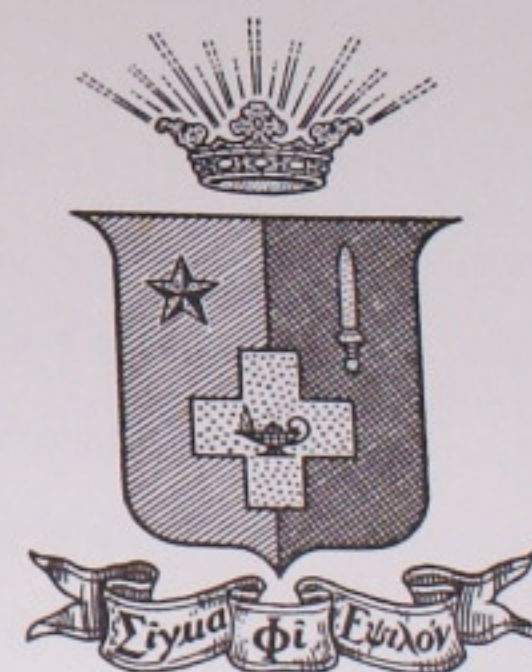


**THE RITUAL
AND GUIDE
of
SIGMA PHI EPSILON
FRATERNITY**

THE RITUAL
AND GUIDE
OF
SIGMA PHI EPSILON
FRATERNITY



Authorized by 33rd Grand Chapter Conclave
August 11, 1973
Denver, Colorado
Revised 1983
Published 1984

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SECTION I—General Guide to the President	7
SECTION II—Chapter Meeting	11
PART I—Preparation	11
A. Paraphernalia and Equipment	12
B. Chapter Room Arrangement	14
C. President's Table Illustration	16
PART II—Meeting Procedure	19
A. Opening	20
B. Order of Business	23
C. Closing	24
SECTION III—Initiation Ceremony	25
PART I—Advance Preparation	26
PART II—Examination and Preparation	29
PART III—Formal Initiation	33
PART IV—Interpretation	49
SECTION IV—Postinitiation Study	59
PART I—The Preparation Room	61
PART II—The Obligation	61
PART III—The Principles	61
PART IV—The Regular Meeting	62
PART V—The Equipment	62
SECTION V—Vocabulary	63

Section I
GENERAL GUIDE
TO THE PRESIDENT

GENERAL GUIDE TO THE PRESIDENT

Brother President:

To you is given the responsibility for this RITUAL AND GUIDE OF SIGMA PHI EPSILON FRATERNITY. This responsibility includes not only the safeguarding of the physical book, but also the safeguarding and application of its contents. The philosophy and ideals that are contained herein are yours to promote and teach to the end that every member of the chapter may experience a true fraternal relationship with all Sigma Phi Epsilons everywhere. As Sigma Phi Epsilon performs with high standards its everyday physical operations everywhere, so must it continue in the spiritual and moral phase. This book is more than a Ritual of Sigma Phi Epsilon ceremonies. It is a handbook for the study of our fraternity.

In any organization as large as ours, uniformity is difficult. So it is that this basic guide is printed and distributed to every chapter. Each year the officers of a chapter change, so it follows that usually all of the initiation ceremonies must be read from the Ritual. This does not mean that no part should be committed to memory. Certainly every Sigma Phi Epsilon should learn the Oath of Obligation he has taken. Certainly the opening and closing ceremonies of the chapter meeting, including the Chaplain's prayer, should be given from memory. Certainly the closing admonition of the President as he welcomes the new brother should come from his mind and heart and not from the printed page.

In all the ceremonies, whether produced from memory or the printed word, practice and knowledge are essential. Those who have parts in the various ceremonies should practice reading and speaking their parts; they should practice timing and performance where necessary to attain good coordination among all participants. The meaning and pronunciation of the words that are used should be learned since many are not common in everyday language.

In all of the ceremonies the atmosphere, surroundings, timing and scheduling affect the desired result: a dignified, thoughtful, and meaningful exposition of our fraternity. These principles, as exemplified in our daily lives, make Sigma Phi Epsilon a fraternity and not a club or boarding house.

The chapter room or meeting room of Sigma Phi Epsilon should be in keeping with the dignity and purpose of the fraternity. Ideally, it should be a room designed with the ritualistic ceremonies and meetings of the chapter in mind. The fixtures and furnishings, the lighting and decoration, should be especially arranged to accomplish efficiently and thoroughly the exemplification of our principles.

A basement area could be so constructed that it would be both a meeting room and a recreational area. Conversion from one use to another should be a relatively simple procedure and neither use detracting from the other. If you do not have such a meeting place in your chapter, by all means make plans for its future incorporation. It does not follow that in the meantime the present recreation, dining or living room area cannot be made somewhat suitable. Obvious incongruities should be moved or covered. The setting should be dignified and formal.

At all meetings, all brothers should be busy with the matter at hand. Reading, writing, conversing, eating, and smoking are out of order. Clothing should be consistent with what a brother would wear to church. Slippers, shorts, denims, sweaters, etc., are not appropriate.

All of the Sigma Phi Epsilon ceremonies and meetings are scheduled so that sufficient time is available for full understanding and exemplification. They should never be hurried nor placed in a program where other activities or social events can in any way detract from or lessen their importance. Chapter meetings are regularly held each week. Every member has ample opportunity to plan his study and activities so that neither they nor the fraternity's meeting need suffer.

You should also be aware that the Ritual Committee recognizes that some chapters may like to personalize the ritual by including an addition, such as information on the local chapter's history, or a supplement, such as an original ceremony. The 32nd Grand Chapter (Atlanta, Georgia; 1971) adopted Resolution No. 23 which permits such supplements upon approval by the National Board of Directors. Any chapter wishing to use a supplement to the ritual is cordially invited to submit its material to the Ritual Committee for approval. It should be understood that the legislation does not empower anyone to delete any portion of the RITUAL AND GUIDE OF SIGMA PHI EPSILON.

Honorary members are encouraged by the Fraternity. Many chapters encourage fathers to be initiated honorarily, and beginning in 1984, many chapters have extended that invitation to community leaders who can enhance chapter life through honorary membership. The Renaissance of Brotherhood program has been a focal point for this effort and is becoming a strong tradition at many chapters. Honorary membership is available to those invited by the undergraduate chapter, PROVIDING THE CANDIDATE IS NOT A MEMBER OF ANOTHER MEN'S COLLEGE SOCIAL FRATERNITY. The private initiation ceremony contains instructions for initiating honorary members.

Section II
CHAPTER MEETING

Part I
PREPARATION

PARAPHERNALIA AND EQUIPMENT

The President's Table
Chairs for the President and Vice-President
The Bible
Corinthian column
Broken Doric column
Censer (optional)
Greek cross mounted on base
Vase of purple violets and dark red roses
Candles and holders (set of six)
Block and gavel
Vice-President's table
Sword
Hourglass
Rolled diploma
Pitcher of water
Water goblet
Chaplain's table
Chaplain's chair
A kneeling bench
Chair for Guard
Chair for Examiner
Chairs for Marshals
Examiner's table
Chairs for members
The United States or Canadian flag (size 3' x 5')
The Fraternity flag (size 3' x 5')
Flag standards and bases
Ballot box and ballots
Black sleeping blindfold or hoodwink
Flat wooden toothpicks
Chain (about 5-ft. long with 2-in. links)
Incense (optional)
Insignia illustrations (framed)
Initiation badge mounted on a ribbon
Greasepaint Pencil (available from Headquarters)
Table cloths (set of four)
String or cord

Robes

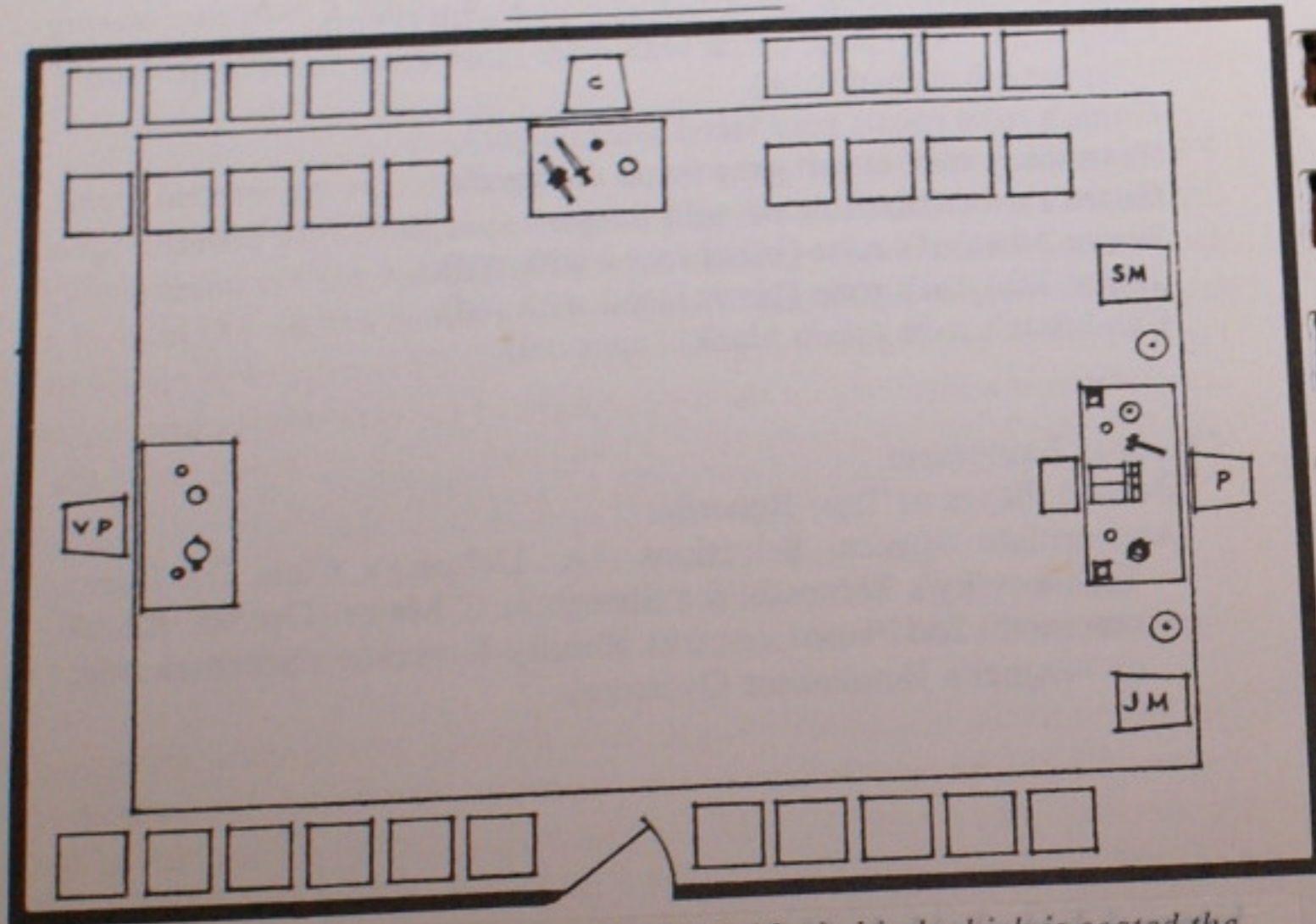
President's robe (royal purple trimmed with gold)
Vice-President's robe (dark red trimmed with silver)
Chaplain's robe (plain black with 4-in. Greek cross sewn in gold on upper left side of robe)
Guide's robe (pearl gray faced with purple)
Examiner's robe (pearl gray faced with red)
Guard's robe (black faced with purple)
Senior Marshal's robe (black faced with red)
Junior Marshal's robe (black faced with red)
Candidate's robe (plain black)

Optional Equipment

Record Player or Tape Recorder

Appropriate Musical Selections (i.e.: Debussy's Clair De Lune; Tchaikovsky's Serenade for Strings in C Major, Op. 48; Rachmininoff's 2nd Piano Concerto; Rimsky-Korsakov's Scheharazade; or Wagner's Tannhauser Overture)

CHAPTER ROOM ARRANGEMENT



At the head of the room is the President's Table, behind which is seated the President. In front of the President's Table is the Kneeling Bench. On the President's Table is a Table cloth, the Bible, the Greek Cross, a Vase of Purple Violets and Dark Red Roses, the Corinthian Column to the right of the President, a Broken Doric Column to the left of the President, two candles and holders and a gavel. On either side of the President's Table are seated the two Marshals; the Senior Marshal on the President's right and the Junior Marshal on the President's left. Between the Marshals' stations are unfurled United States or Canadian and Sigma Phi Epsilon flags on standards. The United States or Canadian flag is to the right of the President's Table; the Fraternity flag is to the left of the President's Table.

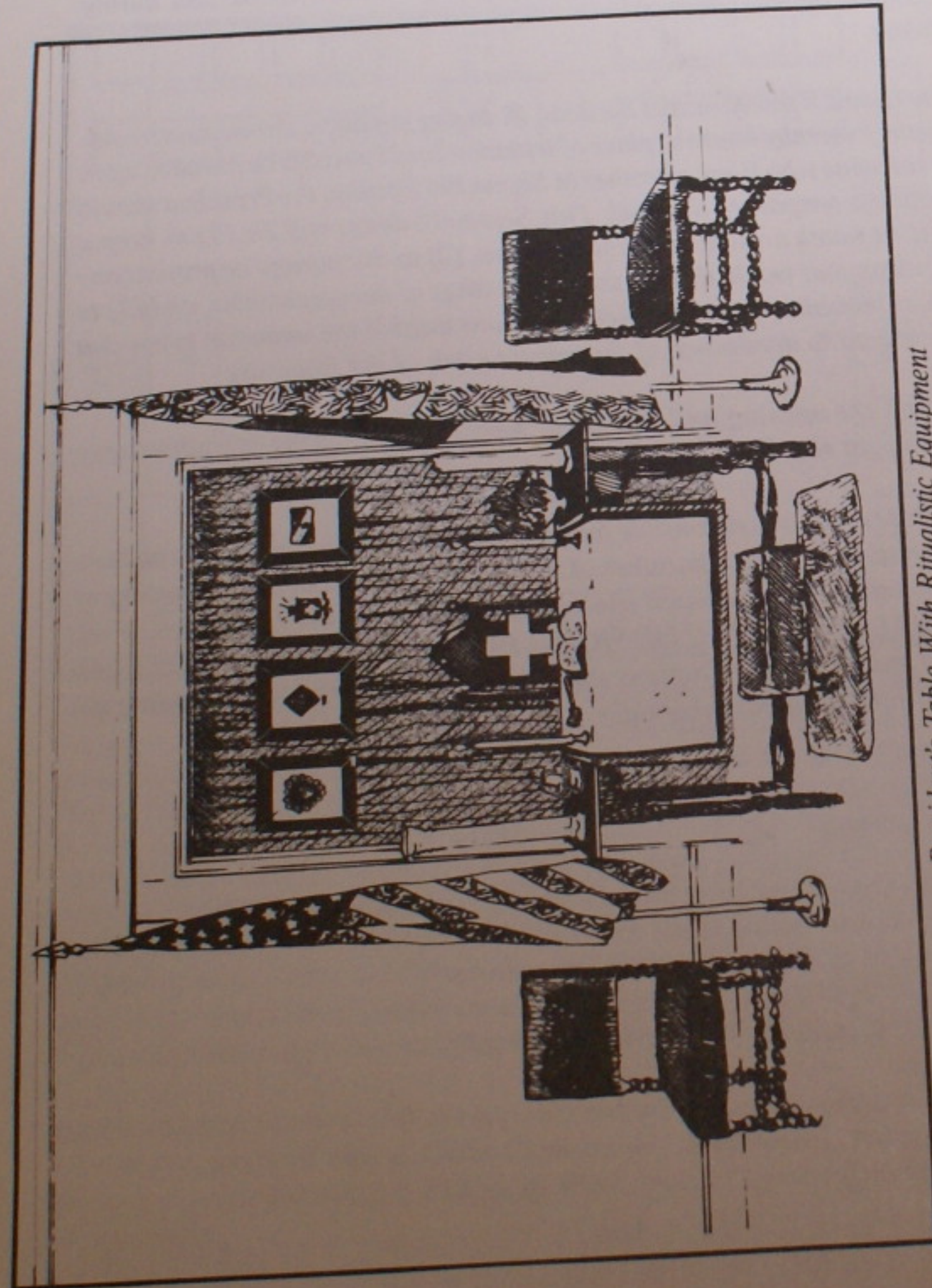
The Vice-President's station at the opposite end of the room is a Table and overlaid with a Table Cloth on which are two Candles and Holders. During initiation, a Pitcher of Water and a Gavel are on the Table.

The Chaplain's station is located at one side of the room, at a point midway between the President's Table and the Vice-President's station. At the Chaplain's station is a table upon which is a Table Cloth; and during initiation, an Hourglass, a Rolled Diploma, a Sword, and one Candle and Holder.

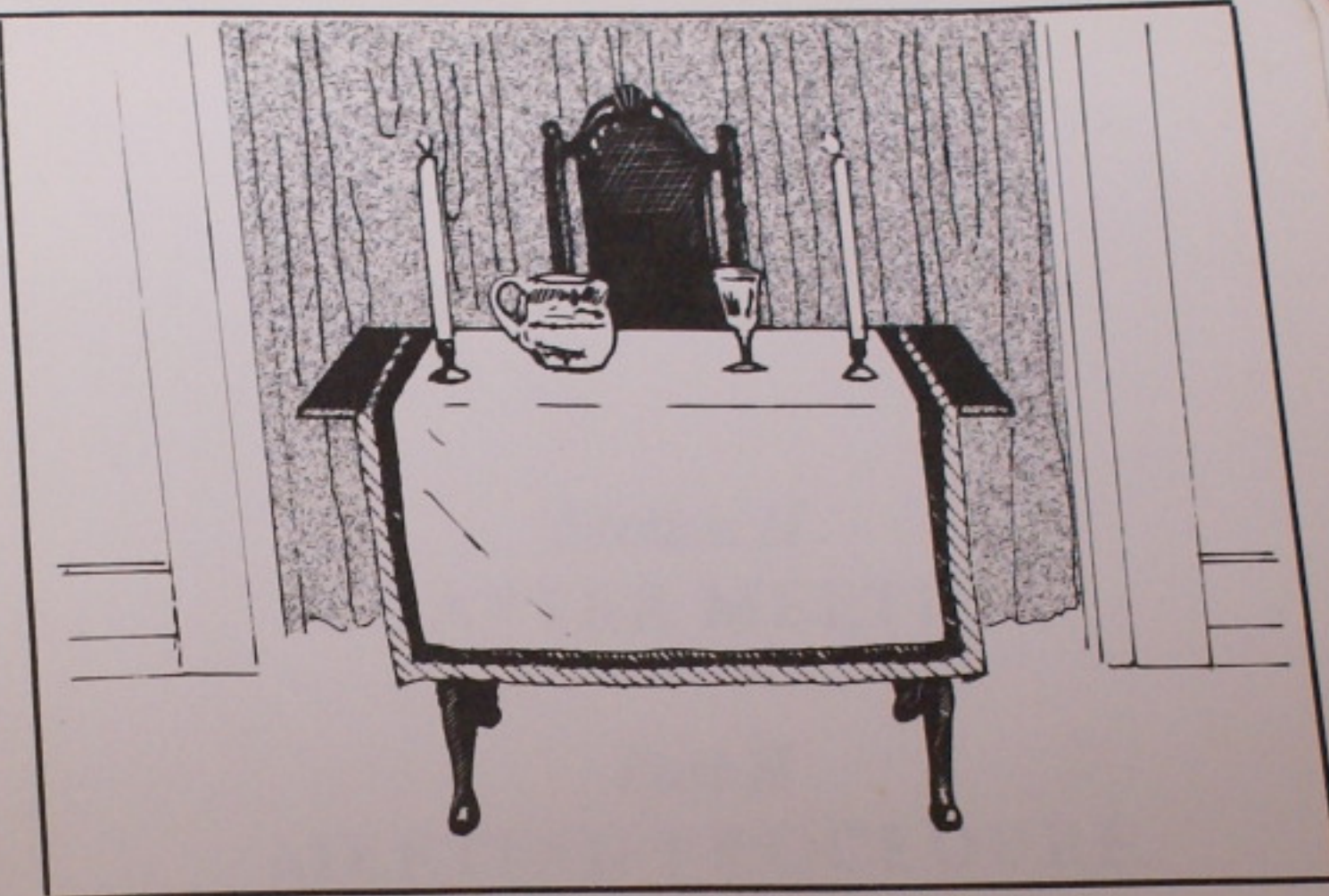
The Guard is seated next to the door. If, during initiation, the area surrounding the fraternity house or place of initiation could possibly be intruded upon by someone who is not a brother in Sigma Phi Epsilon, the President should appoint a temporary Sentinel. This Sentinel's duties will be: (1) to keep a vigilant watch around the initiation area, (2) to discourage or prevent any intrusion that would disrupt the proceedings of the ceremonies, and (3) to report immediately any suspicious actions outside the initiation room that would lead to divulgence of the private work of the fraternity.

During the opening and closing of meetings and during initiations only candlelight should be used.

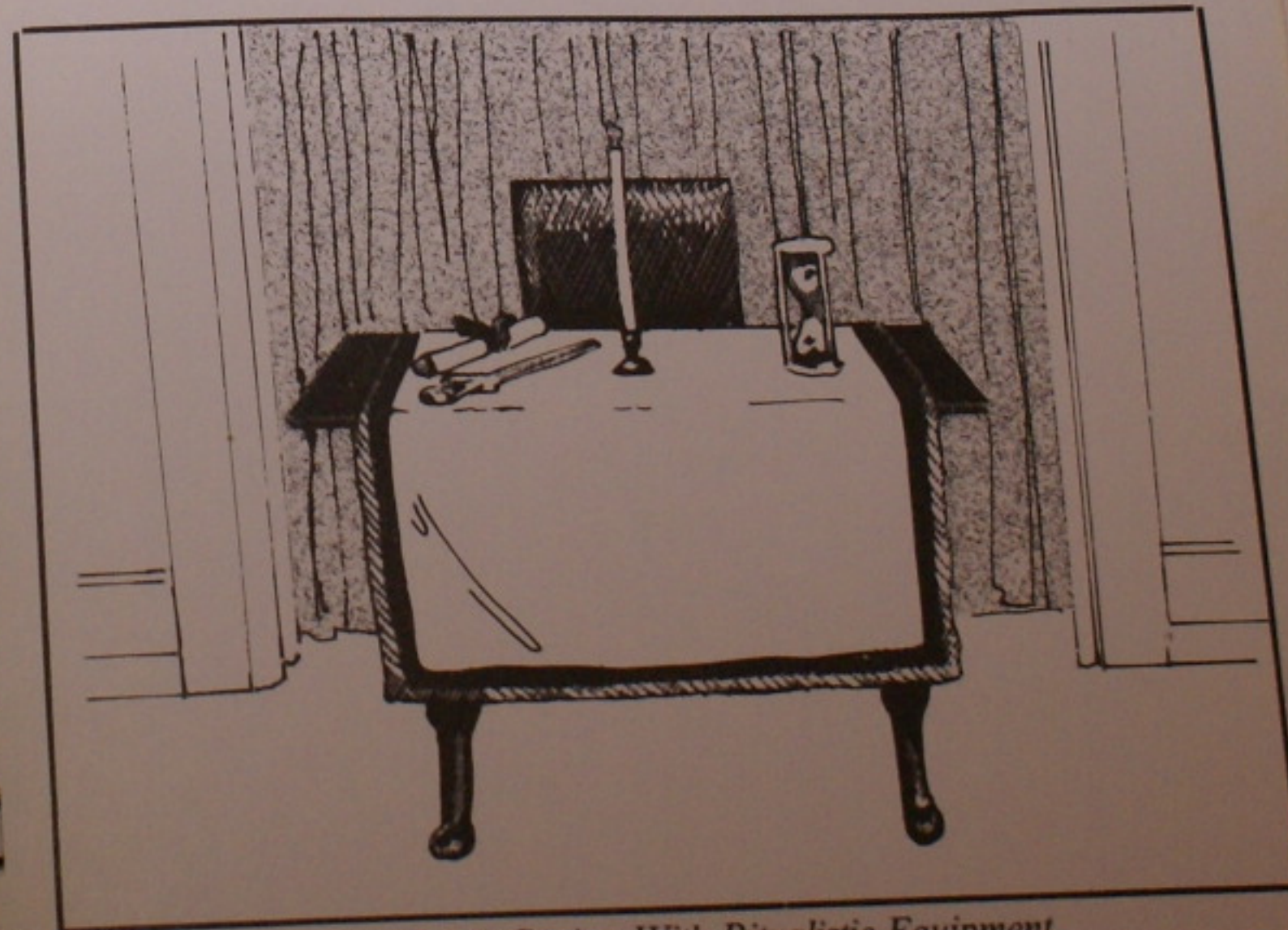
The Marshals are responsible for all paraphernalia and equipment and are responsible for the preparation of the chapter room prior to the opening of the meeting. The President shall be responsible for the five copies of the RITUAL AND GUIDE OF SIGMA PHI EPSILON FRATERNITY. All ritual meetings and initiations shall be formal (coat and tie), including the use of robes and paraphernalia.



President's Table With Ritualistic Equipment



Vice-President's Station With Ritualistic Equipment



Chaplain's Station With Ritualistic Equipment

Section II
CHAPTER MEETING

Part II
MEETING PROCEDURE

OPENING

The President taps once and all permanent ritualistic officers rise.

PRESIDENT
Brother Vice-President, what is a Token?

VICE-PRESIDENT
A memorial of friendship, Brother President.

PRESIDENT
What is a Sign?

VICE-PRESIDENT
A proof of friendship.

PRESIDENT
How do we advance a Token and Sign?

VICE-PRESIDENT
By a word and a grip.

PRESIDENT
Advance me a Token and Sign.

Vice-President advances to the President, gives the password, receives the interpretation, gives the grip, and returns to his station.

PRESIDENT
Brother Marshals.

Both Marshals turn and face the President.

MARSHALS
Brother President.

PRESIDENT
Advance me the Token and Sign of Sigma Phi Epsilon.

First, the Senior Marshal and then the Junior Marshal advances to the President, who receives the password, gives the interpretation and then the grip. Following completion of the identification, the Marshals resume their stations.

PRESIDENT
Brother Marshals, the Token and Sign are correct. By virtue of the Token and Sign you will ascertain if all present are brothers in Sigma Phi Epsilon.

The President taps three times and all members rise. The Marshals pass down their respective sides of the room receiving the password and giving the interpretation and the grip. They meet in front of the Vice-President's station, march in step to the President's Table, and report to the President.

SENIOR MARSHAL
Brother President.

BOTH MARSHALS
We find all present to be brothers in Sigma Phi Epsilon.

If there should be anyone present without the password the President shall request him to leave the meeting.

PRESIDENT
It is well.

Marshals return to their stations.

PRESIDENT
Brother Guard, watch well thy door and let no one enter unless he give the proper knock and have the proper Token and Sign.
Brothers, before entering upon our important task let us bow our heads in humble prayer to Almighty God.

Chaplain offers prayer from memory.

CHAPLAIN

Almighty God: We, Thy humble servants do most heartily thank Thee for our creation, preservation, and all other benefits of this life; and we beseech Thee to look upon us with favor in our efforts to promote the principles of Thy most holy Word. We implore Thee to watch over our beloved fraternity and to guide it in Thy ways and in the words of Thy Commandments. Grant that we revere Thy Word and fulfill Thy Law. At last bring us to Thy Kingdom and the Life Everlasting. Amen.

PRESIDENT

Brothers, what is the motto signified by the letters Sigma, Phi, and Epsilon?

Answer should be given in a low audible voice.

ALL BROTHERS

H _____ F _____ F _____

PRESIDENT

Keep that in mind and may your attitude toward one another be always one of brotherly love.

The President taps once and all are seated.

PRESIDENT

I now declare this meeting of _____ Chapter of the Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity open for the transaction of all business that may regularly come before it.

* * * * *

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Roll Call.
2. Reading of the minutes of the preceding meeting.
3. Financial report.
4. Reports of standing and special committees.
5. Reading of notices and communications.
6. Unfinished business.
7. New business.
8. Proposals for membership.
9. Voting on proposed names.
10. Reports of sickness.
11. Remarks for the good of the fraternity.
12. Distribution of membership cards and certificates.
13. Installation of officers.
14. Reading or discussion of Ritual.
15. Closing

CLOSING

The President taps three times and all members rise. The President addresses the Vice-President.

PRESIDENT
Brother Vice-President, what are the duties of every Sigma Phi Epsilon?

VICE-PRESIDENT
To remember his Oath of Obligation, to follow the teachings of the Ritual, to uphold Virtue, Diligence, and Brotherly Love for the betterment of himself and his brothers that our lives may bring everlasting glory to Sigma Phi Epsilon.

PRESIDENT
Brothers, may we ever remember these duties to our fraternity. Let us repeat the motto of the fraternity together.

Answer should be given in a low audible voice.

ALL BROTHERS
H _____ F _____ F _____

PRESIDENT
Brother Senior Marshal, collect the copies of the Ritual and place them here upon the President's Table.

The Senior Marshal does this and returns to his station.

PRESIDENT
I now declare this meeting closed in due and regular form.

Members form a circle with arms crossed and hands clasped simulating the grip. In this position they sing the Fraternity Anthem.

Section III INITIATION CEREMONY

Part I ADVANCE PREPARATION OF CANDIDATES

Part II EXAMINATION AND PREPARATION

ADVANCE PREPARATION OF CANDIDATES

Note to Chapter President

Note to Chapter Chaplain

The initiation ceremony for new members of Sigma Phi Epsilon should be one of the most significant and meaningful experiences of a member's fraternity life.

We require of all new members that they take a solemn and binding Oath of Obligation to themselves and to Sigma Phi Epsilon. This oath may be taken on the chapter's Bible or on another Bible of the candidate's choice (such as the Douay Bible, the King James Version, or the New English Version), to be sworn an oath before the assembly of brothers.

To make it possible for the candidates to understand the various options before initiation and to allow them to make an alternate choice if they wish, it is necessary to explain the options and their meaning far enough in advance for a candidate to secure his own Bible if he wishes to use it. Therefore, it is suggested that all candidates, individually or as a group, be carefully informed of the options and their meaning by using the following explanation:

"Gentlemen, you will soon be initiated into membership in Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity, a ceremony that should be a significant and meaningful experience.

"Prior to the initiation ceremony, you will be given a special membership form that must be carefully documented and completed, because this becomes a vital part of our Fraternity history.

"You will also be given a chapter initiation number which will become a permanent part of our chapter records. You will be prepared to pay your initiation fee before the ceremony.

"During the initiation ceremonies, you will be required to take a solemn and binding Oath of Obligation to yourself and to Sigma Phi Epsilon. This Oath of Obligation may be taken on the chapter's Bible, or upon your own Bible, or be sworn before the assembly of brothers. In administering the Oath of Obligation of this Fraternity, I assure you that it will in no way demand allegiance to any particular creed, nor will it in any way conflict with your duty to your God, your country, your fellow man or yourself.

"The chapter's Bible is known as the (King James Version, New English Version, Douay Bible). It will be used unless you prefer to use your own Bible, which you will supply, or you may affirm your oath by swearing it before the assembly of brothers. If you prefer to use other than the chapter Bible, please indicate your preference before the time of initiation."

Note to Chaplain: If any candidate wishes to use a special Bible, or "affirm" his oath, note the candidate's name and his wish, and advise the ritualist and the initiation team.

INSTRUCTIONS

At the last regular chapter meeting prior to initiation a final vote is to be taken on each pledge as provided for in the BYLAWS and Administrative Policies and Procedures, Section E, Articles 25, 26 and 27, which state:

25. Balloting on candidates shall be done at a regular meeting of an undergraduate or alumni chapter, or at a special meeting called for that purpose.
26. All candidates shall be balloted upon separately, and only members in good standing shall be entitled to vote.
27. To exclude a pledge from initiation in Sigma Phi Epsilon, the chapter must:
 - (a) Notify the pledge, through the chapter president, at least two weeks before a vote of elimination is cast, that his membership is in question; except in an emergency, in which event a two-thirds vote of the membership may suspend this provision.
 - (b) Conduct a chapter vote where a quorum of two-thirds of the membership is present and one-third of the active membership votes to eliminate the pledge.
 - (c) In all cases, any votes on the pledges are done at a chapter meeting with no pledges present with no form of secret balloting.

Only one candidate of initiation is to be examined and initiated at a time with the same ritual team.

The Recorder shall fill out the records for the candidates in the Membership Record Book before the initiation ceremony is begun.

The Controller shall collect the initiation fees before the initiation ceremony is begun.

Before the initiation ceremony begins, each candidate is conducted by the Examiner's Assistant (appointed by the President) to a private room and later to the Preparation Room. The Examiner conducts the candidate to the door of the initiation room. The Guide returns him to his private room immediately following the initiation ceremony to dress and wait for the third section of the initiation, which is the Interpretation.

The Preparation Room should be a small room, a private room, or a room in the chapter house. The Examiner is in charge of this room and should have the following items: THE RITUAL AND GUIDE OF SIGMA PHI EPSILON, a Table Cloth, Candle Holder, Candle, a Table, a Hoodwink, String, and a Black Robe for the candidate.

The pre-initiation examination should be given by the chapter counselor, approved by the chapter counselor.

EXAMINATION AND PREPARATION

The candidate is brought into the Preparation Room by the Examiner's Assistant, introduced to the Examiner, seated in a chair facing the Examiner's table and blindfolded. The Examiner then seats himself at his table and submits the candidate to the following examination.

EXAMINER

My friend, you are about to be invested with the secrets of the Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity. Behind the veil of mystery that cloaks its work, the light of high purpose, lofty ideals and sublime principles burns continuously. Only in an attitude of reverence may these secrets be approached; and before you receive them, I must have your solemn assurance that your motives in seeking membership in our fraternity are worthy and righteous.

Personal advantage and gain are not to be granted within this brotherhood. Unselfishness and altruistic service will be demanded of you. Worldly ambition, idle curiosity, and self-aggrandizement must within this very room be laid aside and your heart purged of every unworthy motive for seeking the communion of our fellowship.

Since I am charged with the responsibility for your entrance I ask you solemnly, are your motives in coming here those worthy and honorable ones I have mentioned.

CANDIDATE

They are.

EXAMINER

Before accepting our invitation to become a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon, you were informed that although we demand allegiance to no particular creed, we require a thoughtful and considered belief in the most profound concept to enter the human mind... known by many names, among them Yahweh (ya'we), Creator, Supreme Being, or God, each conveying the affirmation that life has a meaning and purpose. This belief and affirmation carries with it certain commitments and responsibilities to ourselves and our fellow men as are embodied in our cardinal principles—VIRTUE, DILIGENCE, and BROTHERLY LOVE. Are you willing to embrace these in your personal life?

CANDIDATE

I am.

EXAMINER

I would impress upon you that the secrecy that surrounds us is not idle pretense but a veil to hide from the outer world our proceedings that they may not be misinterpreted or corrupted, and that our pure ideal may not be dishonored. Not for mere pleasure are we banded together but for the earnest pursuit of lofty ideals, higher culture, and mutual benefit.

You will be bound by an Oath to do your share in this work and to assume your share of the responsibilities in Sigma Phi Epsilon. This oath will bind you to secrecy, yet it will in no way interfere with the duty you owe to your God, your country, your fellow men, or yourself. So assured, are you willing to proceed?

CANDIDATE

I am.

EXAMINER

Are you willing to submit yourself unreservedly into our hands that our sacred ceremonies may be performed and that you may be tried and proved before becoming a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon?

CANDIDATE

I am.

EXAMINER

It is well. I will now prepare you for your initiation. Remove your clothes from the waist up.

The hoodwink is opened. The Examiner bids the candidate to prepare himself by removing his clothing from the waist up. (Candidates for honorary or alumni membership are prepared in the same manner as candidates.) The chain is placed over his left shoulder, the ends are tied with string, the black robe is placed casually on the candidate and the hoodwink is closed. The Examiner then continues.

EXAMINER

You shall proceed, your eyes veiled, in symbol of the darkness through which you grope in your quest for the light that will reveal to you the beauty and truth of Sigma Phi Epsilon. Follow your guide, do as you are bid, and fear no harm. *Be alert, for you will be examined later.*

When the Examiner receives the signal that the chapter is in readiness, he conducts the candidate to the door of the initiation room and instructs him in the proper method of gaining admittance. The candidate is instructed to give three knocks, then one knock. The Guard will reply by giving one knock, then three knocks. The candidate then is instructed to give two knocks, pause, two knocks.

Section III
INITIATION CEREMONY

Part II
FORMAL INITIATION

INSTRUCTIONS

The paraphernalia should be carefully checked by the Marshals to make certain that everything is in readiness before the ceremony begins.

The ceremony of initiation is a part of a regular meeting. The President, therefore opens the regular meeting in the usual way and then proceeds with the initiation.

All participants of the ceremony should speak with clarity and sincerity.

When background music is used, the President should appoint a member to carefully control and vary the music's volume throughout the ceremony.

FORMAL INITIATION

As soon as the formal meeting has been opened, the President dispenses with the regular order of business.

PRESIDENT

We shall dispense with the regular order of business and proceed with the order of initiation.

The chapter is then given the following charge by the President (before the first candidate only).

PRESIDENT

My brothers, we are about to administer the ceremony of initiation into Sigma Phi Epsilon. We shall communicate our secrets to the candidate in a spirit of reverence. If we perform our work well, this candidate, looking back, will find no happier recollection than *this*, his first entrance into our Fraternity.

I would remind you, before administering this ceremony, of your own solemn and binding Oath of Obligation as a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon and of your dedication to our ideals of Virtue, Diligence, and Brotherly Love.

Now, we shall bring to this candidate our concepts which, we believe, will be beacon lights on his journey through life. I, therefore, charge you to maintain quiet and order at all times, and to be alert to aid in the effective discharge of this duty.

When the candidate's knocks are heard the Guard opens the door a few inches to conduct with the Examiner the following dialogue.

GUARD

Who seeks admittance to the halls of Sigma Phi Epsilon?

EXAMINER

A humble stranger desiring those benefits to be obtained therein.

GUARD

Is he properly prepared?

EXAMINER

He is.

GUARD

Are you persuaded that he is worthy?

EXAMINER

I am.

GUARD

It is well. Let the stranger be admitted.

The Guard opens the door wide and gives charge of the candidate to the Guide who then removes the candidate's black robe and conducts the candidate before the Vice-President. The Guide remains on the inner side of the candidate throughout the entire ceremony while conducting him about the room.

GUIDE

Brother Vice-President, I bring you a neophyte.

VICE-PRESIDENT

Who is this neophyte?

GUIDE

Mr. _____ (full name) _____, who is in search of that wisdom which must eternally be sought.

VICE-PRESIDENT

As in the sacred mysteries of Greece, pure must he be who would have our knowledge. Let him, therefore, pray and purify himself.

3 The President taps three times. All members rise.

CHAPLAIN

O God, give ear unto us. A friend waits before Thee with ears un-

stopped and with an open heart. Show him Thy way for therein is knowledge. Be with him and bless him in his communion with us that he may grasp the true spirit and substance of all life. Amen.

The President taps once. All members resume their seats. The Guide opens the blindfold and raises a half-filled goblet of water so that the goblet of water may be seen by the aspirant.

VICE-PRESIDENT

Aspirant to the honor of brotherhood in Sigma Phi Epsilon, drink this water of forgetfulness. Drink to the oblivion of your vices, the forgetfulness of your imperfections. Drink deep.

The Vice-President pauses while the Guide brings the water to the lips of the candidate, who will then drink.

VICE-PRESIDENT

My Brothers, I ask you now to declare yourselves. Is the candidate worthy?

ALL BROTHERS

He is worthy!

VICE-PRESIDENT

Now you are ready for the truths that are to be revealed to you. Go, O seeker, and may your quest be not in vain.

The Guide sets the glass on the Vice-President's table, closes the hoodwink, turns the candidate directly about and conducts him slowly toward the President's Table. The candidate is halted at a point three paces from the kneeling bench.

PRESIDENT

What desire you of the brotherhood of Sigma Phi Epsilon?

The Guide instructs in a clearly audible voice to the candidate, who replies:

CANDIDATE

H _____ F _____ F _____

PRESIDENT

"And whatever you pray for in faith you will receive."*

3

The President taps three times. All members rise.

CHAPLAIN

Ruler of the universe, guide us in this undertaking. Grant that, inspired by the ideals of Sigma Phi Epsilon, this man may live an honorable, just and upright life. May he prove worthy of the friendship he seeks, and may he give in turn that same friendship to those with whom he is about to become a brother in the bonds of Sigma Phi Epsilon. Amen.

The President taps once. All members resume seats.

PRESIDENT

The Bible and the *Ritual and Guide of Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity* embody much of the same philosophy. This philosophy teaches us the principles of that which you ask. We require of all brothers that they take a solemn, sacred, and binding Oath of Obligation to Sigma Phi Epsilon

Before taking this Oath it is my duty to remind you that if a man vow a vow unto the Lord or swear an oath to bind him with a bond to his brothers, that he shall not break his word. I assure you that this Oath will in no way conflict with your duty to your God, your country, your fellow men, or yourself. With that assurance, are you ready and willing to take the Oath?

CANDIDATE

I am.

PRESIDENT

The Guide will place the candidate in position to take the Oath.

The Guide gives the following instructions to the candidate, speaking in a low but clearly audible voice:

GUIDE

You will advance three steps.

*Matthew 21:22

The Guide advances the candidate three paces to the kneeling bench.

GUIDE

Kneel on both knees.

The Guide causes the candidate to kneel upon the kneeling bench.

GUIDE *(In those instances when the candidate indicates his intentions to swear an oath on a Bible, use the following Reply #1:)*

Rest the back of one of your hands in the palm of the other creating a support for the Bible.

GUIDE *(Alternatively, in those instances when the candidate elects to swear an oath before the chapter, use the following Reply #2:)*

You will raise your right hand and swear your oath before the assembled brothers of the _____ Chapter of the Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity.

When the candidate is ready, the Guide opens hoodwink, steps back and addresses the President.

GUIDE

Brother President, the candidate is ready.

The President addresses the candidate.

PRESIDENT

You will repeat after me the words of the obligation:
I, *(the President inserts the full name of the candidate)*,
of my own free will and accord
in the presence of my God and Sigma Phi Epsilon
solemnly promise and vow upon my honor
that I will never reveal in any manner whatsoever
to anyone not eligible to receive them
any of the secrets of the Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity.

I vow upon my honor
to foster, promote and help
every worthy endeavor of Sigma Phi Epsilon
and without making unjust demands upon myself
I will give without reservation
of my time and talents
in an endeavor to realize
the principles, ideals and aspirations
of this fraternity.

I vow upon my honor
that I will never permit the name of Sigma Phi Epsilon
to be dishonored
by any act of my own or of any other person
if within my power to prevent it.

I vow upon my honor
that I will give allegiance
to my college or university
and endeavor to serve
its highest purposes.

I vow upon my honor
that I will help any worthy member of Sigma Phi Epsilon
who, being in need
requests assistance as such
it being consistent with the principles of the fraternity
and not detrimental to the welfare of myself
or those having a prior claim upon my substance.

To all this I bind myself
with a firm resolution to keep these obligations.

Distinct pause—change of voice and tempo.

PRESIDENT

Brothers in Sigma Phi Epsilon, will you record the pledge of this candidate according to his Oath of Obligation?

ALL BROTHERS

Thy pledge is recorded.

The Guide closes the hoodwink and replaces the Bible on the President's Table.

GUIDE

Arise.

The Guide causes the candidate to rise, and then conducts him slowly about the room remaining on the inner side of the candidate.

PRESIDENT

My Brother, the journey down the path of life is a trying one and those who travel it are beset with many difficulties. It has been said, "You have no idea what tomorrow will bring. Your life, what is it? You are no more than a mist, seen for a little while and then dispersing."* Time then is the very matrix of human existence and must be given content if a man's life is to have meaning.

Sigma Phi Epsilon holds three principles essential to meaningful living: VIRTUE, DILIGENCE, and BROTHERLY LOVE.

VIRTUE, our first cardinal principle is the most inclusive and most difficult. Virtue is to "behave with decency as befits the day..."** To hold virtue is to keep all your relationships honest, never casual, never using another person.

The Guide brings the candidate to a halt before the President's Table. The Senior Marshal takes the Sword and stands at one side and slightly in front of the candidate facing him, in preparation to strike him across the chest at chest level at the moment the Guide unhooks the clasp holding the chain. At the word "selfishness" the Senior Marshal strikes the candidate at chest level with the flat side of the sword. The Junior Marshal allows the chain to strike the floor, then lifts it up and carries it from the initiation room to the preparation room.

PRESIDENT

With the Sword of Virtue shatter the fetters of cynicism and selfishness (Pause). For without virtue men do not care; they only use. Armed with the Sword of Virtue, ever guard your own integrity and that of all men and women.

*James 4:14

**Romans 13:13

The Guide again conducts the candidate slowly about the room. The Guide remains on the inner side of the candidate at all times.

PRESIDENT

As we proceed day by day upon our journey through life we should be alert to take advantage of the opportunities that we encounter, for by this method only can we realize that fullest development of our abilities.

Sloth is evil, for time is the very essence of life, and only by the complete use of this divine gift can man attain the happiness that comes from accomplishment in his endeavors. **DILIGENCE**, then is the second cardinal principle of Sigma Phi Epsilon. Work diligently, scorn difficulty, and persevere unto the attainment that gives life its zest and flavor.

The Guide brings the candidate to a halt before the Chaplain's Table. He raises the Hourglass to a level of the candidate's eyes, opens the Hoodwink and holds that position until the President reads the entire contents of the next paragraph.

PRESIDENT

As the grains of sand slip through the hourglass, so glide the precious moments, and once gone they and their opportunities are beyond recall. Opportunities abound for good deeds toward men and for the satisfaction of our own wishes. Success is only for him who through faithful and diligent preparation has acquired the power of knowledge.

The Guide closes the Hoodwink, replaces the Hourglass on the table; raises the Diploma to the same high position; opens the Hoodwink and holds this position until the President completes the reading of the following paragraph. The President has paused while the Guide makes the change of symbols and continues when he observes that the Guide has opened the hoodwink.

PRESIDENT

The diploma is the tangible symbol of that which we seek. It is emblematic of a continuing quest for culture. The immediate goal is

the acquisition of that education which merits the award of the graduation diploma, an attainment to which every Sigma Phi Epsilon must aspire. But knowledge is not absolute; its pursuit is unending. We cannot end our search for truth when we leave academic walls, but must continue it throughout life--an ideal never achieved; an accomplishment never wholly attained.

The Guide closes the hoodwink and replaces the diploma. The candidate remains standing facing the Chaplain's Station.

PRESIDENT

Remember, then, the hourglass and the diploma, symbols of the second cardinal principle of Sigma Phi Epsilon: **DILIGENCE**, without which nothing can be accomplished and with which all things are possible.

The Guide conducts the candidate slowly about the room as the President continues, and the Senior Marshal gets prepared to assist the Guide in lowering the candidate.

PRESIDENT

On our journey through life we encounter many difficulties. Therefore to **VIRTUE** and **DILIGENCE**, Sigma Phi Epsilon adds another principle: **BROTHERLY LOVE**, true friendship. With true hearts let us be shields of defense to those less able to bear their burdens. That we may aid our brothers, let us bind our hearts with ties of fraternal love, for in unity there is strength.

The President should pause to make certain that the candidate is in proper position, about three paces from the President's Table and facing it. The Senior Marshal steps to the side of the candidate to assist the Guide in lowering him.

At the phrase, "fall by the wayside," the Guide and the Senior Marshal each place a foot behind the candidate's heels (or hold his ankles firmly) and the Junior Marshal assists in lowering him slowly to the floor. The candidate remains on the floor untouched by the Senior Marshal, Junior Marshal, and Guide for 10-20 seconds before the President continues, "let it be a brother..." (This action may be omitted in the case of a candidate for honorary or alumni membership.)

PRESIDENT

Should a brother fall by the wayside...let it be a brother in Sigma Phi Epsilon who first comes to his aid.

The candidate is raised to his feet by the Guide and Senior Marshal and brought to within one pace of the President's Table.

At the phrase, "lest his conscience prick him," the Guide lightly touches the candidate with the dull end of a flat wooden toothpick. After each use the toothpick is to be discarded.

At the phrase, "and his heart cease to beat," the Guide taps the candidate three times lightly over the heart simulating heart beats.

PRESIDENT

In times of happiness a man needs a brother to rejoice with him. In times of sorrow he needs a brother to console him. When he fails, he needs a brother to forgive him and when he is alone, to offer him friendship. The ties of fraternal love are binding and holy. Let our brother never violate or abuse them, lest his conscience prick him...and his heart cease to beat...in accord with those of his brother, for we are admonished to, "Be kindly affectionate one to another with brotherly love; in honor preferring one another."*

The candidate is again conducted slowly around the room and brought to within about three paces of the President's Table. The Senior Marshal steps to the side of the candidate to assist the Guide in lowering him.

Following the phrase, "Should a brother fall into the hands of enemies," the candidate is seized, and lowered to the floor (in the same manner as before) by the Guide, the Senior Marshal, and the Junior Marshal. (This action may be omitted in the case of a candidate for honorary or alumni membership.) The Junior Marshal gets the greasepaint pencil. The President pauses until this action is completed, and the pencil is removed from the candidate, continues.

*Romans 12:10

*Romans 12:10

PRESIDENT

Should a brother fall into the hands of enemies...his brothers will hasten to his aid and on the Token and Sign of Sigma Phi Epsilon rescue him from those who would do him harm.

The Guide kneels down beside the candidate (stands before honorary candidate) and gives him the following instructions in a clearly audible voice.

GUIDE

You will repeat after me the Token, M _____.

CANDIDATE

M _____.

GUIDE

The interpretation of the Token is, "The _____." The Sign, which is the grip, is given in this manner: (The Guide demonstrates the grip with the candidate.)

The Guide demonstrates the grip by picking up the right hand of the candidate and proceeds to demonstrate the Sign, making sure that the element of secrecy is maintained as well as possible by placing his left hand over the grip.

At a signal from the Guide that the demonstration of the grip is completed, the Junior Marshal hands the greasepaint pencil to the Guide. The President continues.

PRESIDENT

Let our brother ever remember the ideals of VIRTUE, DILIGENCE, and BROTHERLY LOVE, which are cherished by Sigma Phi Epsilon and will mark him as we now do in fact a brother in SIGMA...

The President pauses while the Guide marks the letter "Sigma" on the candidate's right breast with the greasepaint pencil.

PRESIDENT

PHI...

The above procedure is repeated with the letter "Phi" being marked on the middle of the candidate's breast.

PRESIDENT
EPSILON...

3
The above procedure is repeated with the letter "Epsilon" being marked on the candidate's left breast. Then the Presidents TAPS THREE TIMES and all members rise. The candidate is assisted to his feet by the Guide and Senior Marshal and moved to within three paces of the President's Table and facing it. All members form a semicircle with the Marshals at the ends far enough away from the President's Table to permit easy access to the candidate. The members cross arms and clasp hands in a simulation of the grip, holding this formation until the end of the ceremony. The following arrangement must be closely observed. The President comes from behind the President's Table and stands directly in front of it facing the candidate. The Vice-President stands to the left of the candidate with the ribbon with badge mounted upon it ready to place it upon the candidate at the proper moment. The Guide stands directly behind the candidate ready to remove the hoodwink at the proper moment.

PRESIDENT

As your brothers have recorded your commitment to our ideals, so should you record theirs, for high ideals are the building blocks of civilization and striving for those ideals constitutes the essence of human progress. Be warned that to espouse high ideals is to invite many failures to attain them. But know, too, that to espouse no ideals is to become a cynic without principle.

Sigma Phi Epsilon and its Badge stand for high ideals to be sought after and served...May you always be found in the service of the ideals symbolized by the heart we now place on you.

The Vice-President places the ribbon with the badge on the candidate's right shoulder. The following words the President should be memorized.

PRESIDENT

May you never bring dishonor nor disgrace upon Sigma Phi Epsilon. May you forever guard and keep with the silence of the Sphinx the secrets here unfolded to you. May you forever foster and support the cardinal principles and truths of Sigma Phi Epsilon. May you so live and act that we shall always, as now, be glad to grasp you by the hand...and call you Brother.

At the word "Brother" the President takes the candidate's right hand in a regular handshake and the Guide removes the hoodwink. Exact timing here is extremely important.

ALL BROTHERS

We hail thee, Brother!

The President expresses a word of welcome (not congratulations) to the new member and then turns him to the Vice-President who does likewise. The Vice-President then turns him to the Senior Marshal who stands at the end of the semicircle to his left. The semicircle is then closed into a circle while the Fraternity Anthem is sung through once and then hummed while the new initiate is conducted around the inside of the circle by the Guide. The members drop their crossed arms and clasped hands as the new initiate shakes hands (regular hand shake) with and receives words of welcome from the members. All members continue to hold their positions until the new member has been welcomed by all present, and then conducted out of the initiation room by the Guide and returned to his private room, being careful that none of the other candidates see him. There he remains to dress and await the third section of the initiation. It is advised that the new initiate shall not return to witness subsequent initiations until he has heard the interpretation. **THERE MUST BE NO RELAXATION OF FORMALITY IN THE INITIATION ROOM UNTIL THE NEW MEMBER IS OUT OF THE ROOM.**

Section III
INITIATION CEREMONY

Part IV
INTERPRETATION

INSTRUCTIONS

When the Initiation Room is prepared for the Interpretation, chairs for the new members are arranged in rows across the middle of the room facing the President's Table. All items of paraphernalia should be in their proper place. In addition, the set of Insignia Illustrations should be on the President's Table.

All members are standing as the new members are escorted into the Initiation Room by the Guide and are seated in the chairs facing the President's Table. The officers take their stations and the other brothers take seats around the room upon the tap of the President's gavel. Quiet and order are restored before proceeding with the third section of initiation.

INTERPRETATION

It is suggested that an alumnus or elder member of the Chapter give the Interpretation, in which case the President will say:

PRESIDENT

I shall now call upon Brother _____ to give the Interpretation.

The President, after recognizing the lecturer, takes another seat and the lecturer assumes the President's position behind the President's Table.

LECTURER

Brother President.

If the President is to give the Interpretation, he remains seated and proceeds.

LECTURER (or PRESIDENT)

My brothers, the ceremony through which you have just passed constitutes the second section of the initiation ceremony of Sigma Phi Epsilon. In this ceremony we have endeavored to impress upon you the ideals for which Sigma Phi Epsilon stands, namely, VIRTUE, DILIGENCE, and BROTHERLY LOVE. Specifically, the Bible tells us, "...giving all DILIGENCE, add to your faith, VIRUTE; and to virtue, knowledge; And to knowledge, temperance; and to temperance, patience; and to patience, godliness; And to godliness, BROTHERLY KINDNESS; and to brotherly kindness, LOVE."*

In order that you may have a fuller understanding of the usages, teachings and philosophy of our fraternity, we shall now explain and interpret that which you have just experienced.

Before being conducted into our presence, you were questioned as to your motives in seeking membership among us. You assured us that you were not moved by worldly motives, which was essential, for our

* II Peter 1:5-7

brotherhood is dedicated to altruistic principles and has no place for sordid selfishness.

While we represent no special sect, creed nor doctrine, we believe that the Bible is one work which embodies the philosophies of fraternalism which it is our object to promote. We informed you that we did not demand allegiance to any particular creed but that we do demand allegiance to this philosophy of fraternalism. You assured us that you believe that life has a meaning and purpose and that you understood and were committed to the responsibilities we all have to our fellow men as they are embodied in our cardinal principles. Without his assurance, we would not have proceeded further.

You were then caused to give the proper signals at the door, for without those signals no one can gain admittance to our ritual meetings. After you were admitted, the Guide conducted you before the Vice-President, who instructed you to pray and purify yourself. You were presented with a goblet of water emblematic of your purification.

You were then conducted before the president, who asked what you desired of the brotherhood of Sigma Phi Epsilon. Prompted by your Guide, you replied in these words, H _____ F _____ F _____

You were then told that the Bible and the *Ritual and Guide of Sigma Phi Epsilon* embody much of the same philosophy. This philosophy teaches us the principles upon which our fraternity is based, and that you must take the solemn, sacred, and binding Oath of Sigma Phi Epsilon embodying these principles. After you had signified your willingness to take the Oath, you advanced three steps to kneel on both knees. The steps are emblematic of the advancement of a brother in the three principles of VIRTUE, DILIGENCE, AND BROTHERLY LOVE. You then sealed your vow to support our principles by taking the Oath which is required of all members of Sigma Phi Epsilon.

I particularly remind you of that portion of the Oath in which you said, "I vow upon my honor that I will never permit the name of Sigma Phi Epsilon to be dishonored by any act of my own or of another's if within my power to prevent it."

Live up to your Oath of Obligation and you will prosper in your home, your country, and your God.

After the Oath was administered you were conducted slowly around the room, symbolic of your journey through life.

daily; sometimes in the sunlight of joy and happiness; sometimes enveloped in the clouds of misfortune and sorrow; at times beset with temptations, trials and strife. But the principles of Sigma Phi Epsilon, VIRTUE, DILIGENCE, and BROTHERLY LOVE, will lead you to triumph over all adversity.

The first principle is VIRTUE. It is the preserver of strength and the essence of wisdom. Impurity of mind and body lead only to dishonor and degradation. The Sword of Virtue shattered the chains of cynicism and selfishness.

The second principle is DILIGENCE. It is the aim of our brotherhood to encourage each member to make the most of his opportunities while in college. As the grains of sand slip through the hourglass, so glide the precious moments and once gone they and their opportunities are beyond recall. While the diploma is the symbol of that which we seek, you should be ever mindful that knowledge is not absolute but that its pursuit is unending.

The third principle is BROTHERLY LOVE. In your journey along the path of life you were tripped, but your fraternity brother at your side aided and assisted you. This was to teach you that it is expected you will aid a brother when he is in need. The ties of fraternal love are binding and holy. Let not a brother violate nor abuse them lest his conscience prick him and his heart cease to beat in accord with the hearts of his brothers.

Toward the end of your journey, as you were blindly groping your way about, you were seized and lowered to the floor. A brother came to your aid and, upon the Token and Sign of Sigma Phi Epsilon, rescued you from those who would do you harm. The Token, which is the password, is a memorial of friendship. The Sign, which is the grip, is a proof of friendship.

Having proved yourself worthy of our fraternity, the Greek symbols of H _____ F _____ F _____ were in effect inscribed on your chest. The at the willing hands of your fraternity brothers you received the emblem of eternal brotherhood, the golden heart of Sigma Phi Epsilon.

As the heart is the source of life and the most essential part of our organism, so it is the seat of our affections, moral life, character, energetic and effective action, and of the better phases of our natures. It is, therefore, chosen as a fitting emblem of Sigma Phi Epsilon.

A Marshal is designated by the President to pick up the insignia illustration to indicate the significance of the badge.

The Shield Mounted on the Heart (*Marshal indicates with pencil or pointer*) is indicative of defense, shelter and protection that we should ever extend to the weak. The Greek letters Sigma, Phi, and Epsilon on the shield represent the motto of the fraternity, H_____ F_____. The color of the shield signifies the secrecy and mystery of our brotherhood. The Skull and Bones indicate the penalty for the violation of your Oath of Obligation.

The designated Marshal replaces the insignia illustrations.

The column on my right (*indicates Corinthian column*), which is the Corinthian column, teaches us that we should be ever just and upright. The column on my left (*indicates broken Doric column*), which is the broken Doric column, should impress upon us that life is transitory and may be abruptly ended at any time. I especially call your attention to the Bible which embodies the philosophies of fraternalism which it is our objective to promote.

KEYNOTE—

The keynote of the fraternity contains all the secret work and essential information that a brother should know.

This fraternity shall be known as the Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity, the initial letters Sigma, Phi, and Epsilon signifying the words, H_____ F_____ F_____.

Remember, my brothers, that a Token is a memorial of friendship and a Sign is a proof of friendship. The Token is the password, M_____. The interpretation of the password is "The _____." Whenever the password is given, the one receiving it will reply by giving the interpretation. Both the password and interpretation are always, except upon occasions as this, spoken mouth to ear, audible only to the two brothers exchanging the words. Neither is ever printed or written as such in any of our communications or publications. Should a brother ever need to refresh his memory the password and interpretation may be found in the Book of _____ Chapter _____, Verse _____, of the Bible.

The Sign is the grip and is given only after the exchange of password and interpretation. By it are formed the three Greek letters, Sigma, Phi, and Epsilon, the significance of which you now will learn.

The Marshals will demonstrate the grip as I describe it.

The two Marshals take their positions in front of the President's Table, well apart, facing each other. Waiting for the directions of the Lecturer, they execute the grip slowly and step by step as each part is described by the Lecturer in the following paragraph.

The Grip is given by clasping the second and third fingers of the other's right hand with the second and third fingers of one's own right hand, extending the index finger to the radial artery of the wrist, the little finger to the corresponding vein of the same; the thumb of each resting between the other's thumb and index finger, and the left hand of each shielding the grip from disclosure to any witness. (*The Marshals cover the grip with their left hands.*)

The Grip is a combination of the letters, Sigma, Phi, and Epsilon, and signifies, H_____ F_____ F_____.

The Junior Marshal, who stands to the Lecturer's left, now traces the letters as the Lecturer continues.

The Sigma can be identified by tracing from the knuckle of your index finger to the tip, down opponent's thumb to the tip, down your thumb to the tip, and then from knuckle of opponent's index finger to the tip.

The Phi is formed by the brim of the inner side of the opposing hands when the thumbs are raised.

The Epsilon is formed by the knuckles as a base, the index and little fingers as two equal extremities, and the two middle fingers as the short extremity.

The grip is indicative of the relationship existing between brothers in Sigma Phi Epsilon, being as it is symbolic of the heart to heart touch. The index finger being placed on the radial artery is significant of the heart feeling we have toward each other. The little finger touching the returning vein is significant of the completion of the cycle from heart to artery, artery to vein, vein to heart. thus the Grip recalls the motto of the fraternity: H_____ F_____ F_____.

The Lecturer dismisses the two Marshals, who resume their seats. The Lecturer will demonstrate the knocks by rapping on the table.

A brother desiring admittance to a ritual meeting will give three knocks on the door, a pause, and then one knock. The Guard will reply with one knock, a pause, and then three knocks. The brother will reply with two knocks, a pause, and then two knocks. The Guard will open the door, take the password from the brother, and if found correct he will give the interpretation and then the grip. This being found correct, the brother will be admitted.

The flowers of the fraternity are purple violets and dark red roses.

The colors of the fraternity are purple and dark red.

The designated Marshal picks up the Pledge Badge insignia and indicates with pencil or pointer as the Lecturer describes it.

The significance of the Pledge Badge is as follows:

The Ducal Crown signifies the crown of glory, the Star signifies the star of hope. The Greek word e-g-g-u-a, pronounced engeea, means pledge.

The designated Marshal turns to the illustration of the Coat of Arms and the Lecturer continues.

The Sigma Phi Epsilon Coat of Arms consists of the crest, the shield or escutcheon, and the motto mounted on a scroll or ribbon.

The shield or escutcheon is purple and dark red, or the color of our blood as it flows to and from our hearts. The purple alludes to temperance in all things and the sovereignty of friendship, while the red signifies courage, magnanimity and sacrifice. These virtues are reinforced by the gold crown beneath the glorious rays for sovereignty, and in the Greek fashion by the Cross making us ever mindful of our Oath of Obligation.

The lamp teaches one to be ever diligent in his search for knowledge and to endeavor to share its light and warmth in the joys of friendship. The star represents that stardom of hope or aspiration as a factor of friendship, while the sword of virtue teaches us to be manlier, ever willing to defend and protect that friendship when once attained.

The motto is composed of the three Greek letters, Sigma, Phi, and Epsilon, which signify, H _____ F _____ F _____.

The designated Marshal picks up and points to the illustration of the Alumnus Ducal Crown Emblem, and the Lecturer continues.

The Ducal Crown beneath the glorious rays for sovereignty is the official Alumni Emblem and Recognition Pin.

The designated Marshal puts the insignia illustrations aside and the Lecturer concludes.

My Brothers, we have now completed the formal procedures in which all members who have previously joined our Fraternity have participated, the celebration of membership that is part of the common bond of brotherhood in Sigma Phi Epsilon. You will remember that during the examination before the initiation ceremony you were told, "Be alert, for you will be examined." The purpose of such an examination is to aid you toward knowledge and understanding of the ideals and principles of your Fraternity and of the symbolism of the ritual. You will be given an opportunity to study The Ritual and Guide in preparing for the examination which should be completed before you are asked to take part in future ritual ceremonies.

My Brothers, with the foregoing explanation and interpretation of your recent experience, you will now find yourself both fully informed and completely endowed with all the Rights, Privileges, and Duties that comprise full membership in Sigma Phi Epsilon.

The Rights and privileges of which I speak are those of an equal voice with your brothers in the activities of this, your active chapter, during your undergraduate days; a similar position in your alumni chapter after graduation and the assured welcome among your fraternity brothers everywhere for you are from this day forward a Sigma Phi Epsilon for life.

You may henceforth take your seat among your brothers. Be true to Sigma Phi Epsilon, and Sigma Phi Epsilon shall be a source of eternal inspiration to you.

The Lecturer then turns the meeting back to the President, who proceeds with the closing ceremonies as soon as the newly initiated members have taken their seats with the other members.

INSTRUCTIONS

The Examination of a candidate for initiation concludes with these words, "Be alert for you will be examined." In order to fulfill this directive all new initiates will be asked to answer a series of questions pertaining to the initiation and meeting just experienced.

The Postinitiation Study questions are to be given within two weeks after completion of the initiation interpretation. The answers to the questions are to be first written with the five copies of the RITUAL AND GUIDE OF SIGMA PHI EPSILON FRATERNITY available for reference. A thorough discussion should follow with at least the executive and ritualistic officers present. Written answers must not leave the examination room and will be destroyed by the President after the discussion is terminated.

In addition to the Postinitiation questions, each new initiate should be familiar with the vocabulary listed in Section V. The new initiate must memorize the Oath of Obligation.

THE PREPARATION ROOM

1. Why were the preparation questions asked of you? Did the examination help you; if so, how?
2. What is the meaning of self-aggrandizement? Why lay it aside?
3. What is the meaning of altruism? Why require it?
4. The second question asks about belief that life has a meaning and a purpose. What difference does it make whether or not you believe in such a concept?
5. The third question says you will be required to work. What kind of work? What difference does it make whether or not you do your share of the work?

THE OBLIGATION

1. Outline in your own words the promise you made at the President's Table.
2. Discuss the importance of each promise as it applies to you while in college and in later life.
3. What is the significance of the Bible on the President's Table?
4. What is your personal obligation to the chapter, the college, and particularly to yourself after taking the vows?

THE PRINCIPLES

1. Name the three great principles of Sigma Phi Epsilon. Discuss the meaning of each.
2. Give special thought to Brotherhood. How can you help develop brotherhood in the chapter? What difference will it make to you whether or not you help build true brotherhood?

THE REGULAR MEETING

1. What is the proper combination of knocks to enter a regular chapter meeting?
2. What is the password? Its interpretation? Where is it found in the Bible?
3. When is the grip given?
4. Who stands when the President taps his gavel once at the beginning of a regular meeting? When he taps three times?
5. What is the significance of the opening prayer?
6. "What is the duty of every Sigma Phi Epsilon?" How does it apply to you as a member?
7. What is the significance of the Motto of the fraternity?
8. Do you expect each meeting of the chapter to inspire you? Why or why not?
9. How will the results of each meeting depend on you?

THE EQUIPMENT

1. Why was the chain placed on the candidate? What is the significance of its removal?
2. What is the significance of the hourglass?
3. What are the meanings of the columns on the President's Table?
4. Interpret the emblem of Sigma Phi Epsilon.
5. Describe and interpret the pledge badge; the coat of arms; the fraternity flowers and colors.
6. Who is in charge of the ritual equipment?

Section V VOCABULARY

VOCABULARY

- Admonish (ād-mōn'ish): to remind; warn; to warn of a fault.
- Aggrandizement (ā-grān'dīz-mēnt): to make great or greater; as in power, rank, honor, or wealth.
- Altruistic (āl'trōō-is'tik): unselfish; regard for and devotion to, the interest of others.
- Aspirant (ās-pīr'ānt): one who seeks advancement; honors.
- Degradation (dēg'rā-dā'shūn): reduction in rank; debasement, disgrace.
- Ducal (dōō'k'l): of a duke.
- Epithet (ēp'ithēt): a descriptive adjective, noun or phrase, often complimentary; accompanying or occurring in the place of the name of a person or thing.
- Escutcheon (ēs-kūch'ūn): shield shaped surface upon which a coat of arms is depicted.
- Fetters (fēt'ērs): a bond; anything that restrains; shackle.
- Magnanimity (māg'na-nim'i-ti): a loftiness of spirit enabling one to bear trouble calmly; to make sacrifices for worthy ends.
- Sloth (slōth): laziness, indolence.
- Sordid (sōr'did): filthy; dirty; despicable.
- Sublime (süb-līm'): upraised; lofty; splendid; exalted.
- Transitory (trān'si-tō'rī): not lasting, brief, transient.
- Yahweh (yā'we): the Israelite name for God, etymologically, I AM WHO I AM. See Exodus 3:14, Revised Standard Version, The Holy Bible.