

**AMERICAN COLLEGE FRATERNITIES: A
DESCRIPTIVE ANALYSIS OF THE
SOCIETY SYSTEM IN THE COLLEGES OF
THE UNITED STATES, WITH A DETAILED
ACCOUNT OF EACH FRATERNITE**

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American College Fraternities: A Descriptive Analysis of the Society System in the Colleges of the United States, with a Detailed Account of Each Fraternite by Wm. Raimond Baird

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1879.

and $\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \mathbf{v}_3, \mathbf{v}_4$ are the eigenvectors of \mathbf{A} corresponding to the eigenvalues $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \lambda_3, \lambda_4$.

Since \mathbf{A} is symmetric, the eigenvectors $\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \mathbf{v}_3, \mathbf{v}_4$ are orthogonal to each other.

Let $\mathbf{P} = [\mathbf{v}_1 \ \mathbf{v}_2 \ \mathbf{v}_3 \ \mathbf{v}_4]$ and $\mathbf{D} = \text{diag}(\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \lambda_3, \lambda_4)$. Then

$\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{P}\mathbf{D}\mathbf{P}^T$ and $\mathbf{P}^{-1} = \mathbf{P}^T$.

Let $\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{P}^T\mathbf{x}$. Then $\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{P}\mathbf{D}\mathbf{P}^T\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{P}\mathbf{D}\mathbf{y}$.

Let $\mathbf{z} = \mathbf{D}\mathbf{y}$. Then $\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{P}\mathbf{z}$.

Let $\mathbf{w} = \mathbf{P}^{-1}\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}$. Then $\mathbf{w} = \mathbf{D}\mathbf{y}$.

Let $\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{P}^{-1}\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}$. Then $\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{D}\mathbf{y}$.

Let $\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{P}^{-1}\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}$. Then $\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{D}\mathbf{y}$.

Let $\mathbf{t} = \mathbf{P}^{-1}\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}$. Then $\mathbf{t} = \mathbf{D}\mathbf{y}$.

Let $\mathbf{s} = \mathbf{P}^{-1}\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}$. Then $\mathbf{s} = \mathbf{D}\mathbf{y}$.

Let $\mathbf{r} = \mathbf{P}^{-1}\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}$. Then $\mathbf{r} = \mathbf{D}\mathbf{y}$.

Let $\mathbf{q} = \mathbf{P}^{-1}\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}$. Then $\mathbf{q} = \mathbf{D}\mathbf{y}$.

Let $\mathbf{p} = \mathbf{P}^{-1}\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}$. Then $\mathbf{p} = \mathbf{D}\mathbf{y}$.

Let $\mathbf{o} = \mathbf{P}^{-1}\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}$. Then $\mathbf{o} = \mathbf{D}\mathbf{y}$.

Let $\mathbf{n} = \mathbf{P}^{-1}\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}$. Then $\mathbf{n} = \mathbf{D}\mathbf{y}$.

Let $\mathbf{m} = \mathbf{P}^{-1}\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}$. Then $\mathbf{m} = \mathbf{D}\mathbf{y}$.

Let $\mathbf{l} = \mathbf{P}^{-1}\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}$. Then $\mathbf{l} = \mathbf{D}\mathbf{y}$.

Let $\mathbf{k} = \mathbf{P}^{-1}\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}$. Then $\mathbf{k} = \mathbf{D}\mathbf{y}$.

Let $\mathbf{j} = \mathbf{P}^{-1}\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}$. Then $\mathbf{j} = \mathbf{D}\mathbf{y}$.

Let $\mathbf{i} = \mathbf{P}^{-1}\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}$. Then $\mathbf{i} = \mathbf{D}\mathbf{y}$.

Let $\mathbf{h} = \mathbf{P}^{-1}\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}$. Then $\mathbf{h} = \mathbf{D}\mathbf{y}$.

Let $\mathbf{g} = \mathbf{P}^{-1}\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}$. Then $\mathbf{g} = \mathbf{D}\mathbf{y}$.

Let $\mathbf{f} = \mathbf{P}^{-1}\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}$. Then $\mathbf{f} = \mathbf{D}\mathbf{y}$.

Let $\mathbf{e} = \mathbf{P}^{-1}\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}$. Then $\mathbf{e} = \mathbf{D}\mathbf{y}$.

Let $\mathbf{d} = \mathbf{P}^{-1}\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}$. Then $\mathbf{d} = \mathbf{D}\mathbf{y}$.

AMERICAN COLLEGE FRATERNITIES.

GREEK-LETTER FRATERNITIES.

THEIR ORIGIN, PROGRESS, MANNERS, CUSTOMS, ETC.

COLLEGE students have always shown a more or less marked tendency to form themselves into societies. Whether founded upon a national, literary, or social basis, these organizations seem to have been coeval with the colleges themselves. Throughout the United States there is a class of students' societies, usually secret in their character, which rapidly grew in favor, and have become of great importance in the college world. They are composed of lodges or branches placed in the several colleges, united by a common bond of friendship and a common name, generally composed of Greek letters. From this latter fact they are known among non-collegians as "Greek-Letter Societies," or, more frequently, from their secrecy, "College Secret Societies," but among themselves they are styled "Fraternities." Before tracing their origin and progress it will be well to give some description of their customs and practices.

The name of each fraternity is composed of two or three Greek letters, as Kappa Alpha, Chi Phi, Alpha Delta Phi, Beta Theta Pi. These letters commonly represent a motto, unknown to all but the fraternity's

members, which indicates the purposes, aims, or actions of the organization. The lodges situated in various colleges are affiliated, and are, with one or two exceptions, termed "Chapters." The chapters receive various names, sometimes of the Greek letters in the order of their establishment, as Alpha, Beta, Gamma, Delta, etc.; sometimes without any apparent order, as Theta, Delta, Beta, Gamma, in which case the chapter letter is generally the initial of some word peculiar to the college. Sometimes they are named from the colleges, as Union Chapter, Hamilton Chapter, or from the college towns, as Waterville Chapter, Middletown Chapter. In one case, at least, all these systems are departed from, and the chapter is named after some prominent member. When chapters have become so numerous that the letters of the alphabet are exhausted, they are combined, either by chance, as Theta Zeta, Beta Chi, or by design, in the addition of supplementary letters, as Alpha Alpha, Alpha Beta, Alpha Gamma, etc., or Alpha Beta, Beta Beta, Gamma Beta. In other cases a regular system is employed, and some word or words used to denote the repetition, as Alpha deuterion, Beta deuterion, or, in case the alphabet is being used for the third time, by Alpha triterion, Beta triterion, the supplementary words being generally denoted by their initial letters, Delta and Tau respectively.

The distinctive badges or pins of the fraternities are of three kinds. First, a shield or plate of gold, displaying upon it the fraternity name, together with symbols of general or peculiar significance. This kind of badge is worn as a pin, as a pendant from the watch-chain, or as a watch-key. Secondly, a monogram of the letters com-

posing the name; these pins are by far the handsomest of all, and are almost always jewelled. Thirdly, some symbol representing the name of the society or some of its degrees, as a skull, a harp, or a key.

In addition to the badges, which are worn as pins and attached to the vest or necktie, many of the fraternities have chosen distinctive colors. As the fraternity chapters are generally known by letters, the members of each chapter frequently wear their chapter letter or letters as a guard-pin, and attach it to the badge proper by a tiny chain. When the college colors are worn in connection with the badge, and no fraternity colors are used, the college, chapter, and fraternity of an individual can thus be told at a glance.

Many of the colleges publish what are known as "Annals" or "Year-Books," being undergraduate catalogues, containing lists of the students, class histories, college organizations of various kinds, such as the fraternities, musical, dramatic, athletic, and social clubs, and a few caricatures. The catalogues are always in reality, if not nominally, under the control of the fraternities, and considerable space is devoted to their interests, giving rise to a peculiar class of "posters" or "cuts." These appear opposite the names of the society's members, and consist of a representation of the fraternity name or badge, together with a collection of symbols, the date of founding the fraternity, establishing the chapter, mottoes, etc. This class of pictures is of recent origin, and the style and kind of poster differs with every fraternity and nearly every chapter, ranging from a meaningless landscape to a coat of arms, having, it is true, little heraldic significance, but generally in good taste.

The systems of government in vogue among the fraternities are almost as numerous as the societies themselves. With some, the authority is given entirely into the hands of the parent chapter or some chapter appointed in its stead; with others, the government is carried on by an executive council, chosen by election or in some other way; and with others still, the government is conducted by a grand lodge or by a system of State lodges. In general, however, whenever the fraternities hold conventions, authority of all kinds is vested in that body during its sessions, and with many of the fraternities charters for new chapters can only be granted by these conventions.

These reunions or conventions are made up of delegates from the various chapters. As presiding officer, some old and well-known member is usually chosen, and in addition to the transaction of business, public exercises are held, during which the assembly is addressed, poems are read, etc. The session usually concludes with a more or less expensive banquet. Such meetings make acquainted the students of various colleges, and promote educational interests in many ways.

Within the past ten or fifteen years, it has been the practice of the members of the fraternities not in college residence, when they have been sufficiently numerous, to form alumni chapters, and these graduate chapters of the best known fraternities are now in nearly all the large cities of the country. In some cases, the alumni chapters act in every way like the collegiate chapters, transact business, send delegates to conventions, and hold regular meetings. In others, the chapter is only one in name, an occasional supper or assessment being the only re-

mind which the members will have of its existence. Few, if any, of these non-collegiate chapters admit members to the fraternity.

The oldest and best of the Greek-Letter fraternities publish neat and tasteful catalogues of their members at stated intervals. These catalogues are at times expensive, and are illustrated by one or two steel engravings, and a plate of symbols or coat of arms for each chapter. The members' names are usually arranged alphabetically by classes, or by the years in which they were initiated, and foot-notes indicate the military, political, civil, or collegiate titles of individuals when distinguished. Some of the fraternities also print a series of private symbols, composed of Greek letters, numbers, astronomical and mathematical signs, etc., which denote rank held in the fraternity, the college honors or prizes gained, age, etc., of the person to whose name they are attached. Death is universally denoted by an asterisk (*). The cost of printing such symbols has deterred all but the most wealthy from incurring such an expense, and a catalogue is considered sufficiently complete if it gives the name, residence, occupation, official titles, and class of each member. Song-books are also published, both by fraternities and individual chapters, and the minutes of conventions, reports of officers, historical sketches, supper programmes, poems, and mortuary notices are usually printed.

Many of the fraternities have printed their constitutions and initiation services, but in the case of a secret organization it is a rather hazardous experiment.

The laborious correspondence which a large number of widely-scattered chapters necessitates has of late years