

Finding Aid for the Phi Beta Kappa Honorary Society Records

Descriptive Summary

Repository: University Archives, Department of Special Collections, Washington University Libraries, One Brookings Drive, Campus Box 1061, St. Louis, MO 63130, Telephone: (314) 935-5444 or (314) 935-9730, Fax (314) 935-8320, e-mail: spec@wumail.wustl.edu, website: <http://library.wustl.edu/units/spec/archives>

Creator: Phi Beta Kappa Honorary Society, Washington University.

Title: Phi Beta Kappa Honorary Society Records.

Dates: 1912 – 2006.

Quantity: 3.5 cubic feet.

Languages: English.

Historical Note

Phi Beta Kappa is the nation's oldest honorary society, founded in 1776 at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia. It one of the most prestigious honorary societies for the liberal arts in the United States.

Phi Beta Kappa was the earliest society to adopt Greek letters for a name. These are taken from the first letters of the Greek phrase *Philosophia Biou Kubernetes*, translated as *The Love of Wisdom, the Helmsman of Life*.

The goal of Phi Beta Kappa is to encourage humane learning, a goal which includes not merely superior achievement but also a broad range of interests in the liberal arts, depth of understanding, and a high regard for intellectual honesty and tolerance.

The Washington University Chapter (Beta of Missouri) was established in 1914. Each spring the chapter elects new undergraduate members from among students pursuing degrees in the College of Arts & Sciences.

Scope and Content Notes

This collection consists of correspondence, reports, bulletins, publications and membership manuals that chronicle the history of the Phi Beta Kappa Chapter at Washington University in St. Louis.

Arrangement

The collection is divided into 2 series, and then arranged in alphabetical order.

Series 01: General Chapter Information, 1912 – 2006

Series 02: Membership Information, 1917 – 1993

Administrative Information

Source of Collection

This material was initially donated by Phi Beta Kappa Chapter to the University Archives in 1966 with additional material donated in 2011.

Accruals

Accruals are interfiled with the collection.

Processing Information

Compiled by Jay Kempen and Leela Pandey in September 2005; Additional processing by Ashley Eckhardt in June 2011.

Restrictions

Access Restrictions

There are no restrictions to access.

Use Restrictions

Users of the collection must read and abide by the Rules for the Use of University Archives Materials.

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Collection Contents

Series 01: General Chapter Information, 1912 – 2006

Box No.	Folder
01	Annals of Phi Beta Kappa, 1934
	Annual Reports, 1952 – 1999
	Chapter Bulletin, 1934 – 1935
	Committee Reports, 1918 – 1929, undated
	Constitution and By – Laws (Original), 1913
	Constitution and By – Laws, 1931 – 1949
	Constitution and By – Laws: Amendments, 1941 – 1974
	Correspondence, 1912 – 1913

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Correspondence (Folder 1), 1956 – 1957

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Correspondence, 1957 – 1958

Correspondence, 1958 – 1959

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Correspondence, 1960 – 1961

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Delegate's Manual – United Chapters of Phi Beta Kappa, 1940

Dues, 1957

Engraved Printing Plate for Certificates, undated

Essay Contest, 1941

Essay Contest, 1942

Faculty Members, 1958

Free Lance – Vol. 4, No. 4, 1966

Key Reporter, 1936 – 1940

Key Reporter, 1942 – 1958

Key Reporter, 2006

Minutes of Meetings, 1913 – 1925

Minutes of Meetings, 1930 – 1940

Officers' Manual (Folder 1), 1959 – 1964

Officers' Manual (Folder 2), 1959 – 1964

Original Phi Beta Kappa Records from 1776 to 1781, 1919

Phi Beta Kappa Associates – An Interpretation, 1940

Phi Beta Kappa Bulletin, 1937 – 1956

Phi Beta Kappa Bulletin, 1958 – 1959

Phi Beta Kappa Key – Vol. 2, Nos. 1 – 4, 1913 – 1914

Phi Beta Kappa Key – Vol. 2, Nos. 5 – 8, 1914 – 1915

- Phi Beta Kappa Key – Vol. 2, Nos. 9 – 12, 1915 – 1916
- Phi Beta Kappa Key – Vol. 3, Nos. 1 – 4, 1916 – 1917
- Phi Beta Kappa Key – Vol. 3, Nos. 5 – 8, 1917 – 1918
- Phi Beta Kappa Key – Vol. 3, Nos. 9 – 12, 1918 – 1919
- 03 Phi Beta Kappa Key – Vol. 4, Nos. 1;3;5, 1919 – 1920
- Phi Beta Kappa Key – Vol. 4, Nos. 7 – 11, 1921 – 1922
- Phi Beta Kappa Key – Vol. 5, No. 6, 1921
- Phi Beta Kappa Key – Vol. 6, Nos. 3; 6; 9; 11; 12, 1926 – 1928
- Phi Beta Kappa Key – Vol. 7, Nos. 1 – 4, 1928
- Phi Beta Kappa Key – Vol. 7, Nos. 5 – 8, 1929 – 1930
- Phi Beta Kappa Key – Vol. 7, Nos. 9 – 12 and
Final Number, 1930 – 1931
- Programs – Phi Beta Kappa Addresses, 1940 – 1947
- Reports to United Chapters, 1937 – 1951
- Society of the Sigma Xi – Scientific Research, 1947
- Society of America
- Words and Music by Robert Burton House – Phi Beta, 1959
Kappa Address, North Carolina

Series 02: Membership Information, 1917 – 1993

Box No.	Folder
01	List of Members in the St. Louis Area, 1934
	Member Handbooks, circa 1928 – 1961
	Membership and Candidate Rosters, 1937 – 1943
	Registration Cards, 1973 – 1982

Registry, 1941 – 1960

Registry, 1963 – 1976

Registry, 1977 – 1993

02 Membership Cards, 1917 – 1972