

# Alpha Mu Gamma

## DIVISION IV

### THE ALPHA MU GAMMA RITUAL

#### *GENERAL DIRECTIONS FOR INSTALLATIONS AND INITIATIONS*

1. The installation and initiation ceremonies shall, if possible, take place in the evenings and be followed by a banquet.
2. The room in which the ceremonies take place shall be in candlelight. The candles shall be golden yellow.
3. The room shall be decorated in gold and golden yellow flowers shall be used in the room and on the banquet table.
4. Attendance at the ceremonies shall be limited to the candidates, Full and Honorary Members; the faculty of the foreign language department (or departments), and special guests.
5. Prominent persons may be invited to attend the banquet and to address the members of the Society. These speakers may attend the ceremonies.
6. All of the officers shall be seated behind the table at the front of the room except when the ritual indicates otherwise.

#### *THE RITUAL FOR THE INSTALLATION OF A NEW CHAPTER*

1. The presiding person (preferably the President of the institution or the dean/chair of the foreign language department) shall address the group as follows:

#### *CHARTERING*

Presiding officer (addressing the audience):

*“Through the power vested in me by the  
National President of Alpha Mu Gamma,  
I hereby install you as the \_\_\_\_\_ chapter  
and charge you with the faithful execution  
of the work to which Alpha Mu Gamma is consecrated”*

## **ACCEPTANCE**

2. The recipient shall reply as follows:

Recipient (facing the Presiding Officers):

***“I, \_\_\_\_\_, on behalf of the members of \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter of Alpha Mu Gamma, do hereby accept this charter, which is to guide us in the execution of our charge. We promise to be loyal to the ideals represented by the Golden Bough: Enlightenment, Friendship and Sympathetic Understanding of Other Peoples, and pledge ourselves wholeheartedly to the achievement of these ideals”.***

## **THE RITUAL FOR THE INITIATION OF FULL MEMBERS**

### **NOTE**

The President and Marshall (usually the Vice-President of the chapter) have the principle roles in this ceremony, but observe that the Secretary participates in step 12.

1. The candidates shall wait in an adjoining room under the supervision of the Marshall until they are summoned for initiation.
2. Soft music shall begin and continue throughout the ceremony, to be interrupted only for speaking.
3. When feasible, the Marshall shall bring each candidate to the door **separately**, in alphabetical order. When the large number of candidates makes this procedure impractical, the Marshall shall bring in groups of three or four candidates, according to language.
4. The Marshall shall knock three times at the door, spacing the knocks rather far apart. The President shall stand and respond by knocking in the same manner on his table.
5. The Marshall shall usher in the candidate/s and make the following presentation to the President:

### **PRESENTATION**

Marshall addressing the President:

***“I have the pleasure of presenting to you \_\_\_\_\_ (name or names), who has (have) attained distinction in the study of \_\_\_\_\_ (language or languages) and whose entire scholastic record/s at \_\_\_\_\_ (university or college) meets the requirement for admission into Alpha Mu Gamma”.***

6. The President shall receive the candidate (s) by name invoking the following words:-

**[W E L C O M E]**

President (addressing the candidate or candidates):

***"Through the power vested in me by Alpha Mu Gamma, I hereby receive you, \_\_\_\_\_, into this Society in recognition of the distinction which you have attained in the study of \_\_\_\_\_ May you always be loyal to the ideals represented by the Golden Bough, symbol of Enlightenment, Friendship, and Sympathetic Understanding of Other Peoples".***

7. The President shall immediately administer the pledge as follows:

**[P L E D G E]**

President (addressing candidate or candidates):

***" Will you please repeat after me the pledge?  
[President addressing candidate or candidates]  
"I, (give your name) \_\_\_\_\_ accept  
the ideals..... represented by the Golden  
Bough ...Enlightenment ... Friendship...  
.and Sympathetic Understanding of Other Peoples,  
.....and promise to be loyal .....to these ideals  
of Alpha Mu Gamma".***

8. The President shall request that each candidate take a seat.
9. The Marshall shall then usher the candidate to a seat.
10. After all the candidates have been received and seated, the Marshall shall take his/her seat with the other officers.
11. The President shall ask the Secretary to read the history of the Society and the explanation of the symbols of Alpha Mu Gamma, (to be found on page 4).
12. "The Golden Bough" (page 5 ) shall be read by a member who reads poetry well.
13. The President shall invite the Sponsor/Advisor, the Chairman, or a member of the administration to present the keys and certificates.
14. The individual presenting the keys shall invite the new members to come forward to

- receive the keys and certificates.
15. The President then shall ask all to stand and sing the Alma Mater,

### ***THE HISTORY OF ALPHA MU GAMMA***

Please refer to the History section in chapter VII.

### ***THE SYMBOLS AND THEIR SIGNIFICANCE***

The name Alpha Nu Gamma is composed of the names of the initial Greek letters found in the phrase "Amphi Mouse Glosson"\*, meaning: "For the Muse of Languages".

The motto of the Society is "**Search with Eyes Aloft**", from Virgil's "Aeneid", Book VI. (The original Latin version is "Alte Vestiga Oculis" \*\*. The Greek translation is "Hypselois ophthalmois theoreite"\*\*\*).

The emblem is the Golden Bough, mentioned in Virgil's "Aeneid", Book VI, and is a golden olive branch.

The Key is partially covered by a scroll bearing the Greek letters for the Society's name diagonally across its face and the Golden Bough in the upper right corner. The Key behind the scroll signifies intellectual endeavor, which unlocks the doors to other literatures and cultures. The Golden Bough symbolizes enlightenment, friendship, and sympathetic understanding of other peoples.

The call is three long knocks, The answer is the same. One knock represents the Key, one the Scroll and one the Golden Bough.

The color of the Society is gold, symbolizing truth, light and intelligence.

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\* Pronounced : "ahm-fee ' moo '-say glowss-sown ' ."

\*\* Pronounced : "ahl-tay wess-tee '-gah aw'-coo-leess," with **coo** given the same sound as in *Cook*,

\*\*\* Pronounced : "heep-say-loyss' asf-thahl-moyss' the-oh-ray'-te, with the vowel in **heep** actually given the sound of **u** in the French **pure** or of **u** in the German **Hute**, with **the** given the same sound as in **theft**, and with **te** given the same sound as in **ten**.

## **THE GOLDEN BOUGH**

(This poem was written by Ruth Midred Tolin, a charter member of Alpha Mu Gamma, on 23 April 1931. It was used in the first initiation on 29 April of the same year and incorporated thereafter into the ritual of the Society).

*Now hath the long-concealed bough been found,  
That bough whose golden frond sweet Virgil sought,  
That bough whose brilliant leaves the goddess kept,  
That bough whose properties were known as naught  
Until by search and earnest voice in prayer,  
Its character the aiding goddess taught.*

*But conscious now of all the power we hold,  
Forward we'll go with foot full confident  
To open wide the portals to us closed  
Had not the Golden Bough its secret lent,  
That by the wielding of its sacred stem  
We need not fear all barriers imminent.*

*Therefore, O Bough, grant now our first request:  
Three precious jewels are hidden from our sight.  
Friendship, the rarest treasure which we seek,  
Is bounded by a gulf of darkest night  
Which thy bright beams alone will now dispel  
To guide our halting footsteps to its light.*

*Another gem whose value we discern,  
Enlightenment, is owned by a very few,  
But those who hold this treasure told us  
That if it's matchless worth we ever knew,  
We'd want naught else, for as its every facet  
Caught the light's beams, its fascination grew.*

*Grant unto us a third most priceless pearl,  
Whose opalescent light so have seen,  
For, searching for the brilliant treasures more,  
Its subtle beauty lost to us hath been.  
Naught else nor further service ask we, Bough,  
If human understanding we might win.*

*Now lead us forth to these, our objects dear.  
Cast forth the many barriers we shall find.  
Open the gates which lead to untried fields.  
Guide us to where for many years have shined  
Those only ornaments to reward our search  
And gracefully adorn our happy mind.*