

Looking Back:

A Seventy-Fifth Anniversary History of Phi Eta Sigma National Honor Society

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Phi Eta Sigma National Honor Society, Inc.

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Dedication

To the great figures of Phi Eta Sigma from the founders to the present day, whose vision, inspiration, wisdom, and dedication have led the society to greatness, and to the countless numbers of chapter advisers through the years to the present day, whose service has provided the continuity that is the foundation upholding the leaders' great achievements, this history joyfully and respectfully is dedicated.

Acknowledgements

The initiating step toward producing this work was to investigate the record of the past of Phi Eta Sigma. The records of that past comprise the archives of Phi Eta Sigma on deposit in the archives of the University of Illinois, where the society was founded in 1923. Grand Historian-Emeritus Gaylord Hatch facilitated this researcher's initial access to the organization's records and the happy voyage to the past began. Deep indebtedness is acknowledged to Gaylord Hatch for wit, wisdom, memory, and guidance in fashioning the opening chapter of the history. As grand historian emeritus, Gaylord continued through the years of the project to provide insight, the perspective of memory, and support with materials from his own library.

Mr. John Straw, director of the Archive Research Center at the University of Illinois-Urbana, provided constant guidance and support in my utilization of this outstanding archival research facility. Occasional support in locating and facilitating access to archival resources, received from Mrs. Pan Shuangqin, presently of Beijing, China, is gratefully acknowledged. The continuing support and enthusiastic encouragement of the national Executive Committee and especially of Grand Secretary-Treasurer John W. Sagabiel—"Sag" to all—is simply acknowledged as the crucial factor in the production of this history. Special acknowledgement is appropriate for the outstanding assistance in composition and editing provided by Mrs. Susan Foy Spratling. And finally, appreciation must be extended to acknowledge the support provided by Marge Sagabiel and the staff of the national office of Phi Eta Sigma, who over the years patiently and professionally transformed my manuscripts into the printed record.

Preface

This seventy-fifth anniversary history of Phi Eta Sigma is the outgrowth of a conversation that occurred between this author and Grand President John W. Sagabiel on a sunny Saturday afternoon in mid-October outside the Purdue Union during the thirty-first national convention of Phi Eta Sigma at Purdue University in October 1992. President Sagabiel expressed to me his vision, which he had voiced first at the Akron Convention in 1988, of a retrospective history of Phi Eta Sigma to be created for the observance of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the society that would occur in 1998. He wanted to present such a work at the national convention, the thirty-fourth, that would be held during the diamond anniversary year. To occur prior to that event, he saw a series of installments appearing in *Forum of Phi Eta Sigma* that would be gathered together afterward and edited into the full history. This author responded with interest in that vision, expressing willingness to participate in realizing it. Now, six years later, it is accomplished, a work for this researcher that has been rewarding beyond the power of expression. But the fundamental nurture comprising that reward has been the hands-on archival research that has brought me into contact through their records with so many admirable persons.

Their labors of love now are history.

Bloomington, Illinois
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