

PREFACE

The original Constitution prepared by the parent (Cornell) Chapter was formulated to serve the purposes of a broad organization* so well that at the First General Convention in 1893 it was adopted with only minor amendments by vote of all chapters. Both documents were printed, the first in 1887 and 1888, and the second in 1893.

The policy of the Society in granting charters was incorporated as Appendix I after the Second General Convention in 1895 which also modified the procedure in the foundation of new chapters. Most important of all was the establishment of the Council as the governing body of the organization. The edition including these items was printed in 1895.

The Third General Convention in 1897 abolished the veto power of three negative ballots in the election of new members, and eliminated Greek chapter letters (Appendix III). In 1899 the Fourth General Convention, modified the document to provide for a more satisfactory selection of members; and the Constitution was printed in 1900. This form was reprinted at least thrice: in 1901, 1904, and 1906.

The Ninth General Convention in 1908 again amended the Constitution but it was not reprinted in its new form. In 1911 the Thirteenth General Convention approved amendments providing for non-resident membership and granting greater powers to the Council. This document, printed in 1912, remained unaltered until the last Convention, at which were made changes incorporated in the present pamphlet.

Every convention has seen amendments proposed and vigorously discussed. It is clear that the organic law has undergone constant change in the direction of greater care in the selection of new members and increased power in the hands of the general conventions.

*See Quarter Century Record and History, page 13.