presidency. And for the sake of the society I believe it would be much better off in the hands of a man like Dr. Espinosa (if he could be prevailed upon to take it) or Mr. G. B. P. Shield of Los Angeles, who, I think, might be interested. Here at Oregon S.D.P. performs a function of real value, although it can not be called as active a club as the Spanish club.

I wish I knew what Dr. Hills, Dr. Morley, Dr. Espinosa and other such men think of it.

It appears that Berrien was too busy to jot down answers to these questions, and Christmas and New Year's Day came with still no decision. However, after learning from several sources that Sigma Delta Pi was filling a real need, Wright wrote Berrien on January 10, 1931, his decision to accept the presidency for the year of 1931 only, but the term lasted for seven years. This moved Berrien to answer on January 16:

It was indeed a pleasant surprise to receive your letter, accepting the invitation to the national presidency of Sigma Delta Pi. I think I can say frankly that your willingness to be national president at this time is the only solution to the problem of revivifying a national consciousness to the society . . . There is no doubt that with a person of your standing and organizing ability, a person who can give and is willing to give freely of his time, things will change.

He added that he would send a packet containing correspondence (sent on the nineteenth) and the current national funds, "about one hundred dollars, maybe more," actually sent about two months later, and he concluded the letter on a buoyant note:

I repeat that I think you have literally saved Sigma Delta Pi by accepting the presidency, and wish sincerely to thank you for your unselfish interest. . . . With every good wish for what I am sure will be an extremely successful presidency, I am as ever. . . .

This exchange of letters establishes the fact that Dr. Wright accepted the presidency on January 10, 1931, the date which marks the official beginning of a national administration for Sigma Delta Pi and makes it clear that Dr. Wright was the first president of the society. All the other presidents were merely presidents of Alpha chapter. William Berrien, president of Alpha in 1929-30, clarified this in a letter of March 16, 1931, to Dr. Wright:

I have been powerless to do things. In the first place, I have never been anything other than president of Alpha, although I did what I could now and then to take the place of a national secretary. I think you should use the money we have as you see fit; the various chapters show little if any interest and if they don't like what is being done, they have no right to kick.

This excerpt also gives us some insight into the problems that the officers of Alpha encountered and reveals the dedication of Berrien. The society is especially indebted to him for his initiative in bringing about the transition from control of the society by Alpha chapter to management by a national administration, and even more indebted to him for his selecting Leavitt O. Wright to be its first national president.

In a letter dated February 19, 1931, Berrien officially announced to the chapters in the name of the executive committee of Alpha the assumption of the national presidency of Sigma Delta Pi by Dr. Leavitt O. Wright, and suggested that all matters of general and national interest be taken up with him. This letter was typed on a sheet bearing the letterhead:

**Sigma Delta Pi  
Spanish Honor Society  
Alpha Chapter**

Listed as honorary members were these professors: David P. Barrows, Herbert E. Bolton, Erasmo Buceta, Charles E. Chapman, Beatrice Q. Cornish, Percival B. Fay, E. K. Heller, Richard T. Holbrook, C. E. Kany, Irving A. Leonard, Madre Merrill, S. Griswold Morley, Herbert I. Priestley, Rudolph Schevill, Franz Schneider, and Herbert H. Vaughan. All were listed with a Ph.D. except Buceta (D. en D.), Madre Merrill (M.A.), and Barrows with the additional degree of LL.D. This letterhead was printed during the presidency of Wright in 1925. Other honorary members were added later, including Dr. L. B. Simpson and Dr. Arturo Torres Ríoseco.

**Assumption of Presidential Duties**

It is clear that Dr. Wright was not ambitious to be president of Sigma Delta Pi and that he even had some doubts as to whether the organization was worth saving, but when several professors whom he respected highly (probably Hills, Morley, and Espinosa) assured him that the society was needed, he accepted the challenge to resuscitate and then strengthen it. Then he was faced with a much more formidable task than when he was elected president of Alpha chapter in 1925. Then, we recall, he rebuilt the chapter and composed a motto in Greek to correspond to the initials Sigma Delta Pi, which had

previously represented "La Sociedad del Prado"; and that, similarly, he composed mottoes in Greek for the French and Italian societies. As national president, he had to arrange for the printing of certificates, charters, and stationery, and select a national artist. He had to find a satisfactory jeweler to replace Burke, who had served Alpha. Too, he had to write a new constitution, start a newsletter, set up an accounting system, establish standards for recruiting new chapters, and select honorary presidents. Without delay, he fired off letters with machine-gun speed to present and past officers of Alpha, wherever they were, to learn about past suppliers, financial accounts, and past correspondence with colleges interested in having a chapter. Dr. Wright was energetic, enthusiastic, always prompt, impatient, and irked by any delay. Berrien was a great help, but he was often slow in writing, and to urge him to give a quick reply, Dr. Wright resorted to typing out possible answers to his questions so that Berrien could simply check the proper answer and return the letter at once. Nearly all of this correspondence was done without the help of a secretary, and much of it probably at his own expense; but, fortunately, he received a letter from Dorothy P. Munroe, treasurer of Alpha, with a check for \$110.65. This was the amount of the national funds of Sigma Delta Pi, funds that Berrien had collected by writing chapters with delinquent accounts, funds that reached Wright two months after the date promised. The president could count on a charter fee of \$15.00 for each new chapter, an initiation fee of fifty cents for each new member, annual dues of fifty cents for each active member, if chapter treasurers remembered to send them in, and a rebate of ten percent from the jeweler on all insignia sold by Burke.

### **The General Letters**

Despite Dr. Wright's feverish activity, progress was slow because of the Inertia or dilatory nature of his correspondents. Recognizing his own limitations and a little weary, he wrote Berrien on March 18, 1931: "I want to get out a mimeographed news sheet of chapter activities to send around, but there is so much to do and so little time." In an earlier letter, Berrien had written Dr. Wright (January 16, 1931): "I think it might be a good plan for you to write a general letter to the chapter presidents to tell them of your plans." As a matter of fact, Dr. Wright fully recognized the need for regular communications in order to maintain unity and interest in a national organization, and so he finally accepted the idea. He liked it so much that he called his newsletters "General Letter No. . . .," and the last one bore the number 43, an average of six per year.

### **Choice of a National Artist, a Printer, and a Jeweler**

The months passed swiftly, but in time Dr. Wright solved his problems. In 1935, he made the acquaintance of a remarkable German printer who was artistic, reliable, of fine character, and who took pride in his work, George Boehnke. The Boehnke Printing Company of Eugene, Oregon, continued to supply Sigma Delta Pi's certificates and charters for fifty-two years. It was also in the year 1935 that he selected a lovely lady, Mrs. Jean H. Sutherland of Eugene, as national artist, and she colored and lettered the certificates and charters with consummate skill. Her services were retained by the society until she asked to be relieved in 1968. At that time, George Boehnke, Jr., son of the founder of the printing company, informed the writer, then president of the society, that

he could supply future certificates and charters in complete color, all in perfect register and at about the same price. Abundant evidence points to the care with which President Wright made his choices, and to his wisdom in each choice.

The same care is seen in his selection of a jeweler. After considerable investigation, Dr. Wright decided to designate the L. G. Balfour Company of Attleboro, Massachusetts, the sole official jeweler for Sigma Delta Pi, and he and Mr. L. G. Balfour signed a contract February 9, 1934, to run for three years and indefinitely thereafter unless terminated by written notice. According to the agreement, "All key and key-pins shall be die struck, hand finished, and engraved, and made of 10K gold throughout. The Company guarantees each key and key-pin against ordinary wear and tear for an indefinite period, and agrees to repair free of charge any key or key-pin that may be returned. It guarantees shipment of all accounts, and will allow a royalty of 20% upon jewelry sold to the chapters, including the 10K gold keys at \$3.00 and the 10K gold key-pins at \$3.95. Such were the terms of the agreement that continued in force until April 15, 1972, after the death of Mr. Balfour, when Executive Secretary Stuart M. Gross suggested cancellation of the contract because of increased prices. It should be added that after the founding of the publication *Entre Nosotros*, the back cover was devoted to an illustrated free advertisement for Balfour jewelry for many years.

#### **Dr. John D. Fitz-Gerald, a New Friend and Counselor**

Dr. Wright was modest, conscientious, open-minded, but tenacious in his convictions, and sought the counsel of those whose good judgment he respected. References have been made to his reliance on William Berrien, whose advice he regularly sought, but Berrien's slowness to respond, his travels to South America, and occasional serious illness frequently forced Dr. Wright to act without his counsel. Gradually, he began to depend even more on the eminent scholar Dr. John Driscoll Fitz-Gerald, Jr., whom he met at the AATS convention in Boston in 1930. The latter, an enthusiastic devotee of Sigma Delta Pi, was impressed by Dr. Wright's sincerity, his ability, and his sterling qualities of leadership, and soon developed a genuine admiration for him, a man eighteen years his junior. In his letter of February 6, 1931, Dr. Fitz-Gerald wrote:

. . . I wish to assure you that to me the big acquisition that I had during my trip East to the meetings at Boston and Washington was the deepening of our acquaintanceship and friendship. I am glad you have consented to accept the national presidency of Sigma Delta Pi for this year and I am willing to help you to any extent for a meeting of delegates from all chapters at the next meeting of the AATS wherever that may be held.

On February 19, Dr. Wright replied: "Many thanks for your very kind words. It will mean much to me to be able to count on your cooperation in pushing the nationalization of the Spanish honorary society."

Early in his presidency, Dr. Wright consented to some alterations in the ritual that he composed while president of Alpha chapter. The procedure extended over several years, so because of the importance and the complexity of the matter, a later chapter will be devoted to a full explanation of the development of the ritual.

## **A Working President**

On May 1, 1931, Dr. Wright wrote Dr. Fitz-Gerald, "The essay contest . . . must be considered seriously." He discussed it at length, but little was done until 1935 when F. Dewey Amner, Willis Knapp Jones, and Guy B. Colburn served as judges, and even then it was none too successful. The essays were in English, of at least fifteen hundred words, and on any one of several topics suggested by the committee. Cash prizes and a year's membership in the AATS were awarded. While writing Dr. Fitz-Gerald concerning the contest, Wright expressed the need for help to relieve him of his heavy burden:

A competent and willing committee ought to take it off my hands. I am glad that you are interested, for you may be the one to assume responsibility for working it up! I am loaded down very heavily with all this work, and cannot keep up this pace indefinitely: my own work for the university is suffering severely, having been abandoned entirely for two months.

This letter of May 1 is particularly important because it states clearly Wright's conception of the role of a president of Sigma Delta Pi, that of a working president, a conception which he passed on to those who followed, all of whom sought in varying degrees to imitate his dedication and fervor. In this respect, Sigma Delta Pi differs from many other honor societies, in which the office of president is merely honorary with all work performed by a director or an executive secretary. On May 15, Fitz-Gerald agreed that others should share the burden:

You are quite right that others ought to relieve you of some of the burdens that accumulate in the work of nationalizing our organization. The matter of choosing a National President is as you say an important one and may be best ironed out at the meeting in Madison, but a good deal of thinking ought to be done before we get there. Personally, despite the accumulation of work that it has given you, I myself think that you ought to hold it another year so that the machinery will not get out of order before it has time to work.

## **Nationalizing the Society**

In the letter just quoted and in many others, both Wright and Fitz-Gerald wrote of "nationalizing our organization," which may seem inconsistent with Wright's contention that the society became national in 1925 and that he and succeeding presidents of Alpha were national presidents, but obviously the phrase is used here to indicate the changes required to show that Sigma Delta Pi was then being managed and directed by the society instead of by an individual chapter. Berrien saw all this clearly, for he wrote Wright on March 16, 1931: "I have never been anything other than president of Alpha."

## **Honorary Presidents**

Another important act of Dr. Wright was the naming of honorary presidents, and to this he gave much thought. In the spring of 1931, he chose three notable men: Juan C.

Cebrián, a wealthy architect from Madrid who became an American citizen and an outstanding benefactor of the University of California at Berkeley and encouraged the dissemination of Spanish culture; Dr. Tomás Navarro Tomás, the renowned Spanish academician; and Dr. John Driscoll Fitz-Gerald, a much-honored and internationally recognized philologist. Wright wrote that he actually made the selection in the fall of 1930 while he was considering accepting the presidency, but the official appointments could come only after he assumed the presidency. On May 15, 1931, Fitz-Gerald apologized for neglecting to thank Wright for this honor:

. . . an honor made double by the excellent company with "" which you associate me in the names of the other two Honorary Presidents, both of whom I esteem very highly and both of whom I have had the pleasure of entertaining in my home-Cebrián for afternoon tea on occasion, and Navarro Tomas not only at afternoon tea but in my home during the week that he was lecturing at the University of Illinois.

He added the following confidential penned postscript that probably determined the tenure of all honorary presidents of Sigma Delta Pi, for then and the future:

So highly do I esteem the honor you have done me in making me one of the three Honorary Presidents that I am going to confess to you that I hope that that list will be considered practically permanent. In many organizations that I know of, Honorary Presidents are permanent. The AATS elected Cebrián and Huntington Honorary Presidents and their names have never been up for re-election. I think it might be well to add Huntington's when the formal slate is made up. It would also be well to have a clause in the new constitution stating that there shall be four Honorary Presidents, elected for life.

In his reply of June 13, Wright had this to say about honorary presidents: "I am very much interested in the suggestion which you make in your confidential paragraph, although I am puzzled to know just what to do in the light of the fact that I had declared myself more than once in favor of letting the choice rest either with the respective president each year or with those who choose him." Clearly Wright envisioned the presidency of Sigma Delta Pi as being strictly for one term of one year. Evidently he had become conditioned by the practices of Alpha, and he even continued to think that the organization was national under Alpha and that Berrien was a national president, even though Berrien knew better and had said so to Wright. Fitz-Gerald had broader vision, as shown in his letter above.

This correspondence reveals that Fitz-Gerald was Wright's strong right arm, his Achates, his wise counselor for many years, beginning in early 1931, but Fitz-Gerald was not always able to have his way. In letter after letter, he adduced the strongest reasons why Huntington should be named an honorary president, noting that he had already been so named by the AATS, and made an honorary member of Sigma Delta Pi in Chi chapter, Hunter College, in June of 1931 at Wright's suggestion. Too, Huntington was an intimate friend of Fitz-Gerald, if we may judge by the letters at hand. Finally, on December 11, 1931, Fitz-Gerald put all the pressure he could on Wright:

My feeling is, however . . . we should elect Huntington immediately. If that appeals to you, you might send whatever shingle you care to send to Mr. Huntington in my care, since he is here in Tucson at present because of his wife's health. If I may use as a model what you did in my case you would have his shingle inscribed:

Archer Milton Huntington  
Honorary Member of Xi Chapter  
Presidente Honorario Nacional

and date it as of the day of your own action, which is what you did with mine. I shall be glad to pay for the shingle if you approve of the action.

Wright did not yield.

Replying to yours of December 11 and February 19, I am very glad to know of your interest in Mr. Huntington as a possible honorary president of the society. Your suggestion opens up the whole subject and I shall be as frank with you as you are with me.

When I took things over in the fall of 1930, I had to make several decisions because there was no one with whom to consult. One was concerning honorary presidents, and I decided on a small list, preferably one Spanish scholar, one American scholar, and one nonacademic hispanophile. I did not decide in how long they should hold office, and have preferred not to open up the subject for discussion lest I stir up feelings. I have had in mind, possibly for Mr. Cebrián's place, or possibly as an additional honorary president, either Mr. Huntington or Dr. Del Amo of Los Angeles. Possibly both.

However, it is all too patent that they are both rich men, in addition to being devoted friends of Spanish scholarship, and are we to go on record as favoring the election of rich men? If we do so, is it because we expect them to favor us financially? Should the whole question of honorary presidents be opened up and an election be held by mail for those who are to be invited to accept such positions? Again, is it to be our policy that honorary presidents of the AATS shall be honorary presidents of our society? I should be very grateful for your frank replies to these inquiries and should like to know whether you would not think it preferable to let matters stand as they are for the present rather than expose ourselves to possible trouble. I do agree with you that it would be most desirable to have Mr. Huntington elected, or should I say chosen? For if we open it up to election that will at once raise the question as to how the first three were chosen.

On March 5, 1934, Fitz-Gerald answered Wright's arguments point by point, and again proposed that he choose Huntington at once, just as the first three honorary presidents were "chosen," for the new constitution had not yet been written; but Wright remained adamant. In 1937, Cebrián passed away, and on December 1, 1937, at Wright's

request, Fitz-Gerald wrote Huntington a formal invitation, apologetically explaining that it was not possible for him to be admitted in this capacity when the three were chosen because at that time he was not a member of the society. Although no reference to the date of his acceptance has been found, it may be assumed that he replied promptly to his good friend, and so we have recorded December of 1937.

The fact that Dr. Wright waited until the death of one of the three honorary presidents before appointing another, despite enormous pressure from his Nestor to name a fourth honorary president, seems to indicate that he determined that there should be exactly three honorary presidents, and these chosen for life from the membership of the society, and this practice continued through the presidency of Dr. Chandler, a span of sixty-one years.

### **Recruitment of Chapters**

From the very beginning, Alpha maintained high standards, and chose to admit new chapters from only those colleges and universities which had a chapter of Phi Beta Kappa. However, this was not enforced uniformly. According to *The Baird's Manual*, 15th edition, only two of the first five chapters admitted by Alpha were in colleges which at that time already had a chapter of Phi Beta Kappa, although two of them attained this status within two years, two of the next five, and three of the next five. Of the total of fifteen chapters recruited by Alpha chapter, slightly less than half fully met the professed requirements of Alpha.

On March 12, 1931, Wright asked Berrien why Southern Methodist University was not granted a chapter, and he replied that he could not say, because that was before he came to Berkeley, but that it was probably because it did not have a chapter of Phi Beta Kappa; and he added that he had refused entrance to eight or ten for this same reason. As an afterthought, he wrote in ink that he did not believe that the French society, Pi Delta Phi, had this requirement. SMU had applied for a charter in 1927, after Wright had completed his term as president of Alpha chapter, and was rejected, as just noted, but was admitted by Wright in 1936, and the writer was privileged to participate with Dr. John A. Cook in the installation ceremony. At this time, Wright asked Berrien to give him a list of all the colleges he had rejected, and it is probable that he studied each carefully and admitted a number of those rejected because of not having a chapter of Phi Beta Kappa.

Dr. Wright, too, always insisted on the highest standards, but at the beginning of his national presidency he decided that it was unwise to reject the petition of a college just because it did not have a chapter of that most prestigious honor society, a decision that made it much easier for him to carry out another important objective, the rapid expansion of the society throughout the country.

### **Expansion**

During Dr. Wright's term of seven years, he added twenty-four new chapters. The first was Rho (1931) at the University of Chattanooga, petitioned by Professor Terrel Louise Tatum, and the last, Alpha Pi (1938) at Texas State Teachers College, Denton, now North Texas State University, petitioned by Dr. Ruby C. Smith.<sup>1</sup> An examination of

---

<sup>1</sup> Later renamed the University of North Texas.

the files of these twenty-four chapters and those of the sixteen chapters which composed the society when it became nationalized reveals the boundless energy that the first national president expended in correspondence, both as president of Alpha chapter and as national president, and the enthusiasm with which he did it all. In attending to all the affairs of the society, he was efficient, always prompt, and although he had no secretary, he invariably took the time to be courteous and personal in his letters, carefully composed, letters that frequently used the word "opus" which he used with the meaning "a formal letter" in such a phrase as "referring to your opus dated," an epistolary habit that he continued the rest of his life. When in February of 1938, Wright announced his intention to leave the presidency, Dr. Willis Knapp Jones at Miami University of Ohio wrote him: "I showed the letter to some members in the office today, and all expressed their regrets. Of course they do not know you, anymore than I do, except through correspondence. But you have always had so pleasing a personality via U.S. mail that we all felt you were our good friend."

The fact is, nearly always Dr. Wright seemed to be cheerful, even ebullient, but perhaps never in higher spirits than one night in the old LaSalle Hotel in Chicago in 1965 when he, James O. Swain, Sturgis E. Leavitt, and the writer reminisced and swapped tales far into the morning about famous personages we had known in our field, from Alfonso Reyes, Américo Castro, Tomas Navarro Tomas, E. C. Hills, and S. Griswold Morley on down to the most recent, including those present. Dr. Swain remembered that Dr. Wright and his wife, both born in Mexico of missionary parents, were once arrested south of the border for speeding, but talked themselves out of it by pretending to be American missionaries. Dr. Wright told us that some of his Mexican friends who had difficulty pronouncing the name Leavitt O. Wright called him "Don Levi Toray." Of all these, sad to relate, only the writer survives, and he is in his 90th year.<sup>2</sup>

Dr. Wright was a scholar with a degree from Harvard, a graduate of the Union Theological Seminary, and with two degrees from the University of California at Berkeley; and he was versed in several languages, including Latin and Greek, both koiné and classical, and he had an abiding interest in each. At the meeting of Sigma Delta Pi in San Diego in 1960, the writer used a Greek proverb to illustrate a point in his presidential remarks, and on finishing, Dr. Wright, seated on his right, immediately asked him to write the proverb in Greek, studied it for a moment, and then used it as a starting point for some comments on Plato's *Phaedo*.

### **Petition Form**

Returning to the high standards that Dr. Wright established, it may be of interest to note that the petition blank used today differs in only a few respects from that formulated by Wright early in 1931, but he recognized only two classes of membership, active and honorary, as is the practice in the society today. During his last year in office, several advisers expressed the feeling that an associate membership would be, more appropriate for some inducted as honorary, a change that did come later. The blank required evidence of proper accreditation, a copy of the current college catalog, a list of courses in Spanish offered above the second year, a letter of approval from both the departmental chairman and the president or the dean of the college, the name of the proposed adviser, the names

---

<sup>2</sup> T. Earle Hamilton passed on October 2, 1996.

of five or more students who were majors in Spanish and whose grade average in Spanish was at least B (including at least six semester hours in upper-division literature), and whose general average was at least B-, an official statement from the registrar confirming the qualifications of the proposed members, and a check for \$15.00. Also, it asked whether all proposed members agreed to support the national organization and the local chapter, whether there were qualified alumni who would care to join and support the national organization and the local chapter; and finally, the college was asked to suggest some member of Sigma Delta Pi to install their chapter. It may be observed that no restrictions were placed on the number or qualifications of honorary members, a source of trouble that plagued the society for many years. His attitude toward the admission of honorary members reflects his strong belief that the chapters should be autonomous in all matters except those relating to the high standards expressed in the petition, as well as the admission of only juniors, seniors, and graduates.

### **The National Constitution**

When a chapter once wrote Dr. Wright for a copy of the national constitution, he confessed that there was none, that the committee appointed to draft one was very slow in its work, and suggested that the chapter draw up its own constitution and send him a copy for his possible guidance. The committee consisted of Robert Owens (Wisconsin), John Van Home (Illinois), and John D. Fitz-Gerald (Arizona), chairman. The first national constitution was not submitted until November 5, 1938, and adopted at the national meeting, held jointly the next month with the AATS in New York.

### **The "sueño monumental"**

Dr. Wright was an idealist and a man of broad vision with big plans. Born in Mexico of American educators, he had a deep love for both countries, and wanted to bring them closer together. One of his plans, that he called his "sueño monumental," conceived in 1937, was to erect a monument to Benito Juarez and Abraham Lincoln on the border, probably between El Paso and Ciudad Juarez. He suggested that a quotation from each be engraved. According to the writer's memory, his selections were:

El respeto al derecho ajeno es la paz.

With charity for all.

Fitz-Gerald tried to persuade his colleagues to work for the realization of this idea, but many were unwilling. Berrien encouraged Wright in a letter dated June 8, 1937: "Your idea for a monument on the U.S.-Mexico border seems an admirable one, and I hope you will not let 'weak sisters' who label it visionary keep you from working on it." Many still believe that it should be carried out by Sigma Delta Pi as a special project of the chapters.

### **Dr. Wright's Accomplishments While National President**

In closing this chapter, it may be well to clarify the importance of the first national president, Dr. Leavitt O. Wright, in the history of Sigma Delta Pi by summarizing his

accomplishments during his presidency. He reluctantly agreed to assume the direction of the moribund society for one year, but was persuaded to stay on for seven years. During this period, he expanded the society, gave it new life, and among his other accomplishments, we may mention the following: He saved the society from extinction, and propelled it forward with a force so great that it is still felt; he nationalized the organization; he gave the society a motto in Greek to correspond to the letters "Sigma Delta Pi," and composed mottoes in Greek also for Pi Delta Phi and for Pi Mu Iota; he revised the ritual which he had composed earlier; he prepared the charter and the certificates; he selected a national printer, jeweler, and artist; he established categories of membership, active and honorary; he established standards for the admission of individual members and of new chapters; he established a procedure for recruiting new chapters and for keeping them alive and active; he set up a procedure for processing petitions from colleges; early in 1931, he started the publication of a newsletter, a precursor of *Entre Nosotros*; he established and described the practice of choosing honorary presidents, and named the first four; he started essay and translation contests; and he established the role of the working president. These contributions form the foundation upon which others have built, making possible the society's phenomenal progress and smooth operation, and although each succeeding administration made additions and improvements, the basic work of Leavitt O. W right is still evident in current practices.

## Chapter III

### John T. Reid, 1938-41

#### A Voice and a Guide for the Society

In order to revive a moribund society, Dr. Wright agreed to serve as national president for just one year. He formerly accepted the position on January 10, 1931, although he had made an informal agreement in late December. His dedication to his task brought such success that his colleagues urged him to continue to serve, but influenced by the custom of Alpha chapter, the professional demands of his position at the university, a new assignment (contributing editor to an annual Harvard publication, *Handbook of Latin American Studies*), and an innate modesty that forbade him to consider his services indispensable, he constantly searched for a successor. Because of his deep and lasting love for Sigma Delta Pi, however, he was not willing to relinquish his post to anyone he considered less capable and devoted.

#### A Presidential Candidate Selected

On February 18, 1938, Dr. Wright submitted to the chapters the name of an outstanding and ambitious young man of 30 to be the second national president, Dr. John Turner Reid, an instructor at Stanford University, where he received the Ph.D. degree two years before.

For seven years I have been unsuccessful in my search, and have kept trying to fill the position in a temporary manner in the hope that the right man would soon turn up who could really fill the position as it should be. I am not a business man, and have not pushed the financial side, merely announcing the dues and fees and leaving it to each chapter to send in what it thought it should. I have striven to make the income go as far as possible, but I am frank to state that I have not "kept books." A more systematic and business-like head will handle the work more efficiently and successfully. You readily understand that the position, while an honor, is much more than that, for it makes tremendous demands on one's time and strength, and the *only* reward is the knowledge that one has possibly done his bit to promote the cause of Hispanic culture in this country. We desperately need a young, business-like "Hispanófilo," who is devoted to our cause, and experienced in our activities, to take over the reins. Since the new national constitution is not quite yet out (although it is promised for this year), I have consulted with your National Honorary President, Dr. John D. Fitz-Gerald of Arizona, during the past months, and have greatly appreciated his kind advice. At last I proposed a candidate, and Dr. Fitz-Gerald and I met in Berkeley, California, last November, and individually and together with this man. We became convinced that he possesses all the attitudes that we could hope for in a man for the position, and we have agreed to recommend him to you for National President for the rest of this year, in the expectation that our choice of him will be ratified for the balance of a three-year term at our proposed National Convention which

we hope will be held in New York at the end of this calendar year, when the AATS meets there.

JOHN T. REID, Ph.D., of Stanford University, is herewith proposed to fill out this year as National President of Sigma Delta Pi. Dr. Reid has generously consented to serve us in this position, beginning at once (although I cannot for the life of me completely comprehend why he is willing to do so, on top of his heavy duties at Stanford, and his activities in the Northern California Chapter of the AATS!). He has my blessing and best wishes, and most hearty thanks, and I am absolutely confident that he will succeed where I have been merely marking time . . .

### **Manner of Selecting a President; His Term of Office**

This intimate confession of Wright reveals a sincere, modest, and devoted idealist cognizant of his limitations, but reveals nothing concerning his significant contributions to the society through his seemingly boundless energy and contagious enthusiasm that drove him ever onward in spite of his frail health. Once again his faithful Achates, the scholarly Dr. Fitz-Gerald, gave guidance at a crucial moment in the development of Sigma Delta Pi. Historically important is the fact that this is the first mention of a three-year term, and discloses that Dr. Wright started a practice that has been honored ever since. Actually, he was acting in accordance with a requirement of a still incomplete constitution. Also, he showed us a way to choose a president: The incumbent and his close advisers search for, find, and thoroughly investigate a willing successor, and then submit his name to the chapters for approval. With only a slight change, Dr. Fitz-Gerald incorporated this in the constitution, and it continued to be the practice until the adoption of a new constitution in 1965 that made the process more democratic.

### **A New President Chosen**

In the Forty-third General Letter (April 11, 1938), the last from the National Office at the University of Oregon, Dr. Wright wrote: "Dr. John T. Reid of Stanford University has been chosen by you to serve as your president for the rest of this year, and I hasten to offer you and him heartiest congratulations and very best wishes!" So in April 1938, Dr. Reid became the second national president of Sigma Delta Pi.

The change of administration was smooth, and the new president, like his predecessor, was prolific in his correspondence with the chapters, always writing in the warm, friendly style that endeared Dr. Wright to everyone. He inherited an organization of forty chapters and a treasury in need of funds. Soon he found the burden too heavy, even as had Dr. Wright, and so he created three new offices and appointed the following to fill them: Dr. Willis Knapp Jones, vice president; Miss Meta Goldsmith, secretary-treasurer; and Mrs. W. Clark Root, membership secretary (*archivera*), all of whom served without compensation. Parenthetically, Dr. Wright had appointed Juan Rael secretary in 1931, but a search of the files shows that all correspondence was conducted by Dr. Wright, although Mr. Rael assisted in processing applications of new chapters. The duties of the secretary-treasurer were lessened because the jeweler, the L. G. Balfour Company, processed all orders, collected all bills, and kept the National Office informed. The new

officers, all of whom were capable and conscientious, reduced Dr. Reid's load, but he retained all executive duties and the recruitment of chapters, and the chapter advisers (the word "sponsor" was used by the early presidents) continued to address all their problems to the president. Because he fully understood the importance of communication with the chapters, Dr. Reid supplemented his regular correspondence by issuing fifteen General Letters, numbers 44 through 58, of one to six pages during his nearly four years in office. Also, he required each chapter to submit an annual report to the National Office: he sent out the form in March with a General Letter and expected it to be returned by the end of May. Incidentally, the idea of the General Letter and even the name were suggested to Dr. Wright in 1931 by William Berien.

On November 5, 1938, Dr. Fitz-Gerald sent the following letter to all the forty chapters:

### The First Constitution

The Committee on Constitution, after years of deliberation, is submitting the following draft for consideration at the national convention that is being called for December 31, 1938, in New York City.

The delay in submitting this draft has been advantageous in several ways: It has given more time for your suggestions; it has permitted the trying out of sundry suggestions in the experiences with newly established chapters; it has given time for a change of judgment in several cases; and it has permitted the committee to produce a much shorter document than would have been the case several years ago.

This was signed by John Van Horne (Illinois), Robert Owens (Wisconsin), and John D. Fitz-Gerald (Arizona). Unfortunately, no copy of this constitution has survived.

### The First Triennial Convention

Dr. Reid presided at the first triennial convention of Sigma Delta Pi. It was held in New York City where the AATS and the MLA were meeting, and it was considered very successful with over sixty percent of the chapters represented, according to the Forty-seventh General Letter (January 27, 1939). The business meeting, attended by thirty-three members, was held in a parlor of the Commodore Hotel from 3:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. on the last day of 1938. The proposed constitution was discussed fully article by article, and after some changes, was adopted. That was the first constitution of the national society. Even more important, it was unanimously decided to inaugurate a national bulletin, and the president was authorized "to appoint an advisory editorial committee and spend not more than \$100 to issue an initial experimental number."

At 7:00 p.m., forty-nine members met in *La Casita*, a little Spanish restaurant in a Greenwich Village basement "for a delicious dinner, *castizamente española* . . . spontaneous singing of Spanish songs gladdened the occasion . . . We snatched a moment from our entertainment to elect national officers, in accordance with the new constitution." Incidentally, the charge for this "delicious dinner" was \$1.60! It should be

explained that the new constitution required the president to appoint a committee to choose the officers to serve during the next triennium and then to submit the names to the chapters for approval, a purely perfunctory nod, and obviously so regarded. The new officers were: President, Dr. John T. Reid (Kappa); Vice President, Dr. Willis Knapp Jones (Alpha Alpha); Membership Secretary, Mrs. W. Clark Root (Lambda); Secretary-Treasurer, Miss Meta Goldsmith (Alpha Epsilon).

At this convention, the only disappointment was the absence of Dr. Leavitt O. Wright, kept in Eugene by "a severe case of gripe." His letter of regret was read and "telegrams of sympathy and good wishes in the name of the organization" were sent him. Unfortunately, they were unable to present him personally a specially prepared "homenaje diploma" signed by all the delegates in the names of the chapters, "a reminder of our collective thanks to him for his labors in Sigma Delta Pi."

### *Entre Nosotros*

In this auspicious manner began Dr. Reid's three-year term of office, a term set by the constitution drafted by Drs. Fitz-Gerald, Jones, and Owens. His first act was to prepare the four-page Forty-seventh General Letter in which he gave a detailed report on the convention, named the advisory committee to help in preparing the first bulletin, listed a set of guidelines drawn up by the committee, and gave some enlightening information on the ritual.

The committee, consisting of Leavitt O. Wright, Willis Knapp Jones, and Remigio Pane, offered these "preliminary ideas":

The principal appeal of the bulletin shall be for student members, it shall be in Spanish, members should suggest a name-the first suggested were *Entre Nosotros* and *El Mensajero de Sigma Delta Pi*-the first issue shall be sent gratis in bundles of fifteen to each chapter, thereafter members must subscribe (twenty-five cents per year), and the content shall consist of chapter news, personal notes on the activities of prominent members (active, honorary, and alumni), announcements of interest to Spanish students, notes on books and articles dealing with Hispanic affairs, short essays and articles by student members, necessary discussion of society business, and messages from the National Office.

The idea of a national bulletin was conceived early in the Alpha years, but the students lacked the time and resources to prepare it. A few issues appeared spasmodically, and in 1934 one issue, *Boletín de Sigma Delta Pi*, was printed. In the Forty-fifth General Letter (November 11, 1938), Dr. Reid described *Deux Patries*, an attractive publication of Pi Delta Phi, honor society in French, "and I am frankly envious," he wrote. This, perhaps, was the spark that awakened a dormant idea that must have occurred to him as he wrote those many General Letters. Too, it must be remembered that he had edited the bulletin of the AATS chapter of northern California.

In March of 1939, Dr. Reid published an experimental issue of the national bulletin authorized at the convention in New York, and it bore the name *Entre Nosotros*. A second issue followed in June, both contained sixteen pages about 5.5" x 8.5". This journalistic endeavor was favorably received by the chapters, and so he continued to publish *Entre Nosotros*. After the first two issues, he used a slightly larger format, 6" x 9".

The number of pages varied from sixteen to twenty, and he published three numbers each year, in February, May, and October. In addition to the material mentioned above, the bulletin carried editorials by Dr. Reid as timely today as then, articles by notable Hispanists, such as Tomás Navarro Tomás, Angel González Palencia, and George E. McSpadden, up-to-date lists of chapters and advisers, lists of useful magazines in Spanish, lists of suggested recordings from Spain and Latin America, lists of guidebooks for travelers, and finally he published a cumulative index of the first nine issues. As has been noted, he tried to finance the bulletin by paid subscriptions of twenty-five cents annually, but only about a hundred students responded; so before the end of the year, he announced that a free subscription would be sent to all members of chapters that fully met their financial obligations to the National Office, provided they expressed the desire to receive it.

### Miscellaneous

In the Forty-eighth General Letter (May 24, 1939), Dr. Reid announced that on August 1 he would move from Stanford to Duke University, and that this change would require him to appoint a new secretary-treasurer, for he believed that in the interest of efficiency the president and the secretary-treasurer should be at the same institution. He chose Dr. O. K. Lundeberg.

The announcement of numerous miscellaneous news items for the academic year 1939-40 followed. The national dues for active members were fifty cents annually, the initiation fee, one dollar, and the charter fee, fifteen dollars. Apparently, conditions deteriorated during the year, for in December he confessed that there were several inactive chapters, and that not one new chapter had been admitted since he had become president. In May 1940, however, he announced with enthusiasm that on May 24 a chapter would be installed at the Southwestern Louisiana Institute by Dr. John A. Thompson of Alpha Lambda, and Dr. Graves B. Roberts would be the adviser. Obviously in an upbeat mood, he stated that Miss Catherine Haymaker, chairman of the Committee of Judges for the Best Chapter Program Contest, had reported that the prize of ten dollars for first place was awarded to Psi chapter. Also, he announced the winners of the National Essay Contest, judged by Drs. Sturgis Leavitt and Juan Rael, and by Professor Terrell Tatum. First prize, \$25, went to Lillian Preston for her essay, "Some Pages from a Journal by a Traveler in Peru," the second prize of \$10 was awarded to Louise B. Carter for her essay, "The Social Background of *Misericordia*," and the third, \$5, to Hortensia Ruiz for "The Social Background of *Dona Perfecta*." Since all three winners were members of Alpha Kappa, it was assumed that the small prizes reduced interest in the contest. All three essays were published in *Entre Nosotros*. Also, Dr. Reid announced that Dr. Wright had arranged for the making of felt banners 25" x 40" with the Sigma Delta Pi coat of arms in yellow on a red background to be sold for \$7.50 each.

In the last General Letter of 1940, Dr. Reid reported some very encouraging news: All four chapters in Ohio had agreed to hold a joint meeting on November 16 in Granville where Dr. F. Dewey Amner had a very lively program.

Even with the additional help given him by having a constitution and by having three officers to assist him, Dr. Reid found his burden too heavy, and he was beset by some problems and disappointments such as assail every enthusiastic and idealistic leader of an

organization. He complained that most of the chapter secretaries sent in incomplete membership cards or none at all, that less than half the chapters sent in their annual reports on time, that several chapters would not write him at all, that there were four inactive chapters that he could not revive, and that the accounts of about a dozen chapters were delinquent. Too, he must have been disappointed because he was far less successful than Dr. Wright in the recruitment of chapters, but he did not allow these difficulties to interfere with the performance of his obligations.

### Chapter Manual

Instead of becoming discouraged by the indifference of many chapter advisers, Dr. Reid pressed ahead toward the completion of his last great accomplishment, the first printing of a *Chapter Manual with the Ritual*. In the "Foreword," he wrote:

This *Manual* was compiled primarily for the use of the sponsors and officers of our many chapters. It is obviously not a patent pill which will cure all the annoying headaches which t" plague even the best of chapters; nothing can be a substitute, for intelligent and devoted leadership. But the practical suggestions in these pages may help some chapters, especially the newer ones, to avoid the twin evils of muddled inefficiency and dreadful monotony which so often lead organizations into a state of peaceful but repugnant decay. In these days of universal uncertainty there is no place for somnolent, aimless clubs which are a bore to themselves and others.

Much of the material included in these pages was hammered out by the tireless arm of my predecessor in this office, Leavitt O. Wright. Many other sponsors contributed their bit. The few personal opinions expressed are wholly my own. As you use this manual, I hope that you will note all desirable additions or corrections and send them to the National Office, so that they may be incorporated in an eventual revision of the manual. My best wishes for chapter work which shall be fruitful, amusing and inspiring.

*John T. Reid*  
*Duke University,*  
*September 1941*

The *Manual*, 4" x 6" with 62 pages, was organized under nine headings: General Information on the history, the purpose, the national organization, national finances, and chapter finances; The Initiation (information on how to conduct the ceremony); *Ritual de Iniciación*, Forms I and II; Suggested Activities for the chapters; Suggestions for Chapter Programs; "The Sigma Delta Pi Charter and Certificate" by Robert Frederick Lane, the scholarly printer at the University of Oregon, in which he tells how the type face and the illuminated "L" used on the charters and certificates were chosen, and how the charters and certificates were designed; Duties of the Chapter Officers; Information for Ordering Jewelry and Supplies; and List of Chapters and Sponsors, 43 as of the date of publication, September 1941.

In accordance with the requirements of the constitution, in January of 1941 Dr. Reid appointed a nominating committee of three persons to choose candidates to be presented to the chapters on a mailed ballot: Leavitt O. Wright, Ruth Richardson, and John D. Fitzgerald.

Meeting the requirements of the bylaws, three proposed amendments were sent to the chapters with the Fifty-seventh General Letter (October 1941). The first would allow seniors to have a full year of service in the society by being elected in the spring semester of their junior year. Because the president continued to find his duties too heavy with the increased activities of the National Office, he saw the need for an officer to assist him by taking over some routine work; so the second amendment proposed that the office of executive secretary-treasurer be created with an honorarium of not more than \$150 for the first year, plus clerical and office expenses, a sum to be increased as the society grew and prospered. In connection with this proposal, the offices of secretary-treasurer and membership secretary would be abolished. The third amendment, creating the office of second vice president, was suggested by the nominating committee to give better geographical representation to the chapters, especially needed if the second amendment should be approved.

The ballot was attached to the General Letter. It consisted of the proposed amendments, the nominee for each office with a blank space to enable a chapter to enter a different nominee, and a short paragraph of less than ten lines of information about each nominee. The ballot was to be "signed by the sponsor or an officer of the chapter" and mailed or brought to the meeting by the delegate or proxy.

In the Fifty-eighth General Letter (December 1941), it was announced that the triennial meeting of Sigma Delta Pi would be held on December 27 in St. Louis, Missouri, and take the form of a luncheon session in the Adam Room of the Hotel Statler at 12:30, and cards for reservations were enclosed with the urgent request that they be returned promptly. The meeting was scheduled to coincide with the meeting of the AATS. Two other notes of great interest were included. Dr. Reid announced that " ...our financial condition is so good, although I should warn you that the balance of over six hundred dollars will be substantially less by the end of December, since several large printing bills will become payable soon." He also announced the completion of the *Chapter Manual with the Ritual*, and added that copies could be purchased for thirty-five cents each. Also, he reported the admission of his second and third chapters: Alpha Sigma, Hofstra College, Hempstead, L.I., N.Y., Professor Stuart M. Gross; and Alpha Tau, Women's College of the University of North Carolina, Greensboro, N.C., Professor Augustina LaRochelle.

### **"Despedida"**

The name of John Turner Reid was not on the ballot. The nominating committee was sorely disappointed that he would be unable to serve for another term, for he had accomplished so much and surely would have continued to lead the society on to higher ground; but he had already accepted a call to government service as Special Assistant in the American Embassy in Quito, Ecuador.

He will always be remembered as the founder of *Entre Nosotros* and as the publisher of the *Chapter Manual with the Ritual*. He should also be remembered for having

consolidated the gains made by Dr. Wright, for he systematized the organization, made it self-sustaining financially, and added officers to share the heavy burden of the National Office, heavy even when there were only forty chapters. He should also be remembered for having been president when a three-year term for the officers was established and when a triennial meeting in conjunction with the AATS became a practice.

There is no more fitting way to close this chapter than to quote his "Despedida," at once eloquent, touching, timely, and applicable even today. This appeared in *Entre Nosotros*, October 1941.

### Despedida

Este será sin duda el último número de *Entre Nosotros* que yo tendrá el gusto de publicar. Mis sentimientos son algo parecidos a los de un padre que envía a su tierno hijo a la escuela en alguna ciudad lejana-una mezcla de dolor de separación, ansiedades por la salud del pequeño y, digámoslo francamente, cierto alivio al verle pasar a otras manos más capaces. No cabe la menor duda de que los nuevas directores del boletín, que serán escogidos en la reunión de la Sociedad en diciembre, llevarán a su tarea ideas nuevas y frescas y mejorarán *Entre Nosotros* de una manera notable.

Cuando en marzo de 1939 preparé la primera página del primer número de este boletín, escribí unas líneas que bien podrían repetir mis sucesores: "Si a ustedes los miembros de los capítulos les parece bueno el boletín, si creen que cumple el propósito de unir a los capítulos más estrechamente, continuaremos publicando estas páginas... Lo que sí podemos asegurar es que no será posible seguir sin la cooperación activa de todos los miembros de Sigma Delta Pi." Al repasar los tres años de vida que tiene *Entre Nosotros*, recuerdo con verdadero gusto la cooperación leal y entusiasta de algunos socios de varios capítulos. Pero siento decir que en muchos casos los capítulos han considerado nuestro boletín una cosa ajena, algo que prepara el director, un señor un tanto raro, para ser leído pasivamente o echado a un lado con desprecio. Relativamente pocas han sido las contribuciones espontáneas que nos han enviado los consejeros y miembros "activos" de la Sociedad. Tal vez tiene que ser así, pero sigo convencido de que podríamos publicar un boletín de mucho más valor e interés para todos los socios, si todos colaboráramos en una tarea que, al fin y al cabo, es nuestro interés común. Espero sinceramente que cada grupo de socios se resuelva a ofrecer incondicionalmente su cooperación activa a los nuevas directores.

Ya sé que en estas páginas siempre me he mostrado demasiado quejumbroso y crítico; suplico a los señores lectores que me perdonen este defecto y que me crean cuando digo que, a pesar de todo, la redacción de los nueve números de *Entre Nosotros* me ha dado muchas horas de placer y provecho y que entrego la pluma a otros con cierta pena.

J. T. R.

## Chapter IV

### F. Dewey Amner, 1942-48

#### Contribution to the War Effort

A new era was ushered in with the election of another devoted president, Dr. F. Dewey Amner, at the triennial convention of 1941 held on December 27 at the Statler Hotel in St. Louis. He immediately expressed his intention to continue the work of Wright and Reid. However, the society changed in many ways, partly because of the influence of the newly elected executive secretary-treasurer, Dr. Harry J. Russell, and because of the constitutional amendments adopted in St. Louis. A second vice president was added to give the chapters better representation, and the executive secretary-treasurer assumed the duties of the office of membership secretary, which was eliminated. The two vice presidents elected were Dr. William Moellering and Professor Wesley C. Drummond.

#### *Entre Nosotros*, an International Magazine

Dr. Amner's hobby, collecting Hispanic magazines, became almost an obsession, and it contributed enormously to the society's agenda throughout his term of office. In nearly every issue of *Entre Nosotros* he published an editorial of up to four pages in which he expounded philosophically on social issues suggested to him by the reading of scores of magazines from Latin America. He set up a traveling collection of journals, and invited the chapters to request it; he published long lists of the magazines with prices, and urged the chapters to send in subscriptions from the members. He mailed forty copies of *Entre Nosotros* to selected magazines, and thus the bulletin was changed from what its name implies to a publication directed in part to Hispanic America and Spain. Not surprisingly, the editorials elicited favorable comments and articles from staff writers of these magazines, and he printed all of these in the bulletin. He conducted literary contests—essays, stories, playlets, and poems, awarded a first prize of \$25.00 and AATS medals, and published the best in the bulletin, two or more in each issue. He began the use of photographs, added a few jokes, and continued reports from the chapters and reports on the essential business of the organization. Too, he published occasionally a list of chapters and their advisers. In addition to all of this, he published purple passages from great Hispanic writers, and in his hands *Entre Nosotros* became an intellectual magazine that commanded international admiration. In this accomplishment, he was ably aided by the coeditor, Dr. Harry J. Russell, who deserves much credit.

Dr. Amner performed well the difficult task of guiding Sigma Delta Pi through the years of World War II during which time the society contributed measurably to the promotion of the Good Neighbor Policy developed by Cordell Hull and supported by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, and he published hemispheric announcements issued by the State Department. One of Dr. Amner's editorials so impressed the Comité Cultural Argentino that the Secretary wrote:

Su anhelo de armonía en todo el continente, su sentido humanista "para todo el mundo," y su "participación activa" en favor de "Todo lo noble y bello que haya salido de la venerable España," son puntos que nos grupan con ustedes "alrededor de la democracia."

And he added: "Nos es grato informarle que ha sido usted designado por aclamación Presidente Honorario de nuestra institución en Granville, Ohio."

### **Scholarships**

Dr. Leavitt O. Wright proposed that Sigma Delta Pi begin a scholarship program, but Dr. Amner explained that funds were not available without the elimination of *Entre Nosotros*. Dr. Wright's suggestion brought a storm of protest, and Dr. Juan R. Castellanos said that *Entre Nosotros* was the society's most valuable work, and expressed the hope that it would never be abandoned. It was quickly agreed that the awarding of scholarships would have to wait until the financial condition of the society could be improved considerably. However, there was movement in individual chapters. Mu chapter at Middlebury offered a scholarship to be applied toward expenses in its summer school, and Psi chapter at the University of Wisconsin (Madison) did the same. Alpha Kappa chapter at Stetson University persuaded Mrs. Mary Lou Davis de Benedetti to offer a scholarship under the auspices of the "Experiment in International Living" to enable a member of the chapter to live for six weeks of the summer with a family in Mexico.

At the conclusion of the business session, all retired to the Daniel Boone Room for a luncheon that cost \$1.00 plus tax. A gold Sigma Delta Pi key with a diamond was given Dr. Reid, and instead of presenting an oral report, he passed out a six-page mimeographed report, but no copy has survived. Dr. John D. Fitz-Gerald briefly discussed the outstanding events in the history of the society. Thirteen chapters were represented, thirty percent of the total number, and the meeting was considered very successful.

### **Vice President of the United States Offered Honorary Membership**

In recognition of the outstanding efforts of Vice President Henry Agard Wallace in the furtherance of the Good Neighbor Policy, Dr. Amner proposed his election to honorary membership in the society, and this was approved by thirty-five chapters. A copy of Dr. Amner's letter to Mr. Wallace was published in the bulletin (May 1943). In the next issue (November), Mr. Wallace's reply appeared. He courteously declined because "I have, for many years, followed a rigid policy of accepting membership in only those organizations in which I am able to take an active part."

### **First Executive Secretary-Treasurer**

Throughout the triennium, Dr. Amner dominated *Entre Nosotros* by the publishing of an editorial in every issue except the last, by articles promoting Pan-Americanism, and the advertising of Hispanic magazines, but in the last issue the personality of the coeditor,

Dr. Russell, became evident. He wrote an interesting editorial, "La habilidad de conversar," and closed the issue with a brief farewell. Among the practical things that he personally contributed should be mentioned a long list of parliamentary expressions in Spanish, and he repeatedly urged that all chapter meetings be conducted in Spanish. Above all, he will be remembered as the first executive secretary-treasurer and for ably demonstrating how to perform the duties of this office. Too, he contributed immensely to the success of *Entre Nosotros* for three years by editing all articles submitted and by seeing the bulletin through the press.

In passing, it should be mentioned that Dr. Reid sent a brief article, "Impresiones del Ecuador," for the bulletin, and Dr. Amner proposed that the profits from the sale of Hispanic magazines be saved for scholarships, so he published a list of sixty-five magazines with prices. Chapters Mu and Psi repeated the offer of their small scholarships, and Sigma Delta Pi stationery was offered for sale to the chapters.

### **The Triennial Convention of 1944**

The triennial convention of 1944 was held in New York on December 29 in the Long Room of the Faculty Club of Columbia University, and 21 members from 17 chapters attended, 35% of the total list of 48 chapters. All the incumbent officers were re-elected except Dr. Russell, who chose not to serve again. Professor Stuart M. Gross was elected executive secretary-treasurer, and one of his duties was to serve as coeditor of *Entre Nosotros*. Dr. Fitz-Gerald was the only honorary president able to attend, and he spoke informally of his experiences with Sigma Delta Pi, and gave his full support to Dr. Wright's "sueño monumental." In his report, President Amner reviewed the activities of the society during the preceding three years. Five new chapters were installed:

Alpha Upsilon (February 14, 1943) Bucknell U.  
Alpha Phi (February 14, 1944) Texas Tech U.  
Alpha Chi (April 1, 1944) U. of Miami (FL)  
Alpha Psi (April 12, 1944) U. of Tennessee  
Alpha Omega (May 6, 1944) Louisiana Polytechnic Institute<sup>3</sup>

To the three inactive chapters in 1941, another was added, leaving a total of 44 active chapters. Amner praised the wisdom of Dr. Reid in redistributing the work of the national office, and added: "Dr. Harry J. Russell deserves our lasting gratitude for his splendid work in setting up the office of Secretary- Treasurer. An humbling and comforting thought: the Society could survive without its President, but not without its Secretary-Treasurer." He expressed the opinion that the bulletin, initiated by Dr. Reid, was then well established, and said: "I personally feel that *Entre Nosotros* is of the utmost importance to the Society."

Among the society's projects carried out were: the awarding of the AA TS medal to chapters for their prize-winning performances, written or recorded-recordings of Spanish poetry, original essays, articles, stories, poems, playlets; and for the selling of magazines. Of the latter, he said, "I felt that a personal hobby could be combined with the work of Sigma Delta Pi, to mutual advantage." In addition to this, Dr. Amner should have

---

<sup>3</sup> Later renamed Louisiana Tech University.

mentioned the praiseworthy service which he and Dr. Russell rendered in mobilizing the efforts of Sigma Delta Pi in behalf of Pan-American solidarity during the war years. Dr. Russell presented a complete financial report that showed a current cash balance of \$471.95.

This very successful meeting was brought to a close by President Amner's expressing the gratitude of Sigma Delta Pi to Dr. José Martel for making all arrangements for the convention. Among those present were the following who have been important in the service of both the society and the AATS: Mrs. Connie Garza Brockett (Office of Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs), Dr. Marjorie C. Johnston (U.S. Office of Education), Dr. José Martel (College of City of New York), Dr. John D. Fitz-Gerald (University of Arizona), Dr. F. Dewey Amner (Denison University), Dr. Glenn R. Barr (University of Miami, Ohio), Dr. Willis Knapp Jones and Dr. Harry J. Russell (also of Miami University), Miss Esther R. Brown (U.S. Office of Education), Professor Stuart M. Gross (Hofstra College), Miss Agnes M. Brady (Bucknell University), and Dr. James O. Swain (University of Tennessee).

Dr. Amner's second term was marked by considerable activity in the organization, stimulated by the careful planning of the national officers, by an improved *Entre Nosotros*, thanks to the work of the new coeditor, Stuart M. Gross, and debates on topics of great importance to the society, discussions that aroused much interest. The death of several great Hispanists and the resignation of the executive secretary-treasurer also occurred during this triennium.

### **"Un sueño monumental"**

For many years while president of Sigma Delta Pi, Dr. Leavitt O. Wright advocated building two monuments on the Mexican-American border, and although he had the support of many Hispanists, especially his good friend Dr. John D. Fitz-Gerald, he made no real progress. At the triennial convention of 1941, he explained his "sueño monumental"; but although many favored his proposal, they agreed that it should be a long-term project. In a determined effort to arouse greater interest in his dream, he published an editorial in *Entre Nosotros* (February 1945). He reminded his readers of the Christ of the Andes erected on the border of Chile and Argentina to bring peace to neighbors who had quarreled frequently. Likewise, he argued, we should erect a monument dedicated to two great men on the border of two democracies that have quarreled in the past. Actually, he proposed two monuments, one of Benito Juárez, facing north, with a quotation, "El respeto al derecho ajeno es la paz." The other of Abraham Lincoln, facing south, with his words, "With charity for all" engraved on the pedestal. Dr. Wright mentioned that Dr. Fitz-Gerald, the most vocal proponent, had many influential friends and could head the movement; so all who agreed should write him.

Many favored Dr. Wright's plan. Dr. Andrés Iduarte of Columbia University published a long article of praise in *Entre Nosotros* (May 1945). In November of 1946, Professor Stuart M. Gross published an editorial, "Obra monumental," and he stated, "Hoy nos encaramos con dos alternativas principales: la de ofrecer de nuevo una o dos becas pequeñas, y la de apadrinar el establecer un monumento simbólico entre las Américas, estatuas gemelas de Benito Juárez y Abraham Lincoln en la frontera mexicana-estadounidense." As for the scholarships, he wrote that he would support them

if they could be many, but with the limited resources of the society, he could not favor them. As for the monuments, he asks, "¿Habría desalentado a Colón?" and adds, "Emprendámoslo." In the next issue (May 1947) appeared a letter from Dr. Reid in Havana opposing the monument. In essence, he wrote, "I believe that such funds as we have should be used for modest projects which would be of direct benefit to as large a number of members as possible." Immediately under this long letter, the editor printed a long article by Dr. Wright entitled, "Un sueño monumental" in which he presented his plan once again. In the issue of November 1948, the editor reprinted Dr. Wright's article on the monument that had appeared in the issue of February 1945. Even after all this discussion, the dream remains unfulfilled, a dream that may be realized when the proper approach can be made to the governments of Mexico and of the United States at a politically opportune time.

### **A Different Motto Suggested**

A letter from Dr. Joseph Silverman appeared in *Entre Nosotros* (November 1945) in which he advocated changing our motto, "El amor por todo lo noble y bello que haya salido de la venerable España," to one that reflects the contributions of Spanish America. Commenting on this, Dr. Amner agreed and suggested "El amor por todo lo noble y bello del mundo de habla española," and the following issue (February 1946) carried this change on the cover, and a report, Gamma chapter, signed by Leavitt O. Wright, expressed agreement with Dr. Amner's change; but Dr. Wright asked, "¿Qué dicen los demás?" In this issue, Vice President William Moellering expressed his opinion in a long letter: he opposed any change at all. He asked:

¿No es verdad que la razón de ser de Sigma Delta Pi es la lengua española—la lengua de Cervantes, de Hernán Cortés y Francisco Pizarro, de José Enrique Rodó, de Rubén Darío, de Ricardo Güiraldes, de Ciro Alegría? Nunca creí que "la venerable España" fuese un ente geográfico ni de raza. Ha de entenderse como ente espiritual que existe sin límites tanto físicos como temporales, que se ha nutrido de varios y diversos elementos, incluso el indio americano. . . . En fin, siento "amor por todo lo noble y bello que haya salido de la venerable España," incluso el ritmo de sus sonoras vocales.

Dr. Amner made an editorial comment, "Razones cabales y bellamente expuestas," as well as he should, and in the following issue he dropped the new *lema* and printed the old. In the next issue (May 1946), Dr. Juan B. Rael, writing from Stanford University, expressed full agreement with Dr. Moellering.

Para mí el lema "El amor por todo lo noble y bello que haya salido de la venerable España" tiene amplio sentido simbólico y comprende todo lo noble y bello que puede venir de cualquier parte del mundo hispánico. Por lo tanto, lamentaría mucho que se reemplazaran las palabras sonoras y rítmicas del lema original con la frase prosaica que se ha recomendado.

No more was heard on the subject until the issue of November 1947 when a second long letter by Dr. Silverman appeared, again urging a change. He reviewed the discussion of the preceding two years, and added, "Luego, el entusiasmo y el interés de los 'nuevo-lemistas' se desvanecieron y el polvo del olvido volvió a encubrir la 'polémica abortiva.'" He then cited the Peruvian critic Luis Alberto Sánchez to show that Pan-American Spanish differs from peninsular Spanish because of the enormous contribution of Indian culture, and so a new "lema" was needed to recognize this fact. He proposed that the matter be submitted to all the chapters for a vote, and if a change should be approved, that they suggest new "lemas" and then choose the best.

Dr. Amner added an editorial comment in which he personally favored retention of the old, a change in his position, but said, ". . . creo en el poder creador de los espíritus, que inesperadamente revelan nuevas fórmulas al ver pasar la caravana." Nevertheless, he took no step to implement Dr. Silverman's proposal, and no further discussion or comment appeared in *Entre Nosotros*. Dr. Moellering's cogent reasoning in a masterful letter in beautiful Spanish must be credited with silencing the demand for a change, and together with the re-enforcing thoughts of Dr. Rael gave us a deeper understanding of, and appreciation for, our "lema."

### **Executive Secretary-Treasurer Named Assistant to Guatemala's President**

Professor Stuart M. Gross, elected executive secretary-treasurer at the triennial convention of 1944, transferred from Hofstra to Florida State College at the end of the spring semester, and at the same time Dr. Amner moved to Kent State University. In his second year at Florida State College, Professor Gross established a summer school in Guatemala. It had two sessions of five weeks each, and the staff consisted principally of Guatemalans and, of course, Professor Gross. On the first page of the November issue of *Entre Nosotros*, 1947, appeared a poem by Guillermo M. Monsanto entitled, "Las colegialas," first published during the summer in *Alma America*, a magazine in Guatemala, and carried beneath the title, "Con todo aprecio, al distinguido Profesor del Southern College of Florida, Mr. Stuart Gross." The poem is in praise of the American girls in the summer school headed by Professor Gross. At the end of this issue appeared the "swan song" of Professor Gross in which he thanked all for the opportunity to work with them, and he left one bit of advice: "Somos una sociedad de honor, pero este honor resulta bien superficial, acaso una mofa, si no mantenemos viva la llama en nosotros, y hacer que se despierte igual llama en otros muchos." He explained that while serving as a professor in the summer school he was also an interpreter, and so met the president of Guatemala on different occasions. The president unexpectedly asked Professor Gross to spend a year there as his assistant. He accepted, moved his family to Guatemala, and resigned his college position and his office in Sigma Delta Pi. His secretarial work was assumed by a volunteer, Dr. James O. Swain of the University of Tennessee, and his editorial duties by another volunteer, Professor Elgitha M. Hauser of Kent State University. After Professor Gross's farewell, President Amner expressed his appreciation:

Difícilmente pudiérase exagerar el valor y el ánimo en el trabajo, de nuestro cumplido ex secretario. De las horas disponibles para el trabajo, invertía demasiadas, quizás la mitad, en fomentar el bienestar y el progreso de Sigma

Delta Pi. Así podemos tener confianza en el futuro de la sociedad, notando que está cimentada firmemente sobre la devoción y la labor generosas de muchas almas dedicadas.

### **Death of Franklin D. Roosevelt**

Continuing his efforts to foster Pan-Americanism, Dr. Amner chose for his lead article in *Entre Nosotros* (May 1945) a report of a former president of Alpha chapter, "Impresiones del Profesor Herberto M. Sein, Traductor oficial de la Conferencia Interamericana de Cancilleres," held in Mexico City. This was followed by Dr. Amner's editorial, "Pensamientos," in which he expressed the hope that the Good Neighbor Policy would continue after the sudden death of Franklin Delano Roosevelt on April 12, 1945. In the same issue, he printed a long, stirring poem by Roberto Brenes Mesen of Guatemala, taken from *América* (diciembre de 1944), in appreciation of the American President. Dr. Joseph Silverman (*Entre Nosotros*, November 1947) perceived a change in the attitude of students of the United States toward Latin America, including a genuine interest in the people, their culture, and the Spanish language, a change away from dollar diplomacy and the purely economic.

In an article entitled "¿De qué valor es la Sigma Delta Pi?" in the same issue, Dr. Lesley Byrd Simpson gave as the purpose of the society that proposed by Herberto Sein when he was president of Alpha chapter: "Vivir por la humanidad, por la paz entre los hombres, por el amor."

After the lapse of twenty-seven years, Dr. Byrd's memory failed him, for in his boundless admiration for Sein, "that redheaded Mexican," as Dr. Wright affectionately referred to him, he credited him with founding Sigma Delta Pi:

Es verdad que yo fui del grupo de jóvenes entusiastas que allá por el año veinte. . . se juntaron bajo la inspiración de aquel santo mejicano, Herberto Sein, para formar el primer capítulo de la Sigma Delta Pi, y mientras él, con su dinamismo medio azteca, medio místico, siguió a su cabeza yo mantuve algún interés.

The truth, as recorded in the official minutes of Alpha, is that L. B. Simpson and Herberto Sein, along with six other students, were initiated on May 1, 1920, when Ruth Barnes, the founder, was president. On October 13, 1920, Herberto Sein was chosen to serve as president for the second year of the new society.

During this triennium (1944-47), three notable Hispanists died. The death of Dr. Rudolph Schevill, who contributed his time and efforts to the society for many years, was announced in the May issue of *Entre Nosotros*, 1946. He died on February 17, and Dr. Reid published an "Homenaje" in the issue of 1946. Dr. John Driscoll Fitz-Gerald died June 8, 1946, and in this same issue, Dr. Tomas Navarro Tomas published an analytical study of his contributions as a teacher, as a researcher, and as a devoted worker for Sigma Delta Pi. At a Velada Necrológica, held in the Instituto Hispánico at Columbia University, Dr. José Martel delivered an eloquent oration in his inimitable poetic style in praise of his friend Lawrence August Wilkins; this was published in *Entre Nosotros* (February 1947). Dr. Wilkins died on December 24, 1945.

A reading of the section in *Entre Nosotros* entitled "¿Qué hacen los capítulos?" reveals an increasing interest in activities in the chapters. This was largely attributable to the work of the National Office. For example, Professor Gross published a list of suggestions for chapter activities in the article "¿Qué hacer?" in *Entre Nosotros* (February 1947). Dr. Amner announced in the issue of May 1956 a "Certificado Premio." Each chapter was permitted to award only one certificate each year to the most outstanding student of the department that year, graduate or undergraduate, chosen by the professors, and signed by the chapter adviser, the national executive secretary-treasurer, and the national president. Dr. Amner expressed the hope that this would become the most coveted award among students of Spanish. Orders for the certificates were to be sent to the national artist, Mrs. Jean H. Sutherland in Eugene, Oregon. Another certificate, together with the AATS Medal, was announced, one annually to each participating chapter, to be awarded to the winner of a chapter "concurso literario": article, story, poem, essay, or playlet, written or recorded, the winning pieces to be published in *Entre Nosotros*. Thereafter, every issue carried two or more pieces written by students. The large number of participating chapters was very encouraging.

### **First Alumnus Chapter**

The formation of the first alumnus chapter, actually alumna, of Sigma Delta Pi was discussed by a group of lady graduates on August 3, 1946, in the famous Spanish restaurant in New York City, El Chico, while they enjoyed their "paella valenciana"; and on the evening of August 17 they met in the home of Miss Alda Maria Pizzinger and established an alumna branch of Tau chapter of Adelphi consisting of twelve active members and three honorary members, one of whom was Professor Carlos F. McHale of Fordham. They were all very enthusiastic, and announced many projects for the coming year.

### **The Triennial Convention, 1947**

The triennial convention of 1947 was held in Detroit at the Statler Hotel on December 27. At the business session, the acting executive secretary-treasurer, Dr. James O. Swain, reported the outcome of the election held by mail. Although Dr. Juan Castellano of Duke University was elected president, he explained that professional obligations would make it impossible for him to serve, so the members present voted to ask Dr. Amner to serve at least another year, which he agreed to do. The delegates authorized him to choose an editor for *Entre Nosotros* and as many vice presidents as needed to help him in the recruitment of chapters. The other officers chosen to serve during the triennium were: First Vice President, Dr. William Moellering, San José State College;<sup>4</sup> Second Vice President, Dr. Erwin K. Mapes, University of Iowa; Third Vice President, Dr. José Martel, City College of New York; Fourth Vice President, Dr. Carl A. Tyre, New Mexico A & M College;<sup>5</sup> Executive Secretary-Treasurer, Dr. James O. Swain, University of Tennessee; Editor, Mrs. Elgithe M. Hauser, Kent State University.

---

<sup>4</sup> Later renamed San José State University.

<sup>5</sup> Later renamed New Mexico State University.

Mrs. Hauser actually edited only three issues; then Professor Silvio Clark of the University of Tennessee was appointed temporary editor, and he proved to be an excellent one. He translated pertinent articles from English to Spanish, maintained a balanced publication, and encouraged students to compose limericks in Spanish for use in the bulletin.

An amendment to Article 4 of the constitution, adopted, provided that there should be three honorary presidents who should serve for life. Parenthetically, it will be remembered that Dr. Wright, who named the first trio of honorary presidents, wanted the appointments to be for only one year, but Dr. Fitz-Gerald, one of the first three honorary presidents, persuaded him that the appointments should be for life, in keeping with the practice of most societies. It seems, however, that this stipulation was not written into a constitution until this amendment of 1947. Also, it provided for four vice presidents, an executive secretary, and an editor, all to be elected for a term of three years or until replaced, and the immediate past president. These and the president were to constitute the executive council.

### **Regional or Group Meetings of Chapters**

It was voted to hold a national meeting every three years to conduct the business of the society. Also, it was voted that the officers should encourage regional meetings, probably because of recollections of successful meetings of other years. By way of background, it has long been the practice for one chapter to install another. The most notable example of this occurred on March 2, 1926, when the president of Alpha chapter led a group of thirty members to Stanford University to install Kappa chapter. There have been several instances of joint meetings, one of the earliest being that of Alpha Omicron and Alpha Rho, according to a report of J. Frank Davis in the February issue of *Entre Nosotros*, 1942. In the same article he wrote:

El año pasado (1941) el capítulo Alpha Rho tuvo su primer banquete. Asistieron . . . representantes, no sólo de Alpha Omicron, como de costumbre, pero también representantes del capítulo Alpha Lambda de Louisiana State University. Fue la primera vez que se habían juntado miembros de los tres capítulos del estado de Louisiana.

According to the report in *Entre Nosotros*, however, it seems that the first group meeting was held in Ohio through the efforts of F. Dewey Amner, covered in considerable detail in the issue of February 1941. This meeting was held at Denison University where Dr. Amner was the adviser of the host chapter, Phi. Visiting chapters were Epsilon of the College of Wooster, sponsored by Ruth Richardson, and Alpha Alpha, Miami University, sponsored by Willis Knapp Jones, a vice president of the society. Parenthetically, it should be mentioned that President John T. Reid stopped at Miami University to be honored by a special banquet tendered by Alpha Alpha, before he proceeded to the joint meeting at Denison University. The program began at 10:00 a.m. on November 16, 1940. The first number was a lively discussion in Spanish of the need for "una unión permanente de las naciones de América," actually formed in Bogotá, Colombia, April 30, 1948, the Organization of American States. Then an initiation

ceremony was held, presided over by President Reid, assisted by Drs. Richardson, Jones, and Amner. All then went to the fraternity house of Phi Delta Theta where the forty members enjoyed lunch in a happy atmosphere with Spanish songs sung by all the members, led by Dr. Harry J. Russell. Dr. Reid gave a brief, inspiring address, followed by selections of beautiful Latin-American music played by a pianist of Ohio State University. Helen Philips, a member of Epsilon and a native of Venezuela, told the members about her country, and a *sainete*, "Un norteamericano en México," was presented by the members of Alpha Alpha. The meeting was closed with the singing of the "Himno de las Américas." Dr. Amner expressed the hope that this regional meeting would point the way to many more in other parts of the country, and President Reid heaped praise on Dr. Amner for "un verdadero triunfo para la Sociedad." This "triunfo" focused the attention of the society on Dr. Amner and perhaps contribute to his being elected president to succeed Dr. Reid.

### **Membership in the Association of College Honor Societies Rejected**

In the May issue, 1947, Dr. Amner devoted nearly two pages to an explanation of an invitation to join the Association of College Honor Societies, entailing an entrance fee of \$50.00 and an annual membership fee of \$20.00. He stated at the business session that he and Professor Gross favored joining, and 13 of the 17 cards returned by the chapters also were favorable. He added that the Committee on Eligibility and Admissions of the ACHS had examined our requirements for membership and "considered them excellent," and so all material and documents needed for a formal petition were being assembled. However, after the petition was studied, Dr. Amner was notified that certain changes in the society's "scholastic requirements" would be necessary. All this background was related to the delegates at the triennial convention of 1947, and they were unwilling to make the changes; so they rejected the invitation of the ACHS.

Continuing the business session, Executive Secretary Swain presented a financial report that showed a current balance of \$1,201.31. The published report on the convention contains no reference to a luncheon or other social function. It was proposed that the name of the society be changed to include the word "international," since there was a chapter in Canada, but this was rejected. It was decided that no one could be an active member without being enrolled in one or more regular courses. A committee was appointed to study the matter of copywriting the society's name and seal.

Although a special effort was made at the 1947 Convention in Detroit to relieve President Amner of some of the burdens, he did not curtail his efforts to promote Pan-Americanism. In the issue of February 1947, he wrote a two-page editorial, taking note of diminishing interest in Inter-Americanism, and he expressed the fear that declining interest in Spanish would follow, as indeed it did. Following this editorial was an article from a magazine in Guatemala. "En misión de intercambio intelectual," about Professor Stuart M. Gross. In the issue of February 1949, Editor Silvio Clark translated to Spanish an article from *The Knoxville News-Sentinel* by Eleanor Roosevelt on the importance of the study of foreign languages in our schools; and the same issue contained an article by Gonzalo G. Reparaz, Jefe de la División de Documentación, UNESCO, on "El Anuario de estudios ibéricos e ibero-americanos."

### **Reposteros Offered by the L. G. Balfour Company**

In May of 1948, the L. G. Balfour Company, Sigma Delta Pi's official jeweler, offered a "repostero" called variously "estandarte," "pendón," and "bandera," in red felt, bordered in gold with the coat of arms in colors as they appear on the charters and certificates, 3' x 5' in size, and priced for \$25.50. A photograph of it appeared in *Entre Nosotros* in the November issue of 1948.

### **A Special National Meeting**

Sigma Delta Pi held a special national meeting on December 28, 1948, in New York City just a year after the triennial convention in Detroit. Both were held in conjunction with the meeting of the AATS and the MLA. After dinner, Dr. José Martel introduced the speaker, Dr. Angel del Río, and following his address, all enjoyed a presentation of *Sueño de una noche de agosto*, an abbreviated version of the *comedia* of Martínez Sierra, and two Spanish dances. All the performers were student members of Beta Theta chapter at New York University.

President F. Dewey Amner opened the business session of the special meeting with a warm greeting to all present, and then stated that the advancement of Hispanic culture is our goal in our teaching efforts, and cited the program just presented by the members of Beta Theta chapter as evidence of this. He pointed out that the society after twenty-seven years of growth had now become a family of sixty chapters, including one in British Columbia, and eight new chapters that year. He expressed the grief of the society for the loss of Dr. John Driscoll Fitz-Gerald, one of the first three honorary presidents, and announced that the eminent scholar Dr. Sylvanus Griswold Morley had been appointed to fill the vacancy. He concluded his remarks by emphasizing the importance of establishing closer relations with the AATS.

Dr. Swain then gave a financial report that showed a current balance of \$1,672.48, by far the largest so far in the history of the society. He made three recommendations: 1) Increase the Initiation fee, 2) Increase the charter fee, and 3) Solicit advertisements for *Entre Nosotros*. Professor Silvio Clark related briefly the history of the bulletin and suggested that the purpose of *Entre Nosotros* is to serve as a medium for intellectual exchange among the chapters, and so invited all student members to send in contributions—stories, poetry, dramatic sketches, and literary criticism—and said that he would like to add a section for editorial comments. He supported Dr. Swain's recommendations and urged the cooperation of all members in making *Entre Nosotros* a larger and more interesting magazine.

This national meeting, probably the best special meeting ever held by the society, was so successful because it was sponsored by a consortium of seven chapters in New York City and its environs (Xi, Omicron, Tau, Alpha Beta, Alpha Sigma, Beta Gamma, and Beta Theta) and was carefully planned by President Amner and a local committee: Professors Carmen de Aldecoa y González, who prepared the short version to the play and directed it (Beta Theta), José Martel (Xi, Mu, Omicron), Ruth Richardson (Tau), Manuel Salas (Alpha Beta), and Mr. Oscar Haskell (Beta Theta). All was reported in careful detail with the help of typewritten notes prepared by an active member of Beta Theta, Sylvia Shapiro, in an outstanding issue of the bulletin (February 1949) along with

photographs of professional quality. Twenty-five members were present, including many notable Hispanists.

### **Dr. Amner's Resignation**

Dr. Amner performed his official functions for the last time at this special national meeting, for shortly thereafter, recognizing his inability to continue meeting his obligations to both Sigma Delta Pi and Kent State University, he gave up the presidency of the society. In the issue of May 1949 appeared his letter of resignation:

A mis compañeros de trabajo en Sigma Delta Pi: Ha sido de veras motivo de placer servir de presidente en nuestra sociedad honoraria hispánica durante estos siete años pasados. Nos ha costado a todos nuestra porción de trabajo, pero como resultado de nuestros esfuerzos unidos durante los años favorables y difíciles de guerra y posguerra ha continuado el progreso de la sociedad.

Desde que me trasladé a esta universidad, ha crecido siempre la complejidad del empleo. Como en otras universidades hay más estudiantes y más profesores. Por consiguiente, hace tiempo que no he podido ayudar al secretario nacional como se debiera hacerlo. También, se ha sacrificado algo en el cumplimiento de los deberes universitarios. En fin se ha hecho más inevitable que yo dejara en manos más capacitadas las funciones presidenciales. Los que han de llevar la carga merecen toda nuestra cooperación. Tengo plena confianza en el futuro progreso y valor de Sigma Delta Pi. Una vez más reitero mi apreciación por la cooperación sincera que a mí y a la sociedad han extendido siempre los mas de los consejeros, y los otros oficiales.

Saludos afectuosos de su servidor y siempre su compañero.

*F. Dewey Amner*

Following this, Editor Clark added these comments:

Son tan numerosas las contribuciones del Dr. Amner al progreso de la sociedad durante su período presidencial, que hemos de concretarnos a señalar sólo las más importantes. Además de una incesante labor de estímulo a los capítulos ya establecidos, el Dr. Amner activó y sancionó la fundación de otros veintinueve, y, al momento de su renuncia, consideraba peticiones para otros cuatro. Firme creyente y propugnador del intercambio cultural y la solidaridad panamericanos, generoso de su tiempo, y sin obtener con ello el menor lucro, sirvió de agente de periódicos y revistas publicados en la América Latina, negocio que, por realizarse en nombre de la Sigma Delta Pi, contribuyó enormemente a difundir la existencia y objetivos de ésta.

## **Chapter V**

### **Carl A. Tyre, 1949-59**

#### **A Decade of Successful Meetings, Triennial and Regional**

When Dr. F. Dewey Amner resigned early in 1949, he appointed Fourth Vice President Carl Allen Tyre interim president to serve until the end of the triennium, December of 1950. Dr. Tyre was recognized as a leader, an executive with a special ability to organize activities and to persuade all his coworkers to give their best to attain the goals that he wisely set. In every endeavor, he made friends who admired him for his courage, his efficiency, and his amiable personality.

#### **Dr. Annemarie Tyre's Cooperation**

After Dr. Carl A. Tyre became chairman of the Department of Foreign Languages at New Mexico State University, his outstanding accomplishments were many, and in all his undertakings the help of his devoted wife, Dr. Annemarie Tyre, was inestimable. She was a brilliant scholar, especially in the field of Spanish, and her petite form and smiling countenance belied her seemingly boundless energy, drive, and determination. She was so involved in all his activities that it is impossible to apportion the credit due each. In marriage they had truly become of one mind as well as one flesh, and in all things they acted together as one: in the writing of books; in the founding of the International Teachers Association of Chihuahua, New Mexico, and Texas; in the co-founding of the Instituto de la Literatura Iberoamericana; in the founding of a chapter of the ATTSP at the university; in the co-founding of the Capítulo Río Grande de la AATSP; in the founding of the Beta Eta chapter of Sigma Delta Pi at the university; in activities in the Humane Society of Las Cruces; in the Boys Club; in the Beloved Vagabonds' Club (for travelers); and in the Las Cruces Rental Association. She always inspired him, and she helped him become president of Sigma Delta Pi and president of the AATSP, and carried much of the burden of both offices after he suffered a heart attack in 1956.

As a skilled executive, he delegated much authority, and when he discovered a capable and enthusiastic officer, he allowed him full freedom to perform his duties as he wished; then in sincere modesty, he stood aside while that officer carried out his policy and received acclaim.

#### **Executive Secretary James O. Swain**

Dr. Tyre was especially fortunate in having as his executive secretary Dr. James O. Swain, who had already served in this capacity for over a year and a half with Dr. Amner. Dr. Swain, a scholar in his own right, was personally acquainted with many of the outstanding scholars in Hispanic literature in this country, in Spain, and in South America, for he had given lectures in universities in Spain and in South America. As head of the

Department of Modern Languages at the University of Tennessee, he was an efficient administrator who knew how to arrange and manage the affairs of an organization. His engaging personality helped him make friends wherever he went, and his wide acquaintance in academic circles, his devotion to Sigma Delta Pi, and his natural enthusiasm combined to make him a very productive recruiter of chapters. All of the qualities mentioned made him the most successful organizer of national meetings in the history of the society. So many were his activities and accomplishments, among which was the publishing of *Entre Nosotros*, upon which the writer relied for much of his information, that it may appear that this chapter belongs almost as much to the executive secretary as to the president.

### **Meetings between Triennial Conventions: National, Regional, and Group**

Dr. Tyre's foremost objective was the holding of regional meetings of the chapters throughout the country. In his "Mensaje del presidente interino," he set the tone by commenting that recently he had taken part in the installation of Beta Sigma chapter (Hardin Simmons University in Abilene, Texas) to which six other chapters of the Southwest sent representatives: "Estos estudiantes tuvieron la oportunidad de conocerse, de trabar amistad y de discutir problemas profesionales, con el resultado de un notable aumento de interés en todo lo hispánico. Así pues la convocación de reuniones en diversas partes del país, sería de mucho provecho no sólo para los estudiantes sino para la sociedad en general."

This observation was simply a manifestation of his conviction that the society really needs more and closer personal contacts for the discussion of the problems of the chapters and for the frequent exchange of ideas. Therefore, he favored national meetings more often than triennially, and suggested that after each meeting all should get together to become acquainted and to discuss their problems informally. He explained that regional group meetings could probably be arranged most successfully in conjunction with meetings of related professional organizations.

In 1949, the PMLA met in Palo Alto, California, and members of Sigma Delta Pi were invited to attend a banquet arranged by Dr. Aurelio M. Espinosa, adviser of the local chapter, Kappa, at Stanford. It was held in the Garden Room of the Stanford Union the evening of November 7. The presidential table was graced by a galaxy of Hispanic scholars, all members of Sigma Delta Pi: S. Griswold Morley (honorary president), Leavitt O. Wright, F. Dewey Amner, Aurelio M. Espinosa (both father and son), William Moellering, Alfred Coester, Stuart M. Gross, Erwin K. Mapes, and Carlos García Prada, the speaker of the occasion. Among the fifty-two guests were: Federico de Onís, Guy B. Colburn, George E. McSpadden, Gerald Wade, Ronald Hilton, Agnes Brady, Ruth R. Richardson, Laurel H. Turk, Marjorie C. Johnston, Concha Zardoya, Carmen Iglesias, T. Earle Hamilton, and Mrs. Isabel M. de Schevill. This was indeed an auspicious beginning for Dr. Tyre's dream of group meetings. Unfortunately, ill health prevented the attendance of both the president and the executive secretary.

The next group meeting was held in Charlotte, North Carolina, November 26, 1949, and was arranged by Dr. Charles W. Roberts, adviser of Omega chapter at Davidson College. The dinner was attended by 54 representatives of the 13 chapters of the SAMLA

region. Dr. Juan Castellanos gave a very interesting talk, Professor Silvio Clark, editor of *Entre Nosotros*, urged all chapters to send in their fall reports on time, and music followed. Among those present were D. Lincoln Canfield, Dr. and Mrs. James O. Swain, Dr. and Mrs. Sturgis Leavitt, Dr. and Mrs. Graydon S. DeLand, and Terrell L. Tatum.

A regional meeting was held in Knoxville in the winter of 1950. Details were not given in *Entre Nosotros*, but in personal conversation we learned from Dr. Swain that 38 members attended the banquet in spite of ice on the streets of the city, and among the guests were Juan Castellanos and Graydon S. DeLand.

An impressive regional meeting was held in New York City on December 29, 1950. Serving as master of ceremonies, Dr. José Martel welcomed members and friends of the society. Dr. Swain briefly summarized the accomplishments of the triennial meeting held in New Orleans in 1949, and Dr. Benjamin Cohen, Secretario de Propaganda de La Organización de Naciones Unidas, delivered an address. A program followed consisting of Villancicos sung by the Adelphi Chorus, and an abbreviated version of Benavente's *Abuela y nieta* was presented by Beta Theta chapter of New York University. The organizing committee consisted of Professors Carmen Aldecoa de González, A. Michael de Luce, Antoinette Guerrero, José Martel, Ruth Richardson, and Oscar Haskell.

The Fifth Meeting of the Instituto de Literatura Iberoamericana was held in Albuquerque in 1951, and Dr. Tyre, a co-founder, persuaded the president to cooperate in arranging a banquet for the evening of August 30 at the Hotel Hilton, sponsored by Sigma Delta Pi. Some eighty-five members of the society attended, and Dr. Tyre served as master of ceremonies and introduced Dr. Francisco Montverde, rector of La Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, the speaker of the evening. At the insistence of the guests, the following also spoke briefly: Roberto Ibáñez of Uruguay, Federico de Onís, Max Enríquez Ureña of the ONU, Arturo Torres Ríoseco, Alberto Esquinaz-Mayo of the Panamerican Union, Julio Jiménez Rueda of the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, and Samuel M. Waxman. Among the others who attended were: Annemarie B. Tyre, James O. Swain, E. Anderson Imbert, Sabine R. Ulibarri, Raymond R. MacCurdy, Luis Monguió, Graves B. Roberts, Reginald C. Reindorp, George O. Schanzer, Theodore J. Brenner, and Julia Branlage of the University of New Mexico, who was responsible for all the details of the banquet.

On November 1, 1952, the Sigma Delta Pi SCMLA Breakfast was held for the first time, sponsored by Alpha Pi chapter of the North Texas State Teachers College (now North Texas State University).<sup>6</sup> The breakfast was held at the Texas Woman's College (now Texas Woman's University), with the cooperation of Dr. A. Wallace Woolsey of TWU. To emphasize the importance of the occasion, both President Tyre and Executive Secretary Swain conducted the program. The breakfast was organized by Vice President T. Earle Hamilton and repeated successfully for twenty-five years under his direction during the annual meetings of the SCMLA.

With the cooperation of the AA TSP, Sigma Delta Pi was able to schedule a luncheon on December 19, 1952, at the Hotel Sheraton Plaza in Boston, and 53 members attended, representing 23 chapters. Drs. Tyre and Wright were unable to attend, but each sent a letter of greetings, and Dr. Swain presided. Professor Monguió announced the meeting of the Instituto Internacional de Literatura Iberoamericana to be held in Mexico City in

---

<sup>6</sup> Later renamed the University of North Texas.

August, and Dr. Swain spoke on the current activities of Sigma Delta Pi, mentioning that eight new chapters were recruited this year, 1952.

During the meeting of SAMLA in Chattanooga in 1953, Sigma Delta Pi hosted a luncheon in the Hotel Patten on November 28. Professor Tatum, master of ceremonies, introduced a student from Barcelona who was studying in this country with the benefit of a scholarship. This young man, Modesto Casals, made a few brief remarks in which he advocated increased cultural exchanges to improve relations between our countries. Dr. Swain, always eager to talk about Sigma Delta Pi, told of his recent visits to different chapters, Dr. Alberta Wilson Server spoke on the cultural advantages of Mexico's beautiful Puebla de los Angeles, then presented a young poet of that city, Juan Degante. The program ended on a lighter note with the singing of the popular Mexican song, "Quiéreme mucho."

In keeping with his previously expressed belief that national meetings should be held more frequently than triennially, Dr. Tyre charged Vice President T. Earle Hamilton with the responsibility of arranging such a meeting in Dallas, Texas, to attract our many chapters in that area. This meeting was held December 27 and 28, 1957, in the Hotel Statler Hilton. The Executive Council met in the Silver Room for breakfast: Dr. and Mrs. Tyre, Dr. and Mrs. Swain, Professor Agnes Brady, Dr. J. Chalmers Herman, Dr. Florence Bonhard, and Dr. and Mrs. Hamilton. Dr. Swain reported that the society was slowly developing a small balance in its accounts, and although he offered no written financial report, he promised to publish one soon in *Entre Nosotros*.

At nine o'clock, a meeting of the delegates was held in the Gold Room, and the representatives from forty-five chapters answered the roll call, some from as far away as the Northeast and the Southeast: Gamma Omega of the University of Connecticut, Gamma Pi of William and Mary, and Alpha Delta of Florida State University. The delegates eagerly told of their activities, and they urged that more time be allocated for chapter reports at the next meeting. Some told of teaching Spanish to Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts to help them earn Merit Badges, others of arranging lectures in Spanish, and still others of the enthusiasm generated by the showing of Spanish films. Unfortunately, Dr. Swain had reduced the next issue of *Entre Nosotros* to only eight pages, so he did not have enough space to report the luncheon and the program, but according to the writer's memory, the meeting was a very successful one, and it was the last opportunity during Dr. Tyre's terms of office that the chapters had to exchange ideas, except for the triennial convention of 1959.

Recognizing the inadequate reporting of the Dallas meeting, Dr. Tyre wrote an article in the April issue of 1958 in which he gave more information, specifically his reading of a telegram from Dr. J. Homer Heriott of Psi chapter: "En vista de las recientes dificultades, Psi recomienda para estimular más actividad y para desarrollar ideas de mérito, se dé un premio al capítulo más activo o al que realice el proyecto más meritorio durante el año 58-59." Accordingly, Dr. Tyre appointed the following committee: David Sisto of Zeta, Dorothy Culling of Alpha Tau, W. K. Jones of Alpha Alpha, Wilfred A. Beardsley of Gamma Sigma, and Robert Kirsner of Gamma Tau, chairman. He authorized this committee to select the three most deserving chapters and award a prize to each.

Another telegram from Psi chapter suggested that the executive council carry out the wishes of the chapters that voted overwhelmingly in favor of giving scholarships. Dr.

Swain explained that such a program would require a balance of at least \$1,500 in the treasury to start it, and that Sigma Delta Pi did not have such an amount. Again, he promised to publish a financial report in the next issue of *Entre Nosotros*, but it did not appear. However, he did state later, in the issue of April 1958, that he would set aside the \$350 expected in commission from the jeweler, L. G. Balfour, and try to find additional funds to amass the estimated \$1,500 needed to start a scholarship program. Unfortunately, however, a scholarship program did not begin until Dr. Chandler became president.

### **All New Chapters to be Installed by National Officers**

Most of us have propensities, perhaps hobbies, and some even obsessions. Just as Dr. Amner had an overwhelming desire to collect Hispanic magazines, Dr. Swain found his pleasure in frequent travel, and in both cases the effect on *Entre Nosotros* was enormous. Just as Dr. Amner combined his hobby with the activities of Sigma Delta Pi, so Dr. Swain used his to the advantage of the society. At the triennial convention in New Orleans in December of 1950, he emphasized that it was of the greatest importance to have a national officer install every chapter, and explained that the increase in travel expense was attributable to carrying out this policy. In the issue of November 1958, Dr. Swain, writing editorially, said: "Si tuviera nuestra sociedad más fondos disponibles para tal cosa, el secretario ejecutivo visitaría todos los capítulos poco a poco para ver cómo progresan." His attitude was known long before, and so he received many invitations to visit chapters, such as those at Stetson University, at Florida State University, at the University of Cincinnati, and at Georgetown University. Also, he visited various group meetings, such as the ones in Boston, in Austin, Texas, and in Denton, Texas. Too, he often participated in the installation of chapters, as at Trinity University in San Antonio and at the University of Oklahoma at Norman, even though a vice president was located nearby in Texas.

### **Financial Problems**

All this travel, in addition to attendance at national meetings of the society and at many professional meetings, enabled him to become well acquainted and to persuade many professors to request a chapter of Sigma Delta Pi. In this he was very successful, but it is highly probable that so much travel depleted the treasury, although this cannot be documented because he did not publish a single financial statement while Dr. Tyre was president. He struggled to bring money into the treasury by selling advertisements in *Entre Nosotros*, but actually sold only one for a single issue to a film company that rented foreign films to schools. Sigma Delta Pi received a commission of 15 percent from the national jeweler, the L. G. Balfour Company of Attleboro, Massachusetts, so he repeatedly begged the chapters to buy more pins and keys, and he ran illustrated advertisements for the jeweler for years without charge, but the society never received more than \$375 per year from this source. Next, he persuaded the chapters to vote for increasing the initiation fee from \$2.50 to \$5.00, but he received so many letters of protest that the Executive Council voted to increase the fee to only \$3.00.

## *Entre Nosotros*

During the administration of Dr. Amner, *Entre Nosotros* was considered of primary importance, and each issue contained 20-28 pages. Under Dr. Tyre, who gave Dr. Swain complete control of the bulletin, it continued as a reputable publication for the first three years under the editorship of Professor Silvio Clark, who was truly professional and efficient, and whose writing was in polished Spanish. It is indeed regrettable that he did not continue as editor, for thereafter the bulletin deteriorated, except during the brief editorship of Dr. Robert Avrett, and was reduced to 8-12 pages in each issue. It appears that the society's meager income forced him to reduce the expense of *Entre Nosotros* in order to finance travel. Frequently, the publication was written in a desultory manner without organization, and it omitted much of the news of greatest importance to a historian, but often carried news of little value to the society. In the issue of May 1954, Dr. Swain acknowledged complaints about the quality of the Spanish in the bulletin, but he explained that this was not because of his ignorance, but because he and his helpers (member of his departmental staff) lacked the time to correct more than the most glaring mistakes, so on more than one occasion he urged that chapter reports be written more carefully. This brings to mind Dr. Harry Russell who meticulously rewrote all faulty reports and translated those written in English. Perhaps Dr. Swain was simply trying to do too much, for after all, he was head of a large department.

There was also a notable change in the content of *Entre Nosotros*, and this reflected his hobby, for articles on travel appeared with increasing frequency. In the issue of November 1954, the lead article was "La excursión al extranjero como método de enseñanza" by Dr. J. Chalmers Herman. In this issue, Dr. Swain wrote, "Conviene repetirlo: Necesitamos informes sobre viajes, poemas, cosas para entretenimiento o la enseñanza, informes para 'Lo que hacen los capítulos', fotografías, y aún avisos de becas, cambios de personal docente, etc." This list, headed by travel, tells us much about the editorial policy. Dr. Swain traveled much to Latin America, and accounts of all his trips, with many photographs, were published in the bulletin. One of his longer articles, "El viaje encantado," appeared in three parts in successive issues. On page 10 of the February issue of 1955, he wrote an enlightening confession: "Algunos de mis colegas . . . dicen que los que por fortuna hemos pasado bastante tiempo en países de habla española, no hacemos más que hablar de nuestros viajes. Hasta cierto punto tienen razón; no hay hora de clase que no hallo ocasión de hablar de los años, meses, semanas, o días pasados en el extranjero." Not merely did he talk about his travels, he wrote about them in *Entre Nosotros*, and in books.

## **Triennial Conventions**

The triennial convention of 1950 was held December 19-21 in New Orleans at the Roosevelt Hotel. Constitutional amendments, proposed and accepted, required: that all five vice presidents be elected instead of appointed; that each serve as the governor of his region; that the title "secretary-treasurer" be changed to "executive secretary"; and that the word "sociedad" be substituted for "fraternidad."

The following officers were chosen to serve during the ensuing triennium: President, Dr. Carl A. Tyre; First Vice President, Dr. William Moellering; Second Vice President,

Dr. Erwin K. Mapes; Third Vice President, Dr. José Martel; Fourth Vice President, Dr. T. Earle Hamilton; Fifth Vice President, Prof. Charles W. Roberts; Executive Secretary, Dr. James O. Swain.

In the Gold Room, luncheon was served for 48 members and friends, only nine of whom, unfortunately, were students. President Tyre welcomed the guests, and Secretary Swain announced that 21 new chapters had been added during the triennium just ending, and he set a goal of a total of 100 chapters by the next convention. Among those present were Donald B. Walsh, Jerónimo Mallo, Esther Brown, Melissa A. Cilley, Terrell L. Tatum, Roberta King, Victor R. B. Oehlschlager, J. Chalmers Herman, D. Lincoln Canfield, George E. McFadden, Agnes Brady, Graydon S. DeLand, Willis Knapp Jones, Erwin K. Mapes, Marjorie C. Johnston, James O. and Nancy Swain, Robert Avrett, Carl and Annemarie Tyre, Graves Roberts and Mrs. Roberts, and Leonor Arce.

Dr. Tyre's second term was marked by increased activity in the chapters, successful group meetings, and recruitment of many new chapters. For all this, especially the bringing in of new chapters, Dr. Swain must be given much credit. Travel, visiting chapters, and attendance at professional meetings continued to widen his acquaintance and facilitate his recruitment of many chapters. He always kept the society in the eyes of professors wherever he went. Needless to say, all this travel was expensive, and in part it was financed by a reduction in the budget for the bulletin. Although the demands of the university and of so much travel left him little time for the editing of the bulletin, many [me contributions continued to enrich the publication. An editorial by Dr. Tyre, "¡Que nunca se apague la vela!" (May 1951) has advice to active members worthy of reprinting today. Two *homenajes*, one to the society's first national president, Dr. Leavitt O. Wright, by F. Dewey Amner, entitled "Wright from Mexico" (May 1952); and the other to Dr. Erwin K. Mapes by Jerónimo Mallo on the occasion of his becoming professor emeritus of the University of Iowa (November 1952), are fitting tributes to deserving officers of the society. Don Jerónimo prepared a useful and interesting article, "¡Pido la palabra!" (May 1953) to guide the chapters in the conduct of all their business meetings in Spanish, for it contains nearly all the parliamentary expressions needed.

### **Triennial Convention of 1953**

The next triennial convention, which began Dr. Tyre's full second term, was held in the Hotel Morrison in Chicago beginning December 27, 1953. President Tyre greeted the delegates, expressed his gratitude to Dr. Leavitt O. Wright and to the members of the executive council, and proudly announced that the family of Sigma Delta Pi then consisted of 93 chapters. He stated the following goals for the next triennium:

- 1) Complete 100 chapters by 1955;
- 2) Install chapters in areas where we now have few or none;
- 3) Cooperate fully with the National High School Honorary Spanish fraternity, sponsored by the AATSP;
- 4) Have more regional meetings of chapters of the society.
- 5) Have Sigma Delta Pi sponsor a breakfast at all regional meetings of the MLA, as was then being done in the SCMLA.

- 6) Have a special national meeting of the society in 1955 in Dallas to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the society as a national organization.

This last objective was based on Dr. Tyre's belief that Sigma Delta Pi was a national organization while still governed by the local Alpha chapter with a student as the "national" president. Actually, Sigma Delta Pi became a truly national society when the local chapter surrendered its authority to the first national president, Dr. Wright, then a professor at the University of Oregon, in 1931, as detailed in Chapter I.

Following Dr. Tyre's address, Dr. José Martel delivered a stirring address, an *homenaje*, to the paterfamilias, Leavitt O. Wright, which he concluded with the Greek words which, translated, mean "Let us carry on under the inspiration of Wright." Then he presented the society's first president a plaque to express the gratitude of Sigma Delta Pi. What a pity that we do not have a recording of this encomium in the eloquent words and voice of Dr. Martel, the society's national orator!

The only business not treated on previous occasions was the authorization of two new orders, of Don Quijote and of Cristóbal Colón, with keys and pins to be prepared by Balfour. The idea was conceived by Dr. Wright, and the designs were made by Dr. Martel.

Concluding the meeting, Dr. Swain once again promised the publication of a financial statement, this time in the May issue, but perhaps it was the lack of space which prevented this.

During his second triennium, Dr. Tyre, with Dr. Swain's help, maintained a high level of activity in the chapters, and group meetings continued. Dr. Swain, who alone edited *Entre Nosotros* after Professor Leonora Arce prepared three issues, asked Dr. Robert Avrett of his staff to substitute as executive secretary and editor for three issues during his stay in South America, resumed his work in the fall of 1952, and continued as editor through all of 1955. After this, he appointed a young member of his staff to be editor, Eduardo Betoret París, who continued the same editorial policy under Dr. Swain's guidance.

At this time, Dr. Swain was invited by the University of Chile to submit a critical essay in a contest to select five to be published in an anthology. Later, he was informed that his article was one of the five chosen, and after publication, the university sent him ten copies of the book.

In the bulletin, issues of February and November of 1955, there are reports on Dr. Swain's interview with the Brazilian novelist Erico Veríssimo. Dr. Swain wrote: "Es un joven muy simpático. Ahora es director de relaciones culturales de la ONU. Habla muy bien el inglés y ha dictado muchas conferencias en los Estados Unidos en portugués o en inglés." A photograph of the novelist with Dr. Swain appeared in the November issue of 1955.

About this time, Dr. Wright wrote from the University of Oregon that Doña Engracia Dayson, Vda. de Vogan, of Eugene, Oregon, had donated a sum to the department of Spanish from which a prize of \$25.99 should be paid annually to the student who wrote the best essay in Spanish in the "Concurso John Watson Vogan." The first winning essay, "Tormenta tropical tapatía," by Rita Kenyon, was considered worthy of page 1 of the November issue, 1955.

## **The Orders of Don Quijote and Cristóbal Colón**

Dr. Wright worked closely with the Balfour Company to produce keys and pins to symbolize the new orders authorized at the last triennial convention, La Orden de Don Quijote and La Orden de Cristóbal Colón. Each was made with a three dimensional face of the person mounted on a crowned key with a background of black enamel for contrast, the metal of 10 K gold. Each key sold for \$7.50, and the key-pin for \$8.25.

There is no indication that Dr. Wright had any clear conception of these orders, and certainly he did not transmit any ideas to Dr. Swain, who offered his own suggestions in November of 1954, and repeated them in two successive issues of *Entre Nosotros*. The creation of these orders, according to Dr. Swain, raised certain questions: "Who will have the right to buy and wear the keys?" He recommended that the chapter advisers and the members of the executive council be allowed the privilege. Then he suggested that the chapters be authorized to make their own rules regarding the distribution of these awards. However, he proposed that the keys be awarded to a limited number of students who show by their high grades and special service to the chapter that they deserve the honor. "Which key should be awarded first?" He recommended that the Don Quijote key be given to a member first, and the Colón key when he deserves a second award. Some years, he explained, ten to twenty percent of the chapter members may deserve the Don Quijote award, and about half of these may earn the Colón. Moreover, the chapters were instructed to purchase these keys directly from Balfour just as they did their membership pins. The idea of an "order" seems to have been lost, for the keys had become merely two more awards similar to the AATSP medals that Sigma Delta Pi had given as prizes to honor students for certain accomplishments, and the Colón award had become the higher award, for it was given in smaller numbers only to those who had already earned the Don Quijote key.

"La primera de la Orden de don Quijote," an article in the issue of November 1954, relates that Gamma chapter had honored its past president, Gwen Paugh, by making her a "caballera de Don Quijote, the first Don Quijote key awarded by Gamma, and one of the first in the nation." Miss Paugh had earned her A.B. degree summa cum laude, was then preparing for the examinations for her A.M. degree, and had received a Fullbright scholarship for study in Europe. This was pleasing to all, for the first recipient was a worthy member of the society, and the honor was bestowed by Dr. Wright, the adviser of Gamma and the originator of the order.

## **The Hundredth Chapter**

At the triennial convention of 1953, Dr. Tyre had announced as one of his goals the founding of the hundredth chapter of Sigma Delta Pi in 1955, and he attained this objective with the installation of Delta Delta chapter at New Mexico Western College (now Western New Mexico University) in Silver City on December 3 of that year. Dr. Annemarie Tyre, Executive Secretary James O. Swain, and Vice President T. Earle Hamilton assisted President Tyre, and many representatives of neighboring colleges were present. Nine active members and three honorary members: President J. Cloyd Miller of the college, Mrs. Patricia Neal, and Miss Eva Parker, were initiated. After the ceremony a

sumptuous banquet was served, the three officers of the society spoke briefly, and Dr. Smith, the adviser, thanked all attending the founding of the hundredth chapter of Sigma Delta Pi. She especially thanked Dr. Annemarie Tyre for her thorough preparations that were largely responsible for the successful installation of Delta Delta chapter and such a memorable evening.

### **The Death of Archer M. Huntington**

The year of 1955 was saddened by the passing of Archer Milton Huntington at the age of 85. He will be remembered as a great Hispanophile, scholar, and philanthropist. The issue of May 1956 of *Entre Nosotros*, dedicated to the memory of the departed honorary president, carried a fitting tribute by Dr. José Martel, who began by quoting the lema, "El amor por todo lo noble y bello que haya salido de la venerable España." He continued, "Estas inspiradas palabras pudieran servir de epitafio, sin quitar ni añadir nada, a nuestro primer presidente honorario recientemente fallecido." Passing over his *lapsus Memoriae*—Dr. Huntington was the fourth honorary president, named in 1937 to fill the vacancy created by the death of Juan C. Cebrián—let us return to Dr. Martel's description:

Su intenso entusiasmo, su afecto sincero y su generoso sentir, llegaron a cristalizarse en actos y obras que son el monumento más grandioso erigido en parte alguna a una cultura extranjera. Ahí está, como testigo fehaciente, desde hace mas de medio siglo, en uno de los sitios más elevados y céntricos de Nueva York, el grupo armónico de edificios, obra sura, que forman e integran algo así como una Acrópolis hispanoamericana presidida por la estatua de "El Cid" (escultura de su esposa, Anna Hyatt). En ellos se albergan el Museo Hispánico con sus numerosas colecciones de incalculable valor; la Biblioteca Hispánica con sus incunables, los facsímiles y las publicaciones de la "Hispanic Society"; las colecciones de escultura y numismática españolas.

An explanatory note may be helpful. Dr. Archer M. Huntington was the son of the railroad magnate Collis Potter Huntington, who left most of his fortune to Henry Edwards Huntington, his nephew and business partner, who was an insatiable collector of literary and art treasures on his estate in San Marino, California, where he established the Henry E. Huntington Library and Art Gallery. This contains the largest collection of incunabula in America, according to the *Columbia Encyclopedia*, and a copy of the Gutenberg Bible as well as such paintings as Gainsborough's "Blue Boy" and Thomas Lawrence's "Pinkie." Dr. Archer M. Huntington was educated in private schools in New York City and in Spain, and inherited a considerable amount of his father's fortune.

Dr. Annemarie Tyre reported in June of 1956 the formation of an alumnus chapter of Beta Eta with forty-one members who planned to be very active in encouraging closer relations with their friends across the Rio Bravo. Plans were announced for the entertainment of distinguished visitors from Ciudad Chihuahua with a dinner in August, and in October a group of educators from Chihuahua.

## Triennial Convention of 1956

The triennial convention of 1956 was held at the Mayflower Hotel, Washington, D.C., beginning on December 28. Unfortunately, the issue of *Entre Nosotros* in which a report of the convention was given consisted of only eight pages, three of which were devoted to the address of the speaker, Dr. José Mora-Otero, Secretary General of the OEA, two pages to photographs of the new officers, and one to information about the new editor, Eduardo Betoret-París and to advertising for the Balfour Company, the society's jeweler. So most matters of historical value were omitted. The officers for the next triennium, announced by Dr. Robert Kirsner, chairman of the committee on elections, were: President, Dr. Carl A. Tyre; Dr. Leavitt O. Wright, Honorary President (to replace Archer M. Huntington); First Vice President, Professor Agnes Brady; Second Vice President, Dr. J. Chalmers Herman; Third Vice President, Dr. José Martel; Fourth Vice President, Dr. T. Earle Hamilton; Fifth Vice President, Dr. Florence Bonhard; Executive Secretary, Dr. James O. Swain

In the following issue (May 1957) appeared "Palabras de nuestro presidente" in which Dr. Tyre stated that the meeting at the Mayflower was very successful with more than eighty members and guests attending, including Dr. and Mrs. Walter Starkie, Juan Marín, and of course the Secretary General of the OEA, Dr. Mora-Otero. He credited the success to the careful preparations of Dr. Swain. Dr. Tyre again urged that thereafter an informal gathering follow the banquet to enable those present to get acquainted and to chat. He mentioned that at the meeting in Washington it was decided to hold another national meeting, this time in Dallas, to be arranged by Dr. T. Earle Hamilton and sponsored by Alpha Eta chapter of Southern Methodist University, and he urged all to attend. He congratulated Dr. Wright on his election as honorary president, and he concluded with information about the Spanish National Honor Society for high schools, sponsored by the AATSP. The ritual for this society, incidentally, was written by Dr. Wright. The special national meeting announced in Washington was held in Dallas, and is described above, under "Meetings between triennial conventions."

Dr. Tyre was handicapped by a cardiovascular problem which resulted in a heart attack in 1956, but in no way did this affect the progress of Sigma Delta Pi, for his devoted and efficient wife, Dr. Annemarie Tyre, who was quite capable of serving as president in her own right, took over wherever and whenever her services were needed. Too, his faithful friend, Executive Secretary Swain, helped in every possible way.

## Certificates and Charters Printed in Color

When Dr. Swain was informed by the national artist, Mrs. C. A. Sutherland, that the supply of certificates was nearly exhausted, he suggested that she and Dr. Wright negotiate with the national printer, Mr. George Boehnke, for the printing of certificates in color, for all three resided in Eugene, Oregon. The printer had to order inks from England, but by the first of February 1958, he announced that the certificates were ready for delivery at a price only slightly higher than that of the former certificates in black and white. The chapters could order them from Mrs. Sutherland postpaid for twenty-five cents each or, if the member wanted them completely hand-lettered, \$1.50 each. These were as beautiful as those colored by Mrs. Sutherland, and without flaws, for Mr.

Boehnke had attained perfect register. He was indeed a meticulous printer and a man of fine character, as was his son who took over the business when the father died.

### **Triennial Convention of 1959**

Late in 1959, Drs. Carl and Annemarie Tyre decided that his deteriorating health made it unwise for him to accept another term in office; so at the triennial convention of 1959 in Chicago in late December, held in conjunction with the meeting of the AATSP and the MLA, the following officers were elected: President, Dr. T. Earle Hamilton; First Vice President, Professor Agnes Brady; Second Vice President, Dr. J. Chalmers Herman; Third Vice President, Dr. José Martel; Fourth Vice President, Dr. F. Dewey Amner; Fifth Vice President, Dr. Florence Bonhard; Executive Secretary, Dr. James O. Swain.

## Chapter VI

### Improvement in Quality and in Numbers

**T. Earle Hamilton, 1960-68**

#### **The Texas Plan to Encourage the Study of Foreign Languages**

When Dr. T. Earle Hamilton accepted the presidency of Sigma Delta Pi, he had already served three terms as vice president for the Southwest (1951-59), dark days when throughout the country secondary schools were discontinuing or curtailing the study of foreign languages, colleges were eliminating foreign-language requirements for degrees, and enrollments in foreign languages were declining. Unless this deplorable trend could be stopped, he reasoned, it would inevitably have an adverse effect on the recruitment of chapters in Sigma Delta Pi. Early in 1951, then an associate professor of classical and Romance languages at Texas Tech University, he conceived an idea that became highly successful as The Texas Plan to Encourage the Study of Foreign Languages, a plan that called for a concerted effort on the part of the teachers of foreign languages at all levels of instruction to obtain overwhelming public support by addressing local organizations such as the Lions Club, the Kiwanis Club, the Rotary Club, the VFW, the PTA, women's study groups, and church groups, explaining to them the need for restoring the study of foreign languages to its proper place, this to be accomplished by exerting pressure on school administrators and boards. Soon, radio stations would donate time for foreign-language programs, and all this would be statewide.

Over a year later, when The Texas Plan was already beginning to bear fruit, Dr. Earl James McGrath, U.S. Commissioner of Education, made an appeal to the nation, addressing the 35th Meeting of the Central States MLA on May 3, 1952, in St. Louis. He echoed The Texas Plan in the thought that we should ". . . sensitize the lay public to the need for language instruction and enlist support for it." The next month, the Rockefeller Foundation responded by authorizing a large grant to the MLA to improve the unfavorable condition of foreign-language study. In September, Dr. C. Grant Loomis, associate secretary of the MLA, wrote Dr. Hamilton that the MLA was "initiating a three-year program to re-educate the public to the national needs for at least dual language efficiency," and he requested additional information about the progress that was being made in Texas. On October 1, Dr. Loomis wrote:

Your excellent letter is of great comfort to us, and we count it fortunate, indeed, that the battle lines are already drawn in at least one area . . . Your Texas Plan, we trust, will be duplicated in every state, and we shall do our part to make your efforts known. . . . It would please me greatly to have an opportunity to talk with you at the SCMLA meeting in Denton next month.

After their discussion in Denton, their correspondence continued until the University of Kentucky Foreign Language Conference in April 1953, where Dr. Hamilton explained the Texas Plan to the representatives of thirty-eight states in a paper entitled "Some

Neighborly Suggestions." Fortunately, the Milton scholar William Riley Parker, executive secretary of the MLA and director of the MLA FL Program, was in the audience, and he asked for permission to publish the paper as MLA FL Bulletin No. 14; this was then republished in the prestigious *Modern Language Journal*. Bill Parker, as he was affectionately known to his many friends, later invited Dr. Hamilton to participate in the Leadership Conference held at the MLA headquarters in New York, and later that year he was invited to attend the President's Foreign Language Conference in Washington. He also accepted invitations to speak on this subject in many cities in Texas, at the meeting of the Texas State Teachers Association, and at the Mississippi State Teachers Association. In 1952, his articles appeared in *The Texas Outlook* and in *Hispania*, and he obtained endorsements for The Texas Plan from The Texas Good Neighbor Commission and the governing agency of public education in Texas, the TEA.

### **The Texas Foreign Language Association**

Early in 1953, Dr. Hamilton founded the *TFLA Bulletin* and on November 27, 1953, his efforts came to fruition: The Texas Foreign Language Association, named by Dr. Hamilton, was founded by the unanimous vote of teachers of foreign languages at a meeting of the Texas State Teachers Association in Dallas. This historic meeting was announced in a five-page mimeographed issue of the *TFLA Bulletin* that was assembled, stapled, and stuffed in envelopes by members of the Texas Tech chapter of Sigma Delta Pi, Alpha Phi.

Today, the TFLA holds two conventions each year, each attended by about 600 members, and the *TFLA Bulletin* is now an impressive publication. In 1956, Dr. Hamilton was elected president of the association, and was made an honorary member in 1968, the fifteenth anniversary of its founding. In 1983, he addressed the TFLA Convention in Dallas at the Park Sheraton Hotel on the commemoration of the thirtieth anniversary of the founding of the association, and was awarded a plaque in recognition of his founding the *TFLA Bulletin* and being its first editor.

In summary, The Texas Plan culminated in the formation of the TFLA. The plan, later the association, contributed significantly to the MLA FL Program, brought about a revival of interest in the study of foreign languages, and resulted in increased enrollments in foreign languages in the secondary schools and in colleges, and a rapid growth in the number of new chapters in Sigma Delta Pi.

While Dr. Hamilton was vice president, he was responsible for the addition of the following chapters:

- Gamma Theta, University of Oklahoma, Norman
- Gamma Kappa, West Texas State University
- Gamma Lambda, Texas A&I University (now Texas A&M-Kingsville)
- Gamma Nu, Wichita State University
- Gamma Rho, University of Houston
- Gamma Upsilon, Rice University
- Delta Beta, Midwestern University

All of these were admitted after he began promoting The Texas Plan, an operation that made him well known in the colleges of Texas as an advocate of foreign-language study and of Sigma Delta Pi.

### **The Sigma Delta Pi Breakfast Established**

As mentioned above, an annual meeting of the South Central Modern Language Association was held in Denton, Texas, the first week of November 1952, and on that occasion Dr. Hamilton arranged a breakfast program for teachers of Spanish in a room of the Texas Woman's University. Dr. Carl A. Tyre, president of Sigma Delta Pi, spoke on the problems of chapters in small colleges, and Dr. James O. Swain, executive secretary, explained how to organize a chapter. The breakfast was attended by many professors who represented chapters in the Southwest and by others who expressed an interest in establishing a chapter.

A breakfast for SCMLA teachers of English had been held for several years, but this was the rust for any foreign language. It was continued successfully for twenty-five years by Dr. Hamilton, and beyond that by his successor until 1986, when it was suspended because of exorbitant charges by hotels. Those in attendance were asked to select a topic from a list of five for the next breakfast, a qualified speaker was chosen by the chairman (the adviser of a Sigma Delta Pi chapter in the city where the next SCMLA convention would be held), a brief message about the society was given by an officer or the chairman, and the names of those interested in having a chapter installed were collected. Through the years, this favorable advertising brought in many chapters, especially in Texas.

A few years after organizing the first Spanish Breakfast, Dr. Hamilton invited his friend MLA Executive Secretary William Riley Parker to speak at a breakfast, and extended an invitation to all teachers of foreign languages. As expected, there was a very large attendance, and soon other breakfasts were formed: French, German, Italian, and Slavic; they, too, met regularly, using a format similar to that of the Sigma Delta Pi Breakfast. The Spanish breakfast was the only one sponsored by an honor society.

### **The Triennial Convention, 1959**

The triennial convention of 1959 was held in Chicago in conjunction with those of the AATSP and the MLA. Sigma Delta Pi met on December 29 in the Palmer House, and the program, carefully planned by Executive Secretary James O. Swain, consisted of a breakfast for the executive council, a meeting of the delegates, and the business lunch.

Fortunately, all officers were present at the breakfast, and Miss Carole Adams of the Department of Romance Languages of the University of Tennessee served as secretary for the convention. It was announced that Dr. T. Earle Hamilton had been elected president, and that he would appoint a replacement for the newly chosen Professor Rose Martini who died before assuming her duties as a vice president; he selected Dr. F. Dewey Amner to take her place. All the other incumbents continued in office: Professor Agnes Brady, Drs. José Martel, J. Chalmers Herman, and Florence Bonhard (vice presidents), and Dr. James o. Swain, executive secretary.

Dr. Hamilton presided during the session for delegates, which began at 10:00 o'clock, and each representative gave an interesting report of the activities of his chapter during

the triennium, and mentioned problems encountered. Advisers present quickly proposed solutions, and so all found the period very helpful. They were so well pleased that they enthusiastically urged that more time be allotted for this session at the next meeting.

Dr. Joseph W. Yedlicka, president of the French honor society Pi Delta Phi, was master of ceremonies for the official luncheon, served at 12:30 to seventy-two delegates and officers, and to three guests of honor: the Spanish *encargado cultural*, Don Enrique Suárez de Puga; Dr. Laurel Turk, secretary-treasurer of the AATSP; and Professor Louis E. Richter, executive secretary of Pi Delta Phi. After Miss Adams gave a report of the business transacted at the breakfast meeting, Dr. Carl A. Tyre made a few brief remarks in which he summarized his accomplishments during his nearly eleven years as president, thanked the society for the opportunity to serve, and bade farewell.

In his speech of acceptance, Dr. Hamilton noted that the society then had 112 chapters, an addition of 48 chapters during the presidency of Dr. Tyre, and he attempted to explain why Sigma Delta Pi continues to grow.

¿Cómo se explica este fenómeno? El cínico diría que la explicación se halla en la vanidad humana y en el egoísmo, pero la verdad es que nuestra sociedad reúne los elementos esenciales para el éxito de cualquiera gran empresa: primero, tenemos un noble ideal; y segundo, servimos a nuestro prójimo. Bien se sabe que se adquiere la grandeza a medida que se dedica el hombre a un ideal, un ideal que se manifiesta en el servicio a la humanidad.

He then commented on how pleasant is our task to make known to our students "todo lo noble y bello." He praised Dr. Annemarie Tyre as the inspiration and collaborator in every endeavor of Don Carlos, and he gave full credit to Dr. Swain for his many contributions. He then related how different organizations, indebted to Don Carlos y Dona Annemarie, had recently shown their appreciation, and finally asked Dr. Swain to present a plaque to Dr. Tyre, a symbol of the society's gratitude.

### **A New Policy to Reduce Travel Expenses**

On February 28, 1960, Dr. Eduardo Betoret-París of Rochester University installed Chapter Delta Rho at D'Youville College, the first of the new triennium. On March 13, Past President F. Dewey Amner presided at the installation of Chapter Delta Sigma at Purdue University, the first chapter in the state of Indiana. The installation of these two chapters marked a change in policy that Dr. Hamilton instituted to reduce travel expenses: he decided to ask an adviser at a nearby university to install each new chapter whenever a longer trip would be required for an officer to do so. Soon, however, Dr. Swain, who firmly believed that every chapter should be installed by a national officer, pointed out that during the previous administration he had personally installed nearly all of the new chapters, and felt that it would be wise for him to continue to do so except in Texas, where the president resided. It was then agreed that he would continue to install new chapters until the date of his announced resignation, January 1, 1963. Actually, he stayed in office until the end of the academic year, June of 1963; and Dr. Teodoro Ferrer (professor of Spanish at the University of Tennessee), whom Dr. Swain had appointed editor of *Entre Nosotros*, continued until he published the issue of April 1963.

## Visits to the Chapters

Dr. Swain also suggested that it would be helpful if the president would visit all of the established chapters, for this would encourage them to become more active; but although Dr. Hamilton readily agreed that a visit to each chapter would be beneficial, he declined because in his opinion the society's meager income, derived entirely from an initiation fee of \$3.00 and a charter fee of \$25.00, would not justify such expenditures. Nevertheless, Dr. Swain continued to visit as many chapters as the funds in the national treasury would permit, and he kept his expenses as low as possible by making these visits immediately before or after installing new chapters.

In one issue of *Entre Nosotros* (April 1962), Dr. Swain described three visits that he had made recently to Alpha Upsilon, Delta Upsilon, and Gamma Xi, and in the same issue he added an invitation to all chapters:

NOTA: Los funcionarios nacionales siempre que su trabajo lo permita, tendrán mucho gusto en visitar nuestros capítulos. Así cuando lo desee el consejero, debe escribir al presidente o al secretario ejecutivo para sugerir la necesidad o el deseo de que se haga una visita.

Undoubtedly, these visits served to bring about closer relations between the chapters and the national office, and to solve some of their problems.

## Financial Problems

At the triennial convention of 1959, Dr. Swain briefly mentioned that there were only a few hundred dollars in the treasury, and that he would send a detailed financial report to the chapters later. The budget contained only three large items, the publication of *Entre Nosotros*, triennial conventions, and travel expenses for the installation of chapters, for members were required to order their keys or pins directly from Balfour, the supplier. Dr. Swain encouraged these purchases by donating a half-page or a full-page advertisement to the jeweler in nearly every issue of *Entre Nosotros*, and he added a paragraph urging the chapters to buy Cristóbal Colón and Don Quijote keys and pins for their better students. The former award is now called "Los Descubridores," a name suggested by Stuart M. Gross because the award bearing the name of a foreigner did not find favor among those of Hispanic countries.

Earlier, in November of 1959, Dr. Swain was granted permission to leave his classes at the University of Tennessee for a week to permit him to give three lectures at the University of Zulia in Maracaibo, Venezuela. He spoke on Faulkner and Hemingway, and reported his interesting experiences in three and a half pages of the April (1960) issue of *Entre Nosotros*.

## Meeting in San Diego, 1960

In addition to holding our triennial conventions in conjunction with those of the AATSP, Dr. Tyre had started the practice of holding meetings of Sigma Delta Pi with the association in other than the triennial years, and had scheduled one for 1960 in San Diego.

He reasoned, correctly, that this would probably attract many members who would not travel to Chicago or New York. Nearly 150 members of the society attended this meeting. Dr. Leavitt O. Wright, the society's paterfamilias, spoke of the difficulties encountered in the early days, praised Dr. Tyre and the others responsible for the society's recent expansion, and foresaw far greater growth in the near future. Dr. Hamilton, sharing this bright vision of the future, emphasized that the highest quality must be maintained as we grow in size. He used the Greek maxim, "Où pollá, állà polú," (literally, "Not many, but much"), as his text. This interested Dr. Wright, an old Greek and Latin scholar, who asked him to write the words in Greek letters for him, and they discussed it briefly. After the program, some early members of Sigma Delta Pi chatted with the speakers and reminisced with Dr. Wright.

### **The Triennial Convention, 1962**

The triennial convention of 1962 was held in Washington, D.C., at the then new International Inn on December 29. At the breakfast meeting of the Executive Council, Dr. James O. Swain announced that Dr. T. Earle Hamilton had been elected president, and Dr. F. Dewey Amner executive secretary; and that the following vice presidents had been appointed: Drs. José Martel, Florence Bonhard, J. Chalmers Herman, James O. Swain, and Professors Agnes Brady and Terrell Tatum. All the officers except Miss Tatum attended the breakfast. Also present were Mrs. Amner, Miss Carol Ann Adams of the University of Tennessee, who served as secretary for the convention, and one guest, Dr. Joseph Yedlicka, president of the French honor society Pi Delta Phi and adviser of the Sigma Delta Pi chapter at DePaul University. Then he announced the acceptance of the proposed constitutional amendment requiring the outgoing executive secretary to serve during the first six months of the first term of the new executive secretary to guide the latter during this transitional period. He then presented a financial report which revealed that during the past six years the total annual income had slowly increased from \$3,036.89 to \$4,653.62; and that annual expenses had varied from \$2,921.34 to \$3,688.75, exceeding income twice. The cost of publishing each issue of *Entre Nosotros* was about \$300, a little over \$900 for the three issues published each year, and a nominal annual salary of \$600 was paid to the executive secretary. As of December 29, 1962, the savings account showed a balance of \$4,000, and the checking account, \$688.13.

Dr. Martel told of his investigating the possibility of having a number of official *reposteros* made in Spain at a reasonable price to permit resale to the chapters, and he was encouraged to continue his efforts.

While Dr. Swain was called away from the breakfast for a few minutes, the council voted to show the society's appreciation for his outstanding service of fifteen years as executive secretary by presenting him a check.

At 9:30 a.m. in the large adjoining room, Miss Adams called the roll, and representatives of 45 chapters responded enthusiastically, offering many suggestions. Dr. Ruth Richardson, obviously disappointed because of the relatively small attendance, suggested that special efforts be made to persuade more chapters to send delegates. To accomplish this, she proposed that the initiation fee be increased to enable the society to pay a part of the travel expenses. Another delegate, obviously pleased by the discussions,

expressed the hope that more time would be allotted for the reports of the delegates at the next convention.

The business lunch was served to seventy-five delegates and guests; about fifteen more who had made reservations were prevented from attending by a heavy snowstorm, not unusual at this time of the year in the capital. Dr. James W. Robb, adviser for Delta Eta chapter of George Washington University, presided at the business session. Among the guests of honor were: Dr. Robert N. Duncan, president of the AATSP; Miss Agatha Cavallo, president elect of the association; Dr. Robert G. Meade, Jr., editor of *Hispania*; Dr. Seymour Menton, editor elect of this journal; and Dr. Carlos M. Fernandez-Shaw, *chargé d'affaires culturelles* of the Spanish embassy. Dr. F. Dewey Amner, newly elected executive secretary, spoke in praise of the retiring executive secretary Dr. James O. Swain and of his devoted service of fifteen years with three presidents, Drs. Amner, Tyre, and Hamilton; and to express the appreciation of the society, he presented him a beautiful plaque and a check for \$500. Also, he presented him a pair of fine cuff links bearing the insignia of Sigma Delta Pi, a personal gift of Mr. L. G. Balfour, founder of the house of fraternity jewelers that bears his name. After expressing his profuse thanks, Dr. Swain presented a plaque to Dr. José Martel in recognition of his many years of unselfish service to the society, to which he replied in modesty in his customary florid manner that was touching to all, for his words of gratitude were greeted with prolonged applause.

In the presidential address, Dr. Hamilton pointed out that the organization of the society that served well when there were relatively few chapters was totally inadequate for a rapidly growing society that already numbered 126 chapters; so he proposed a number of changes. First of all, the standards should be raised to conform to those of the Association of College Honor Societies, as published in *Baird's Manual of American College Fraternities*; the Order of Don Quijote should be officially recognized as the highest honor that Sigma Delta Pi confers; there should be five vice presidents to preside over the affairs of five geographical regions; a state-director system should be established in which an officer (two in California, New York, and Texas) would look after the needs of the chapters in his state, keep them all active, reactivate those dormant, and recruit additional ones, and he should report, to the vice president of his region; to reduce travel expenses, new chapters should be installed by the nearest qualified officer or adviser, except for special occasions that would justify a celebration; a change should be made in the process of electing national and regional officers to assure the chapters a voice in the choice of these officers; and committees would be appointed to study these proposals and write a new constitution. He announced that 14 new chapters were admitted during the past triennium, and expressed the belief that the rate of growth would accelerate soon.

All in all, this was a successful convention, for over a third of all chapters sent delegates, the luncheon was attended by 75 persons including several notable guests, and relations were strengthened with the AATSP, the Spanish embassy, and the sister honor society in French, Pi Delta Phi, all this in spite of a heavy snowstorm. It should be noted that this success was made possible by the careful planning and management of Dr. Swain, a climax to fifteen years of devoted service.

For the academic year 1962-63, the Rotarians awarded a number of scholarships for study abroad to outstanding university students, and among them were five members of Sigma Delta Pi: Beverly Hensing of Kappa chapter, Sidney Williams of Omega,

Marianne Gastineau of Alpha Alpha, Julia Steanson of Alpha Kappa, and Harry Qualman of Delta Eta.

### **Lope de Vega Anniversary**

The national office encouraged the chapters to observe the 400th anniversary of the birth of Lope de Vega (1562), and many chapters arranged special programs, notably Gamma Beta chapter (The College of Saint Teresa), which presented an impressive program in which students of three Hispanic countries participated; Alpha Phi (Texas Tech University), which invited Dr. Raymond R. MacCurdy of the University of New Mexico to give a lecture on Lope; and Eta (University of Southern California) arranged a memorable program of lyrical selections from *Peribáñez* and *El caballero de Olmedo*, followed by a lecture, "A Recent Lope de Vega Discovery in Madrid," by Joseph H. Silverman of Iota chapter (UCLA).

In *Entre Nosotros* (April 1963), Dr. Teodoro Ferrer, publishing his last issue during the tenure of Dr. Swain, carried a full description of a "Sigma Delta Pi Study-Tour," already announced in several previous issues. The Study-Tour of four weeks, approved by the Oficina de Cultura de España and to be taught in La Universidad de Santander, was designed for undergraduates with at least three years of Spanish and for graduates. Dr. Swain was to be the director, and Dr. Lucile Mercer the associate director, but unfortunately they were unable to enroll a sufficient number of students, so plans were canceled early in May.

With the encouragement of Dr. Swain, The Experiment in International Living sent eight university students from Chile to Knoxville, Tennessee, the seat of the University of Tennessee and Alpha Psi chapter. The students were lodged with various families in the city, and the chapter of Sigma Delta Pi played an important role in the lives of the Chileans during their stay of five weeks. Close friendships were formed, and many members of the chapter promised to repay the visit.

### **Concha Espina Remembered**

When Dr. Swain received the notice that a certain Don Alfonso de la Serna had just been appointed director of culture in the Department of Foreign Relations, he immediately wrote him to learn whether he was the grandson of Concha Espina. Don Alfonso replied at once in the affirmative and recounted the experiences of Dr. Swain's visit to Luzmela thirty years before on the invitation of the renowned novelist. So, in his last issue of *Entre Nosotros* Dr. Swain reprinted much of his article which appeared in *Hispania* in 1933, and in which he told of the reception given him, their discussion of several of her novels, and the affectionate thoughts she graciously inscribed in two of her novels which he had brought from Santander. Dr. Swain also published two photographs taken in the garden, one of Concha Espina, her grandson, and Dr. Swain, and the other of the novelist, her daughter Josefina, and her grandson Alfonso de la Serna.

## **"Swain's Swan Song"; His Replacement as Secretary by Dr. Amner**

Finally, Dr. Swain wrote his farewell, "Swain's Swan Song." He recalled that in the summer of 1947 President F. Dewey Amner was in search of an executive secretary to replace Stuart M. Gross, who had suddenly resigned after serving only one year of the triennium in order to take a post in the government of Guatemala. Dr. Amner gladly accepted his offer to perform the secretarial duties for two years, two years that stretched into almost sixteen as Dr. Swain served with Dr. Amner for his remaining years as president, then with Dr. Tyre, and finally one term with Dr. Hamilton. Dr. Swain expressed in moving language the genuine pleasure that he had found in serving the society, and concluded with high praise for Dr. Amner, who had just been chosen to succeed him as executive secretary.

As executive secretary, Dr. Amner assumed responsibility for the publication of *Entre Nosotros*, naming Dr. Alberto N. Pamies, a member of the staff at Kent State University, to be the new editor beginning with the issue of November 1963; and in this issue Dr. Amner beautifully expressed his greetings to the society and to all who were serving it in any capacity from the students to the honorary presidents, Drs. Tomás Navarro Tomás, S. Griswold Morley, and Leavitt O. Wright. Also in this issue was a touching little poem by Elizabeth B. Davis, "El burro con carga ligera."

El burro no sabía  
que la carga que traía  
fue ataúd de niñita  
que murió a edad tiernita.  
Con pasos lentos caminaba  
la callejuela empedrada,  
nada sentía de tristeza  
sentía sólo la lijereza  
de la carga que traía  
la cual al burro complacía.

On the evening of November 5, 1963, Gamma Beta chapter (College of Saint Teresa) in cooperation with Epsilon Theta (LaCrosse State College; now University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse) presented an outstanding program to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the founding of El Escorial, a monastery and royal mausoleum. The program consisted of brief informative talks by students, reading of Spanish poems, songs in Spanish, recordings of Spanish organ music by famous composers of the 16th and 17th centuries, and the showing of color slides. Dr. Luis Gálvez was the adviser of Gamma Beta, and Mrs. Ruth Nixon of Epsilon Theta.

### **Meeting in Chicago, 1963**

Sigma Delta Pi met jointly with the AATSP in Chicago in 1963, and on December 29 served a luncheon in the Chicago Room of the old Hotel LaSalle, and Executive Secretary F. Dewey Amner presided. He announced that in 1963, 1,040 new members were initiated, more than in any previous year, that the 128th chapter, Epsilon Theta, was

installed at Wisconsin State University in LaCrosse, and that Chi chapter of the University of South Carolina had just been reactivated through the efforts of Dr. Swain, whom he called "Principe de Caballeros Andantes." Also, he mentioned that arrangements had been made to have the signatures of the president and the executive secretary printed on the certificates by the society's official printer, the Boehnke Printing Company of Eugene, Oregon. Among the many guests present were Agatha Cavallo, president of the AATSP, and Richard E. Chandler, who was destined to become president of the society fifteen years later.

With the appearance of the third issue of *Entre Nosotros* under Executive Secretary Amner and Editor Pamies (April 1964), there was no doubt that the little magazine had undergone considerable change and was vastly improved. It now had taken on a literary aspect with the publication of poetry and a short story, and a varied selection of important material. Of historical value was a form letter written by Herberto M. Sein, a president of Alpha chapter in the early years when that chapter governed the society, a letter which Dr. Wright had extracted from his files and lent to Dr. Amner. There was an interesting article by Jan Knippers of Alpha Psi in which she described her impressions of the Chileans she met while spending ten months in the Peace Corps in that Andean land. Dr. Amner told the engaging story of two generations of a single family in Sigma Delta Pi, and he announced that Marilyn Jo Wood of Alpha Eta was awarded a travel scholarship by the Rotary Foundation. Of course, *Entre Nosotros* continued to report the installation of new chapters and to publish news from the established chapters.

The same high quality continued in the issue of November 1964 in which appeared a partial biography and bibliography of Dr. Tomás Navarro Tomás, more original poetry by members of the chapters, and an account of the presentation of Spanish plays or selections from plays by Pi chapter, University of Arizona, whose adviser was Dr. Dolores Brown, a lady who would later become president of Sigma Delta Pi and then president of the AATSP. Particularly successful was the presentation of that delightful little comedy of Serafín and Joaquín Alvarez Quintero, *Puebla de las mujeres*.

On May 4, 1964, Epsilon Lambda chapter was installed at Georgian Court College, Lakewood, New Jersey. Dr. José Martel, vice president for the Northeast, officiated, and the writer vividly remembers the pleasant correspondence with Sister Mary Pierre in connection with her application and especially her letter following the installation. She had the highest praise for Dr. Martel, told of how he delighted the girls with his humor, and expressed her hope that he would visit their chapter whenever possible.

### **Meeting in New York City, 1964**

Again, in 1964, Sigma Delta Pi met jointly with the AATSP in New York, and held a luncheon on December 29 in the Imperial Room of the Hotel New Yorker. Among the forty persons who attended were Dr. F. Dewey Amner, who presided; Agatha Cavallo, president of the AATSP; Vice President José Martel; Carlos Fernández-Shaw of the Spanish embassy in Washington; and Drs. Lucia Bonilla of Xi chapter, Hunter College, and Ruth Richardson of Tau chapter, Adelphi College (now Adelphi University). Although most of those who attended were from the area near New York, there were some from as far away as Texas, Arizona, and California. During the discussion period, several persons spoke briefly: Dr. Ruth Richardson, Dr. José Martel, Dr. Lewis E. Brett,

and Sr. Carlos Fernández-Shaw. Among the problems discussed were how to bring about better communication between the society's national office and the members, and the importance of maintaining close relations with other societies and associations.

The lead article in *Entre Nosotros*, May 1965, was a reprint of the scholarly explanation of the creation of "The Sigma Delta Pi Charter and Certificate" written by Robert Frederick Lane, printer, teacher of printing, and head of the press at the University of Oregon. This article appears in the appendix of this work.

### **Triennial Convention, 1965**

The triennial convention of 1965 was held in Chicago at the LaSalle Hotel on December 29. At the breakfast meeting for the Executive Council it was announced that Dr. T. Earle Hamilton would serve as president for the ensuing triennium; Dr. F. Dewey Amner as executive secretary; and the following as regional vice presidents: Dr. José Martel (Northeast), Dr. James O. Swain (Southeast), Dr. Domingo Ricart (Midwest), Dr. J. L. Gerding (Southwest), and Dr. José Elgorriaga (West). It should be observed that each vice president was then designated by the region he served, and no longer as first, second, etc. This change was suggested by Dr. Martel, accepted with appreciation by the president, and incorporated in the constitution. Miss Jan Holt of the University of Alabama served as secretary for the convention.

Dr. Hamilton felt that retiring officers who had served well should receive a plaque, so he ordered one for each of the vice presidents who did not continue in office: Drs. J. Chalmers Herman and Florence Bonhard, and Professors Agnes Brady and Terrell Tatum. Unfortunately, however, Balfour delayed the shipment, so it was necessary to postpone this ceremony. Dr. Amner's financial report showed a balance of \$3,680.87. During the past twelve months, there were 1,361 initiates, an increase of 321 over the previous year, a reflection of the increased number of chapters, then 145.

The national artist, Mrs. C. A. Sutherland of Eugene, Oregon, asked permission to raise her charge for lettering each individual certificate by hand to \$1.50, and this was approved.

Dr. Martel gave a progress report on his efforts to procure *reposterios* of fine quality in Spain to sell to our chapters at a reasonable price, and he expressed the belief that he could get them in Barcelona at about \$38.00 each. He was asked to have a sample made, and if satisfactory, the president would be authorized to purchase fifty.

The president mentioned that Sigma Delta Pi had continued to maintain warm relations with the AATSP and that the editor had made a standing offer to publish in *Hispania* all newsworthy information about the society which might be submitted.

The luncheon was attended by 28 delegates, officers, and friends of the society, including Drs. José Martel, Kurt Levy, Juan Castellanos, Julio del Horo, J. Chalmers Herman, Domingo Ricart, and Miss Agatha Cavallo. Dr. Joseph W. Yedlicka, adviser of Delta Epsilon chapter, DePaul University, and president of the French honor society Pi Delta Phi, served as master of ceremonies. His remarks on the friendly rivalry between Pi Delta Phi and Sigma Delta Pi were received with enthusiastic appreciation. He introduced Dr. James O. Swain, who had assumed the duties of the executive secretary because illness had prevented Dr. Amner's attendance, and he summarized the business discussed at the breakfast meeting of the Executive Council.

The president described in detail the recent completion of plans for changes which he believed would have a far-reaching effect on our society: a petition for membership in the Association of College Honor Societies, the formation of a state-director system, and changes in the electoral process. The first was intended as a partial implementation of his desire to assure the maintenance of higher standards, a desire he had mentioned in San Diego. In order to meet all the requirements of the ACHS, a revision of the constitution had been made, and he expressed his firm belief that Sigma Delta Pi would be accepted at the next meeting of the association in February of 1966.

### **State Director System Proposal**

The State-Director System, first proposed at the preceding triennial convention and then authorized in the new constitution, required the appointment of a director in each state to coordinate and direct the societal activities in that state: to render whatever counselor help the advisers might need, to keep all chapters active in carrying out their proper functions, to reactivate dormant chapters, and to recruit new chapters and to install them when requested to do so. Large states, such as California, New York, and Texas, would each have two directors, and a single director could serve two or more small adjacent states. Each director would report to the vice president of his region, and would receive guidance and direction from him. This plan grew out of the belief that a local officer would know personally many of the chapter advisers through attendance at state and regional meetings of language organizations, would understand better the needs of nearby chapters, and so be able to supplement the services of the National Office. The urgent need to improve the customary method of recruiting new chapters weighed heavily in this decision, for during the past six years only about five chapters had been added each year. The president reasoned that if one or two officers could bring in five chapters, over forty recruiters should be able to bring in many times that number, and this reasoning proved correct.

### **New Electoral System Explained**

The first national president, Dr. Leavitt O. Wright, spent years searching for a worthy successor, and having found a man who seemed to be well qualified, subjected him to rigorous interviews by trusted counselors before nominating him, and then sent the nomination to the chapters for approval. This method, with the addition of permitting the chapters to offer an alternate nomination, was followed until a more democratic procedure was prescribed in the constitution of 1966. Section I of the bylaws of this constitution is quoted here.

Section I. Nomination for Office. One year previous to the holding of the national biennial convention, the president shall appoint a committee of three (none of whom shall be the incumbent of any elective position to be filled): (1) to receive nominations from the chapters for the offices to be [tiled at the next national convention; (2) to select from the nominations made by the chapters two candidates for each office solely on the basis of their qualifications; (3) to prepare a brief curriculum vitae for each candidate (to be included with the ballot); (4) to

prepare and mail ballots to the chapters; (5) to receive and count the ballots cast by the chapters; and (6) to report the exact results to the executive secretary by December 1 previous to the next biennial convention. Each chapter may offer nominations for a national president, a vice president for its own geographical region, and for a national executive secretary, and may vote for the candidates for these offices only. The official results of the election shall be announced at the triennial convention.

These thoughts were well received by those present, and they shared the president's enthusiasm.

### **Sigma Delta Pi Granted Membership in the Association of College Honor Societies**

At the annual meeting of the Association of College Honor Societies in February 1966, copies of Sigma Delta Pi's petition were distributed to the delegates, called councilmen, assembled for the business session. President James E. Foy announced that the Committee on Eligibility and Admissions had approved the petition, and he invited discussion. The representative of Phi Sigma Iota immediately declared his uncompromising opposition to the acceptance of Sigma Delta Pi. He pointed out that his society had faithfully represented all the Romance languages and Latin for sixteen years in that body, so since the admission of the society in Spanish would simply duplicate the work of his society, there was no need for its membership in the association. Moreover, granting recognition to Sigma Delta Pi would have an adverse effect on the prestige of the chapters of his society. Finally, he alleged that the admission of the Spanish society would open the floodgates, and other foreign-language societies would be pouring in. Vice President Zillman then asked Dr. Hamilton whether there was any evidence to support the belief that Sigma Delta Pi tended to drive out chapters of Phi Sigma Iota, and he replied by naming several colleges in which both societies coexisted quite amicably, and added that many small colleges that could not support a chapter of Sigma Delta Pi and of the French society Pi Delta Phi had chosen the Romance language society to honor its students of French and Spanish. He did point out, however, that having a chapter of Sigma Delta Pi and/or Pi Delta Phi made it possible to conduct meetings entirely in the foreign language, a distinct advantage which helped explain why Sigma Delta Pi had over three times as many chapters as Phi Sigma Iota. Several councilmen then spoke briefly in favor of admission because they believed that it bringing in a large, growing society would add vitality to the ACHS. Only a single vote was cast against admission, and, thus began auspiciously a mutually profitable relationship.

The ACHS meets annually in February, usually in the South to avoid inclement weather. The councilmen arrive on a Thursday afternoon and attend the opening session that evening to hear the welcoming address by a notable of the host city, followed by a reception given by a business firm that serves the needs of the societies. The programs are scheduled for all of Friday and for Saturday morning, with the business session on Saturday afternoon, and the banquet with the principal speaker that evening. Programs are carefully selected to meet the special needs of the member societies, to help solve their problems, and simply to improve the societies. Some topics, such as "How to

Manage an Honor Society," may require three or more concurrent sessions based on the size and the category of the societies. Among the useful topics treated from time to time are: "The Chapter Adviser," "How to Keep Chapters Active," "Incorporating a Society," "How to Modernize the National Office," "How to Recruit Chapters," "Regional Meetings," "The Need for Liability Insurance," "How to Build an Endowment," and "Publications of the Society." The help received from such programs and from consultations with the officers of successful societies contributed significantly to the progress and improvement of Sigma Delta Pi. Each society is privileged to print at the bottom of its letterhead, "Member of the Association of College Honor Societies," and to include this statement in all its publications. The ACHS publishes triennially its *Booklet of Information*, which it distributes widely to colleges and learned societies, a publication that carries a full-page description of each member society, and that society is required to maintain the high standards set by the ACHS.

Briefly, then, Sigma Delta Pi revised its constitution and raised its standards in order to earn acceptance as a member of the ACHS, and became a better society because of its membership. In turn, the society made its contributions to the association through the activities of its representatives. Dr. Hamilton served for twenty-one years and was succeeded by Dr. Richard E. Chandler. Dr. Hamilton was immediately assigned to the influential Committee on Standards and Definitions, and later Sigma Delta Pi was honored by his being made chairman, a position which he held for fifteen years. During this time, he made many contributions to the association, and this service was recognized at the meeting in 1986 by his being awarded a plaque at the annual banquet. When Dr. Hamilton asked Dr. Chandler to take his place as the society's representative before the ACHS, the latter's reputation as a scholar, as an efficient administrator with a vast knowledge of university and honor-society affairs, and his remarkable savoir faire were quickly recognized, and he was assigned to a place on the same important Committee on Standards and Definitions, which he continued to hold with distinction for many years. Immediately after his election to the presidency, Dr. John H. LaPrade became Sigma Delta Pi's representative before the ACHS. He soon earned the respect and admiration of both the councilmen and the officers, and began making his contributions.

### **The 150th Chapter, Zeta Zeta**

After the admission of Sigma Delta Pi to the ACHS in February of 1966, the implementation of the state-director plan was begun, and in the fall of that year the efforts of an enthusiastic group of directors began to bear fruit. In the spring of 1967, a record number of twelve new chapters was admitted, bringing our total to 160.

Our 150th chapter, Zeta Zeta, was installed at the University of Virginia the evening of May 12, 1967, and it was marked by the most lavish celebration in the history of the society. This was made possible by the full cooperation of the administration of the university, the chairman of the Department of Romance Languages, Dr. Douglas W. Alden, one of Dr. Hamilton's good friends of earlier days in Texas and Mexico, and officers of Sigma Delta Pi. The impressive ceremony was conducted in the chapel of the university by Drs. José Martel, James O. Swain, F. Dewey Amner, John A. Moore, and T. Earle Hamilton, all officers of the society. Nineteen active members were initiated and several honorary members: Dr. Arnold A. Del Greco, professor of Romance languages;

Dr. Jerry L. Johnson, assistant professor of Spanish and chapter adviser; Dr. Lucius F. Moffatt, professor of Romance languages and former chairman; Dr. Charles G. Reid, professor of Romance languages; and Mr. Fernando Toro-Garland, assistant professor of Spanish. Dr. Alden and Mr. Raymond Sabatini, instructor of Spanish, already members, witnessed the installation ceremony. The active members were: Bradley Brooks (president), Ester Burch, Ronnie Collins, Marcia de Cháves, Ellen Donenfeld (secretary), Alan Dubrow, Terry Eways, Thomas Feeny, Adele Grimball, Harry Johnson, Evelyn Kammire, Diane Kelly, Steve Kirby, Robert Manteiga, William Martin, John Nitti, Carlos Polit, John Walsh, and John Ward.

Before the initiation ceremony, Dr. and Mrs. Del Greco honored those chosen to become members, university officials, and the visiting officers of Sigma Delta Pi with a cocktail party in their beautiful home. This was followed by a delectable dinner at the Farmington Country Club. After the dinner, all went to the magnificent MacGregor Room of the Alderman Library where Dr. Johnson, presiding, expressed the university's appreciation to Sigma Delta Pi, and Dr. Hamilton responded in the name of the society. Dr. Swain then introduced the scholarly speaker, Dr. José Martel, whose address, "Lo noble y lo bello," was received enthusiastically by the select and discriminating audience. He addressed his concluding remarks to the new student members:

En los terrenos de la Universidad de Madrid, que los madrileños llaman "el Paraninfo," hay un monumento a "Los portadores de la antorcha," obra de la escultora norteamericana Anna Hyatt, y regalo de su esposo Mr. Archer M. Huntington. El monumento representa una figura ecuestre recibiendo la antorcha de una figura yacente. El simbolismo es aplicable a cada generación de estudiantes y a las naves del descubrimiento que trajeron la antorcha al Nuevo Mundo. Esa es la antorcha y la luz que les confiamos. Es la misma luz que a diario les transmite su Alma Mater, la Universidad de Virginia.

It may be of interest to note that during World War II the Constitution of the United States was concealed in the Alderman Library for safekeeping. The following morning Dr. Johnson led the visiting officers of Sigma Delta Pi and Mrs. Hamilton and daughter, Mrs. Anthony, with her husband Paul, on a tour of the grounds of the university, including the room where Edgar Allan Poe had his abode, and then took them to Monticello that they might know its founder better. Following this memorable experience, Dr. and Mrs. Alden graciously invited the visitors to their home for lunch and an hour of conversation about the founding of the university.

The October issue of *Entre Nosotros*, 1967, was dedicated to the University of Virginia and written mostly in English because it was intended to be a promotional issue directed to college administrators to recruit new chapters. In the conclusion of his article on the installation of Zeta Zeta, Dr. Hamilton thanked those responsible and glanced ahead:

The establishment of Zeta Zeta, the society's one hundred and fiftieth chapter, at Thomas Jefferson's great university of the Old Dominion, is another milestone, an unforgettable one, in the history of our society. The officers of Sigma Delta Pi are grateful to the students, the professors, and administrators of the University of

Virginia for their full cooperation and their warm hospitality on this occasion. They confidently look down the long years, far beyond their own, when scholarly students of the university, still inspired by "El amor por todo lo noble y bello que haya salido de la venerable España," will excel in the study of literature penned in the language of Cervantes, and, beneficiaries of the custom so auspiciously begun in May of 1967, will be honored by receiving the gold key of Sigma Delta Pi.

At Dr. Hamilton's request, Dr. Alden prepared a long article for *Entre Nosotros* in which he kindly expressed the gratitude of the university for the signal honor of being chosen to receive Zeta Zeta chapter and for its installation in so impressive a ceremony by five officers of the society. Also, he explained the university's connection with Simón Bolívar:

A year and a half ago, in a brochure concerning what was then called the Department of Modern Languages, I noted that the first Ph.D. at the University of Virginia was conferred in German in 1901, in French in 1905, and in Spanish in 1930. However, the Hispanic tradition at the University of Virginia is far older than the last date, especially as it relates to Latin-American culture. Thomas Jefferson was particularly interested in Latin-American relations, and, since Simón Bolívar's nephew and adopted son was a student here, the university has been well disposed towards our southern neighbors. For years, Bolívar himself has been smiling down from a painting in the department office. One of the most distinctive ties is the Iberoamerican Novel Project of the William Faulkner Foundation, which is centered here, with Professor Arnold Del Greco as director.

One of the new student members, Steven D. Kirby, contributed an article to *Entre Nosotros*, the last paragraph of which is printed here:

Ahora viene a incorporarse a nuestra universidad la rama Zeta Zeta de Sigma Delta Pi, sociedad que de hoy en adelante aparecerá en la lista de honores académicos aquí. Al aceptar esta distinción reconocemos también nuestro deber, que es el de adelantar, siempre que sea posible, los estudios hispánicos. Hoy la Universidad de Virginia y Sigma Delta Pi se juntan en tan noble propósito.

The October issue of *Entre Nosotros* (1968) was edited by Dr. Domingo Ricart, vice president for the Midwest, and published in Guadalajara during the editor's visit there. It carried a complete list of the state directors and of the 175 chapters in the order of admission together with the name of the adviser, the college or university, and the address. This issue included two articles written to encourage colleges to petition for a chapter, one that the editor wrote, "¿Por qué más Capítulos de Sigma Delta Pi?" and one reprinted from a previous issue, "Is There a Chapter of Sigma Delta Pi on Your Campus?" During 1968, 23 new chapters were recruited, so it is obvious that the state-director system was proving phenomenally successful.

## **The Resignation of Dr. Amner**

The resignation of Dr. F. Dewey Amner, executive secretary, took effect on July 21, 1968. He had assumed the duties of this office on January 1, 1966, but chronic illness had prevented his fulfilling the heavy obligations. Resignation had been suggested to him earlier in the interest of the progress of the society, but his reply was, "I love Sigma Delta Pi so much that I want to work for it all the rest of my life." At that time, he promised that he would force himself to do the required work efficiently in spite of his declining health, but he was not successful in this. In a final effort to persuade him, Dr. Hamilton promised to resign the presidency at the end of the triennium if he would resign his office at the same time so that younger officers could be chosen to take their places. Dr. Amner will be remembered as the very successful and patriotic president of the days of World War II (1941-47), and the society has not known a more devoted servant

Immediately following Dr. Amner's resignation, Dr. Hamilton called Professor Stuart M. Gross at the University of Maine, who was state director for Maine at that time, and asked him to complete Dr. Amner's unexpired term, which he agreed to do, and this appointment was promptly confirmed by a unanimous vote of the Executive Council. Professor Gross was experienced in this office, which he held from 1942 to the summer of 1947, when he resigned to assume a post in the government of the president of Guatemala.

In accordance with the requirements of the Constitution of 1965, the president appointed an election committee. Keeping his agreement with Dr. Amner, he adamantly refused to allow his name to be considered, although he was pressed by many friends, including Dr. Leavitt O. Wright, to run for another term.

## **Closer Relations with the AATSP**

During the 50th Anniversary meeting of the AATSP in San Antonio, August 28-30, 1968, Dr. Hamilton met with the association's executive committee in an effort to bring about closer relations with Sigma Delta Pi. The committee voted "to recommend that the AATSP officially recognize Sigma Delta Pi as an instrument for encouraging the study of Spanish in colleges and universities, and that the AATSP list in its official program the activities of the society at meetings held jointly with the association." The committee also agreed to publish all pertinent news of the society in *Hispania*. The committee's consideration for Phi Sigma Iota prevented a stronger agreement at that time.

## **The Triennial Convention, 1968**

The next triennial convention of Sigma Delta Pi was held at the Warwick Hotel in New York on December 28, 1968, and Dr. Lucía Bonilla of Hunter College and state director for Greater New York City presided at each session. Several changes were approved, including an increase in initiation fees from \$3.00 to \$5.00, and in the charge for a chapter charter from \$15.00 to \$25.00. Dr. Hamilton conferred on Dr. José Martel membership in the Order of Don Quijote, and proposed a "Premio José Martel," a triennial financial award to the foremost chapter adviser, which was approved without a dissenting vote. Concluding his brief remarks, he stated that during his presidency from

1960 through 1968, 68 new chapters had been installed, 23 of which were admitted in 1968, a sudden notable increase in the rate of recruitment attributable to the implementation of the State Director System. The new officers elected to serve for the next triennium were: Dr. Ann Dolores Brown, president; Dr. José Martel, vice president for the Northeast; Dr. George E. McSpadden, vice president for the Southeast; Dr. Luis Leal, vice president for the Midwest; Dr. J. L. Gerding, vice president for the Southwest; Dr. John P. Wonder, vice president for the West; and Professor Stuart M. Gross, executive secretary. Professor Gross announced that Dr. Ignacio R. M. Galbis would serve as editor of *Entre Nosotros*, a very wise choice, for Dr. Galbis was known internationally for his poetry and critical essays.

## Chapter VII

### Dolores Brown, 1969-71

#### Continued Expansion

Dr. Ann Dolores Brown was the first lady president of the society, and it must be remembered that the founder of Sigma Delta Pi and the first president of Alpha chapter was another distinguished lady, Ruth Barnes. Dr. Brown was capable and enthusiastic, and was an excellent teacher, the recipient of the first Creative Teacher Award of 1971-72 by the University of Arizona Foundation. Also, she had the distinction of becoming president of the Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese, as had two other presidents of Sigma Delta Pi, Drs. Leavitt O. Wright and Carl A. Tyre.

#### Recruiting Record Established

Fortunately for Dr. Brown, she came into office when the state directors were very productive; so in her first year she brought in 20 new chapters, almost equaling the record of 23 recruited by Dr. Hamilton the preceding year. In 1970, she added 10 more, and in her third year, her last year, 15 more, making an impressive total of 45, the largest number ever recruited up to that time in a period of three years; and her annual average of 15 chapters was just slightly below the corresponding figure of almost 16 chapters set during Dr. Hamilton's second period, six years (1972-77). Disturbed by the decline of fifty percent in recruitment during her second year, she decided to make the state directors fully aware of their diminished efforts by requiring them to send her a detailed report of their activities, one of her innovations. The directors responded with full reports, and they brought in 15 chapters during her third year.

She was remarkably successful in adding new chapters, but was unable to solve the problem of inactive chapters, probably because she could not find the time to write letters to persuade the departments concerned to reactivate their dormant chapters. As a matter of fact, the executive secretary complained that he was having to wait over a month for her replies to his letters, but she explained that her classes and their demands must come first.

#### *Entre Nosotros* Changed to a Literary Journal

Like some preceding presidents, she turned the publishing of *Entre Nosotros* over to the executive secretary, and gave him carte blanche in developing an editorial policy. In addition to carrying out all his customary duties very efficiently, Secretary Gross manifested a deep interest in writing, as he had earlier while serving in the government of Guatemala. At that time, he published widely in the newspapers and magazines of that country, writing articles and translating American and English poetry to Spanish. This interest led him to conceive a plan to convert *Entre Nosotros* into a literary journal, a magazine that would be devoted mostly to essays, stories, and poetry in Spanish. To obtain the necessary literary output, he organized literary contests for which substantial financial prizes were offered, and the response was gratifying. Fortunately, Dr. Ignacio R.

M. Galbis, a native Cuban of Basque descent, a scholar, and a poet with an international reputation, was a member of the staff at the University of Maine; and so Secretary Stuart M. Gross wisely chose him to edit the new *Entre Nosotros*. Dr. Galbis entered into his work with genuine love and boundless enthusiasm, and soon various magazines in Hispanic countries began reprinting articles from this publication; and so Sigma Delta Pi became known abroad.

In addition to the prize-winning essays, stories, and poetry, the new *Entre Nosotros* regularly included a complete list of chapters, news from the chapters with photographs of high quality, news and business of the national society, and editorial comment. Occasionally, it carried such items as a complete list of the state directors, a financial report, a copy of the constitution, a list of parliamentary expressions, and a list of suggested activities for the chapters.

The first two issues edited by Dr. Galbis were in the usual format, but with heavy covers in shades of yellow with red printing and with forty or more pages instead of the usual eight pages, and it was issued annually instead of three times per year.

### **Dr. Brown's Contributions**

Dr. Brown's term was marked by her success in recruiting new chapters, with the help of the state directors; by the appointment of a long-range planning committee, chaired by Dr. Phyllis Boring; the requirement of annual reports by the state directors; and by the change of *Entre Nosotros* from a news bulletin to a literary journal which was supplied with articles, poems, stories, and essays by an ambitious literary contest conducted by Secretary Gross and Dr. Galbis. Dr. Brown explained all this in her address at the triennial convention of 1971 in Chicago, and she posed several questions that are still relevant: What shall we do about inactive chapters? How can we persuade advisers to make more careful preparation for initiations? Can we improve our methods for selecting members? Finally, she proposed that a member of the Executive Council visit every chapter to show the adviser and the students how to improve their activities and solve their problems, a suggestion made earlier by Dr. Swain and rejected primarily because of the enormous expense, which the society could not afford.

During this triennium, Dr. Hamilton received many requests to permit his name to appear on the ballot for the next election. After mature consideration, he finally agreed to do so if he should be nominated; so when Dr. Brown asked him to chair the election committee, he told her frankly about the requests and his decision. She then asked Dr. Donald Bleznick to head the committee. Dr. Hamilton was nominated and elected.

## Chapter VIII

### T. Earle Hamilton, 1972-77

#### Rapid Expansion, Financial Growth, And a New Edition of the *Ritual*

##### Triennial Convention 1971

At the triennial convention of 1971 held in Chicago on December 28, the list of newly elected officers included Dr. T. Earle Hamilton, president, the following vice presidents: Dr. A. Julián Valbuena (Northeast), Dr. Myron A. Peyton (Midwest), Dr. Manuel D. Ramirez (Southeast), Dr. John H. LaPrade (Southwest), and Dr. John P. Wonder (West). Professor Stuart M. Gross was elected executive secretary and Dr. José López-Muñoz was named editor. The meeting was attended by about 40 delegates and officers, those newly elected, the outgoing president, Dr. Ann Dolores Brown, and also Dr. José Martel, honorary president.

By vote of the delegates, *La Orden de Cristóbal Colón* became *La Orden de los Descubridores*. This was originally suggested by Secretary Gross "to honor not only all the heroic discoverers, but also to honor outstanding students of Spanish who discover as they study," though the change came about primarily in answer to many who objected to using the name of a non-Spaniard for an order in a Spanish honor society. Also, it was voted to confirm the award of the Premio José Martel triennially to the most outstanding chapter adviser.

Sigma Delta Pi had a contract with its official jeweler, the L. G. Balfour Company of Attleboro, Massachusetts, negotiated by Dr. Leavitt O. Wright during his presidency. The contract stipulated that it would continue in effect until canceled, that the society would give free advertising in *Entre Nosotros*, the company would process orders from the individual chapters and make collections, and would refund a discount of 20 percent to the national office. For many years, the pins, furnished in 10K gold, sold for \$3.50, but the rising price of gold forced that price to nearly \$6.00 in 1971, and many initiates were unwilling to pay this price. Balfour responded by creating less expensive gold jewelry called "Balclad," electroplated base metal. This was quite satisfactory for a pin or a key, neither of which would be subjected to heavy wear, as would be the case with a ring, and although the design could not be as sharp as that impressed on solid gold, it resembled the original pin closely enough to satisfy the members of the chapters.

On September 7, 1971, Secretary Gross proposed that the society change to the Balclad pin, buy it in bulk to reduce costs further, then mail to the chapters pins and signed unlettered certificates in color without charge before each initiation. To make this possible, he proposed that the induction fee be increased from \$5.00 to \$7.50, easily justified because this would assure every initiate an attractive pin at an affordable price. This, too, was approved by the delegates.

Dr. Ann Dolores Brown, the immediate past president, delivered her farewell address, "Tres años en la presidencia," in which she outlined her accomplishments, summarized in the preceding chapter.

In "Dos palabras del presidente," Dr. Hamilton named eight objectives which he hoped that Sigma Delta Pi would be able to attain during the next three years through the cooperation of all officers, advisers, and other members. He emphasized that cooperation is the key that opens the door to progress.

- 1) Publish a revised edition of the society's ritual.
- 2) Have designed and printed certificates for inductees in *La Orden de Don Quijote*.
- 3) Award this year for the first time the Premio José Martel.
- 4) Appoint a "Consejo Honorario de Sigma Delta Pi," an advisory body of former national officers, state directors, and chapter advisers.
- 5) Enlist the services of the chapters, the individual members, the chapter advisers, and all who can help with their ideas and their contributions to our publications.
- 6) Decide how to establish and maintain chapters in colleges whose administration yields to "student" protesters who demand conversion to a pass-fail system.
- 7) Improve the literary contests.
- 8) Continue efforts to increase the quality and number of our chapters.

### **Dr. José Martel Chosen Honorary President**

Some members of Sigma Delta Pi in the northeast met in June of 1971 in La Fonda del Sol, New York City, to honor Dr. José Martel. Secretary Stuart M. Gross surprised Vice President Martel with the announcement that he had just been chosen honorary president of Sigma Delta Pi to fill the vacancy created by the passing of Dr. S. Griswold Morley, the renowned scholar of Berkeley who is remembered especially for his studies of Spanish versification, some of which were done in collaboration with Dr. Courtney M. Bruerton of Harvard. He should be remembered also for his special interest in the development of the society in the Alpha days. It was to him that Leavitt O. Wright turned for criticism of the ritual that he had just composed in 1925, and Dr. Morley was the first honorary member chosen for the Alpha chapter.

Dr. Martel was made an honorary president of the society not merely because of his many years of unselfish devotion to Sigma Delta Pi, manifested by his willingness, even eagerness, to serve whenever we needed an orator, an author, a reviser, or a designer of certificates and pins, one whose Spanish must be described as *castizo*, but also because of his published studies in Spanish language and literature. Even then at the age of 87 he continued to give encouragement to students and to professors, and to inspire all who knew him.

### **Financial Growth**

Financial problems plagued the society from the day its first president, Leavitt O. Wright, assumed office. Faced with the expenses attendant upon starting a national organization, he received a check for \$110.65, delayed for nearly two months while his friend William Berrien collected dues from chapters with delinquent accounts. He was able to count on 50 cents from each initiate and dues of 50 cents from each active member, and a charter fee of \$15.00 for each new chapter, but, as with his successors, the chapter advisers were slow in remitting the dues. From the first executive secretary, Dr.

Harry J. Russell, elected in 1941, we learn that the initiation fee had been raised to \$1.00, and the annual dues of 50 cents for each active member continued. We learn from a constitution published in *Entre Nosotros* (May 1948) that the initiation fee had been raised to \$2.00. Inadequate and sometimes unreliable reporting in *Entre Nosotros* makes it impossible to trace accurately improvement in the financial condition of the society, but at the close of 1945, Dr. Russell reported a balance of \$471.95. When Dr. Amner resigned, the balance reported was \$1,672.48; and when Dr. Tyre left the presidency, the reported balance was \$2,930.34.

A combination of factors ushered in a new day of financial growth and stability which dawned in 1966 and continued through the tenure of Dr. Richard E. Chandler, enabling the society to undertake new services to its members and to embark upon the building of an endowment of at least half a million dollars, the interest from which was expected to finance a large scholarship program and other services to the membership. First, in 1966, Dr. Hamilton created a system of state directors which brought about a rapid increase in the recruitment of new chapters with a proportionate growth in income. Then he reduced travel expense by eliminating Dr. Swain's policy of requiring the presence of at least one national officer at the installation of every chapter, regardless of distance, a practice that strained the meager treasury at a time when the society's income was very low. He assigned this task to nearby state directors or outstanding advisers. Next, initiation and charter fees were increased, without which substantial financial growth would have been impossible. Finally, the planning of Presidents Hamilton, Brown, and, later, especially Chandler, and above all, the skillful management of financial affairs by Executive Secretaries Gross and Galbis, were responsible for the society's sound condition and high hopes for the future. Beginning with Secretary Gross's audited triennial financial report published in *Entre Nosotros* in April 1972, we find a startling figure: Total Cash Available \$30,215.78 as of August 31, 1971, and on August 31, 1977, that figure had more than doubled, \$60,781.91.

### **A Literary Journal and Literary Contests**

During his presidency, Dr. Wright recognized the need for literary contests and also for scholarships; he did conduct the former on a small scale, but lacked the funds necessary for the latter. Repeatedly, however, two chapters, Mu (Middlebury) and Psi (University of Wisconsin, Madison) offered scholarships for attendance at their summer sessions. When financial conditions were improving during Dr. Hamilton's tenure, he discussed the matter of literary contests and scholarships with Secretary Gross, and after careful consideration they decided that at that time available funds were insufficient for beginning an ambitious scholarship program, but adequate for outstanding literary contests, the payment of substantial cash prizes, which could be considered substitutes for small scholarships, and for the printing of the winning compositions in *Entre Nosotros*, which in effect would convert the bulletin into a literary journal combined with an informational bulletin. The realization of an impressive scholarship program came early in the presidency of Dr. Richard E. Chandler by eliminating the literary contests.

It was decided that a larger format, 8.5" x 11", would be more suitable for a literary journal, and this change was made in the annual issue of 1972, and the prize-winning poetry, articles, and essays of the preceding contest were published. Dr. José Luis López-

Muñoz replaced Dr. Galbis as editor, and in that issue carried a review of Dr. Swain's newest book, *Juan Marín, the Man and His Writings*. Also, he acknowledged receipt of a pamphlet on social injustice in Latin America, of interest because the author was Herberito Sein, then nearly ninety, who was one of the early presidents of Alpha chapter at Berkeley and a close friend of Dr. Wright.

### **First Award of the Premio José Martel**

For the academic year 1971-72, the Premio José Martel was awarded to a lady who had dedicated her life to the dissemination of Hispanic culture and had prepared herself thoroughly for the mission by her study in Spain where she earned a doctoral degree, Dr. Lucia Bonilla, adviser of Xi chapter, No. 14, Hunter College (CUNY), the first chapter in the state of New York. Dr. Martel was especially pleased that the first Premio José Martel had been awarded to Doña Lucía, his protégée of earlier years.

### **Expansion of *Entre Nosotros***

By 1974, *Entre Nosotros* had become truly an international literary journal. The literary contests had been expanded to include all countries where Spanish is spoken, so in the issue of the journal of that year, consisting of 60 pages, it was reported that 120 persons from twelve countries had participated. Secretary Gross, in whose care both the literary contests and the journal had been placed, enthusiastically reported that in spite of increased costs of publication of *Entre Nosotros* and the payment of prize money, a total of \$4,500 annually, the treasury had increased by \$6,000, a figure that reflected the activity of the state directors with the consequent growth in recruitment of chapters. In this connection, the president announced that during the past year Sigma Delta Pi had brought in nearly twice as many new chapters as had the most successful honor society in the Association of College Honor Societies. In this issue appeared also an obituary of Dr. Carl Allen Tyre, distinguished past president of the society and also of the AATSP, written by his admiring friend Dr. Hamilton.

### **Triennial Convention of 1974**

As an international literary journal, *Entre Nosotros* gained favorable notice in the press of many countries of Spanish speech, and many of its articles, essays, and poems were reprinted in other magazines. Perhaps inevitably, however, it lost much of its value as a bulletin, omitting much news of historical value. As an example, the triennial convention held in New York in late December of 1974 was entirely ignored except for the printing of the president's address. Dr. Hamilton, who was re-elected for another term, his last, pointed out that the progress of an honor society can be measured by its increase in number of new chapters and by its improvement in quality, and he added that during the past triennium special efforts were made to improve the quality of the society because only a short time before students nationwide rebelled against the values that had marked the progress of civilized man, and against the accepted functions of a university. They had bombed and burned libraries and forced college officials to lie supine with guns at their heads while their tormentors shouted their "non-negotiable demands." Cowardly

administrators had yielded to force, threats, and blackmail by instituting pass-fail systems. It culminated in a rebellion against elitism, against the striving for excellence, but all this was brought to a sudden halt when a modern Horatius of Japanese ancestry, Dr. S. I. Hayakawa, took his stand at the bridge, defied the hordes, and gave courage to college administrators throughout the land.

Even though emphasis was placed on improving quality, the vice presidents and state directors, working against a tide of antielitism, recruited 39 chapters during the triennium, among which were The Catholic University of America, The University of Delaware, Oral Roberts University, Clemson University, Baruch College (CUNY), St. Louis University, Texas Christian University, and Georgetown University.

### **A New Edition of the Ritual**

The new *Sigma Delta Pi Ritual* was published on June 10, 1974, a revision that evolved over a period of fifteen years and was prepared by a committee appointed by Dr. Carl A. Tyre when he was president: Dr. José Martel, who scrutinized the *Ritual* to assure the use of pure and elegant Spanish; Dr. James O. Swain, executive secretary for fifteen years; Dr. Carl A. Tyre, the only president of Sigma Delta Pi who held the same office in the AATSP at the same time; Dr. Leavitt O. Wright, author of the *Ritual* and the first national president; and Dr. T. Earle Hamilton, chairman and editor. Later, Dr. F. Dewey Amner, past president, and Executive Secretary Stuart M. Gross were added, and the latter guided the *Ritual* through the press at the University of Maine. Unlike the first edition, compiled by Dr. John T. Reid in 1941 and the revision of 1945 by Dr. Amner and Executive Secretary Gross, the edition of 1974 omitted the manual, the separate ritual with the *tú* form, a list of chapters, and all dated material. However, in answer to many requests, an abbreviated ritual was added, one that omitted all the literary gems and references to them, a form intended to be used only on those rare occasions when there is little time or when the members lack the qualifications to present the complete form properly. Also, two line drawings by the national artist were included to clarify the ritual and to assure uniformity in the presentation by all chapters. A photograph of Dr. Wright, to whom this edition was dedicated, faces the title page. Since all dated material was omitted and the added expense of a large printing would be minimal, 25,000 copies were printed. However, when all materials in the office of the executive secretary in Orono, Maine, were shipped to Riverside, California, several boxes of the *Sigma Delta Pi Ritual* were overlooked by the packers and later lost.

The 1976 issue of *Entre Nosotros* was edited by James J. Troiano. It was a fine issue of the literary journal, but like many others it was totally lacking in national news and news of historical value except for the financial report. We learn from the 1977 issue that Dr. Ignacio R. M. Galbis had become executive secretary and editor. Again, the only national news was the financial statement and brief insertions in his editorial commentary.

### **Homenaje a Vicente Aleixandre**

For the society, 1977 was a notable year. The great Spanish poet Vicente Aleixandre was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature, and he accepted Distinguished Membership in Sigma Delta Pi. An "Homenaje a Vicente Aleixandre" was presented November 18,

1977, in the Hunter College Playhouse. President Jacqueline G. Wexler of Hunter College (CUNY), President Angier Biddle Duke of The Spanish Institute, and Sr. Rafael de los Casares, Consul General of Spain in the United States, welcomed the large audience. The nomination for the Nobel Prize for Literature was drafted by Professor José Olivio Jiménez with the support of all the members of the Spanish section of the Department of Romance Languages of Hunter College. Professor Jimenez read the nomination then played the taped reply of Vicente Aleixandre made two days after he was awarded the prize. Professor Carlos Bousoño, the official representative of Don Vicente, read several of the author's poems, Dr. Carleton Sprague Smith read "Salutation to Vicente Aleixandre," written by the American poet Archibald MacLeish. Finally, Sra. Ruth Crespo de Bousoño read a letter from Don Vicente in which he expressed his appreciation for this "Homenaje."

At the 1977 meeting of the AATSP in Madrid, three officers of Sigma Delta Pi, Dr. Ann Dolores Brown (past president), Dr. Donald W. Bleznick (vice president for the Midwest), and Dr. Manuel D. Ramirez (vice president for the Southwest) received awards from the Spanish government for their encouragement of Spanish culture as chairmen of their respective departments.

### **The 300th Chapter**

The 300th chapter, Theta of Louisiana, was installed on December 2, 1977, in the Treasure Room of the Howard Tilton Memorial Library of Tulane University by President T. Earle Hamilton, Executive Secretary Ignacio R. M. Galbis, Vice Presidents Donald W. Bleznick and John H. LaPrade, and State Director Richard E. Chandler, who would soon become president. Dr. LaPrade was in charge of the initiation ceremony, and he was assisted by the other officers in the induction of twenty-eight active members, one honorary member (Dr. Daniel W. Wogan), and three associate members (Drs. Otto Olivera, James Pontillo, and William Smither). Immediately following the installation ceremony, there was a program open to the public and directed by Dr. Gilbert Paolini, organizer and adviser of the new chapter. First, Dr. Smither, chairman of the Department of Spanish and Portuguese, gave a history of the department; then Dr. Hamilton summarized the history of Sigma Delta Pi, placing special emphasis on the importance of Theta chapter of Louisiana. With a smile, he explained that since the preceding chapter was Mu Lambda, this would normally become Mu Mu, a name that would invite laughter; so for this reason Theta, the eighth letter of the Greek alphabet, was chosen for this the eighth chapter of Louisiana. This method of naming chapters was introduced by Phi Beta Kappa in 1776 and adopted by many later societies. Letters of congratulation from the honorary presidents (Drs. Tomás Navarro Tomás, José Martel, and Leavitt O. Wright) were read, and an official *repostero* of the society was presented to the new chapter. Dr. Bleznick then delivered an eloquent address, "Algunos valores constantes en la lengua y en la literatura de España." After the program, all attended a banquet at a Spanish restaurant, and the festivities were concluded with a reception in the home of Dr. and Mrs. Paolini.

## **Help for the President**

At no time during his years of service to Sigma Delta Pi did Dr. Hamilton ever have the help of a secretary in his office, a small room in his home, but with his ancient Remington typewriter and a spirit duplicator (a pan filled with gelatin), he maintained communication with the Executive Council, the state directors, the chapter advisers, the executive secretary, and in addition found the time to write over a hundred personal letters each year to departmental chairmen in an effort to recruit new chapters. For the latter purpose, he obtained many leads at the annual SCMLA-Sigma Delta Pi Breakfast Programs. Because he was aware that growth is essential to the health of an organization, he urged the state directors and the vice presidents to help him recruit new chapters, and although the majority of these officers, unfortunately, gave no assistance, some gave their full cooperation. Among these, Vice Presidents Donald Bleznick and John H. LaPrade brought in several chapters, and some state directors were very successful: Dr. Justo Ulloa alone was responsible for the admission of seven chapters, Dr. Richard E. Chandler and Dean Paul G. Hatcher each brought in four chapters, and Drs. Jorge Giró, Lucía Bonilla, Margaret E. Beeson, Ignacio R. M. Galbis, Irving P. Rothberg, Phyllis Boring, and Bevan C. Haycock brought in new chapters. Indeed, cooperative state directors and vice presidents were of great help in Dr. Hamilton's last year when 33 new chapters were recruited.

## **The Hamilton Years: A Summary**

- 1) Dr. Hamilton contributed to state and national programs to revive the study of foreign languages in the 1950s, the success of which increased the reservoir from which to draw new chapters.
- 2) He founded the SCMLA-Sigma Delta Pi Breakfast Program, 1952, and directed it personally for 25 years.
- 3) He appointed a consultative and advisory committee consisting of chapter advisers, past officers, and honorary presidents.
- 4) He drafted the Constitution of 1965.
- 5) He created the Optimates Chapter, an honor chapter for the most eminent scholarly professors of Spanish.
- 6) He added another category, Distinguished Membership, honorary membership bestowed by the Executive Council.
- 7) He established a more democratic procedure for the election of the president and of the vice presidents.
- 8) He defined the purpose and the function of the Orders of Don Quijote and of Los Descubridores.
- 9) He persuaded the Association of College Honor Societies to admit Sigma Delta Pi to membership in February of 1966.
  - a. He served as chairman of the ACHS Committee on Standards and Definitions for 15 years.
  - b. He was awarded a plaque by the ACHS "for distinctive service" during his 21 years "as the representative of Sigma Delta Pi."

- 10) He established the State Director System.
  - a. With the help of his faithful colleagues, he recruited more chapters than the total of all before him.
  - b. For two years, Sigma Delta Pi recruited more new chapters than any other of the 46 member societies of the ACHS.
  - c. In his last year, 33 chapters were added.
- 11) *Reposteros* designed and imported from Barcelona by Dr. José Martel were made available to the chapters at a reasonable price.
- 12) He obtained special recognition of Sigma Delta Pi by the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese and certain privileges in 1967.
- 13) Chapter No. 150, Zeta Zeta, was established at the University of Virginia in 1967, the most lavish celebration in the history of the society.
- 14) The Premio José Martel was authorized in 1968, and the first recipient was Dr. Lucia Bonilla, 1971.
- 15) A revised edition of the *Ritual* was published in 1974.
- 16) Financial stability of Sigma Delta Pi was established beginning in 1966.
- 17) *Entre Nosotros* became an international literary journal in 1974.
  - a. Magazines in various countries of Spanish speech reprinted articles, essays, and poems from *Entre Nosotros*.
  - b. Literary contests were conducted, and substantial cash prizes were awarded the winners.
- 18) Chapter No. 300, Theta of Louisiana, was installed at Tulane University, 1977.
- 19) Dr. Hamilton chose not to run again so that he might devote his time to the founding of an honor society for students of Spanish in two-year colleges. He named it Sigma Delta Mu, and it was sponsored by Sigma Delta Pi.
- 20) Earlier, he was made an honorary member of the Texas Foreign Language Association and of the South Central MLA, and a life member of the Modern Language Association of America and of the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese. On the twenty-fifth anniversary of the founding of the TFLA, he was presented a plaque in recognition of his being the founder of the *TFIA Bulletin*.
- 21) He was elected honorary president of Sigma Delta Pi in December of 1980.
- 22) He was named President Emeritus in 1985.
- 23) He was presented a plaque at the Two-Year College Session of the meeting of the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese in Philadelphia on August 10, 1994, in recognition of his being the founder and first president of Sigma Delta Mu.

## Chapter IX

### Richard E. Chandler, 1978-92

#### The Golden Years of Sigma Delta Pi

In the closing days of 1977, Sigma Delta Pi held its triennial convention in Chicago and inaugurated a new president, Dr. Richard E. Chandler, scholar, author, skilled administrator, a member of the society for forty years, and destined to preside during its golden years. Following are some of his eloquent remarks as he committed himself to his new task, words that express an attitude that should serve as a model for all who assume a post of responsibility in our society: chapter advisers, state directors, vice presidents, future presidents, and executive secretary-treasurers.

Primeramente, quiero decir que es para mí un solemne honor y alto privilegio aceptar la presidencia de esta prestigiosa sociedad honoraria, Sigma Delta Pi, de la cual he sido miembro durante cuarenta años. Acepto esta responsabilidad humildemente y con el pleno conocimiento de la enorme responsabilidad que me trae y de la importancia de la tarea que será la mía en los tres años venideros. Sin embargo, la acepto con placer, porque creo enfáticamente en la misión de nuestra sociedad y el papel que desempeña en el campo de los estudios superiores de nuestra nación. La acepto porque tengo fe en una sociedad que busca y premia la excelencia académica en el estudiante y procura inspirarle a mantener durante la vida su búsqueda de la belleza y la verdad. La acepto con mucho gusto porque creo en Sigma Delta Pi, la sociedad que tiene por lema "el amor por todo lo noble y bello que haya salido de la venerable España." La acepto con gran satisfacción porque en el seno de esta organización se encuentran colegas quienes, como yo, se han dedicado al estudio y a la enseñanza de las bellezas eternas y deleites incomparables de la literatura y cultura del pueblo hispanoparlante del mundo, y es aquí donde podemos encontrar espíritus afines y compañeros dedicados a la muy grata responsabilidad de transmitir esta cultura a nuestros estudiantes. Estoy orgulloso, y estoy seguro de que ustedes lo están también, de ser socio y oficial de una fraternidad que ha recibido y continúa recibiendo su inspiración de la herencia cultural sin par que la venerable España nos ha confiado.

In keeping with his generous nature, he devoted much of his acceptance speech to praise of the outgoing president, Dr. T. Earle Hamilton. Dr. Chandler was fortunate to have the following vice presidents to work with him: Dr. Lucía Bonilla (Northeast); Dr. Manuel D. Ramirez (Southeast); Dr. Donald W. Bleznick (Midwest); Dr. John H. LaPrade (Southwest); and Miss Gisela Dardon Tadlock (West). Dr. Ignacio R. M. Galbis was re-elected executive secretary, and Dr. T. Earle Hamilton, the immediate past president, continued as member of the Executive Council. To replace Antonio de Rodas of Seattle as national artist, Dr. Chandler appointed a member of his Spanish staff at The University of Southwestern Louisiana,<sup>7</sup> Mr. José Montiel.

---

<sup>7</sup> Later renamed University of Louisiana-Lafayette.

## **Repository for Sigma Delta Pi Files**

Although Dr. Galbis held a tenured position in the department of foreign languages in the University of Maine at Orono, he resigned this position to seek one in the more congenial climate of California. He accepted a temporary position in San Francisco and had the society's furniture and files transported there from Orono. In the process, the trucker overlooked thousands of printed rituals which, unfortunately, were later destroyed. Shortly thereafter, Dr. Galbis moved to Riverside, California, and sent many old files in two large cabinets, along with many boxes of excess rituals, to Lafayette, Louisiana, where Dr. Chandler arranged with The University of Southwestern Louisiana to establish a permanent repository where the records and excess rituals could be safely kept. This arrangement obviated the expense of shipping these materials to every new executive secretary-treasurer.

## **Honors for Dr. Chandler**

One of Dr. Chandler's principal objectives was to obtain recognition of Sigma Delta Pi by the Spanish government that had obviously ignored, or was not aware of, the significant contribution the society had made and continued to make to the teaching of Spanish culture, literature, and history at the university level. Consequently, in November of 1978 he visited the Spanish Consulate in New Orleans and fully acquainted the Consul General of Spain in New Orleans, Sr. Don José Montero de Pedro, Marqués de Casa Mena, with the nature and purpose of the society. The Consul General was quite favorably impressed by the accomplishments of the society and its potential for acquainting American college students with Spain, its culture, its literature, and also the possibility of eradicating some of the misconceptions held by many Americans, including prestigious historians who should have known better, of the true role Spain played in the discovery and civilization of the so-called New World, which included large parts of the United States, especially the State of Louisiana, which was a Spanish colony from 1762 until 1803. The Marqués was most favorably impressed by the accomplishments of the society, and felt that steps should be taken to establish a relationship that would be mutually beneficial. Consequently, he called this matter to the attention of his superiors in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and convinced them of the importance of the work of the society and of the need to support it in some significant way.

On August 9, 1979, Dr. Chandler received a communication from the Marqués de Casa Mena informing him that the Spanish government had granted him membership in the Order of Isabel la Católica with the rank of Knight in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the teaching of the language and literature of Spain in the United States and of his work as president of Sigma Delta Pi. The decoration (certificate and medal), authorized by the King of Spain, Juan Carlos I, was presented to Dr. Chandler on October 12, 1979, the National Day of Spain, at a reception held in the home of the Marqués. In making his presentation, the Marqués said:

In the granting of the decoration, due account has also been taken of your present position as National President of Sigma Delta Pi, and therefore the Spanish government is hereby acknowledging the extremely important contribution made

by that society in the entire territory of the United States to spread the knowledge of the language and literature of Spain.

A month before receiving the good news from the Consul General of Spain, Dr. Chandler received another signal honor. The University of Southwestern Louisiana made him the Gabrielle Hebrard Honor Professor of Foreign Languages. Only five other persons have ever been designated as honor professors in the history of that institution.

Still another honor came Dr. Chandler's way in September, 1979, one which he discussed with his friend and colleague, Dr. T. Earle Hamilton, in a letter:

What a wonderful surprise I had Monday night of this week following the initiation ceremony of Alpha Rho chapter here at USL. To receive the Order of Don Quijote is indeed an honor and one which I did not at all expect to receive. It was a well-kept secret here and came as a complete surprise. . . . I really do appreciate it . . . and I humbly accept the honor with the knowledge that I am thus joining the ranks of distinguished Hispanists.

Much later, on December 12, 1985, Dr. Chandler was notified by Dr. James Chatham, Executive Director of the AATSP, that he had just been named Emeritus Member of the Association.

### **Recognition of Sigma Delta Pi by the Spanish Government**

In September 1979, the Marqués de Casa Mena urged Dr. Chandler to go to Spain, and he secured a grant from the Spanish government to make the trip possible. The purpose of the trip was to help bring about a close working relationship of which Dr. Chandler had spoken in his interview with the Marqués nearly a year before. He presented Dr. Chandler a round-trip ticket to Madrid and the name and address of a hotel where he would stay for a period of ten days. In addition, the Marqués had asked the personnel of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to make arrangements for Dr. Chandler's visit. In October, then, Dr. Chandler flew to Madrid and was warmly received by officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other government agencies, and he held informal and friendly discussions with them.

On Monday, October 22, Dr. Chandler met with a half dozen Ministry officials at a luncheon in a private dining room in a restaurant near the Puerta del Sol, at which time Dr. Chandler spoke of Sigma Delta Pi's significant contributions to the study of Spanish in the United States and the importance not only of the need for close relationships between the society and the Spanish government, but also for the financial support of the society by Spain, particularly in the form of scholarships for Sigma Delta Pi students to study in Spain. He spoke of the millions of dollars France was spending on a very small French-speaking community in southwestern Louisiana, the Acadians (Cajuns), and noted that Spain had not supported Sigma Delta Pi's efforts to serve a very large college population of Spanish students and a very large Spanish-speaking population in the United States. Present at this luncheon were Sr. Carlos Villanueva, Minister Plenipotentiary; Sr. Amaro González de Mesa, Director of Cultural Relations; Sr. Carlos Barrios, Head of Exchanges and Scholarships of the Office of Cultural Relations; and Sr.

Ramón Bela of the Office of Cultural Relations. Though no final decisions were reached at this meeting, the groundwork had been laid which later produced results for the society.

A few days later, Dr. Chandler was accompanied by Dr. John H. LaPrade, vice president for the Southwest, who was in Spain as director of the study program of Southern Methodist University, on a visit to the offices of the Instituto de Cooperación Iberoamericana where a consultation was held with Sr. Carlos Villanueva, Dr. José María Alvarez, and Sr. Ramón Bela. The Instituto was a branch of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Sigma Delta Pi proposals had been assigned to it. Sr. Alvarez seemed very favorably impressed by Dr. Chandler's full description of Sigma Delta Pi, its goals, its achievements, and its activities, but no definite commitments were made. There was good reason to believe, however, that grants through the Instituto were a distinct possibility, and later they were, indeed, forthcoming. Dr. Chandler had to leave Madrid the next day, but he gave Dr. LaPrade full authority to negotiate any agreement with the officials of the Spanish government. The meetings in Madrid were successful, for they marked the culmination of Dr. Chandler's desire to establish close relations with the government of Spain.

### **Sigma Delta Pi Awards**

At the Modern Language Association convention in New York City in December of 1978, Sigma Delta Pi bestowed on the eminent Spanish dramatist and essayist, Antonio Buero Vallejo, membership in the Order of Don Quijote. Upon his return to Madrid he expressed his appreciation in the following letter to Executive Secretary-Treasurer, Dr. Ignacio Galbis:

A mi regreso de New York me disponía a reiterar a esa Sociedad por escritura mi honda gratitud por el honroso nombramiento de miembro de la Orden de Don Quijote con que me han favorecido y que tan gentilmente me entregó Ud. durante la Convención de la MLA cuando me llega su carta del 8 del presente mes donde tan amablemente me lo confirma.

De nuevo le ruego acepte Ud. y exprese en mi nombre al Comité Ejecutivo de Sigma Delta Pi mi cálido reconocimiento por el honor con que han querido distinguirme.

Cuando, en 1970, visité Chapel Hill, el Capítulo Zeta Psi de esa Sociedad en la Universidad de North Carolina tuvo a bien honrarnos, a mi esposa y a mí, con el nombramiento de Socios Honorarios de dicho Capítulo. Tenía yo ya, pues, desde ese año la satisfacción de pertenecer a la prestigiosa Sociedad Hispánica que Uds. dirigen. La designación de Miembro de la Orden de Don Quijote que ahora me han conferido refuerza los lazos que me unían a Sigma Delta Pi y aumenta mi deuda de gratitud hacia Uds.

Con los mejores votos por la brillante continuidad de la Asociación, les saluda muy cordialmente su agradecido.

*Antonio Buero Vallejo*

The well-known Spanish scholar, poet, professor, and essayist, Dámaso Alonso, president of the Spanish Academy, visited New Orleans with his lovely wife in March of 1980 and were guests in the home of Dr. and Mrs. Gilbert Paolini. At Tulane University, Dr. Paolini, founder and adviser of Chapter Theta of Louisiana, acting in the name of President Chandler, was privileged to decorate the distinguished professor with membership in the Order of Don Quijote during a traditional initiation ceremony. Dr. Alonso then presented a treatise entitled "Problemas y estado de la lengua española en los finales del siglo XIX." After the ceremony a reception was held in the Paolini home for the new members and the honored guests.

Because of other obligations, Dr. Chandler was unable to participate, but he sent to Dr. Paolini the following message to be read to Dr. Alonso:

A Quien la Presente Viere:

Como Presidente Nacional de Sigma Delta Pi, Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica, y en nombre de ésta, tengo el hondo gusto y alto privilegio de encomendar al distinguido socio, Dr. Gilbert Paolini, consejero del capítulo establecido en la Universidad de Tulane, el grato deber de presentar al ilustre profesor, crítico y poeta, el Sr. Dámaso Alonso, el ingreso en la Orden de Don Quijote, el más alto honor que la Sociedad otorga. Sigma Delta Pi se siente privilegiada en honrar así al Dr. Alonso, quien representa con su vida y su labor el máximo ideal de nuestra Sociedad, el amor por todo lo noble y bello que haya salido de la venerable España. Como figura eminente de la literatura española, como representante de lo mejor de la cultura hispánica, como campeón de las letras hispánicas y como paladín que personifica los ideales del caballero manchego, ofrecemos al Dr. Alonso nuestras felicitaciones con la viva esperanza de que pueda continuar sirviendo la noble causa a la cual ha dedicado su vida. Salud, y muchos años más de vida al Dr. Alonso.

Acting on behalf of Dr. Chandler, Dr. Ignacio Galbis, conferred on Dr. John A. Crow membership in the Order of Don Quijote in November of 1981 during a joint initiation ceremony of Chapters Eta (University of Southern California), Omicron (Mount St. Mary's College), and Gamma Psi (University of California at Los Angeles). Among the honored guests were Professors Mary Kristian, Hildebrando Villareal, and Theodore Sackett.

During the visit of the well-known and much-honored Spanish novelist, Carmen Laforet, to New Orleans in 1983, sponsored by the Consul General of Spain, the distinguished author attended a meeting of Theta chapter of Louisiana of Tulane University. On this occasion, Dr. Gilbert Paolini, the adviser of the chapter, bestowed on her membership in the Order of Don Quijote. She then presented a paper entitled "Vivir y escribir" in which she pointed out both the direct and the indirect relationship between

her personal experiences and her novels. A reception followed in the home of Dr. and Mrs. Paolini. Upon her return to Spain, Ms. Laforet wrote to Dr. Galbis to ask for a copy of the Sigma Delta Pi initiation ceremony. She had been so impressed with its beauty and by listening to American students of Spanish reciting it that she wanted a personal copy. A number of other Spaniards who have become members of Sigma Delta Pi have asked for copies of our ritual, and parts of it have been published in Spanish newspapers.

### **President's Commission on Foreign Languages**

Dr. Chandler, acting in his capacity as president of Sigma Delta Pi and as chairman of the Academic Advisory Board of CODOFIL, appeared before the President's Commission on Foreign Languages and International Studies in Houston on March 7, 1979, and presented a resolution summarized in its conclusion:

Now, therefore, we, the Executive Council of Sigma Delta Pi, National Honorary Spanish Society, call for the establishment at the highest level of a national policy with appropriate legislation to develop and strengthen foreign-language study in the United States in order to develop a citizenry capable of supporting the nation in its international affairs, whether they be diplomatic, commercial, or cultural. We further resolve that a copy of this act be sent to the President of the United States, the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare, and the President's Commission on Foreign Language and International Studies.

### **Triennial Convention, 1980**

The triennial convention of Sigma Delta Pi was held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Houston on December 28, 1980. Dr. Pierre Ullman, chairman of the Elections Committee, announced the new list of officers. Dr. Richard Chandler was re-elected to the presidency. Vice presidents re-elected were Dr. Lucía Bonilla (Northeast), Dr. Donald Bleznick (Midwest), and Dr. John H. LaPrade (Southwest). New vice presidents were Dr. Gastón Fernández (Southeast) and Dr. Theodore Sackett (West). Elected honorary presidents were Professor Stuart M. Gross, Dr. T. Earle Hamilton, and Dr. James O. Swain. Dr. Emilio García was reappointed editor of *Entre Nosotros*, and Mr. José Montiel remained as national artist. Dr. Chandler gave each officer a certificate printed in black and white with the coat of arms of Sigma Delta Pi hand colored by Mr. Montiel. Neither Professor Gross nor Professor Swain was present. Dr. Hamilton's son, Charles, accepted Dr. Swain's certificate with the explanation: "Desafortunadamente, el Dr. Swain se ha resfriado, y por eso temía hacer el viaje a Houston. Para mí, pues, es un privilegio especial recibir este título a petición de mi distinguido amigo." Dr. Hamilton received his certificate personally with the following comments:

Sr. Presidente, distinguido caballero de la Orden de Isabel la Católica, huéspedes de honor, delegados de los capítulos, amigos todos de la sociedad:

El alto privilegio de dedicar la mayor parte de mi vida al servicio de Sigma Delta Pi, en la compañía de tales ilustres colegas, ahora en mejor patria, como Leavitt O.

Wright, primer presidente y autor de nuestro ritual, S. Griswold Morley, Carl A. Tyre, ex-presidente, John T. Reid, ex-presidente y fundador de *Entre Nosotros*, José Martel, cuyo castizo castellano embelleció muchas publicaciones nuestras, y Tomás Navarro Tomás, nuestro fiel consejero por cincuenta y dos años, y otros muchos, especialmente mis eminentes colegas aquí presente —todo esto, digo, me ha sido recompensa de sobra por lo poco que he hecho por la sociedad. Sin embargo les confieso en confianza que si me hubieran otorgado esta honra el año pasado, la habría recibido con entusiasmo y cierto orgullo, flaqueza humana. Pero recientemente una desventura me enseñó en letras de fuego la vanidad de la honra y de los tesoros del mundo. Alguien pegó fuego a mi casa y se convirtió todo en ceniza: mis libros, las prendas de recuerdo de más de medio siglo, y otros títulos conferidos por otras sociedades.

Ahora, escarmentado, recuerdo las palabras de Segismundo: " . . . toda la dicha humana en fin pasa como un sueño."

Con sincera humildad, pues, acepto este hermoso título y el gran honor que simboliza como otra oportunidad para servir la noble sociedad de amantes de la cultura de España, Sigma Delta Pi, y con toda el alma se lo agradezco.

When Dr. Chandler recognized Dr. Bleznick as the recipient of the Premio José Martel, he presented him a certificate and a check, and called attention to other honors which he had received, such as the Order of Don Quijote (1970), La Cruz de Caballero de la Orden de Mérito Civil authorized by King Juan Carlos I in Madrid (1977), and being named among fifteen American scholars who have gained an international reputation for their research in Spanish literature. Dr. Bleznick had been a professor of Spanish literature at the University of Cincinnati since 1967, and a member of the editorial staff of *Hispania* since 1965. His contributions to Sigma Delta Pi were outstanding, especially during the period when he served as vice president for the Midwest (1974-83).

In official recognition of the role of Sigma Delta Pi in disseminating Spanish culture in the United States, Sr. Roberto Bermúdez, Minister of Cultural Affairs of the Spanish Embassy in Washington, D.C., presented Dr. Chandler a hand-wrought Diploma de Honor which had been brought personally from Spain by Sr. Ramón Bela of the Instituto de Cooperación Iberoamericana. This represented the culmination of efforts to bring about closer relations between Sigma Delta Pi and the government of Spain, for Sr. Bermúdez offered the society "cooperación incondicional."

Dr. Chandler then delivered the presidential address in which he summarized the activities, the changes, and the accomplishments of a very successful triennium. First, he generously gave full credit to all who had made contributions, and thanked them for their cooperation. He then proceeded to give an encouraging description of the society:

Pasando ahora a otros asuntos, me permito informarles que en el trienio pasado se fundaron veintitrés capítulos nuevos De los capítulos durmientes, de los que hay unos cuarenta, pudimos reactivar solamente media docena . . . Hace aproximadamente dos años, con la ayuda del Cónsul General de España en Nueva Orleans, el Sr. D. José Montero de Pedro, Marqués de Casa Mena, dimos inicio a

una iniciativa ante el gobierno de España que sin duda dará fruto en los años que vienen, no sólo para Sigma Delta Pi sino también para la fomentación de interés en la cultura hispánica en todas sus manifestaciones en los Estados Unidos. Evidencia de esto es la presencia hay en esta reunión del Sr. D. Ramón Bela del Instituto de Cooperación Iberoamericana, la rama del gobierno de España que mantendrá relaciones con nosotros. . . . Nada de esto hubiera sido posible sin la ayuda entusiástica del Cónsul General de España, D. José Montero de Pedro, y le quedamos muy agradecidos. Ya que él partió de Nueva Orleáns para otro puesto diplomático, ha sido reemplazado por otro igualmente entusiástico, el Sr. D. Enrique Iranzo, recientemente iniciado como miembro honoraria de Sigma Delta Pi, y quien está tan dedicado a nuestra causa como lo fue el Marqués, su predecesor.

Otro de nuestros logros del trienio pasado fue, a mi juicio, el establecimiento de un programa de becas. Puesto que la sociedad no tiene fondos ilimitados, fue necesario discontinuar los concursos literarios antes de fundar el programa de becas. . . . En 1981, Sigma Delta Pi distribuirá tres mil dólares en becas a socios activos. Esta suma compara muy favorablemente con las que dedican a becas otras sociedades honorarias y en realidad sobrepasa muchas de ellas. . . . Otro cambio que se ha hecho recientemente tiene que ver con la publicación *Entre Nosotros*, que para muchos años apareció una vez por año en forma de revista que contenía las composiciones literarias ganadoras del concurso literario así como noticias de los capítulos. Ahora *Entre Nosotros* tiene la forma de un boletín informativo y se publicara cuatro veces en el año académico. . . . Hemos recomendado a esta convención por medio de una enmienda a la constitución el establecimiento de una fundación nacional cuyo propósito será recibir donaciones, regalos, contribuciones, y memoriales de individuos, compañías comerciales, institutos, gobiernos, y capítulos de la sociedad. . . . Ahora es mi triste deber recordarles que durante el trienio que termina hoy murieron tres de nuestros miembros mas ilustres, todos presidentes honorarios, el Dr. Tomás Navarro Tomás, el Dr. José Martel, y el Dr. Leavitt O. Wright. No podemos exagerar la contribución de estos paladines de Sigma Delta Pi, pero como dijo el poeta, aunque la vida perdieron, harto consuela nos deja su memoria.

Y ahora finalmente, expreso mi gratitud por habérseme confiado la dirección de la sociedad, Sigma Delta Pi, por otros tres años. Les doy mi fe que acepto seriamente esta responsabilidad y que en los años que vienen trabajaré sin cesar por la prosperidad de sus miembros. Con amor a la sociedad y a la profesión de que formamos parte, con los ideales de Sigma Delta Pi que nos guían, con miembros, consejeros, directores y oficiales consagrados entusiásticamente a la obra, quizás podamos realizar el sueño de tantos que nos han precedido y que nosotros mismos hemos soñado —crear una sociedad honoraria sin igual que contribuir a una mayor comprensión y un mayor aprecio de todo lo noble y bello que haya salido de la venerable España, que servirá como estímulo e inspiración a sus miembros y al mundo y que enriquecer la vida de todos nosotros. Pido la

cooperación de todos. Nuestra causa es justa y grande y hermosa. Dedicuémonos a la tarea.

With Dr. Galbis presiding at the business session, a slight increase in initiation fees from nine to ten dollars was approved, effective September 1, 1981. Also, the formation of a foundation to receive donations, and a board of trustees to administer it were approved. Finally, Executive Secretary-Treasurer Galbis reported that initiation fees in 1980 amounted to \$17,088, that there was a total cash balance of \$79,095 as of December 26, that interest earned amounted to \$5,465, and that secretarial salaries came to \$3,680.

### **Triennial Convention, New York, 1983**

The triennial convention of the society was held on December 29, 1983, at the Sheraton Hotel in New York City in conjunction with the meeting of the Modern Language Association. The officers chosen for the ensuing triennium were: Dr. Richard Chandler, president; Dr. Ignacio R. M. Galbis, executive secretary-treasurer; and the five vice presidents, Dr. Lucía Bonilla, Dr. Roma Hoff, Dr. Gastón Fernández, Dr. Francisco Pérez, and Dr. Hildebrando Villareal. These and the immediate past president, Dr. T. Earle Hamilton, constituted the Executive Council.

Dr. Galbis, presiding at the business session, submitted for a vote the following amendments to the constitution, amendments previously approved by the Executive Council: (1) the second sentence of Article IX to read, "The National Endowment Fund shall be administered by a Board of Trustees composed of the executive director and six other persons, all appointed without term by the Executive Council upon the recommendation of the president"; (2) the third sentence of Article IX to read, "A trustee's appointment may be terminated by resignation or by two-thirds vote of the Executive Council"; and (3) the last sentence of Article IX to read, "The Executive Director shall notify the Board of Trustees and the Executive Council annually of the amount of money that is available for the scholarship program from the National Endowment Fund, and the Executive Director shall make the necessary arrangements for disbursing funds." All these proposed amendments were approved. After attending to this business, Dr. Galbis then introduced Dr. Chandler.

Dr. Chandler thanked the retiring vice presidents (Drs. Donald Bleznick, John H. LaPrade, and Theodore Sackett) for their outstanding service. He then announced that twenty-nine chapters had been added during the triennium, an improvement over the twenty-three new chapters of his first triennium. Afterwards, he acknowledged with profuse thanks the generosity of the Instituto de Cooperación Iberoamericana which had made it possible to offer two new scholarships that would enable two active members of the society to study abroad for a month at the Universidad Menéndez y Palayo in Santander, Spain.

Following this, Dr. Chandler singled out two professors of Spanish at The University of Southwestern Louisiana for special praise. Dr. Emilio F. García who, as editor, had made of *Entre Nosotros* a publication of uniformly high quality, well balanced in its news coverage of worldwide Hispanic culture, of reports from the chapters, and communications from the national officers, and all in polished Spanish. He complimented Mr. José Montiel, the national artist, who prepared chapter charters, certificates, and

special awards in truly beautiful form, colored and lettered by hand. It should be emphasized that these two professors performed these valuable services without charge as a professional obligation, as do the president, the vice presidents, the state directors, and the advisers. Only the executive secretary-treasurer receives a stipend. It was with gratitude that Dr. Chandler announced that the editor and the artist had agreed to continue their contributions to the society for three more years.

Professor Eduardo Zayas-Bazán was declared the outstanding adviser for the past triennium, and so was awarded the Premio José Martel. For many years he was the adviser of Theta Pi chapter of East Tennessee State University. Besides earning the praise of his colleagues, Professor Zayas-Bazán did much to reflect credit on his department of foreign languages and on his university. He began student program of study in Spain and in Mexico, and organized a "Día del Idioma" for undergraduates of the area, attended by a thousand students. His articles appeared in *Hispania* and in the *Paris Review*.

As the meeting ended, the executive secretary-treasurer reported that Sigma Delta Pi had accumulated a total reserve of \$130,433.79.

### **Triennial Convention Madrid, 1986**

Friendly relations have always existed between Sigma Delta Pi and the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese. Both organizations grew up together, both encouraging the study of Spanish, the association founded in 1918 and the society in 1919. The two held national meetings concurrently for the first time in 1938 in New York City. Nearly all the officers of Sigma Delta Pi have been members of the AATSP, and many officers of the latter have been officers of the society. Also, three presidents of Sigma Delta Pi (Leavitt O. Wright, Carl A. Tyre, and Dolores A. Brown) served as presidents of the AATSP. But even with all such cooperation, there was never an agreement between the two organizations to work together closely at joint meetings until Dr. Hamilton met with the entire Executive Committee of the AATSP at their Fiftieth Anniversary meeting in San Antonio (1968) and obtained a promise to publish the activities of Sigma Delta Pi in their official program whenever the two organizations meet jointly. As an outgrowth of this agreement, the editors of *Hispania* invited Sigma Delta Pi to submit newsworthy items for publication.

Fully aware of this background, Dr. Chandler was determined to bring the two organizations even closer together, so he conferred with the two chief officers of the AATSP, Dr. Richard Klein and Dr. James Chatham, at a meeting of the South Central Modern Language Association in Biloxi, Mississippi, in 1984, and it was agreed that thereafter Sigma Delta Pi would hold each triennial convention in conjunction with an annual convention of the AATSP.

Sigma Delta Pi marked the sixty-seventh anniversary of its founding by holding its triennial convention of 1986 in Madrid on August 11 and 12 in conjunction with the annual convention of the AATSP in the Hotel Eurobuilding. It was agreed that all future triennial conventions would coincide with the AATSP meetings. Over seven hundred members of the Association were in attendance, a number which included many members of the society. The delegates found much cultural enjoyment in visits to nearby cities and sites, such as Toledo, Salamanca, Segovia, Avila, the Escorial, and in Madrid, the Museo del Prado, the Palacio Real, the Retiro, and just an exploratory tour of the capital.

The Executive Council of Sigma Delta Pi met on August 11 at 6:00 p.m. in the Salón Altos Hermitage B, and then the business session was held at 7:00 p.m. in the adjoining salon. Dr. Chandler welcomed the delegates, and after the reading of the minutes of the previous convention by Executive Secretary-Treasurer Galbis, Dr. Chandler introduced the vice presidents: Dr. Lucía Bonilla, Dr. Justo G. Ulloa, Dr. Caroline White, Dr. Francisco Pérez, and Dr. Clark Colahan. It was then announced that the distinguished scholar, Dr. Robert G. Meade, Jr., had been elected honorary president to fill the vacancy created by the death of Dr. James O. Swain. The committee that conducted the election consisted of Dr. Francille Bergquist, Dr. Robert Dash, and Dr. T. Earle Hamilton, chairman.

The problem posed by the increasing number of inactive chapters was discussed, and measures were approved to revoke the privileges of such chapters, and it was agreed that determined efforts should be made to reactivate as many as possible during the next triennium.

The Sigma Delta Pi dinner was held at 9:30 p.m. following the business session. Seated at the head table were Dr. Lucía Bonilla, Dr. Rafael Lapesa, Dr. Ignacio R. M. Galbis, Dr. Richard E. Chandler, Dr. T. Earle Hamilton, Dr. James Castañeda, and Dr. Robert G. Meade, Jr. A large donation to the National Endowment Fund by Dr. Bonilla was gratefully acknowledged by Dr. Castaneda, executive director of the Fund. Dr. Meade was officially invested with the office of honorary president, which he graciously accepted with a short speech in his usual beautiful Spanish. Professor Rafael Lapesa, a distinguished member of the Academia de la Lengua and author of numerous books in the field of philology, was the guest of honor. Don Rafael is a very quiet and unassuming scholar, congenial and affable, and with sincerity he expressed his appreciation to Dr. Chandler when Sigma Delta Pi's highest honor, membership in the Order of Don Quijote, was bestowed on him. Picking up on the theme of Don Quijote, Dr. Lapesa addressed the assembly, drawing on his vast knowledge of the literature and culture of Spain, and to the delight of those present, gave much credit to the United States for the contributions its scholars had made and were still making to the study of Spain and her people. Following the close of the formalities, all enjoyed renewing old acquaintances and chatting with Don Rafael Lapesa, Dr. Meade, others mentioned above, and with Professor Stuart M. Gross and Dr. María A. Salgado. While chatting with Dr. Lapesa, Dr. Hamilton, using the views of Tomás Navarro Tomás as a starting point, asked Dr. Lapesa for further explanations of the *ceceo*, which he gladly gave and, even more, promised to send him a copy of his latest book, which contains additional information on this subject. Dr. Hamilton acknowledged the book as soon as it arrived, and thus began a pleasant correspondence between them.

On August 12, Sigma Delta Pi and Sigma Delta Mu (Spanish Honor Society for Two-Year Colleges) held a joint session in the Salón Turmalina from 1:00 to 2:45 p.m. The theme of the meeting was "Hispanic Honors Programs Promoting Excellence in the Study of Spanish." President Richard E. Chandler and secretary-treasurer Ignacio R.M. Galbis represented Sigma Delta Pi, and President T. Earle Hamilton and Secretary Lawrence McCarty represented Sigma Delta Mu. The leaders discussed the purpose of the two societies and gave information on how to apply for and install chapters. A number of persons in attendance indicated an interest in creating a chapter and asked a number of questions of the panel of informants.

The AATSP banquet took place on August 12 at 9:00 p.m. in the Salón Topacio. In addition to the interesting program, enjoyable entertainment, and a delectable repast, this occasion gave the delegates another opportunity to become better acquainted. As a matter of fact, wherever they met, at the continental breakfasts, at receptions, at program sessions, when shopping at the Librería Espasa Calpe or at El Corte Inglés, they did not pass up an opportunity to talk with friends they had not seen for a year or so and might never see again. Among those present who are especially remembered are Dr. James B. Chatham, Dr. and Mrs. Richard Klein, Dr. Kurt Levy, Dr. Jack H. Parker, Dr. Dolores Brown, Prof. and Mrs. Stuart M. Gross, Dr. Donald W. Bleznick, Dr. Roma Hoff, Prof. Ruth L. Bennett, Dr. Jean Chittenden, Dr. D. Lincoln Canfield, Dr. Juan R. Franco, Dr. Seymour Menton, Dr. and Mrs. Gilbert Paolini, Dr. and Mrs. Irving Rothberg, Dr. Lorum H. Stratton, Dr. and Mrs. Theodore Sackett, and others already mentioned. It was a memorable convention.

For Sigma Delta Pi officers and member present at the convention a special moment came during the banquet when the president of the AATSP presented a check for \$500 to Sigma Delta Pi, which was gratefully accepted by Dr. Chandler. In his acceptance remarks, Dr. Chandler noted that it was especially significant for him and for all those present that Sigma Delta Pi and the AATSP had come together in such a fashion, and that finally the two major institutions which do more than any others for the promotion of Hispanic studies in the United States were partners in their common tasks and goals.

### **Triennial Convention, 1989**

The 1989 triennial convention of Sigma Delta Pi, held in conjunction with the annual convention of the AATSP in San Antonio at the Hilton Palacio del Río from August 12th to the 14th, marked the seventieth anniversary of the society and the seventy-first of the AATSP. Dr. Ignacio R. M. Galbis, reappointed executive secretary-treasurer, announced that Dr. Richard E. Chandler had been re-elected president and that the following professors had been elected vice presidents: Marie-Lise Gazarian, Northeast; John P. Gabriele, Midwest; R. Terry Mount, Southeast; Gilbert Paolini, Southwest; and Helia Corral, West. The members of the election Committee were Dr. John H. LaPrade, chairman, Dr. Roma Hoff, and Dr. T. Earle Hamilton.

During the program following the AATSP banquet, Dr. Chandler, speaking from the head table, described the highest award that Sigma Delta Pi offers, membership in the Order of Don Quijote, and named several distinguished recipients, among them Dr. Tomás Navarro Tomás, Dámaso Alonso, Antonio Buero Vallejo, and Carmen Laforet. Then he announced that the society had chosen to bestow this honor on Dr. James Chatham for his many contributions to the dissemination of Hispanic language, literature, and culture, for his encouragement of students, teachers, and organizations, and for his efficient management of the affairs of the AATSP. Dr. Hamilton and Dr. Galbis assisted in presenting the award. Dr. Chatham modestly accepted the honor with a word of thanks and a quotation from Gracián, "Lo bueno, si breve, dos veces bueno." The delegates expressed their enthusiastic appreciation with a resounding standing ovation which continued for several minutes past efforts to resume the program. Many delegates agreed that the tribute paid Dr. Chatham was the highlight of the convention.

## **The Recruitment of Chapters**

Believing that continual growth is essential to the health of an organization such as Sigma Delta Pi, Dr. Chandler gave high priority to the recruitment of new chapters every year. Because he was disappointed by the lack of cooperation given him by state directors, he relied almost entirely on mailing invitations to form a chapter of Sigma Delta Pi to heads of departments of foreign languages in colleges and universities which did not have one. To develop his list of departments, he used the latest issue of the *MLA Directory* and a list of schools which already had a chapter. For many years, he used only a promotional letter, but later, in 1988, he revised the printed brochure which Dr. Hamilton had previously used successfully. In the fall of each year he sent this revised brochure, which was attractive and contained more information, together with a very brief letter and a simple application form, to approximately one thousand schools. Despite the great amount of time and effort involved, the response was less than expected, for Dr. Chandler received inquiries from fewer than two percent of those to whom he sent information. Even so, this resulted in a consistent increase of nearly ten new chapters a year.

## **The Vice Presidents**

Through the years, many vice presidents have dedicated themselves unselfishly to the service of the society, carrying out all of their assigned duties efficiently and enthusiastically; and the contributions of some have been outstanding and of great benefit to the society. Unfortunately, however, many have been unable or unwilling to perform their duties, some because their professional assignments left them too little time, some were perhaps temperamentally unsuited to the tasks, and a few seemed to feel that it was enough just to permit their names to be associated with the organization. In the eighties, the situation seemed to worsen. Had all vice presidents performed fully all the duties assigned to them by the Sigma Delta Pi constitution, the society would now have well over five hundred chapters and a much larger endowment fund.

Among the efforts made to persuade all officers to fulfill their obligations was the drafting of a requirement by the Executive Committee that each major officer make a report of his activities at the end of each academic year. Unfortunately, only one or two complied with this requirement. At the beginning of the 1989-90 academic year, the Executive Committee decided to attempt another way to persuade vice presidents to perform all their duties, and announced that a monetary prize of \$500 would be given to the vice president who best performed his duties during the year. Dr. John P. Gabriele, vice president for the Midwest, won this award, for his accomplishments far surpassed those of the other vice presidents who reported on their activities. It seemed evident to the Executive Committee that the offer of the award had not been effective and it was discontinued. It must be remembered, of course, that none of the officers of Sigma Delta Pi, except the executive secretary-treasurer, receives any pay for his services. In fact, not even travel money to attend conventions has been available to vice presidents. Furthermore, holding the office of vice president of Sigma Delta Pi ordinarily has no effect on university administrations in considering candidates for promotions and raises. All of this may, in part at least, account for the lack of enthusiasm. As the society grows and its investments produce greater yields, stipends for travel to vice presidents may be

possible. The Executive Committee seriously considers all these matters at its annual meeting, and its members understand that holding office in Sigma Delta Pi calls for sacrifice of time and energy.

### Scholarships

Sigma Delta Pi's scholarship program started during the presidency of Dr. Chandler. In prior years, Prof. Stuart M. Gross and then President Dr. T. Earle Hamilton decided to conduct an ambitious program of literary contests with substantial cash prizes, and to publish the winning essays, poetry, and short stories in *Entre Nosotros*. In effect, this publication became largely a literary journal, and the prize money awarded for literary efforts served as minimal scholarships during a transitional period until adequate funds and income would justify the granting of attractive scholarships for study abroad in a Hispanic country.

By 1979 interest in the literary contest had declined and entries were often so poorly written that prizes in some categories were not awarded. The format of *Entre Nosotros* was so expensive that it was being issued only once a year. Furthermore, it no longer served its original primary purpose, that of adequate communication. For these reasons, Dr. Chandler made several changes: The literary contests were terminated in 1981, a modest scholarship program was initiated, and *Entre Nosotros* became a news bulletin issued four times during the academic year. A brilliant young professor of Spanish at The University of Southwestern Louisiana, Dr. Emilio F. García, acceded to Dr. Chandler's request to serve as editor of the new *Entre Nosotros*, and in this choice Sigma Delta Pi was very fortunate, for Dr. Garcia served with distinction and without compensation throughout Dr. Chandler's five terms as president. He maintained a uniform policy and a balanced publication that always kept the membership well informed concerning all affairs of the society and the cultural affairs of the Hispanic world. Dr. Garcia's efforts as editor earned him the congratulations and praise of Dr. Donald Bleznick who was then editor of *Hispania*.

The literary journal, printed on glossy paper and bound with heavy colored stock printed in color, cost between \$3,000 and \$4,500 per issue, and the prize money for the literary contests amounted to \$4,500. The elimination of these expenses made it possible to issue the much less expensive news bulletin and to begin a scholarship program.

The issue of *Entre Nosotros* of September 1980 announced the initial scholarship program. It granted three awards to each of the five regions, one of \$300, one of \$200, and a third of \$100. The awards for each region were named for a past president of Sigma Delta Pi. Each chapter was permitted to name one of its active members to complete an application and send it to the vice president of his region. The national president named a panel of three judges from each region and they selected the winners. This procedure proved to involve too much work and was not successful, since in some cases no applications at all were received from some regions. Therefore, the Executive Committee made the contest strictly national, and no distinction was made between undergraduate and graduate student applications. A few objections were heard about forcing undergraduates to compete against graduates, but history has shown that undergraduates have won far more scholarships than graduate students. Gradually the money for the scholarship program was increased and the expenditure soon reached \$10,000 per year. In

1991 it climbed to \$15,000, and in 1993 the Executive Committee set aside \$20,000 for scholarships in 1994.

Sigma Delta Pi's scholarship program was sustained also by outside sources. Early in 1982, the government of Spain through the Instituto de Cooperación Iberoamericana headed by Don Ramón Bela, made available to Sigma Delta Pi a special grant to be used for scholarships to enable active student members of the society to study at the Universidad Menéndez y Pelayo during the summer. This financial aid made possible two scholarships, and was of great importance because it reaffirmed the official relationship between the government of Spain and Sigma Delta Pi established by Dr. Chandler several years earlier. The first check was presented to Dr. Chandler by Don Enrique Iranzo, Consul General of Spain at New Orleans, at a meeting of Alpha Rho chapter at The University of Southwestern Louisiana. In dollars, each of the scholarships amounted to more than \$2,000, \$1,500 in cash and free meals, lodging, and expenses at the university. The first students to win these awards in a national competition were Kenneth Nieser of Nu Iota chapter, of SUNY Buffalo, Amherst Campus, and Patricia Wood of Beta Lambda chapter, Kent State University. On their return, they described their experiences in articles published in *Entre Nosotros* in the months of September and December 1982.

To express the society's esteem and gratitude to Mr. Iranzo for his continuing efforts to influence the Instituto de Cooperación Iberoamericana, Dr. Chandler bestowed on him membership in the Order of Don Quijote on July 18, 1984, in a special, private ceremony at his home in New Orleans, attended by Mrs. Chandler, Dr. Emilio García, Mr. José Montiel and several guests of Mr. and Mrs. Iranzo. It was a special occasion.

Dr. James Castañeda, executive director of the National Endowment Foundation, learned that one company that was unwilling to make donations to a foundation was glad to contribute money to a worthy organization if immediate results could be seen in the furtherance of a cause that appealed to it. The Southland Corporation, with headquarters in Dallas and with officers of Hispanic extraction, offered scholarships to Sigma Delta Pi, but only on condition that they be restricted to persons of Hispanic origin. This corporation provided \$4,500 to be used for three scholarships of \$1,500 each, two for students and one for a college or university teacher of Spanish. This support by the Southland Corporation continued for several years until the company was forced by unfavorable economic conditions to cancel its aid to the society.

Dr. Francisco Pérez, vice president for the Southwest, persuaded his friend, Lic. Santiago Olalde, director of the Centro para Estudios Bilingües y Multiculturales de Cuernavaca, Mexico, to offer Sigma Delta Pi a scholarship that would enable one student to study in the Centro for one month. The grant covered tuition, room, and board, and was valued at \$800.00. The first Sigma Delta Pi scholarship student went to Cuernavaca in the summer of 1985.

The four scholarships just mentioned plus the three of \$1,200 each offered by Sigma Delta Pi were made available for the summer of 1985 and for several years thereafter.

Through the efforts of Professor Justo Ulloa, past Vice President for the Southeast, El Estudio Sampere in Madrid repeatedly gave two scholarships to active members of Sigma Delta Pi, one for a course in advanced Spanish, and another for interpreters, each covering tuition alone. However, Sr. Sampere helped our students find satisfactory

lodging without meals in private homes, the expenses of which were borne by Sigma Delta Pi in addition to travel expenses.

By 1991, changes in the personnel of the Instituto de Cooperación Iberoamericana resulted in failure to renew the grant to Sigma Delta Pi, and the Southland Corporation canceled its grant as part of its retrenchment program forced by the recession. Only the Sampere and Olalde awards remained. The Executive Council, therefore, voted to approve the recommendation of the Executive Committee that the contribution of the society be increased to bring the total value of scholarships for the summer of 1991 to nearly \$15,000. As noted before, the Executive Committee set aside \$20,000 for scholarships for the summer of 1994. The Centro Bilingüe gave two full scholarships to Sigma Delta Pi, each worth \$1,200, and El Estudio Sampere continued to give tuition grants for two months of study in Madrid, each valued at \$1,000, and Sigma Delta Pi gave the Sampere students an additional \$1,000 for travel and expenses. All of this brought the total of scholarships offered in 1994 to active Sigma Delta Pi students to the amount of \$26,400. These awards could be used only in the summer for which they were given and had to be used for study in a Spanish-speaking country. Each recipient was required to write an account of his experiences abroad after returning to the United States, and some of them were published in *Entre Nosotros*.

### **Sigma Delta Mu**

During his last two terms as president of Sigma Delta Pi, Dr. T. Earle Hamilton received numerous inquiries from two-year colleges that sought membership in Sigma Delta Pi. Obviously, this was impossible, but Dr. Hamilton recognized the need for a junior branch of Sigma Delta Pi to serve these colleges. When the Executive Council advised, and Dr. Tomas Navarro Tomas urged, the formation of such an organization, Dr. Hamilton chose to withdraw his name for consideration for another term as president of Sigma Delta Pi in the election of 1977 so that he might devote himself to the founding of an honor society for students of Spanish in two-year colleges.

Dr. Hamilton named the new society Sigma Delta Mu, used a modification of the Sigma Delta Pi charter and certificate, and for the coat of arms selected that of the fortress city of Badajoz that shows a lion rampant with one of the Pillars of Hercules bearing a ribbon inscribed with what is now the motto of Spain, "Plus Ultra." To facilitate the development of this society, the Executive Council of Sigma Delta Pi, upon the recommendation of Dr. Chandler, authorized a loan of \$2,300 without interest to purchase an initial supply of certificates, charters, and gold pins. Alpha chapter of the new society was installed at the Community College of Philadelphia on March 17, 1979, and Professor Lawrence R. McCarty, chairman of the Department of Spanish of this college, was named executive secretary. Dr. Hamilton was named president.

Although the Association of College Honor Societies admitted to membership only qualified honor societies for four-year colleges and universities, Dr. Hamilton was determined to persuade the association to admit those of two-year colleges; and while he continued as representative of Sigma Delta Pi in the ACHS, many of his friends agreed to support his efforts. Nevertheless, strong opposition existed among the ACHS membership, especially among the leadership. In 1985, Dr. Hamilton asked Dr. Chandler to assume his post as Sigma Delta Pi's representative to the ACHS, and he was

immediately appointed to membership on the important standing Committee on Standards and Definitions on which Dr. Hamilton had served and which he chaired for fifteen years. Dr. Chandler's influence was quickly felt in this committee, and he cooperated enthusiastically in the campaign to realize Dr. Hamilton's objective.

On February 16, 1987, Dr. Hamilton sent the Executive Committee of the ACHS a formal proposal for the admission of honor societies in two-year colleges, and suggested that this be referred to the Committee on Standards and Definitions for study. This was done, and that committee recommended the acceptance of such societies. The ACHS president, Dr. George L. Robertson, then requested that the committee prepare a rationale, affirmative and negative, and the chairperson, Mrs. Barbara P. Quilling, asked each member to send her suggestions. Dr. Hamilton, though not a member of the committee then, promptly sent a complete rationale to Dr. Chandler, who made important changes which improved it considerably, and then sent it to Mrs. Quilling. She was so well pleased that she submitted the rationale without change to the Executive Committee.

In the meantime, Dr. Hamilton prepared the essential enabling amendments to the bylaws of the ACHS, and sent them to Dr. Jay J. Hostetler, chairman of the Committee on Constitution and Bylaws. That committee approved them without change, but did not submit its report to the secretary-treasurer of the ACHS promptly. Consequently, when the business session of the 1990 ACHS meeting was held, Vice President James D. Froula, presiding in the absence of President Robertson, ruled that a vote would be permitted solely to decide whether or not to continue to study the matter of admission of honor societies in two-year colleges. With only two dissenting votes, the ACHS representatives chose to continue the study. The effect of Dr. Froula's ruling was simply to delay the inevitable approval of the proposal.

During the years when this matter was being considered, Dr. Hamilton deliberately chose to absent himself from the meetings, preferring to attend to much of this business by mail and to rely on Dr. Chandler to present arguments during discussions in the Committee on Standards and Definitions and to present a favorable case at the business sessions. Obviously, this strategy proved successful, for Dr. Chandler quickly earned the respect of all the representatives and his cogent and forceful reasoning persuaded them to support our cause. At the business session of the 1991 meeting, Dr. Donald B. Hoffman, who had earlier opposed the concept, moved that the enabling amendments be passed. The motion was seconded and passed with only two dissenting votes. As of this writing, Sigma Delta Mu had not presented its petition for membership in the ACHS, but plans were being made to do so in the very near future.

### **Irregularities in the Chapters**

Although efforts are constantly made by the officers of the society to make sure that the affairs of the chapters are conducted smoothly and in accordance with the regulations set forth in the Constitution and Bylaws, occasionally an adviser has departed from normal practice, thus jeopardizing the good standing not only of the chapter itself but of the society as a whole. A few advisers have offered students membership without requiring their attendance at an initiation ceremony. One adviser who had proved his devotion to the society by founding several chapters made the mistake of permitting the members of his chapter to blackball without justification well-qualified candidates, and

the national president, Dr. Chandler, was finally compelled to refer the matter to the college administrators, who promptly corrected the injustice.

On another occasion, a professor who had petitioned for a chapter made complete arrangements for the installation before even submitting all the necessary transcripts and other required paper work, and then requested special authorization from the national president to hold the initiation ceremony, assuring him that she would present all evidence to the executive secretary- treasurer when he arrived to preside at the installation ceremony. Dr. Galbis told Dr. Chandler that he was well acquainted with the professor and believed that she was trustworthy; so permission was granted to enable her to hold the ceremony on the date she had set. When Dr. Galbis arrived at the college, he found the neophytes and distinguished guests assembled and all in readiness with one exception. The professor did not have the transcripts to prove the eligibility of those to be initiated. She offered excuses, became emotional, pleaded with Dr. Galbis not to embarrass her in the presence of the students and guests, and emphatically assured him that she knew personally that all the neophytes fully met the requirements. To avoid further embarrassment and disappointment to the guests, Dr. Galbis, acting against his better judgment, installed the chapter and initiated the students. When the transcripts finally reached the national office, Dr. Chandler found that three of the students were ineligible. This unhappy experience seems to justify the conclusion that the rules must be enforced without exception.

### **New Pins**

Early in 1980, inflation was adversely affecting attendance in universities, and honor societies were taking various measures to reduce expenses for those invited to become members. Over half of the nation's collegiate honor societies, all of which were using ten-karat solid gold pins or keys, had made optional the purchase of jewelry by the initiates. It had long been the practice of Sigma Delta Pi to present each initiate a membership certificate and a gold pin, both paid for from the initiation fee; and all members were encouraged to wear the pin on campus. The price of gold was soaring, however, and the society was compelled either to stop furnishing the pin, quadruple the initiation fee, or follow the lead of nearly half of the member societies of the Association of College Honor Societies in changing to an electroplated gold pin.

Over a period of months, Sigma Delta Pi negotiated with the J. D. Pollack Company of Chicago, and in August of 1980, Dr. Chandler signed a contract with this company for the purchase of 30,000 gold-plated pins at the price of only \$1.69 each. Those in solid gold had risen from \$3.50 to over \$30, and later rose much higher, but Sigma Delta Pi continued to furnish each member an inexpensive gold pin during the initiation ceremony.

### **Dr. Chandler Resigns Departmental Headship**

Early in 1981, Dr. Chandler asked to be relieved of his duties as head of the Department of Foreign Languages at The University of Southwestern Louisiana, a position he had held for fourteen years. His request was granted and became effective at the end of the summer session of that year. Although pleased to leave behind the administrative responsibilities associated with the headship, he was very conscious that a

period of his life was coming to an end. He would, however, continue to serve as the Hebrard Honor Professor of Foreign Languages with secretarial help to aid him in the performance of other assignments which included the following: (1) the presidency of Sigma Delta Pi, (2) the management of the Academic Advisory Board of the Council for the Development of French in Louisiana, (3) continue teaching until January 1, 1986, (4) to create and manage the affairs of the Council for the Development of Spanish in Louisiana, and (5) to continue his research and publication on the Spanish colonial period in Louisiana.

### **Order of Don Quijote for King Juan Carlos I**

In November of 1980, Dr. Gilbert Paolini wrote to Dr. Chandler the following letter:

On November 11, 1980, the Hon. Enrique Iranzo, Consul General of Spain, was initiated as an honorary member of Theta chapter of Louisiana at Tulane University. Mr. Iranzo was very favorably impressed with the initiation ceremony and the cultural purposes of our organization. The guest speaker, Rafael Abella, a prominent Spanish historian, praised highly and with great emotion the noble goals of our society.

Mr. Iranzo has since mentioned to me that His Majesty, King Juan Carlos I of Spain, will be in San Antonio and Santa Fe in the early days of February, 1981. He feels that the King would be most pleased to receive an award from Sigma Delta Pi. In view of the excellent relationship enjoyed by the organization with the Spanish government and in view of Mr. Iranzo's enthusiastic support, our chapter, Theta of Louisiana, is proud and honored to nominate Juan Carlos to receive Sigma Delta Pi's highest honor: Order of Don Quijote. We feel that it would be most appropriate for His Majesty to receive the award during his visit to San Antonio or Santa Fe. It is our hope that you and the other national officers of Sigma Delta Pi will act favorably on our nomination.

Dr. Chandler felt that it would be a greater honor for the king and for the society to invite His Majesty to become the Gran Maestre de la Orden de Don Quijote. The Executive Council promptly gave its approval, and Dr. Chandler made plans for a ceremony in San Antonio which would include giving His Majesty, Juan Carlos, a Don Quijote pin with a jewel, diamond or ruby, in the crown, and a large illuminated and framed "diploma" prepared by the national artist. Dr. Jean Chittenden of Trinity University and a loyal member of the society was called upon to make arrangements to have a dozen red roses ready to present to the Queen during the ceremony. A brief script was prepared in which Dr. Chandler, Dr. Hamilton, and Dr. Galbis would take part in making the presentation to the King. The "diploma" bore the following inscription:

La Sociedad Nacional Hispánica  
SIGMA DELTA PI  
hace constar por el presente título que de hoy en  
adelante será GRAN MAESTRE  
de la  
ORDEN DE DON QUIJOTE  
SU MAJESTAD, JUAN CARLOS I  
REY DE ESPAÑA

con todos los privilegios, honores y responsabilidades que le corresponden  
como símbolo en su persona de todo lo noble y bello que ha salido de la  
venerable madre patria, España.

En virtud de la autoridad que nos concede la presidencia y el  
secretariado de esta sociedad y con la sanción del Consejo Ejecutivo,  
expedimos este título el día \_\_\_ del mes de \_\_\_ del año 1981.

Unfortunately, King Juan Carlos was forced to cancel his visit to the United States because of an unsettling political condition that had just arisen in Spain. The Spanish ambassador explained that this was simply a postponement of his trip, so Sigma Delta Pi carefully filed all plans for future use. Up to the present, however, the society has not been able to bring to fruition the plan to invite King Juan Carlos I to become the Gran Maestre of the Order of Don Quijote, but the dream remains alive.

### **Private or Public Initiation Ceremonies?**

Originally the Sigma Delta Pi ceremony was held in secret and no guests were allowed to attend unless they had previously been inducted into the society. From time to time, the National Office learned that some chapters had ignored this requirement, and several advisers requested permission to allow the parents of neophytes to witness the ceremony. In 1980, a study of the practices of the member societies of the Association of College Honor Societies revealed that only a few still required an absolutely secret ceremony and the rest admitted a few special guests. Those of the last category reported that when the highest college administrators attended the ceremony, they were usually so favorably impressed that the societies were accorded a warm welcome on the campus and the chapters tended to remain active. Actually, it had long been the practice of Sigma Delta Pi to invite college officials to attend and to induct them as honorary members, but the Executive Council and the delegates to the triennial convention of 1983 approved the following constitutional change: "The initiation ceremony shall be private but not secret. Other than members and initiates, a few special guests, such as spouses and parents of the initiates and administrators of the college or university, may be invited to witness it with the approval of the adviser and chapter officers."

## Reactivation of Dormant Chapters

Dr. Chandler had been in office only a few days when he (identified the dormant chapters—"Sleeping Beauties," he called I. them—and began efforts to awaken them. During his first term, he made little progress, but he became increasingly successful as the years passed.

With rising costs of operation, in part due to expanding services to the membership, the need for increased revenues became urgent. Initiation fees are the only source of revenue available to the society, except for charter fees, and if dormant chapters could be reactivated, more revenue would become available to serve the membership. Initiation fees were raised in January of 1986, but a third of the chapters expressed opposition to the increase. It should be noted, however, that Sigma Delta Pi's initiation fee had consistently remained lower than that of almost all the major societies of the Association of College Honor Societies, and many of these societies did not include a pin in the initiation fee.

It was obvious, of course, that the recruitment of new chapters and the reactivation of dormant chapters would add to the society's income without any opposition from the active chapters; so Dr. Chandler conducted a vigorous, continuing campaign to accomplish these objectives. To bring in new chapters, he mailed promotional letters and brochures each year to colleges and universities which had no chapter of Sigma Delta Pi, and an average of a little less than 1.0 percent resulted in new chapters. Though this seems to be a poor return for the work and expense involved, it enabled the society to grow consistently with the addition of nearly ten chapters per year.

In his effort to reactivate chapters, Dr. Chandler's correspondence was voluminous. He wrote to chapter advisers of record, departmental chairmen, deans, and even to college and university presidents. One such letter to an adviser follows:

I wrote you a letter of September 15, 1985, and another on November 15 of the same year concerning the inactive status of your chapter of Sigma Delta Pi. I have had no response from anyone at your school. Perhaps my letters have not been delivered for some reason, so I shall try once again to contact you and/or your department head. We urgently need to hear from someone so we will know what to do about your chapter and perhaps assist you in reactivating it. We truly believe that it is important for your school to have an active chapter of Sigma Delta Pi even though it be a very small one. Membership in this society is one of the highest distinctions a student can earn, and it provides the department with a means of not only honoring students but of encouraging others to schedule upper-division Spanish classes.

I hope to hear from you or some faculty member soon. If I do not, I shall try another avenue at your school to try to get information concerning the status of your Sigma Delta Pi chapter.

Among the many chapters reactivated was one of the oldest in the society, Mu chapter of Middlebury College, which had been dormant for forty years. In his effort to persuade this notable school to reactivate its chapter, Dr. Chandler asked Dr. Hamilton to write a

brief history of the chapter. His account of Mu chapter persuaded Prof. Eduardo Béjar and his colleagues at Middlebury to reactivate their chapter. Dr. Hamilton's account follows:

Middlebury College, Vermont, was founded in 1800, installed a chapter of Phi Beta Kappa in 1868, and Mu chapter of Sigma Delta Pi in 1927, just eight years after the National Honor Society in Spanish came into being.

Alpha chapter of Sigma Delta Pi served as the national office of the society for ten years and carefully compiled the minutes of all meetings in a book called "The Record." Here we find this entry, dated March 22, 1927: "Middlebury College en Vermont ha cumplido los requisitos y se les dará su encartación con el consentimiento de los oficiales nacionales."

We shall assume that Mu chapter was very active, for in Dr. Leavitt O. Wright's "General Letter" of September 11, 1931, we find the statement that Miss Rose E. Martin, instructor at Middlebury and representing Mu, joined Dr. Van Home and Dr. Fitz-Gerald as delegates to the AATS meeting in Madison, Wisconsin, on December 31. The activities of Mu chapter aroused the interest of other chapters in the society, especially of Tau chapter at Adelphi sponsored by an enthusiastic young professor, Catherine Lois Haymaker, who persuaded her chapter to offer a scholarship of \$50.00 to a deserving student to help defray expenses for a summer session at Middlebury. This was announced for the summer of 1932, but in May of that year the award changed to *two* scholarships of \$50.00 each. Although Tau was very small, it continued to offer these scholarships for many years.

In his "General Letter" of May 10, 1932, Dr. Wright took further note of Mu, as follows: "It is very gratifying to say a word about the Middlebury summer school to be conducted under the deanship of one of our members, Professor Juan A. Centeno. Our Mu chapter there is very active during this period and some of our most devoted members among the Spanish teachers in this country are members of this chapter."

On April 26, 1935, we learn that Mu welcomed back Dr. Juan A. Centeno, formerly of Gamma, from his leave of absence in Spain, and in October, Dr. Centeno reported plans for the activity of Mu throughout the year, in addition to its feverish activity during the summer.

In the "General Letter" of December 14, 1937, Dr. Wright again took note of Mu:

Mu (Middlebury) has an active membership of 177! Sponsor Centeno reports a very successful banquet and initiation this summer, with fifteen new members joining. The principal speaker was Prof. Pedro Salinas, an honorary member. The chapter sponsored a "Concurso Literario" among the students in the Summer Spanish School. We are delighted to learn that the School enjoyed the largest enrollments since the depression.

In the October 1939 issue of *Entre Nosotros*, President John T. Reid printed an impressive report of almost a page, part of which follows:

Para la mayoría de nuestros capítulos el verano es forzosamente un período de poca actividad. Pero Mu, al contrario, florece vigorosamente durante los meses veraniegos porque entonces Middlebury College es un centro activo de estudios hispánicos. Este año, bajo la dirección del Dr. Juan A. Centeno, famoso hispanista y consejero de Mu, se reunieron maestros y estudiantes de español de todas partes de los Estados Unidos, y el capítulo Mu pudo celebrar una iniciación excepcionalmente bella e impresiva el 9 de agosto. Fueron iniciados veinte y dos miembros activos y afiliados y cuatro miembros honorarios. Nos place anunciar que los nombres de los miembros honorarios figuran entre los más destacados de la cultura hispánica en los Estados Unidos: Sr. Dr. José M. Arce, profesor de español en Dartmouth College, Sr. Dr. Henry Grattan Doyle, profesor de lenguas romances de la Georgetown University, conocido bibliógrafo y director de revistas; Sr. D. Jorge Guillen, distinguido poeta y erudito español que ha sido catedrático de literatura española en Madrid, Oxford, Sevilla, y varias universidades norteamericanas, Sr. D. Richard Pattée, miembro de la Sección de Relaciones Culturales del Departamento de Estado, ex profesor de la Universidad de Puerto Rico y autor de muchos estudios sobre asuntos hispanoamericanos El gran éxito de la iniciación es resultado de los esfuerzos de la Profesora Catherine Haymaker, consejera del capítulo Tau y presidente de Mu durante el verano.

In the pages of the May 1940 issue of *Entre Nosotros*, we learn that Mu offered a prize of \$25.00 to the student of the Escuela Española who wrote the best literary essay. Too, we learn that a group of outstanding scholars would be on the staff for the summer: Jorge Guillén, José López-Rey, José M. Arce, and Joaquín Casaldueiro, all of whom are honorary members of Mu.

Probably remembering the scholarships of other years granted by Tau chapter, Mu decided to offer its own. In the November 1942 issue of *Entre Nosotros*, President Dewey F. Amner eloquently comments on this action:

Legítimamente podemos enorgullecernos de este inspirado capítulo, del cual la mayoría, casi la totalidad de los miembros, son maestros o profesores de español. Dedicados al estudio y a la enseñanza de la lengua, de las literaturas y de la cultura hispánicas, su generosidad ha hecho posible el anuncio que aparece en la última página de este boletín. La administración de la beca está completamente al cuidado de Sigma Delta Pi. La beca presente es para un solo año, pero el Capítulo Mu espera donar otras becas de vez en cuando. De todo corazón debemos sentirnos agradecidos a los miembros de Mu.

In the May 1943 issue of *Entre Nosotros*, Dr. Amner devotes over three pages to articles and announcements concerning the scholarship granted by Mu. The chapter continued to offer it annually in the same amount through the summer of 1945 with more advertising and eulogies in succeeding issues of *Entre Nosotros*.

In the May 1945 issue, news of Mu and the scholarship covered nearly three pages. In November 1945, Dr. Amner published a letter addressed to him by the last recipient of the Mu scholarship, a letter in which she details the benefits she derived from attendance during the summer at Middlebury, made possible by the scholarship.

This was the last mention of Mu in *Entre Nosotros!* What happened? Now we rejoice in the return of Mu chapter to our family, and trust that it will become even more active than before. How many students and teachers trained at Middlebury and inducted into Mu went forth to found new chapters of Sigma Delta Pi and to work diligently to inspire hundreds of students to enrich their lives by studying the language of Cervantes we shall never know, but their contributions have been great. Then Mu slept for twice as long as Rip Van Winkle! How many new chapters might have been formed, and how many students might have been encouraged to join Sigma Delta Pi if Mu had not fallen asleep! But now the twelfth chapter of the society has awakened to a new day under the guidance of Dr. Eduardo Béjar, and we can confidently look forward to even greater accomplishments than those of the forties. WELCOME BACK!

### **Sigma Delta Pi Breakfast**

The thirty-third Sigma Delta Pi Breakfast Program at the annual meeting of the SCMLA was held in October of 1984 in Biloxi, Mississippi, where the SCMLA was founded in October of 1943. Unfortunately, attendance at this breakfast program had declined, and only fifteen persons were present for the Biloxi meeting. The loss of interest in the breakfast program, which in other days was attended by as many as seventy-five enthusiasts, is attributable in part at least, to poor arrangements by hotels that served buffet-style food and drink in the corridors to be carried into the meeting salon, there to be balanced precariously on one knee or another or both by the participants. At the Biloxi meeting, the charge was \$4.50 for a cup of coffee, a small glass of orange juice, and one piece of Danish pastry. It was at this meeting, however, that Dr. Chandler had a very profitable discussion with Dr. Richard Klein and Dr. James Chatham which brought Sigma Delta Pi closer to the AATSP by his promising them that the society's triennial convention would always be held in conjunction with an annual convention of the AATSP. All parties agreed to this arrangement.

In 1985, a very successful breakfast program was held in Tulsa, one of the best in many years, and on October 31, 1986, the thirty-fifth consecutive Sigma Delta Pi Breakfast Program with the SCMLA, the last, was held in New Orleans with Dr. Gilbert Paolini serving as chairman. The program was devoted to Sigma Delta Pi scholarships. Dr. Francisco Pérez explained the nature of the studies offered each summer in Cuernavaca, and Dr. Chandler gave a summary of other scholarships. The meeting was attended by less than fifteen persons.

## Handbook

In the summer of 1984, Dr. Chandler assembled a preliminary draft of a *Handbook for Chapter Advisers* which he issued in ditto form. The manual described the duties of the chapter advisers, suggested many chapter activities, contained a model constitution for a chapter, the traditions, customs, and practices of the society, described the honors and scholarships available to members, and offered guidelines for the proper and successful conduct of the affairs of the chapters. His office sent a copy of this preliminary draft to all chapter advisers, the Executive Council, and the state directors for criticism, and suggestions for changes. At the time of the publication of this history, the *Handbook* is still in draft form and needs revision in accordance with the many changes that have taken place in the ensuing years. Dr. Chandler received almost no comments on the draft of the *Handbook*, and so decided that the advisers probably felt that it was not needed, was not helpful, or that it needed too much revision for them to make reasonable comments. Still at almost every meeting the Executive Committee discusses the need for a handbook as a guide for advisers, but probably in a much briefer and more succinct form.

## Sigma Delta Pi Computerizes

The continuing growth of the society and the increasing complexity of the bookkeeping made ever more pressing the need for modernizing the national offices, especially that of the executive secretary-treasurer. Dr. Chandler attempted to persuade computer manufacturers to donate a machine to Sigma Delta Pi, but to no avail. He then suggested that the society would simply have to purchase whatever it needed in the way of computers. Dr. Galbis countered that in his view just one computer would suffice, and Dr. Chandler answered on April 23, 1985:

You are absolutely right. There is no need for Sigma Delta Pi to have two computers. In fact, it was never my intention to get two of them. We need one and that will be for your office. I do not need one, nor do I think any future president will, although I must admit that one might help just a bit with our bulk mailings and other business. . . . Perhaps if I knew more about the capabilities of a computer, I would want one. A word processor for the secretary and a printer would be nice, but we do all right with a typewriter, I think.

Soon he did learn more about computers, and then he made plans to obtain a personal computer for his home office at his own expense. When he learned that manufacturers do not donate computers even to nonprofit organizations, he began shopping for the least expensive equipment that would fully serve the needs of the society. He was guided by the advice of his son-in-law, who was employed in a large school system in Houston, Texas, and had just purchased Apple computers in the amount of \$1,500,000. Then unexpectedly, as a Father's Day gift, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Castille, another son-in-law and his daughter, presented him a computer and printer for his home office in 1986. Next, he bought a Macintosh computer with Sigma Delta Pi funds for Dr. Galbis. This equipment arrived in the latter's office in December of 1987. Soon all records were

computerized, and quick retrieval of information, and the use of the word processor, the data base, and the spread sheet components of the program installed in the Macintosh facilitated quick responses to all inquiries and orders.

The University of Southwestern Louisiana had become nationally recognized for its computer science program, and the administration very generously placed computers in all departmental offices and in many private offices. This university allowed Dr. Chandler's secretary to use one of the Macintosh computers assigned to the Department of Foreign Languages. Thus, compatibility was achieved between the offices of the president and the executive secretary-treasurer. Sigma Delta Pi had entered, perhaps belatedly, the age of the computer.

### **A Secretary for the President**

Sigma Delta Pi has never used funds to provide secretarial help for the president of the society and allows only a minimal amount for part-time help for the executive secretary-treasurer. The Executive Committee was determined to build up an endowment of at least a half million dollars so that more scholarships could be offered to its members. When Dr. Chandler assumed the office of president in December 1977, the administration of The University of Southwestern Louisiana, headed by President Ray Authement, evidently considered it a distinct honor to have the national offices of a prestigious national honor society such as Sigma Delta Pi headquartered at the university, for Dr. Authement unfailingly gave him full cooperation. The Business Office permitted the society to deposit funds there and to disburse them on the order of President Chandler. The University Printing Services promptly and accurately did nearly all of the society's printing for a period of fifteen years, except the charters and member certificates, which were done for many years by George Boehnke of Eugene, Oregon. Most important of all, Dr. Authement always approved half-time secretarial help for Dr. Chandler, and provided two offices for Sigma Delta Pi work. Without such help, much of the work accomplished during his regime as president would have been impossible. Sigma Delta Pi owes a large debt of gratitude to Dr. Authement for his consistent support of the work of Sigma Delta Pi during the years that Dr. Chandler was president.

With secretarial help, Dr. Chandler was able to mail 1,000 promotional letters each year to colleges and universities which had no chapter, to answer all inquiries, to process all petitions for new chapters, and to write innumerable letters to inactive chapters in an attempt to reactivate them. Also, the management of the scholarship program, which Dr. Chandler handled personally for a number of years, entailed multifold activities too numerous to cite. The issuing of memoranda to members of the Executive Council and state directors, almost weekly letters to members of the Executive Committee, and answers to innumerable inquiries from chapter advisers and members in general—all of this and much more obviously taxed the strength of even an indefatigable president and a very efficient secretary.

When Dr. Chandler assumed the presidency, he was still head of the Department of Foreign Languages at The University of Southwestern Louisiana, and his departmental secretary, Mrs. Julie Cavalier, took on the duties of Sigma Delta Pi in addition to her manifold duties as departmental secretary. Dr. Chandler resigned as department head in 1982, and it was then that Dr. Authement approved a half-time secretary for him so that

he could accomplish the work of Sigma Delta Pi, the Council for the Development of French in Louisiana, whose Advisory Board he headed, and CoDeSpan, the Council for the Development of Spanish in Louisiana, an official state council conceived by Dr. Chandler and approved by the State Legislature. Each of the half-time secretaries who worked for Dr. Chandler in the ensuing twelve years was outstanding: Mrs. Linda Tribe, Mrs. Marisa Sutherland, and Mrs. Ivy Strahle. In the December 1982 issue of *Entre Nosotros*, Dr. Emilio García wrote an article, part of which follows: "Por este medio *Entre Nosotros* reconoce el inestimable servicio que Julie presta al presidente y al redactor de *Entre Nosotros* y por lo tanto a Sigma Delta Pi, a través de su desinteresado esfuerzo en las oficinas nacionales."

Mrs. Cavalier was followed by Mrs. Linda Tribe who stayed for several years after which she left to take a higher-paying position in the physics department of the university. Mrs. Marisa Sutherland was employed to fill the vacant position in Dr. Chandler's office. In the late summer and early fall of 1986, Dr. and Mrs. Chandler took an extended automobile trip across the country, confident that Mrs. Sutherland could handle the routine business of the office for the time they were gone. Dr. Chandler did suggest, however, that if she needed help she call the immediate past president, Dr. T. Earle Hamilton. She found no reason to call him. After traveling 10,500 miles over a period of six weeks, Dr. Chandler returned only to learn that Mrs. Sutherland had accepted a position in another state and would resign effective October 1.

Dr. Authement, president of the university, had high regard both for Dr. Chandler and the society that he served, so to his credit let it be recorded that without delay he authorized Dr. Chandler to find a successor to Mrs. Sutherland. To his good fortune, he found, upon the suggestion of Ms. Francisca Alonso, adviser to Alpha Rho chapter, Mrs. Ivy Strahle, who agreed to serve as his secretary.

Mrs. Strahle was bilingual in Spanish and English, very efficient, a perfectionist insofar as her work was concerned, and she quickly became acquainted with all the duties of the president's office. In a letter to this writer dated January 22, 1991, Dr. Chandler had high praise for Ivy. "Ivy has learned to do nearly everything that needs to be done at the office except evaluate transcripts—and sometimes this can be a puzzling task. Consequently, we communicate by telephone daily and I go to the office only when I am indispensable, which is not often." Since she wrote so many letters for him, he authorized her, with the consent of the Executive Committee, to sign them with the title "Assistant to the President," thus recognizing her ability, dependability, and loyal service. Ivy was the only bilingual secretary that Dr. Chandler had during his fifteen years in office, and it was a relief and a pleasure for him to be able to dictate letters in either English or Spanish, knowing that the final result would be perfect.

### **Civilization Courses**

From the date of its founding in 1919 until 1988, one of the requirements for active student membership in Sigma Delta Pi was the satisfactory completion of an upper level course in Hispanic literature. In the seventies and eighties, however, students of Spanish showed a growing preference for courses in "civilization and culture" and an aversion to courses in literature. This condition was reducing the number of candidates eligible for membership in Sigma Delta Pi, and advisers began to suggest that the membership

requirements be changed to allow a candidate to substitute a course in "culture and civilization" for the traditional literature course. The national officers were reluctant to make such a change, but a decision was forced when a formal petition was sent to Dr. Galbis requesting an amendment to the constitution.

On September 8, 1988, Dr. Chandler sent to the Executive Council a memorandum which read as follows:

We have received a request signed by five members of Sigma Delta Pi, the number required by the National Constitution, to amend Article III, Section 3, subparagraph 1, of the Constitution to read as follows: "Each must have completed three years of study of college-level Spanish (eighteen semester hours) or the equivalent thereof, including either three semester hours at the upper-division level in Hispanic literature or in Hispanic Culture and Civilization."

This was approved by the Council and then sent to all active chapters for their vote, as required by the constitution. Eighty-eight percent of the chapters voted in favor of the proposal, and twelve percent opposed. Obviously, the amendment passed and the constitution was changed. It should be noted, however, that this amendment did not eliminate the required course in Hispanic literature. It simply allowed the substitution of a course in Hispanic Culture and Civilization at the upper level (junior or senior) for the literature course.

### **Academic and Character Requirements**

As a member of the Association of College Honor Societies, Sigma Delta Pi must conform to the standards set by that body, so it must admit members on the basis of high scholastic achievement and good character. It has been the custom of the society to ask the active members of a chapter to vote on the acceptance of candidates for membership, but since the chapter adviser has already determined that all candidates offered for approval have met the academic requirements, the active members can reject an individual only because he or she is not of good character.

The question of character has been discussed repeatedly in the ACHS. Some societies point out that an individual of even the highest intellectual attainment may be a menace to humanity unless he or she is of good character; but other societies contend that character is difficult to define, that college students are too immature to sit in judgment, and that the chapter and the society may be subject to a law suit by any person who is rejected on the basis of character. The writer has no knowledge of any such rejection by any society, but on one occasion an adviser who had proved his devotion to Sigma Delta Pi by founding several chapters made the mistake of permitting the active members of his chapter to blackball well-qualified students for frivolous reasons which had nothing to do with character, and then of upholding their action. The rejected students took their case to the college administration. In the end, however, the adviser was persuaded through lengthy long-distance telephone consultations with Dr. Chandler and Dr. Hamilton to follow the guidelines set forth in the constitution and redress the wrong done to the students in question.

To meet any similar problem which might arise in the future, the society adopted the policy of the ACHS that permits the rejection of an academically qualified person only if he or she has been convicted of plagiarism or other form of cheating in the college, or of a felony in a court of law.

### **Fee Increases**

A serious problem confronted the society in 1985. Although approximately eighty new chapters had been installed since 1977, the number of new members admitted actually declined from 2,434 in 1977-78 to 1,811 in 1983-84. The consequent drop in revenue, coming at a time when services to the membership were being expanded, when the national offices were being modernized to improve efficiency, and when all expenses—printing, postage, and supplies—were rising, forced a painful decision. A study of the initiation fees charged by the member societies of the ACHS showed that the average initiation fee for all societies was about \$20.00 but much higher for the larger societies. Sigma Delta Pi was one of the five largest. Furthermore, in many societies the fee did not cover the membership pin, as it has in Sigma Delta Pi since 1959, when Dr. Hamilton became president.

To resolve this matter, Dr. Chandler was reluctant to increase the initiation fee dramatically in a single action, so he suggested the following schedule of fee increases for the society: from \$12.00 to \$15.00 beginning January 1, 1986; \$15.00 to \$17.50 beginning January 1, 1987; and from \$17.50 to \$20.00 beginning January 1, 1988. He promised that fifty percent of the fee increase would be used for student scholarships, thirty percent for operational costs, and twenty percent would be deposited in the National Endowment Fund. The Executive Committee agreed, and the Executive Council and the chapters approved the proposal by a margin of two to one. In reality, owing to careful financial management by the officers of the society, it was possible to stretch these changes out over a five-year period.

The opposition to the increase was possibly motivated partly by the recollection that there had already been two increases since 1977 (one from \$9.00 to \$10.00 and the other to \$12.00), but it was believed that the real cause was a lack of understanding of the management of the finances of the society. Therefore, Dr. Chandler decided to give the chapters a complete explanation. On January 1, 1986, he wrote a lengthy memorandum in which he tried to make clear the current financial condition of the society, the manner in which the officers were conducting the affairs of the society, and their plans for the future. After making this full disclosure, he earnestly elicited their comments and cooperation. The following excerpt from the memorandum expressed concern, especially for qualified students who might be financially unable to accept membership:

The vote on the three fee increases was a 2 to 1 majority in favor. The Executive Council has carefully considered the comments made by most of those voting against the fee increases, many of which indicated that the three-step increase would work a financial hardship on some students and make it impossible for them to affiliate with Sigma Delta Pi even though they deserve the honor. Consequently, the Executive Council has voted to raise the initiation fee to \$15.00 effective January 1, 1986, but to suspend any further fee increase until the

society's economic condition clearly indicates the absolute necessity of it. None of us wants to see membership denied to a worthy student because he/she cannot pay the initiation fee. The Executive Council recommends, therefore, that chapters develop a local fund through fund-raising activities, as many chapters are already doing, to assist those students who need financial help to join Sigma Delta Pi. It has also been suggested that a local benefactor or two be contacted to assist such students.

### **The National Endowment Fund**

After several years of consultation with the officers of the society, Dr. Chandler proposed the formation of an endowment fund under the provisions of Article 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code to receive tax-exempt donations from individuals, companies, corporations, and governments. Approved by the triennial convention in 1981, all details were complete in 1983, and announced in the December 1983 issue of *Entre Nosotros*. The governing Board of Trustees consisted of the following distinguished Hispanists: Dr. James Castañeda, executive director, Dr. Lowell Dunham, Dr. John Keller, Dr. Richard E. Klein, Dr. Robert G. Meade, Jr., Dr. Janet Pérez, and Dr. Irving Rothberg.

The National Endowment Fund was created to collect monies to be invested and generate interest to support the society's scholarship program, and it began auspiciously with a bequest authorized in the will of Dr. Annemarie Tyre, who died in May of 1983 at the age of 87. She was named the first director of a Sigma Delta Pi endowment at the triennial convention of 1960, and was the widow of Dr. Carl A. Tyre, past president of the society and of the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese.

Although Dr. Castañeda labored conscientiously and long to persuade individuals and companies to make contributions, the response was not encouraging. When he resigned as executive director after seven years of service, however, he had collected over \$15,000.00 for the fund. In view of the difficulties of raising funds in this manner, the monies were deposited in the general fund and the activities of the National Endowment Fund were discontinued. In 1991, the Executive Committee decided to leave the enabling section in the constitution to facilitate the revival of the Fund by some future administration if conditions should justify such an action.

### **La Orden de los Descubridores and El Premio Gabriela Mistral**

In February of 1984, the Executive Council authorized a change in the practice of awarding membership in the Order of Los Descubridores. It would no longer be available to students. The new regulations made it a higher honor and extended its use. The new article in the constitution concerning this award then read as follows:

Membership in this order is restricted to: outstanding teachers of Spanish or Hispanic studies at the university level; outstanding high-school teachers of Spanish with a proven record of excellence in teaching who were elected to Sigma Delta Pi while in college; state directors, chapter sponsors, and regional vice presidents who have given distinguished service to Sigma Delta Pi; and others, such as government officials, professional people, and university

personnel who have served our cause in a distinguished way. A pin bearing the likeness of Christopher Columbus and a certificate are awarded to each member.

The Premio Gabriela Mistral was created immediately to honor students when the purpose of the Order of Los Descubridores was redefined. It is granted to outstanding graduate and undergraduate Spanish majors who are active members of Sigma Delta Pi. Any active chapter may nominate one student per year to receive this honor, and should send the nomination with documentation to the executive secretary-treasurer, who will determine whether the nominee deserves the honor. If granted, the student will receive a certificate without charge. If a brass plaque is desired, a fee will be charged.

### **Promotional Brochures**

During Dr. Hamilton's last term as president, he prepared a promotional brochure consisting of eight pages and containing four brief articles: "History and Description of the Society," "Purpose," "Thirteen Reasons Why There Should Be a Chapter on Your Campus," and "Instructions for Applying for a Chapter in Sigma Delta Pi." This folder contributed significantly to the success of his recruitment campaign which brought in thirty-three new chapters in a single year.

When Dr. Chandler took office, he revised the brochure and instead of the original thirteen reasons for installing a chapter of Sigma Delta Pi, he listed twenty. He sent a copy of this revised brochure with his promotional letters in his annual recruitment campaign for new chapters.

### **Salary of the Executive Secretary-Treasurer**

Dr. Leavitt O. Wright was devoted to the cause of Sigma Delta Pi, and he manifested this in his boundless energy and enthusiasm. During his years as national president (1931- 1938), he was the only officer and did all the work, relying on his typewriter to maintain regular communication with all the chapters and various Hispanophiles, and to publish regularly long "General Letters," precursors of *Entre Nosotros*. On one occasion, however, he did refer to an old friend of the Alpha days, John B. Rael, who was giving him some help. Dr. Fitz-Gerald had just sent Dr. Wright a copy of the ritual with the few changes suggested by Dr. Tomas Navarro Tomas, and Dr. Wright replied immediately: "Mr. Rael and I are incorporating the changes... and are planning to turn out a mimeographed copy."

When Dr. Reid became president, he immediately appointed a vice president, Dr. Willis Knapp Jones, a secretary-treasurer, and a corresponding secretary. Also, he asked Drs. Jones, Wright, and Remigio Pane to serve with him on the editorial staff of the newly founded publication, *Entre Nosotros*.

At the triennial convention in December of 1941, held in St. Louis with the American Association of Teachers of Spanish, Dr. F. Dewey Amner was elected president along with two vice presidents and an excellent secretary, Dr. Harry J. Russell, who received a beginning honorarium of "not more than \$150 plus office expenses" (chap. 3). Dr. Russell chose not to serve for a second term, and was followed by Professor Stuart M. Gross, who meticulously prepared a financial statement at the end of each of the two

years that he served in this office, and reported that his annual salary was \$100. Dr. Swain succeeded him in 1947, and his annual salary was \$500 until Dr. Tyre became president, when it was raised to \$600. When Professor Gross returned to this office in 1968, his salary, including an amount for secretarial help, rose to \$1,702, and this figure fluctuated during the next few years because of varying payments for secretarial help. In 1976, his salary was \$2,780 and included secretarial help. When Professor Gross retired in 1977, Dr. Ignacio Galbis assumed the duties of this office, and the corresponding figure for that year was \$2,880. By 1991, the salary had risen to \$9,906.10. To this amount were added contributions for Social Security and health insurance.

To put these figures in perspective, it must be remembered that Sigma Delta Pi grew from sixteen chapters when Dr. Wright became president in 1931 until in 1991 it had become the fourth largest honor society in the Association of College Honor Societies with over four hundred and fifty chapters. With this dramatic growth came proportionally greater demands on the time and energy of the officers, especially of the president and of the executive secretary- treasurer. Traditionally, of course, no officer except the secretary-treasurer, receives any compensation, a practice generally followed by the societies of the ACHS. In the larger societies, including Sigma Delta Pi, the executive secretary- treasurer is appointed, not elected.

Beginning with the last term of Professor Gross as executive secretary, the finances of the society were so carefully managed that the treasury showed an appreciable increase. Dr. Galbis continued to conduct the society's affairs during Dr. Hamilton's last term, during the five terms of Dr. Chandler, and the first term of Dr. LaPrade. In this period, there were several increases in initiation fees, and the income derived from these together with the frugal management of the society's finances by both of the principal officers and the wise investment of the society's funds by Dr. Galbis in a period of very favorable interest rates contributed to the rapid growth of the society's total reserves from \$53,716 in 1976 to over \$400,000 by September, 1993.

The Executive Committee has consistently agreed that all funds accumulated be kept intact and invested as wisely as possible and that only the interest from investments, not the principal, should be used to finance services to the members of the society, such as scholarships and grants for active student members and faculty members, prizes, awards, partial payment of expenses of chapter delegates to conventions, and contributions to encourage regional meetings.

When the National Endowment Fund was founded in 1981, Dr. Castañeda and Dr. Chandler met in Houston and set a goal of \$250,000. Once this amount was reached, the interest was to be used to pay for student scholarships. As stated before, the National Endowment Fund was discontinued, and its funds were combined with the general fund managed by Dr. Galbis. He believed that the society should be more interested in encouraging its young members by consistent annual growth in the number of scholarships offered rather than in using accrued interest to build an endowment.

During the halcyon days of investments when interest rates were quite high, the general fund rose dramatically and gave promise of reaching one half million dollars before the middle of the decade of the nineties. Dr. Hamilton then suggested at a meeting of the Executive Committee, that the goal for the general fund be set at \$500,000. This goal was approved by the members of the Executive Committee and had nearly been reached in 1994. Perhaps the Executive Committee will set a higher goal if investment

prospects look favorable. At any rate, the policy of the Executive Committee has been, and will probably continue to be, that only interest from investments will be used to fund scholarships and other services to members. It should be noted that while the society was developing this general fund, expenditures for scholarships increased from \$3,000 in 1981 to \$20,000 in 1994.

### **The Executive Committee**

In August of 1985, Sigma Delta Pi had three hundred and ninety-one chapters and had become the fourth largest society of the Association of College Honor Societies. Consequently, some of the president's decisions affected thousands of members. Dr. Chandler, fully cognizant of his responsibility, felt the need for counsel so that he might continue to guide the society wisely. He asked Dr. Hamilton and Dr. Galbis to meet with him at a place in Texas to be selected by Dr. Hamilton. The latter chose a place called Round Rock, and reserved motel rooms for the three participants.

This ad hoc committee worked for three days from eight in the morning until midnight on the society's affairs, and in the process revised the national constitution. The revisions were submitted to the membership in the fall of 1985 and were approved. The revised constitution was then referred to as the Round Rock Constitution. The tough work schedule at the Round Rock meeting earned Dr. Chandler the epithet of "slave driver."

While the ad hoc committee was working in Round Rock, it occurred to Dr. Chandler that if an executive committee were formed and could meet annually, it would be of inestimable help to him and to future presidents in the formulation of policy, in analyzing the needs of the society, in proposing action, in the planning of programs for the ensuing year, and in the solving of those unforeseen problems that constantly arise in every organization. For this reason, he suggested the creation of an executive committee to consist of the following persons: the president, the immediate past president, the president emeritus, and the executive secretary-treasurer. The ad hoc committee agreed to this proposal and wrote the Executive Committee into the revision of the constitution.

Well in advance of each annual meeting, the president prepared an embryonic agenda and asked for input from the members of the Executive Committee. The final agenda usually consisted of about thirty or forty items and was sent to the members of the committee well in advance of the meeting so that they might study it and do any necessary research before appearing at the meeting. This committee met annually in the month of August, usually in Houston. Over a period of three days, the members had consistently spent long hours in thorough and sometimes heated discussions. Since they were close friends with mutual respect and even admiration, there never was any hesitancy to express one's views emphatically in opposition to those of the other members, for all believed that this contributed to their reaching a full understanding of each problem and led to the proper decision. Following the meeting, the president mailed each member of the committee a summary of all business transacted at the meetings.

One of the most important items was always the financial report of the executive secretary-treasurer, reports that were enhanced after the acquisition of a computer. At the meeting in 1991, Dr. Galbis presented copies of thirty-two-page printouts concerning receipts, disbursements, and a summary statement. The receipts listed every chapter with fourteen columns which carried the details of all transactions: chapter, university, city,

number of initiates, initiation and charter fees received, receipt number, debits, etc. In an earlier year, Dr. Galbis prepared a list of all inactive chapters showing how many years they had been inactive. This list was of inestimable help to Dr. Chandler's continuing campaign to reactivate dormant chapters. The president and the past president have consistently praised Dr. Galbis for his comprehensive and carefully prepared reports, and especially for his skillful management of the society's finances in general.

Among the other items that the Executive Committee studied thoroughly and acted upon were: increases in membership fees, annual chapter reports, Honor Chapters, changes in the Order of Los Descubridores, the Premio Gabriela Mistral, courses in Hispanic civilization and culture, the National Endowment Fund, the modernizing of the national offices, the acceptance of Sigma Delta Mu in the Association of College Honor Societies, and the scholarship program, which commanded attention at every meeting.

At the 1991 meeting, the members agreed that this committee will be of even greater service to the society when a new president is chosen, for it will familiarize him with the intricacies of policy, guide him in his application of principles, advise him in the selection of new programs and in the management of current programs, and help him avoid mistakes by acquainting him with errors made in the past. In effect, the committee will abbreviate the learning time normally needed by a new president and thus avoid a reduction of activities or a slowing of the progress of the society. When Dr. John H. LaPrade was president-elect, he was invited to attend the meeting of the committee as an observer immediately prior to his taking office.

When one seeks the reasons for the remarkably successful operation of the Executive Committee, it is at once apparent that this committee consisted of only a few members, all of whom were experienced and devoted to Sigma Delta Pi. It is clear, too, that all matters related to the welfare and the progress of the society, many of which were suggested by the chapters, were studied thoroughly and debated frankly and harmoniously. Consequently, nearly all of the decisions reached and recommendations made were sound and beneficial.

## CODOFIL

Tourists have long been attracted to Louisiana by its Creole culture, and especially by New Orleans, the Crescent City, with its French Quarter, which, as Dr. Chandler has repeatedly pointed out, is not French at all but Spanish. The French part of New Orleans burned to the ground in two devastating fires in the late 18th century when the colony was a Spanish possession. The Spaniards rebuilt the city, and its most famous and most visited structures, the Cabildo, the Cathedral, and the Pontalba Apartments, were built by the Spanish. The famous iron work of the balconies of the Quarter was introduced by the Spanish. The Creoles (sons and daughters of French descent born in the New World) diminished in number as time went by, and French is no longer spoken on the streets or in the homes of New Orleans, according to Dr. Chandler. Instead, one hears Spanish on the streets, on the radio and on television.

The group of people who saved French for Louisiana were not the Creoles, but the Acadians, exiles from Nova Scotia, driven out when the British took over the territory, who settled largely in the southwestern part of the State of Louisiana. These industrious people, almost completely isolated from mainstream American life until after World War

II, still speak French, and it can be heard on the streets, in the stores, and in the homes of southwestern Louisiana. At best, however, the Acadians, now called Cajuns, formed what was considered an inferior subculture; but in 1968, a Lafayette attorney and former U.S. Congressman, James Domengeaux (possibly originally Domingo) pushed through the State Legislature a bill to create the Council for the Development of French in Louisiana (CODOFIL) to save the language, to remove the negative image of the Acadian people, and to increase tourism and trade. Within about fifteen years, CODOFIL brought about a cultural revolution, transforming the popular image of the Cajun from that of an illiterate swamp dweller, trapper, and fisherman to that of a folk person with a distinctive lore, music, and cuisine, all of which have now achieved national and international prominence.

Dr. Chandler was elected chairman of the CODOFIL Academic Advisory Board in October, 1975, a board consisting of the heads of all the foreign language departments in the colleges and universities of the state, and the following year he organized the CODOFIL Consortium of Colleges and Universities for the purpose of providing opportunities for Louisiana students to study in France, Quebec, and Belgium. Twenty-two schools joined the consortium. This required him to spend about a week abroad each spring for a period of ten years for the purpose of making arrangements in Europe for the Louisiana students that would go there in the fall.

### **CoDeSpan**

During all this time, Spanish languished with little public support; so to foment interest in tourism and trade with Central America, Dr. Chandler, as chairman of the International Relations Association of Acadiana (TIRAA), organized a delegation of thirty-five Louisiana citizens to attend the 6<sup>th</sup> International Fair in San Salvador where they set up an exhibit which won a prize. The group then traveled to Costa Rica, where they were warmly received.

Soon Dr. Chandler persuaded a number of his colleagues in schools in various parts of the state to join him in the creation of the Louisiana Agency for the Promotion of Spanish Studies (LAPSSA). He wrote a formal petition and contacted a state legislator from Monroe, Louisiana, who introduced a bill in the House of Representatives. This bill was reported favorably out of committee, was approved by a vote of 74 to 4 in the House and unanimously in the Senate. In the process, however, a legislator, without consultation with the sponsors of the bill, amended it to change the name to the Council for the Development of Spanish in Louisiana (CODISIL). Dr. Chandler wanted to avoid this name at all costs to prevent confusion with CODOFIL, but rather than risk losing everything by insisting on the original name, he decided to let the name change stand. In 1989, however, he returned to the legislature and obtained the approval of a different acronym, CoDeSpan, as well as authorization for an annual grant of \$1,000. He then asked a retired dentist in Lake Charles, Dr. Harcourt Stebbins, who had grown up in Puerto Rico and was completely bilingual, to take charge of CoDeSpan. Dr. Stebbins worked diligently, and in time reported to Dr. Chandler that all nine members of the Council had been appointed by the governor, and that Dr. Chandler would continue as consultant. Several individuals gave generous grants to the fledgling Council, and in 1991,

Dr. Stebbins enthusiastically proclaimed that CoDeSpan would soon implement a carefully planned program to arouse state-wide interest in Spanish studies.

When a new governor took office in 1992, CoDeSpan was placed in limbo. The original members of the Council were replaced by persons unknown to any of the group that nursed CoDeSpan through its infancy, and the Council, at least temporarily, disappeared from sight. With NAFTA and the prospect for greatly increased trade with Mexico and Spanish-speaking countries of Central and South America, more than ever Louisiana needs the support and the work of CoDeSpan.

Cajun French is a moribund language. The "culture" will remain, but the language will die in one or at most two more generations. Dr. Chandler believes that children no longer learn French in the home, for it is no longer used, except in rare instances, in the family. On the other hand, there are far more families in Louisiana in which Spanish is the home language than families in which French is spoken. The use of Spanish will increase, and Dr. Chandler is convinced that French will die out as a living language in a generation or two.

### **End of the Chandler Presidency**

When Dr. Chandler concluded his fifteenth year as national president, he decided not to run for another term. Unfortunately he was unable to attend the society's triennial convention which was held in Cancún, Mexico, in August 1992. Dr. Galbis read a speech which Dr. Chandler had written for the occasion in which he bade farewell to the society as its president and offered his continued support so long as he should live.

Dr. T. Earle Hamilton, whom Dr. Chandler called his tutor throughout his presidency, read the following statement in which he summarized Dr. Chandler's years as president:

Ricardo Magno

Ricardo Magno, Corazón de León, séptimo presidente de Sigma Delta Pi, es, de todos, el mejor. Aún si me fuera disponible todo el día, no podría detallar todos sus logros, que son muchos, pero haré lo posible por mencionar de pasada unos cuantos.

El Dr. Chandler comenzó la distribución de becas a nuestros miembros, dotando hasta \$15,000.00 anualmente. El estableció relaciones cordiales con el gobierno de España, y sus oficiales les concedieron becas a nuestros miembros para estudiar en la Universidad Menéndez y Pelayo de Santander. Además, el Rey Juan Carlos le confirió un honor especial, el Caballero de la Orden de Isabel la Católica. Cambió el formato de *Entre Nosotros*, convirtiendo la revista literaria en boletín informativo con noticias de los capítulos y de las oficinas nacionales, y con artículos culturales sacados de la prensa internacional. Para reclutar unos diez capítulos cada año, envió regularmente hasta mil cartas de invitación a las universidades que no tenían capítulos de Sigma Delta Pi. También, se esforzó por despertar alas "bellas durmientes," como decía don Ricardo, refiriéndose a los capítulos inactivos. En el año de 1985, en el pueblecito de Round Rock, Texas, presidió la comisión encargada de revisar nuestra constitución, llamada después la

Constitución de Round Rock. Se reunieron allí el presidente, el ex-presidente, y el secretario ejecutivo. Impresionado por la eficiencia de esta comisión, el Dr. Chandler la convirtió en el Comité Ejecutivo, que se reúne anualmente para resolver los problemas de la sociedad, proyectar nuevas actividades, y atender a muchos otros asuntos.

El Dr. Chandler persuadió a los miembros de la Legislatura de Louisiana a que creara un consejo oficial para aumentar el estudio de la lengua y cultura hispánicas en ese estado. Luego persuadió a los concejales de la Association of College Honor Societies a que enmendaran su constitución para autorizar la admisión de sociedades honorarias de colegios comunitarios. Propuso una enmienda constitucional, aprobada por los capítulos, que permitió la substitución de un curso de civilización y cultura hispánicas del tercer año por el de un curso de literatura hispánica como requisito para ingresar en la sociedad. Fue el único presidente que ha tenido una secretaria que mereció el título de "Assistant to the President," la señora Ivy Strahle. Modernizó las oficinas nacionales del presidente y del secretario ejecutivo. Convirtió la iniciación secreta en "iniciación privada," lo que permite la asistencia de convidados especiales que no sean socios. Exigió informes anuales a los oficiales y a los capítulos. Cambió la Orden de los Descubridores, concediendo el honor solamente a los socios que no fueran estudiantes y a los merecedores del honor que no fueran socios. Puesto que les había quitado a los estudiantes el privilegio de ingresar en la Orden de los Descubridores, antes reservada solamente para ellos, les creó otro honor, el Premio Gabriela Mistral.

Consiguió especiales privilegios postales, y así redujo bastante los gastos de franqueo de la sociedad. Escogió una insignia nueva, más grande y mas hermosa que la anterior; la cual, puesto que la adquirió de la casa Pollack al por mayor, resultó bastante barata. Tenía la intención de rogarle al Rey Juan Carlos I de España, durante su anticipada visita a San Antonio, que aceptara el título de Gran Maestre de la Orden de Don Quijote, pero cierta inquietud política en España imposibilitó dicho viaje.

Eliminó la categoría de "miembro asociado." Estableció una fundación nacional para recibir donaciones exentas de impuesto. Autorizó un diploma grande grabado en letras de oro para "los capítulos de honor." También autorizó un diploma especial para el mejor capítulo del año de una universidad de más de 4.000 estudiantes, y otro para la de menos de 4.000. Propuso aumentos de la cuota de ingreso en tres pasos, de \$12,50 a \$20,00. Se le invitó a que hablara ante la Comisión del Presidente de los Estados Unidos Sobre Lenguas Extranjeras. Mandó redactar un manual para guiar las actividades de los capítulos. El Dr. Chandler administró tan efectivamente los asuntos de Sigma Delta Pi, y el Dr. Galbis invirtió tan sagazmente los fondos societarios que ahora nos falta poco para alcanzar nuestra meta de medio millón de dólares, dotación que, puesta a interés, podría sostener nuestro programa de becas y de otros beneficios.

Cada presidente de nuestra sociedad contribuyó algo: el primero, don Leavitt O. Wright, abrió los cimientos, los otros continuaron la construcción y la labor de don Ricardo nos deja construido un templo magnífico.

## Chapter X

### John H. LaPrade, 1992-95

#### Awakening of the Dormant Chapters

Dr. John H. LaPrade, of Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas, became president of Sigma Delta Pi for 1992-95 following the triennial convention in Cancun, Mexico. Prior to his election as president, he had served the society in several capacities. In addition to serving as chapter adviser for almost thirty years, he was appointed the first state director for North Texas when Dr. T. Earle Hamilton established the office in 1966. After serving six years as state director, Dr. LaPrade was elected vice president for the Southwest, an office which he held for four terms (1972-83). During his tenure as vice president, he directed the Southwest regional literary and scholarship contests from 1975 until 1983. He also presided over the installation of chapter number 300 at Tulane University in New Orleans.

When Dr. Richard E. Chandler went to Madrid in the fall of 1979 to solicit support for Sigma Delta Pi from officials of the Spanish government, Dr. LaPrade was serving as resident director of the Southern Methodist University-in-Spain program. He accompanied Dr. Chandler on visits to officials at the Institute de Cooperación Iberoamericana, where the SMU program was housed, and when Dr. Chandler departed, he left Dr. LaPrade in charge with the authority to continue negotiations if the opportunity presented itself. Dr. Chandler later called upon Dr. LaPrade to serve as judge in the national scholarship contests (1985 and 1986) and to chair the election committee of 1989.

As president-elect, Dr. LaPrade was invited to attend the meeting of the Executive Committee held in Houston, Texas, in May 1992. This meeting with Sigma Delta Pi veterans Richard E. Chandler, Ignacio R. M. Galbis, and T. Earle Hamilton facilitated the transition from Dr. Chandler's fifteen-year presidency. Dr. LaPrade said that he continued to rely heavily upon the advice of these colleagues at Executive Committee meetings in 1993 and 1994, and he felt that he was particularly fortunate in having Dr. Galbis continue as executive secretary-treasurer and as the editor of *Entre Nosotros*.

During the first two years of his presidency, Dr. LaPrade tried to continue the practices of his predecessors, and during this time seven new chapters were installed.

<b>No.</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Institution</b>
463	Tau Iota	The Citadel, Charleston, SC
464	Tau Kappa	Sonoma State U., Rohnert Park, CA
465	Tau Lambda	Wake Forest U., Winston-Salem, NC
466	Tau Mu	Union College, Schenectady, NY
467	Tau Nu	Charleston Southern U., Charleston, SC
468	Tau Xi	Westmont College, Santa Barbara, CA
469	Tau Omicron	Cornell College, Mount Vernon, LA

In addition, 19 inactive chapters resumed operation.

To make communication with chapter advisers more effective, Dr. LaPrade developed a data base containing all pertinent information regarding each chapter. A major goal of his presidency was to reactivate as many inactive chapters as possible. Two other goals were to seek outside funding to supplement the society's scholarship program and to revise the constitution by eliminating articles and sections no longer pertinent.

Dr. LaPrade, quiet, unassuming, and modest, proved himself trustworthy and effective in each of the tasks and offices assigned him during his many years of service. His extensive experience in the society gave him a thorough understanding of its operation, and this enabled him to move ahead at once in the efficient performance of presidential duties without the delay a new president sometimes requires to familiarize himself with his office, although Dr. LaPrade modestly explained that this was made possible by the guidance and counsel of the Executive Committee.

During his first two years, his rate of recruitment of new chapters matched that of Wright and Amner, and the Executive Committee believed that he might be expected to improve that rate as he became more experienced. In the reactivation of dormant chapters, he established a record, impressive even if partially explained by the momentum of the preceding administration, as Dr. LaPrade claimed.

Dr. LaPrade's proven loyalty and reliability, his capable performance in all his past years of devoted service to the society, and his auspicious beginning in his new office fully justified the belief that Sigma Delta Pi had made a wise decision in electing him president.

## Appendix A

### The Sigma Delta Pi Charter and Certificate

By Robert Fredrick Lane

The CHARTERS and certificates used by Sigma Delta Pi were designed to emulate in part the type of the historic "cradle books" of the latter half of the fifteenth century as found in Spain. Printing in Spain at that time was largely under the influence of German printers, and the types and letter forms were consequently Gothic.

THE LETTER FORMS. The letter used in the body of the certificates and charters is a careful redrawing of that found in the typical Spanish printed book of 1499, *La historia de los nobles caualleros Oliueros de Castilla y Artus d'Algarbe*. Konrad Haebler in his *Typographie Iberique*, pp. 30-32, ascribes the printing of the original work to Fadrique de Basilea. There is but one copy of this book now known, and it is in the possession of Mr. Archer M. Huntington. Access to the work is not readily had, but by good fortune, one of the 200 facsimile copies printed in 1902 by the De Vinne Press of New York was donated to the University of Oregon Library by Mr. Huntington, and this was referred to in designing the letter forms which are used on the charter.

A NEW TYPE FACE. By redrawing the letters, a style of "type" was developed which preserved the spirit of the old Spanish-Gothic letter, and avoided the conventionalism present in current periodistic printing type faces.

THE NEW LETTER FORM AND ITS APPLICATION. To design an alphabet in large size, and then equalize each letter with every other in blackness so as to produce an even tone, and finally obtain a close fitting of the letters, is a difficult enterprise which is little appreciated by anyone who has not attempted it. The process in the case of Sigma Delta Pi's charter and certificates consisted in the following steps: drawing the letters to a size four inches high; mounting on a large cardboard each letter of the alphabet, and the special characters to be used; and reducing these by photography to a size known to printers as "sixty point" ( $5/6$  of an inch in height). By cutting out each of the letters from the photographic prints made by this plate, a sufficient number of characters was obtained to "set up" the copy found in the certificates and charters. Each letter was mounted beside its neighbor, and stuck to a larger sheet of cardboard with rubber cement. The large completed lettering was then proof-read and after corrections were made, was taken to the photo-engraver, who in turn, reduced the letters to their present size and made a zinc etching.

PRODUCTION OF EARLY FAULTS OF PRINTING. A deliberate effort was made to reproduce the faults in early printing. Perhaps the fault which is most noticeable to the eye which is accustomed to the precision processes universally practiced today, is the alignment of the "type." The variation in the alignment has been exaggerated in our certificates and charters, but it gives a fine hand-done effect to the whole, and indicates the attempt made to imitate the limitations of the early printers.

THE CHOICE OF PAPER-ITS PERMANENCE. The choice of paper was a serious problem, but a durable and heavy cover paper with a slight yellow color was selected. This paper should prove as durable as imitation parchment, a material which is often used for charters and certificates. Early Spanish printing was done on paper. Well-made paper

is a long-lived material little understood in a day of ephemeral printing, cheap inks, fast presses, and wood-pulp stocks doomed to a short life from the beginning.

INITIAL LETTER. The initial letter "L" with which both the charter and the certificate begin was taken directly from the reproduction copy of *La historia de los nobles caualleros Oliueros de Castilla y Artus d'Algarbe*. It is a particularly handsome and technically successful piece of medieval wood-block cutting which is in keeping with the letter form in the rest of the certificates and charters. It also provides a key to the artistic style of the decorations which surround the key-shield of the society and was the inspiration of the unity of the whole design.

PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DESIGN AND EXECUTION OF THE WORK. The persons whose interest in this work has been of service, and who have contributed to the whole are Miss Lena Eastwood of Grand Rapids, Michigan, who drew the first alphabet design; Miss Nellie Best of Eugene, Oregon, who designed a preliminary sketch of the shield; Mr. Newland B. Zane, a member of the art and architecture faculty of the University of Oregon, who drew the final shield design and the related decoration; Mr. Robert Frederick Lane, who as a printer, teacher of printing and student of typography, performed the mechanical work and supervised the printing processes; Jean Hamilton Sutherland, whose hand-illumination of the charters and certificates requires infinite patience and deft care; Jean Laura Sutherland, who has devoted herself to a detailed study of the reproduction and copying of the type; Mr. Leavitt O. Wright, of the Romance Language Department of the University of Oregon, whose enthusiasm and untiring determination brought the tedious and difficult labor to a successful conclusion.

## Appendix B

### The Ritual

Through the years, over seven decades, thousands of outstanding persons have considered it a high honor to be admitted to membership in Sigma Delta Pi: students, teachers, professors, college administrators, ministers and priests, judges, members of the Royal Academy of Spain, authors (including a Nobel laureate), editors, and some of the greatest scholars in the field of Hispanic culture. Nearly all were impressed by the dignity and the elegance of the ritual, and many were moved to ask questions about the authorship, the date of composition, and the choice of material. Answers to these questions and others are recorded here for our members and for the thousands yet to enjoy the uplifting experience of having a part in this beautiful ceremony.

#### Authorship and Original Form

When the writer asked Dr. Leavitt O. Wright about the authorship of the ritual, he modestly replied, "*Su servidor* will have to take the blame for that." He explained that when he became a member in 1924, the ritual then in use was a rather disappointing one, so when he became president of Alpha chapter in 1925, he composed a new ritual that Dr. S. G. Morley approved. It differed in many respects from the one in use today: It was very brief, it employed the familiar pronoun *tú*, the neophytes were admitted one at a time to repeat the pledge and sign the register, and there were no literary selections. Since it was based on the coat of arms of the *Reyes Católicos*, the symbolism was explained in a few words.

En el escudo hay cuatro figuras, una en cada cuadrante. Dos son leones que significan el valor y la perseverancia, virtudes que hemos de tener para alcanzar nuestro ideal. Las otras son dos castillos que representan la firme fundación del saber. En la parte superior se eleva la corona. Esta simboliza nuestra meta final — el pensamiento fecundo, firme y glorioso. El rojo y el oro son los colores de esta sociedad. Su flor es el clavel rojo.

This was the ritual that so impressed Tomás Navarro Tomás that he asked for a copy to show his friends in Europe.

The renowned philologist John Driscoll Fitz-Gerald, who served at the University of Illinois for twenty years, invited Tomás Navarro Tomás to lecture for a week at the university in the spring of 1929, and at that time the visiting professor was initiated as an honorary member. According to Dr. Fitz-Gerald, Navarro Tomás was so pleased that he asked for a copy of the ritual. However, it was not until April 22, 1931, that Dr. Fitz-Gerald, then on the staff at the University of Arizona, wrote Dr. Wright the words of high praise:

I think that I reported to you that Navarro Tomás, even before he made the corrections in the choice of one or two words or phrases, was so impressed with the whole ceremony when he was initiated at Illinois that he asked for a copy to

take back to Spain with him. I have recently heard from Illinois where some new members have been initiated into Sigma Delta Pi, that they told Professor Carnahan something to the effect that our ritual is much more impressive and dignified than is that of Pi Delta Phi. I sincerely hope that nothing will be changed in it.

He included in this letter the corrections, and Dr. Wright replied by return mail, April 25, promising to send mimeographed copies of the corrected ritual to all the chapters.

### Revision

The idealist's search for perfection led Dr. Wright to ignore Fitz-Gerald's plea to make no changes in the ritual. Ever considerate of new ideas and suggestions from the membership, he wrote in the Thirty-second General Letter, May 16, 1935, a list of objections and proposals: Substitute *usted* for *tú*, Shorten the ceremony by administering the pledge to the neophytes as a group instead of individually, Shorten the history, Eliminate the list of chapters, Eliminate the emphasis on secrecy—"What have we to keep secret?"—and Correct the few minor errors. One adviser suggested that the ritual be rewritten completely around a series of adventures of Don Quijote, but all agreed that the symbolism is the heart of the initiation, is impressive and beautiful, and should be retained. Dr. Wright invited constructive criticism, and in the Thirty-third General Letter, October 24, 1935, Dr. Wright reported that letters received were in agreement that certain changes should be made, and he expressed the hope that he would be able to prepare a new edition of the ritual soon.

Always a man of his word, Dr. Wright immediately revised the ritual, but used it in his own chapter, Gamma of the University of Oregon, for two years before sending copies to the other chapters along with the Fortieth General Letter, May 15, 1937. He requested that they study it and use it at their next initiation, take notes on any weak places, and inform him so that he might make improvements for the next year. His comments in the Forty-first General Letter make it clear that there was no uniformity in the society's use of a ritual, for in this respect it was in a transitional state, a state that continued for some years until the "new form," the form with *usted*, was almost universally adopted during the tenure of Dr. Tyre. When Dr. Swain prepared an *Edición preliminar* of the ritual in 1960, he omitted the old form with *tú*. Commenting on the "new form," Dr. Wright wrote that ". . . all agree that there is merit in the explanation of the two castles and two lions," but added that "several prefer not to have the poetry included because of the length, and two have protested that there is a great loss in the adoption of the *usted* form of address." Apparently nonplussed, he added, ". . . possibly eventually we can agree on a uniform ritual for all, using parentheses here and there and offering alternative possibilities in the form of address."

In the Forty-sixth General Letter, January 27, 1939, President John T. Reid summarized the problem in this paragraph:

As most of you know, there are two forms of the initiation ritual which are used by the chapters, the older form, prepared by Drs. Fitz-Gerald and Navarro Tomás, and the revised form which Dr. Wright sent to you last year. It may be of interest

to know that our ex-president reports that Gamma, at their last initiation, used the complete form of the new ritual, including the passages from the *Quijote*, Santa Teresa, and Darío, and found it very impressive. The whole ceremony, read carefully, slowly and clearly only took forty minutes. Dr. Wright says: "Several said afterwards they were thrilled. We are thoroughly sold to the ritual with *usted* and not *t/i* We did not bring in each initiate separately for the pledge, but had all twelve of them come in alphabetical order and form the semicircle, and take united part in the unison pledge. One advantage is that it does not put the individual in the embarrassing position of having to come in alone and repeat, polly-parrot fashion, the pledge; rather does it emphasize the fraternal element, the united endeavor." Other chapters use the new ritual, omitting such literary passages as appear too long. Both old and new forms are recognized as official by the national office, but we expressly urge the chapters not to attempt any further revision. I know of one chapter which has tried to rewrite a ritual of its own, a procedure which seems to your president as a violation of the essential unity.

Dr. Reid's attribution of the older form to Drs. Fitz-Gerald and Navarro Tomás is, of course, erroneous; their small part in the alteration of Dr. Wright's creation of 1925 is fully explained above.

### **First Published Edition, 1941**

In 1941, President Reid published a *Chapter Manual with the Ritual*. It was 4" x 6", 62 pages, bound in tan heavy stock with the coat of arms imprinted with red ink. The table of contents listed: Foreword, General Information, The Initiation, *Ritual de iniciación*, Suggested activities for Chapters, Suggestions for Chapter Programs, The Sigma Delta Pi Charter and Certificate, Duties of the Officers, List of Chapters and Sponsors, Notes (three blank pages).

Two forms of the ritual were included: Form I (as Dr. Reid called it), essentially the same as that now used, except that it lists the current honorary presidents and all the chapters; and Form II, the older form using *tú*. Dr. Reid justifies this by explaining that "Although the National Office generally recommends form I, some chapters may have become accustomed to the other and older ritual, consequently, both are presented here."

### **Second Edition, 1945**

In 1945, President F. Dewey Amner published a revised manual of 29 pages, 4.25" x 6.75". The table of contents listed: Executive Council, Past Presidents, Foreword, General Information, The National Constitution, The Initiation, Chapter Activities, the Sigma Delta Pi Charter, Certificates and Diplomas, Duties of the Officers, Addresses and Price Lists, Emblems, *Ritual de iniciación*. Both forms of the ritual are included.

Dr. Amner lists the following past presidents: Leavitt O. Wright (1925-26), William Berrien (1925-30), Leavitt O. Wright (1931-38), and John T. Reid (1939-41). Leavitt O. Wright was president of Alpha chapter in 1925-26, as was William Berrien later, but the years listed for him are incorrect, as explained in the second chapter.

### **Third Edition, 1960**

In 1960, Executive Secretary James O. Swain prepared a "folleto" of 20 pages, 6 3/8" x 8.5" with offset printing on only one side of the page, hurriedly produced to meet the immediate need for copies of the ritual, for the edition of 1945 was exhausted. It was entitled *Ritual para iniciación de miembros y la instalación de capítulos, edición preliminar*, and only the form with *usted* was included.

### **Fourth Edition, 1974**

In 1958, President Carl A. Tyre appointed Dr. T. Earle Hamilton editor and chairman of a committee to prepare a new edition of the ritual. Other members of the committee were: Dr. Leavitt O. Wright, author of the ritual; Dr. José Martel, honorary president and final authority for correct usage; Dr. James O. Swain, executive secretary for almost sixteen years; Dr. Carl A. Tyre, our only president who held the same office in the AATSP at the same time; and Executive Secretary Stuart M. Gross, who guided the new edition through the press at the University of Maine. This new edition, issued in June of 1974 and still in use twenty years later, consisted of 36 pages 4.25" x 7", with a heavy yellow cover printed with red ink. Like Dr. Swain's *Edición preliminar*, it contained the complete ritual with the formal manner of address, but added an abbreviated version of the same form. It omitted the list of chapters, the list of officers, and all other dated material. The abbreviated version was intended for use on those occasions when the chapter is pressed for time or when the members lack the qualifications to deliver the literary selections properly.

This edition was dedicated to Dr. Leavitt O. Wright, and his photograph appears facing the title page. To assure uniformity in the performance of the ritual ceremony, two drawings were included, one showing the altar with the three lighted candles, the register, the candles for the neophytes, the vase of carnations, scissors, certificates, and the gold insignia, all in proper place. The other drawing was a diagram showing the altar and the relative position of the seated members, of each of the participating officers, and the neophytes in a semicircle with arrows showing the direction of their movement.

There are two factual errors in the foreword. On pp. vii, 1. 2, the word "national" is incorrect, for at that time Dr. Wright was president only of Alpha chapter. This misconception was held by Dr. Wright and by many who followed him. In the last paragraph of p. viii, 1. 2 and 3 should be corrected to read, "as when Dr. Wright revised it in 1935," when the original form with *tú* was changed to the form with *usted* which included the literary passages.

### **Continuing Complaint**

The printing of Dr. Swain's *Edición preliminar* in 1960 firmly established Dr. Wright's revision of 1935, but complaints continued. The principal objection has been that the ritual places too much emphasis on the literature of Spain, and that the work of other authors of Latin America should be added to that of Ruben Darío or substituted for that of Santa Teresa. During the last term of Dr. Chandler, an adviser reported that one student had complained about the Christian bias of the ritual. Dr. Chandler explained that

since Spain is a Christian country, its literature naturally reflects that faith, and so the inclusion of Santa Teresa is fully justified.

### **Change from Secret to Private Ceremonies**

Presidents Reid, Amner, Tyre, Hamilton, Brown, and Chandler staunchly resisted all efforts to change the ritual. However, Dr. Chandler, following the practice of most societies of the Association of College Honor Societies, changed the secret ceremony, defended by Dr. Tomás Navarro Tomás, to a private ceremony attended by a few special invited guests.

When we consider how much more beautiful and impressive Dr. Wright's revision of 1935, the form in current use, is than the form which Fitz-Gerald defended, we must wonder how much more eloquently the philologist would plead today that this ritual remain unchanged.

Here, it is worth repeating that when the Spanish novelist Carmen Laforet was awarded membership in the Order of Don Quijote during an initiation ceremony in New Orleans in 1983, she was so impressed by the beauty of the ceremony of the ritual that upon her return to Spain she immediately requested that a copy be sent her to show her friends.

The writer expresses the fervent hope that future presidents will be equally zealous in protecting the heritage left the society by its first national president.

## Appendix C

### Recruitment and Reactivation

Sigma Delta Pi is by far the largest foreign language honor society, and with nearly 475 chapters, the fourth largest member of the Association of College Honor Societies. Consequently, its expenses are considerable: the printing of charters and member certificates in color; the printing of various award certificates and of a promotional brochure; the publishing of *Entre Nosotros*; gold membership pins, and pins for the orders; office supplies and postage; salary and fringe benefits for the executive secretary-treasurer and for his secretary; scholarships, prizes, and other financial awards; and the building of an endowment to support greater services to the f active members of the society. It should be noted that, with the exception of the executive secretary-treasurer, no officer, not even the president, receives any financial compensation for his services.

The society met with varying degrees of success in its efforts to supplement its contribution to the scholarship program and to the building of an endowment fund, but its expenses are met principally by income from membership fees and from the interest on the general reserve, which in 1994 was approaching \$500,000.

#### Sources of Income

As expenses increase, income must increase, and this can be accomplished in three ways: Raise membership fees, Recruit new chapters, and Reactivate dormant chapters. Resort to the first method, usually the first to come to mind, is invariably met with objections from a significant segment of the membership, but successful employment of the other two methods is more healthful for the society, possibly more effective in augmenting income, and is welcomed by all.

#### How Presidents Recruited Chapters

How does a society go about recruiting new chapters? Before Sigma Delta Pi became nationalized, Alpha chapter was given a list of desirable universities by a professor in their Department of Spanish, and the chapter secretaries concentrated on these. Also, other universities learned of the new society, and petitioned for membership, but because requirements for admission were unjustifiably high at that time, many petitioning colleges were refused-Southern Methodist University was turned down because then it did not have a chapter of Phi Beta Kappa. During the ten years that the students of Alpha chapter governed the society, they brought in 15 new chapters.

#### Leavitt O. Wright

When Dr. Leavitt O. Wright became the first national president, one of his first acts was to ask his friend William Berrien, back at Berkeley, to send him a list of the universities whose petitions had been rejected. Then he studied these and offered a chapter to those that in his opinion deserved to be so honored: some teachers colleges and

some that did not have a chapter of Phi Beta Kappa. At the end of his seven years as president, he had recruited 24 new chapters.

### **John T. Reid**

In his own term, Dr. John T. Reid admitted only three chapters, for he concentrated on other objectives, the founding of *Entre Nosotros* and the publishing of the first ritual and handbook.

### **F. Dewey Amner**

During the nine years that Dr. F. Dewey Amner served as president, 21 chapters were added, an average of 2.3 chapters per year. As with Dr. Reid, recruitment of chapters was of secondary importance to him, and he and his three successive executive secretaries (Dr. Harry Russell, Professor Stuart M. Gross, and Dr. James O. Swain) relied simply on inviting their personal friends to submit petitions.

### **Carl A. Tyre**

Dr. Carl A. Tyre's chief interest was in encouraging regional meetings between triennial meetings, and he had many friends in various universities. He was fortunate in having Dr. Swain for his executive secretary, for the latter was indeed a roving ambassador of good will and a good recruiter. By inviting their many friends, Drs. Tyre and Swain established two records, bringing in the largest average number of new chapters per year up to that time, and bringing in twice as many new chapters as any previous president, a total of 48 chapters. Dr. Hamilton as a vice president during Dr. Tyre's years of service, recruited six of these chapters.

### **T. Earle Hamilton First Period**

During his first period (1960-68), Dr. Hamilton brought in 68 new chapters. Several factors contributed to his success. While still vice president, he had created The Texas Plan to Encourage the Study of Foreign Languages, which influenced the development of a national movement and led to the formation of The Texas Foreign Language Association, all of which gave him national exposure and facilitated his recruitment of chapters. Secondly, the Sigma Delta Pi Breakfast Program, which he established while vice president, was held each year as a part of the South Central MLA meeting, and was becoming more effective in advertising the society and in attracting new chapters. Third, Dr. Swain served during the first term, until January 1, 1963, and continued to bring in new chapters.

About this time, a new idea occurred to Dr. Hamilton: If one capable officer could bring in five new chapters, how many more chapters could ten, twenty, or thirty good officers bring in! And so the state director system was born. Of course, no one can overcome the inertia that condemns many to passivity and failure, but enough became fired with enthusiasm and a determination to realize a dream, to establish three records: 1) the largest number of chapters per year; 2) a larger number of chapters than that brought

in by any previous president; and 3) the largest number in a single year, 23 in 1968. All this was made possible by implementing a new idea.

### **Ann Dolores Brown**

At this auspicious time, Dr. Ann Dolores Brown became president. Making use of the state director system, she brought in 20 new chapters her first year, 10 the next year, and 15 in her third and last year, an impressive total of 45 in three years, a record average number of 15 chapters per year.

### **T. Earle Hamilton Second Period**

Re-elected president in 1972, Dr. Hamilton soon learned that some of those state directors who had been so productive had recruited nearly all the desirable colleges in their respective states, so he had to persuade other directors to become more active. Then he discovered that his file of colleges and universities which had previously declined his personal invitations to apply for a chapter was a veritable gold mine, even though some of these refusals dated back 15 years. He had a smaller file of colleges which had applied and been rejected for various reasons. He wrote each college of the latter group, and found that many of these had since made changes to correct the former deficiency, and they submitted up-to-date petitions and were accepted. Similarly, letters to those who had previously refused invitations persuaded many to request a chapter

During his first period (1960-68), he brought in 68 new chapters, more than any previous president; and in the ninth year of the period, he admitted a record number for a single year, 23. During his second period (1972-77), he recruited 95 chapters, and during the sixth year, his last, he brought in 33 new chapters. The average number of chapters admitted per year was almost 16. Dr. Hamilton served as president for 15 years, and recruited a total of 163 chapters, more than the combined total of all other presidents of Sigma Delta Pi except those following him, indisputable evidence of the value of the state director system.

### **Richard E. Chandler**

In 1978, Dr. Richard E. Chandler became president, and although he had served successfully as the state director of Louisiana, his own state, and had brought in numerous chapters then through his personal acquaintance with many professors of Spanish, for some still-unexplained reason the state director system did not function for him. Fully aware, however, of the importance of recruiting many new chapters, he resorted to another method, one never before tried by a president of Sigma Delta Pi. He had his secretary select from the latest edition of *PMLA Directory* about 1,000 colleges or universities that did not have a chapter of Sigma Delta Pi, and then mail to each of them an invitation to petition the society for a chapter. During his last term, his secretary mailed to 1,000 educational institutions a revised promotional brochure similar to the one that Dr. Hamilton composed for use in his campaign to recruit chapters. This contained much more information than did his former letter of invitation, so for use with the brochure, he substituted a very short covering letter. Although the rate of success of this

method was very low, slightly less than one percent, it did consistently yield almost ten new chapters each year, a total of 141 chapters during his 15 years of service as president. Dr. Chandler proved that the mass mailing of invitations is almost one percent effective, but it requires efficient secretarial help. Fortunately, Dr. Chandler was blessed with several outstanding secretaries, especially the last one, Mrs. Ivy Strahle, to whom he assigned the title of Assistant to the President.

### **The Mass-Mailing Method**

Now that we have completed a cursory survey of the methods used in the recruitment of chapters and the degree of success attained by each president in the use of these methods, it may be well to describe in detail those different methods, even at the risk of some repetition. In the vernacular, they may be grouped under two headings, the shotgun and the rifle.

The shotgun approach uses mass mailings, usually with little selectivity. Dr. Chandler, the only president who used this method, simply instructed his secretary to mail about 1,000 letters of invitation to the head of the department of Spanish in four-year colleges or universities which did not have a chapter of Sigma Delta Pi. She obtained the names and addresses of the chairmen from the most recent issue of the *PMLA Directory*. Although the rate of success of this method was extremely low, a little less than one percent, that was sufficient to bring in an average annual rate of 9.4 chapters, a total of 141 new chapters during Dr. Chandler's tenure, the second largest number recruited by a president of the society. If a president has a well-qualified secretary-Dr. Chandler was apparently the only president who had such help-he will find this method the least burdensome to him.

A variation of this method involves a mailing to a much smaller number of carefully selected colleges, and the percentage rate of success rose in direct proportion to the degree of selectivity.

### **The Selective Method**

The rifle approach directs the appeal to an individual professor who is known to the recruiter, either through correspondence or, preferably, personally. In practice, the recruiter emphasized that establishing a chapter of Sigma Delta Pi, the largest and most highly respected among those in foreign languages, a member society of the prestigious Association of College Honor Societies, would provide an incentive to serious students to continue their study of Spanish at the junior and senior levels, and to earn the gold key or pin. This award is so highly prized that biographical sketches of scholars almost invariably record membership in Sigma Delta Pi as do applications for a position. This award aroused the interest of other students and attracted many to enroll in courses in Spanish. The recruiter, then, placed special " emphasis on two points: Installing a chapter of Sigma Delta Pi enlarges and strengthens a department of Spanish, and it provides the best possible way to reward those students who attain excellence. Finally, he asked the question: Is it right for a department of Spanish to deprive students of the opportunity to earn membership in Sigma Delta Pi?

Most of this information was printed in an enclosed r brochure, and the covering letter made brief, for a long letter is seldom effective.

Chairmen of departments of Spanish generally accepted all these claims as valid, and their responses were: 1) an immediate decision to request a petition form; 2) a request for more information; 3) some delaying tactic; 4) an excuse that he was too busy to sponsor a chapter; 5) other members of the staff were already overloaded; and 6) even the instructors had to spend their extra time doing research for publication, for some administrators did not give much credit for sponsoring student activities. Actually, any response, even a negative one, held out some hope for acceptance of a chapter, and courteous and judicious replies and explanations on the part of a persuasive recruiter often resulted in a new chapter. If no reply to the initial invitation, then follow-up invitations with an urgent request for a prompt reply were used with success.

### **The State Director Method**

During the presidencies of Drs. Brown and Hamilton, the State Director System was remarkably successful. They found that the first step was to enlist the aid of the executive secretary in selecting the very best directors from those who had proven themselves as devoted and efficient advisers. The second step was to acquaint the prospective directors with their duties, to furnish them full instructions on how to perform those duties, and then to require them to sign an agreement to fulfill their obligations to the best of their ability. Further, the directors were required to file an annual report of their activities. Too, they should be told that in the past successful performance in this office had led to the vice presidency and even to the presidency on two occasions. Incidentally, in states without a chapter, Dr. Hamilton offered a state directorship to highly recommended staff members on condition that they begin their work by installing a chapter in their respective college.

Successful functioning of the State Director System demands leadership on the part of the president, and he must communicate regularly with the directors to inquire about their progress and to offer them encouragement.

### **Advertising**

Regardless of the method used by the recruiter, each president found it desirable to keep Sigma Delta Pi before all professors of Spanish. This was accomplished in various ways: by advertising in *Hispania*, by holding breakfast programs at various annual regional meetings of the MLA; by holding receptions at AATSP annual meetings as a part of the triennial meeting of Sigma Delta Pi held jointly, by holding national meetings in various regions between triennial meetings, and by presenting a special sectional program as a part of the AATSP annual meeting and listed in their official printed program. Also, news items regarding Sigma Delta Pi appeared regularly in *Hispania*. Membership in the ACHS brought very favorable advertising by the attendance of the society's representative at the annual meeting, by the representative's outstanding performance on committees, and by a full-page description of Sigma Delta Pi in the *ACHS Booklet of Information*, which was distributed to nearly all colleges and universities. Especially valuable advertising of the finest kind accompanied the bestowal

of its highest honor, membership in the Order of Don Quijote, on famous living Hispanic authors, academicians, and even Nobel laureates. All such advertising increased the prestige of the society and so created the desire in many departmental chairmen to have a chapter of Sigma Delta

### **Reactivation of Dormant Chapters**

The reactivation of dormant chapters is just as important as the recruitment of new chapters, and it is not necessary to explain the slight differences in the methods employed for each, for common sense readily dictates the modifications needed.

A chapter became inactive whenever the adviser transferred to another college or simply gave up his position as adviser without being replaced. It is very important for the national office to learn as soon as possible of the adviser's departure so that proper action may be taken at once, for at this time it is usually rather easy to prevent the chapter's becoming inactive. To anticipate this condition, it is good practice to send to each departmental chairman in those colleges where Sigma Delta Pi has a chapter, active or inactive, a form request to return a blank with the name and address of the current adviser—this is a subtle way to suggest reactivation of dormant chapters, and the inclusion of a promotional brochure may be helpful. Of course, this request should be sent early in the fall.

Very rarely, it seems almost impossible to reactivate a dormant chapter, as when a dean announces a policy to reject or remove all honor societies except Phi Beta Kappa, or when the specialty of the departmental chairman is in another language and he is prejudiced against Spanish. But the writer remembers the time when he met such a professor of French at a national meeting of the MLA, formed a friendship with him, and persuaded him to reinstate the chapter of Sigma Delta Pi after it had been dormant for over ten years. He remembers another occasion when the prejudiced chairman retired and was replaced by a professor who was an enthusiastic member of Sigma Delta Pi, and she immediately reactivated the chapter. A president should never consider any dormant chapter hopeless, for Mu chapter (Middlebury) was awakened after sleeping for 40 years!

### **Conclusion**

It is clear, then, that the financial stability and progress of Sigma Delta Pi are possible only if chapters are kept active, if inactive chapters are reactivated, and if the recruiter brings in new chapters, for initiation fees constitute the principal income of the society. It is hoped that this discussion of recruitment methods will help guide future presidents as they approach the very important task of increasing the number of active chapters.