

The Beginning.

History

In 1897 a group of ten students at the University of Maine at Orono, who felt the need for an honor society on broader lines than any then in existence, were helped by interested professors to organize the Lambda Sigma Eta Society. A year or so later the name was changed to the Morrill Society, in honor of the Sponsor of the Congressional Act which provided for land-grant colleges. In 1900 it was transformed into a national society by action of a committee composed of the presidents of the University of Maine at Orono, the University of Tennessee, and Pennsylvania State College (now Pennsylvania State University). The chapters in these institutions were the original chapters and the Society was renamed Phi Kappa Phi, from the initial letters of the Greek words forming its adopted motto: *Philosophía Krateítō Photōn*. "Let the love of learning rule mankind." Phi Kappa Phi currently has chapters in institutions from Maine to the Philippines and from the State of Washington to Puerto Rico.

Symbols

The badge of this Society is a globe against the background of the sun, whose rays form an expansive corona and radiate in eight symmetrical concentrations from behind the globe. These signify equivalence among the various branches of learning and represent the dissemination of truth as light. Encircling the globe is a band containing the Greek letters $\Phi\Lambda\Phi$ (*Phi Kappa Phi*) and symbolizing a fraternal bond which girds the earth and binds the lovers of wisdom in a common purpose.



The ribbon of the Society, bearing at one end the letters $\Phi\Lambda\Phi$, is a meander pattern, which is common in ancient Greek art and which thus symbolizes the classical features of the Society.



The Seal of the Society has at its center the Badge, this in turn is surrounded by a crenelated line which represents the battlements and walls of Troy and which symbolizes a technological aspect of the ancient Greek culture reflected by the Society. In the space between this line and the periphery of the Seal appear three stars just above the Badge, one for each of the three original chapters. Just below the badge is the phrase "Founded 1897."

