

# **SIGMA PI PHI.**

## **Sigma Pi Phi records, 1926-2016**

Emory University  
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### **Descriptive Summary**

**Creator:** Sigma Pi Phi.  
**Title:** Sigma Pi Phi records, 1926-2016  
**Call Number:** Manuscript Collection No. 1337  
**Extent:** 22.5 linear feet (22 boxes) and 15GB of born-digital materials  
**Abstract:** Records of Sigma Pi Phi, a fraternal organization of African American professional men.  
**Language:** Materials entirely in English.

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### **Administrative Information**

#### **Restrictions on Access**

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Special restrictions apply: Some material designated by the organizations such as member rosters, policy documents, meeting minutes, material related to the organization's rituals, financial records, and legal records will be restricted from access until 25 years after the dissolution of the donating organization.

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#### **Related Materials in Other Repositories**

[Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity archives \(Group 1\), Fisk University Special Collections, Nashville, TN](#)  
[Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity archives \(Group 2\), Fisk University Special Collections, Nashville, TN](#)

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[Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity archives \(Group 3\), Fisk University Special Collections, Nashville, TN](#)  
[Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity archives \(Group 4\), Fisk University Special Collections, Nashville, TN](#)  
[Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity archives \(Group 5\), Fisk University Special Collections, Nashville, TN](#)  
[Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity archives \(Group 6\), Fisk University Special Collections, Nashville, TN](#)  
[Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity archives \(Group 7\), Fisk University Special Collections, Nashville, TN](#)

**Source**

Gift, 2015

**Citation**

[after identification of item(s)], title statement, Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library, Emory University.

**Processing**

Described at the series level by Carrie Hintz, 2016.

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**Collection Description****Biographical Note**

Sigma Pi Phi, also referred to the Boulé, was founded in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on May 15, 1904 by Edwin Howard, Algernon Jackson, Henry McKee Minton, and Richard Warrick. It was the first Greek-letter fraternity to be founded by African American men, and, unlike undergraduate fraternal organizations, membership is limited to African American men who have already achieved some degree of success within their chosen profession.

From this first group of men, known as the Alpha Boulé because they were the inaugural chapter of the organization, Sigma Pi Phi quickly began to grow into a national organization, establishing chapters in Chicago in 1907 and Baltimore in 1908—the Beta and Gamma Boulé’s respectively. Representatives from the member boulés met in Philadelphia in 1908 to form the Grand Boulé, providing centralized leadership for the growing organization. Sigma Pi Phi continued to grow quickly throughout the teens and twenties, and published the first edition of *Boulé Journal* in 1912 in order to facilitate communication to Boulé members.

The early members of Sigma Pi Phi were inspired by models of Greek democracy and the influence of Ancient Greek democratic principles remains evident in the terminology and leadership structure of the organization. Boulé members refer to themselves as Archons and the highest leadership position in the organization is the Grand Sire Archon. The organization’s other leadership positions also have Greek-inspired titles including the Grand Grammateus (Secretary), Grand Thesauristes (Treasurer). Until 1968 the Grand Sire Archon was chosen by lot, rather than elected, to demonstrate the members’ belief that any individual worthy of entrance into the organization would be capable of leading it.

During the 1970s the organization began to more explicitly engage in social action, with a social action committee tasked with managing social justice programs. In 1980 the Sigma Pi Phi, later Boulé, Foundation was established with the explicit intent to fund social action programs.

**Scope and Content Note**

The Sigma Pi Phi records include the records, paper and born-digital, that document the activities of the organization, including administrative and planning documents, records related to the Boulé Foundation, and related to the publishing of the Boulé Journal, and copies of the Journal itself. The collection also includes photographs of fraternity members and events held by both the Grand Boulé and the member Boulés.

**Arrangement Note**

Organized into 4 series: (1) *Boulé Journal*, 1926-2015 (2) Photographs, 1987-2015 (3) Administrative Material, 1941-2013 (4) Born digital materials, 2003-2016

## **Description of Series**

[Series 1: Boulé Journal, 1926-2015](#)

[Series 2: Photographs, 1987-2015](#)

[Series 3: Administrative Records, 1941-2013](#)

[Series 4: Born digital materials, 2003-2016](#)

**Series 1*****Boulé Journal, 1926-2015*****Boxes 1 - 10****Scope and Content Note**

This series consists of a near complete run of the *Boulé Journal* from 1926-2015. The *Boulé Journal* was first printed in 1912 and serves as the official publication for Sigma Pi Phi.

Records related to the *Boulé Journal* can also be found in Born digital materials (Series 4).

**Arrangement Note**

Arranged in chronological order.

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Content</b>
1	-	Volume 3, 1926-Volume 18, 1954
2	-	Volume 19, 1956-Volume 22, 1959
3	-	Volume 22, 1960-Volume 30, 1976
4	-	Volume 40, 1976-Volume 49, 1985
5	-	Volume 50, 1986-Volume 56, 1992
6	-	Volume 57, 1993-Volume 62, 1998
7	-	Volume 62, 1998-Volume 67, 2003
8	-	Volume 68, 2004-Volume 71, 2007
9	-	Volume 72, 2008-Volume 76, 2012
10	-	Volume 76, 2012-Volume 79, 2015

**Series 2**  
**Photographs, 1987-2015**  
**Boxes 11, 13, 14-21**

**Scope and Content Note**

This series consists of photographs of Boulé members and Boulé events from 1987-2015. It includes individual portraits, as well as photographs from meetings and social events hosted by the Grand Boulé and member Boulés.

Some photographs can also be found in Born digital materials (Series 4).

**Arrangement Note**

Arranged by member Boulé.

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Content</b>
11	-	Boulé Journal photographs, 1987, 2014-2015
11	-	Sigma Pi Phi Foundation founders
11	-	Slides
14	-	Picture of Archon Andrew Young being interviewed for the HHistoryMakers by Charlayne Hunter Gault, Atlanta GA, GA Public Broadcasting, 2006
13	-	Member Boulés Alpha-Mu
15	-	Member Boulés Nu-Alpha Epsilon
16	-	Member Boulés Alpha Eta- Alpha Zeta
17	-	Member Boulés Beta Alpha- Beta Upsilon
18	-	Member Boulés Beta Xai- Gamma Iota
19	-	Member Boulés Gamma Kappa- Epsilon Alpha
20	-	Individuals and Events A-J
21	-	Individuals K-T and Unknown

### **Series 3**

## **Administrative Records, 1941-2013**

### **Boxes 11-12, 14**

#### **Scope and Content Note**

The Administrative Records series is comprised of the business and administrative records of Sigma Pi Phi from 1941 to 2013, with most of these records dating from the late 1990s through 2015. It includes numerous programs, brochures, and planning materials related to the annual meeting of the Grand Boulé, the largest event held by the organization. There are also annual reports, correspondence, and records of the Boulé Foundation as well as records related to member Boulés.

Administrative records can also be found in Born digital materials (Series 4).

#### **Arrangement Note**

Arranged by topic.

#### **Grand Boulé Documents**

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Content</b>
11	-	Tentative Program, Grand Boulé, SPP Fraternity, Seventeenth Convocation, 1941
14	-	40th Grand Boulé Correspondence, 1989-1990
14	-	41st Grand Boulé from Patricia Stanley to Harvey C Russell (Zeta Boulé), 1992
11	-	41st Grand Boulé Souvenir Program, Kansas City, MO., 1994
11	-	42nd Biennial Grand Boulé Host Committee, Gamma Boulé, 1994
11	-	43rd Biennial Grand Boulé Souvenir Program, Houston TX, 1996
12	-	Westin Galleria and Westin Oaks Hotels, SPP Grand Boulé, Houston TX-- VHS
11	-	46th Grand Boulé Souvenir Program, 2002
11	-	46th Grand Boulé The Gumbo Journal - Newsletter, 2002
12	-	46th Biennial Grand Boulé: Grand Opening Ceremony Cassette tape, 2002
11	-	Centennial Grand Boulé Basking in Memories, Appreciating the present, Forging the Future, Registration Booklet, 2004
11	-	Centennial Grand Boulé Memorial Ritual, 2004
11	-	48th Grand Boulé Preview and Registration Materials, 2006
11	-	48th Grand Boulé Program for Taking it Higher, The Youth Recognition Luncheon, 2006
11	-	48th Grand Boulé The Memorial Service, 2006
12	-	48th Grand Boulé Grand Boulé Dinner Dance, 2006, June 14
11	-	49th Grand Boulé Brochure invitation to Denver, 2008
12	-	49th Grand Boulé Denim Diamonds & Denver, 2008
12	-	49th Grand Boulé Grand Boulé Dinner Dance Reception and Gala, 2008
12	-	49th Grand Boulé An Evening With Jeffrey Osborne, The Boulé Foundation, 2008

- 12 - 49th Grand Boulé Archousai Brunch From Spirituals to Gospel, 2008
- 11 - Grand Boulé promotional video, undated
- 14 - 48th Grand Boulé Various published brochures, programs and tickets, 2008
- 12 - 50th Grand Boulé Dinner Dance Reception & Gala, 2010
- 12 - 50th Grand Boulé The Memorial Service, Bellagio Hotel Tower Ballroom, 2010
- 12 - 50th Grand Boulé Dinner Dance Reception & Gala, Wednesday, 2010
- 12 - 51st Grand Boulé Memorial Service, 2012
- 12 - Memorial Service program, Boca Raton, 2012
- 11 - Membership Directories, 1991, 1993, 1995, 1997
- 11 - 2005 Response to the Victims of Hurricane Katrina, Brochure

### **Member Boulé Documents**

- 11 - Beta Beta Annual Sweetheart Ball, 2006
- 11 - Beta Zeta Induction Ceremony, 2007
- 11 - Delta Xi Induction Ceremony, 2007
- 11 - Alpha Mu & Alpha Lambda Christmas Celebration/Induction/Installation Ceremonies, Program, Augusta, GA, 2004
- 11 - 12th Biennial Pacific Region Boulé, "San Diego: Diversity in Action", 2003
- 12 - Archons of Gamma Epsilon, 2010
- 12 - Yes We Can, Beta Theta, Dennis Upton, Nashville Public Library Special Collections, Civil Rights Photos with captions, 2010
- 12 - Early history of Kappa Boulé
- 12 - VHS of SPP Gamma Boulé 1994 Convention, Baltimore, MD
- 12 - 43rd Grand Boulé images; Zeta Boulé Annual Christmas Party, Dec 19, 1976, New Rochelle, New York
- 12 - Beta Theta Archon Lorenz Brant; New Archons—zip disk
- 12 - Nu Boulé's Heir's Dinner, January 1, 2002—floppy disk
- 12 - Alpha Iota Boulé 87 tmb Alpha Iota Captions—floppy disk
- 12 - Beta Eta, Delta Epsilon, Faces of Love OS.doc & Archousai Tribute—floppy disk
- 12 - Sire Archon Kenneth M. Hoyt (Nu Boulé)—floppy disk
- 12 - Nu Boulé Christmas Gala, 2001
- 14 - Iota Boulé Sponsor Recognition Event invitation, Fox Theatre, Detroit, MI, 2006
- 11 - Dr. Peyton Williams (Kappa Boulé) campaign brochure
- 14 - A Tribute to the Archousai of Sigma Boulé of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, 2001
- 14 - Best Practices, Alpha Xi Boulé, Baton Rouge, LA
- 14 - Gamma Zeta Boulé Foundation Annual Scholarship Luncheon: A Salute to

### **Education, 2007**

- 14 - Gamma Omicron 23rd Annual Dr. Carter G Woodson Lecture Series Booklet



- 14 - "Success With Creed": A Youth Leadership Development Program, Kappa Boulé, 2004-2005
- 14 - Beta Nu Boulé 16th Annual Recipients of the Youth Leadership Service Award, 2000 - 2001,

### **Administrative Records**

- 11 - Boulé Foundation Annual Reports prior to 2000 and Brochures
- 14 - Boulé Foundation Brochure, 1986
- 11 - Various historical documents, 1985, 1989
- 14 - Birthday Party Invitation for Archon Willie Howard Clemons's 65th Birthday, 2005
- 14 - Invitation to Grand Grammateus, Dr. Peyton Williams, Jr. (Kappa Boulé) to attend the Ground-breaking Ceremony of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Monument, 2006
- 14 - Correspondence from National Urban League Campaign for African American Achievement to Calvin O. Pressley (Kappa Boulé), 1997
- 14 - Correspondence from Eddie N. Williams (Epsilon Boulé) on behalf of GSA Thomas Shropshire, 1999
- 14 - Correspondence Bobby R. Henderson, 1997
- 14 - Correspondence about the Henry Minton Awards, 1993
- 14 - Memo to the membership approving expenditure for the Minton Medallion, 1993
- 14 - Correspondence regarding Legacy awards, 1993
- 14 - The Economic Status of African Americans: A Background Paper for the Public Policy Committee Subcommittee on Economic Empowerment, 1999
- 14 - List of Grand officers, 1908 – 2004
- 14 - The Boulé, A Short History of SPP by Celeste Bedford-Walker. Performed by the Ensemble Theatre, Houston, TX
- 14 - Membership Directory, Grand Grammateus Memoirs & Questionnaire
- 14 - 1994 Membership report by Harvey C. Russell, 1993
- 14 - Membership awards Half & Quarter Century Members, July 1977 - July 1979
- 14 - Membership and Induction reports, 1996-2000
- 14 - Celebration of Life of Archousa Mary Dixon Teamer, Wife of Charles S. Teamer, 2004
- 14 - Newsletters from Grand Sire Archon Huel D. Perkins, 1993
- 14 - Memorial Program of Archon Clarence Harold Bolton, Beta Alpha Boulé, 2004
- 14 - SPP Fraternity Public Relations Handbook. , 1982
- 14 - Code of Regulations of SPP Foundation, INC
- 14 - Constitution and Bylaws, 1990
- 14 - Policies on Grand Boulé Guidelines, Regional Meeting Guidelines, 1994 – 1999
- 14 - Agreement by Sony Music and Delta Upsilon to fund the SPP Website, 1997
- 14 - Duties of Officers of member Boulés; SPP Grand Officers Organizational Chart

- 14 - "Maryland, my Maryland" or "O Tannenbaum, O Tannenbaum"; Thoughts on the Boulé Song and Parting Hymn, 1996-1997
- 14 - Delta Sigma Boulé Inauguration and Dinner, Chicago, IL, 2002
- 14 - Boulé Foundation Brochure and Board of Trustees, 1996
- 14 - Seizing the Moment: The Leadership Role of SPP in the 21st Century
- 14 - Beta Tau Boulé presents 12th Annual Promising Scholars Golf Classic, 2014
- 14 - A-MAN, Inc., International Science Discovery & Learning Center 16th Anniversary Dinner
- 14 - History of the National Achievement Scholarship Program. Supported by the Boulé Foundation
- 14 - A Retrospective, Building For the future by Archon Harry G. Johnson, Central RSA, at the SPP Central Region Leadership Conference, 2001

**Series 4**  
**Born digital materials, 2003-2016**  
**Box 22**

**Scope and Content Note**

The Born digital materials series includes business and administrative records, photographs, and records related to the *Boulé Journal*, the official publication for Sigma Pi Phi. Records date from 2003 to 2016.

**Arrangement Note**

Unprocessed.

**Restrictions on Access**

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<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Content</b>
-	-	Digital files, 2003-2016
BD1	-	Digital files, 2016 [1]
BD1	-	Digital files, 2016 [2]

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