Guidelines for Selection of Cadency Marks and Chapter Names

Alpha Rho Chi’s practice of naming chapters after ancient architects, combined with the use of cadency marks, lends each chapter a distinct and vibrant identity within the national fraternity.

Alpha Rho Chi is one of the few fraternities to use a system of cadency marks and ancient names to represent each chapter. Most other fraternities use letters of the Greek alphabet to set each chapter apart. At the national level, the collected marks and names represent the breadth and diversity of our fraternity. Each represents APX at its respective university and is often used by chapters as emblems equal to the other emblems of the fraternity.

This document is intended to assist colonies and new chapters in the development and selection of a cadency mark and a chapter name. This document also outlines steps to take to get these selections approved by the Grand Council.

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A cadency mark is a device or emblem that customizes the coat-of-arms for each chapter.

One basic principle of heraldry is that each individual be recognized by a unique set of arms. Traditionally, each son would make a small change to his father’s shield to differentiate it from the others. In England, this evolved into a system of cadency marks in which a small symbol, or charge, is added at the honor point of the arms to produce a unique shield for each heir.

Similarly, Alpha Rho Chi uses cadency marks to produce unique arms for each chapter. Although often used independently of the chapter’s arms, these marks must be suitable for their primary function on the chapter arms.

**A cadency mark is not a logo.**
Heraldry uses a descriptive language, known as blazon, to specify each part of a coat-of-arms. For example, the arms of Alpha Rho Chi may be blazoned as, “Quarterly sanguine and azure, in second a rose argent, a bend argent with nine mullets of eight sable.” Although blazon specifies the form and color of each element, it allows for artistic license in how they are drawn. For example, a rampant lion or a fleur-de-lis may be drawn with varying features or more or less detail and still be recognizable.

The Grand Council maintains drawings of all chapter cadency marks for use in Alpha Rho Chi’s national publications. Each is a rendering of how the mark might appear on the chapter’s arms. Although each drawing is widely used in official publications, it need not be considered the sole, definitive version of the mark.

Colonies should not undertake the selection of a cadency mark as an exercise in logo design. Rather than developing a fixed design, choose a simple – but meaningful – emblem.

Suitable emblems will have names that clearly identify the shape or object depicted. If after designing a mark you have to invent a name for it, then it is probably not suitable to serve as a cadency mark. It’s usually better to decide on an emblem by name and then work out how to draw it.

An emblem can be redrawn or changed while still retaining its identity. Your chapter will be comprised of students of architecture and design professions who will want to experiment graphically when designing stationery, newsletters, posters, invitations, t-shirts, et cetera. The mark should be adaptable to their design needs. In time, these experiments will yield new versions of the same mark, variably abstract or informal.
Tips and design criteria

Use these guidelines as you select a cadency mark and prepare drawings.

**Look for inspiration close to home.**
Many chapters have selected cadency marks that reflect their university and its traditions or the geography and history of the surrounding region. This document includes a history of cadency marks with numerous examples.

**Consider charges found in traditional heraldry.**
You are not limited to medieval precedents for cadency marks; your mark may be ancient or modern. However, traditional heraldry is a good place to begin to look for ideas and for time-honored designs suitable for use on a coat-of-arms.

Every college library has several good reference books on heraldry. In addition, these web sites may prove useful.

Some references will ascribe specific meanings to each charge, although the reliability of many of those meanings is debatable. You’ll find that the marks of most chapters have associations and meanings independent of those found in such lists. See the history section for examples.

**Think of emblems rather than diagrams.**
Avoid creating diagrams to illustrate a concept for your chapter. Instead, select a symbol that embodies the attributes you are trying to convey. For similar reasons, words or initials are not suitable for cadency marks.

**Select a single emblem.**
A cadency mark should be a single object or shape and not a composition of multiple items or concepts. A composite mark would be too complicated.

**Prepare a drawing suitable for your chapter arms.**
You will need to draw the mark in a style consistent with its use on the chapter arms. It should be simple and high-contrast, using hard lines. Do not use colors or gradations. The drawing should not employ impressionistic effects such as a hand-drawn style.

**Make sure the mark is distinctive and recognizable when small.**
Remember the cadency mark occupies a limited space at the honor point of the chapter arms. In the chapter arms, it will become a small but important detail of the overall design.

In addition, cadency marks are often shown at a small size in national publications such as *The Archi* or on alpharhochi.org. Test your design at smaller sizes and on the coat-of-arms.

http://www.rarebooks.nd.edu/digital/heraldry
http://www.heraldica.org
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heraldry
http://www.fleurdelis.com/meanings.htm
http://www.probertencyclopaedia.com/heraldry.htm
Give the mark a well-defined shape.
To assist the legibility of the mark, make sure it has a clear outer edge. The mark should read as a single object without subsidiary parts that may seem to disappear when reduced in size or placed on the shield.

This does not preclude the mark from incorporating fine detailing. For example, the griffon (Daphnis) and chambered nautilus (Apollodorus) contain details within a distinctive outer shape.

Draw the mark without a background shape.
Many publications of the national fraternity, such as The Archi Pledge, depict each cadency mark reversed within a solid square. This is merely a design convention to make the varied shapes of each mark appear more uniform when placed side by side. The square background is not part of the cadency mark, and the design should not rely on the object-field relationship with a square background.

Keep the name simple.
The name should specify the mark in a word or two. An educated reader should be able to draw an approximation of the mark when given its name. The name may come from the specialized lexicon of heraldry or from plain English, but the name should be clearly descriptive. You should not have to invent a name for your cadency mark.

Submitting a cadency mark for approval

A proposal for a cadency mark should include the following at minimum:

1. Drawings of the mark in black without a background at these sizes: 1/4", 1/2", 1" and 3"
2. Drawings of the mark on a black square at these sizes: 1/4", 1/2", 1" and 3"
3. A drawing of the mark on the proposed chapter arms
4. A drawing of the mark on the proposed chapter standard
5. The name of the mark for heraldic blazon
6. A brief statement explaining the selection of the mark and any symbolism it carries

The proposal may include additional drawings that show the mark to the best advantage.

“Quarterly sanguine and azure, in second a rose argent, a bend argent with nine mullets of eight sable, a ______________ for difference.”
Blazon for a chapter’s coat of arms.
Fill in the blank.
History of the cadency marks of Alpha Rho Chi

The practice of using cadency marks to identify each chapter began with the adoption of the fraternity’s modern arms at the 16th National Convention in 1930. The new design corrected heraldic inaccuracies in the original coat-of-arms and removed several motifs with no direct relationship to the fraternity or its ritual. Following recognized rules of heraldry, it was decided that each chapter would individualize its own arms with a cadency mark.

At the time, the fraternity had ten chapters. The cadency marks for these ten generally follow a traditional order of precedence from first to ninth born, indicating the order in which the chapters were installed. The traditional order is modified somewhat to reflect the history of the fraternity.

The label of Anthemios and Iktinos
As Alpha Rho Chi’s founding chapters, Anthemios and Iktinos share the heraldic label for the first born.

A label represents a fringed piece of fabric the elder son would use to difference his father’s arms. In theory, upon his father’s death, the son would remove the label and inherit his father’s arms. The label may be drawn as a fringed ribbon extending to either side of the shield or with the sides cropped off, forming the familiar three-pronged rake.

The two chapters differentiate their arms by placing the label on either side of the arms, indicating the chapter’s contribution to the fraternity’s arms. Iktinos displays the label on the sinister (bearer’s left) side to designate its contribution of the white rose. Anthemios displays the label on the dexter (bearer’s right) side to mark its contribution of the fraternal colors.

Other chapters in 1930
Because the two founding chapters adopted the mark of the first born, the other chapters moved up the order of precedence. Demetrios, the third chapter, adopted the mark for the second born and so on.

Although it was the eighth chapter installed, Dinocrates claimed the five pointed star of the third son in honor of its location in the capital of the Lone Star State. Rather than adopting a star or martlet, the fourth chapter Mnesicles sidestepped this modified order of precedence by taking the scroll from their university seal as their mark.
**New chapters, new marks**

The fraternity would not install a new chapter until Vitruvius in 1955. Because the traditional series of cadency marks was exhausted, Vitruvius and subsequent chapters would select their own cadency marks. In general, these choices would reflect one of the following: the school or university, its location, or the namesake architect.

**University-inspired marks**

Several chapters demonstrate their school ties while displaying common, traditional heraldic charges.

**Vitruvius** (1955) chose the rampant lion to stand in for Penn State University’s Nittany Lion. The school’s mascot is a mountain lion reputed to roam nearby Mount Nittany.

Arizona State University’s Sun Devil mascot brandishes a trident, similar to one representing **Satyros** (1962).

**Metagenes** (1969) selected the pheon, a traditional representation of a barbed and engrailed arrowhead, for its resemblance to the “VT” monogram then in use at Virginia Tech.

A millstone is often represented in heraldry by the stylized shape of the iron that holds it in place. This shape, reminiscent of the letter “H” made it the natural choice of **Cleisthenes** (1972) at the University of Houston.

The University of Kansas holds a torch passing ceremony as part of its annual Traditions Night each fall, symbolic of the passing of knowledge from each class to the next. **Rhoeocus** (1984) cadency mark appears to be modeled after the torch used in the ceremony.

The pierced pile refers to the program at Florida International University in a diagrammatic way. According to a member from **Nicon** (2004), “the triangle signifies perfection, the circle means unity and diversity and the three points represent the three generators which stands for our school’s design.”

The six stars in the constellation representing **Domitian** (2005) corresponds to the six colleges or schools at the New Jersey Institute of Technology. The most prominent star in the field represents the New Jersey School of Architecture.

The tour à trois, or three towers, representing **Hadrian** (2006) can be found on the arms of Tulane University. They also appear on the arms of city of Tours, France, the ancestral home of the school’s benefactor, Paul Tulane. The towers are also a nod to the history of New Orleans, representing the nations of France, Spain and the United States.
An “impossible object,” the tribar suggests a three-dimensional shape that can not exist. Regardless what this implies about Cossutius (2008), the tribar’s components also hide an abstraction of the initials for California College of the Arts.

A dome is the centerpiece of Alumni Hall, home of Miami University’s architecture program. At its center is a stained glass shield bearing the university’s monogram. The escutcheon of Isidorus (2011) was inspired by this shield. The shield is often drawn circumscribed to recall the rest of dome—and by association, Isidorus’ great dome of St. Sophia.

Severus (2012) selected a Möbius strip as symbolic of the unending pursuit of knowledge. A perspective change of a half-twist allows a single side to form a seemingly impossible infinite loop.

The University of California’s motto Fiat Lux, “Let there be light” is represented by a lantern. In addition, Callimachus’ (2013) namesake sculptor devised a golden lamp for the Erechtheion in Athens that required refilling only once a year.

At Mississippi State University, legend has it that during a football game, a cow escaped from the “barn” next to stadium (the barn was later converted into architecture studios) and that the sound of its bell inspired the team to victory. Hippodamus (2013) is identified with a bell similar to the long-handled cowbells that are a symbol of Mississippi State spirit.

Polyidus (2014) retains the hexagon from Southern Polytechnic State University’s logo as its cadency mark. The hexagon logo reflected Southern Poly’s origins as a technology and engineering school as well as its athletic team, the Hornets.

A native of the Chesapeake Bay, the terrapin was chosen as the University of Maryland school mascot in 1932, state reptile in 1994, and eventually, Olynthius’ (2014) cadency mark.

In 1933, Maryland’s live terrapin mascot, Gorham, pulls a ribbon to unveil a statue of much larger terrapin, named Testudo.
Local marks
Several chapters have looked beyond their campus for inspiration for their marks.

Heracleides’ (1981) choice of an embattlement alludes to the name of the city of Norman, home of The University of Oklahoma. Uniquely, Heracleides follows the Scottish practice of differenting arms with a bordure rather than a cadency mark.

A chambered nautilus is emblematic of mathematical precision found in nature, but its identity as a seashell associates Apollodorus (1986) with the state of Florida.

Pytheos (1992) adopted the cross quadrate from the floor plan of the Nebraska State Capitol, also located in Lincoln. The lower levels of the building, designed by Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue, intersects a cross with a square, forming four large interior courtyards.

Rabirius’ (2001) selection of seven hills comes from local legend. Cincinnati’s civic boosters have long associated their city’s hilly terrain with ancient Rome, calling Cincinnati a “City of Seven Hills”. With a Roman namesake, the link between Cincinnati and Rome works on two levels.

Senenmut’s (2005) crown connects with Buffalo’s history as “Queen City of the Great Lakes.” The angular depiction of the crown recalls Dietel Wade & Jones’ art-deco design for Buffalo City Hall, completed in 1931. The crown also represents Senenmut’s patron, Queen Hashepsut, an Egyptian eighteenth dynasty pharaoh.

An anchor represents San Diego’s heritage as natural harbor and home to a major naval base. Numisius (2014) at NewSchool of Architecture + Design is located in the city, only blocks away from the bay and marina.
Namesake marks

Other cadency marks were inspired by the chapter's namesake architect. They may evoke the architect's works or carry a personal association with the namesake.

Among the noted works of Xenocles (1970) is the Temple of Theseion in Athens. This six column temple is the prototype for the chapter's mark.

Bulls played a central role in ancient Minoan religious festivals and serve as a recurring motif in the labyrinthine royal place at Knossos, attributed to the architect Daedalus (1980). Carved stone horns found throughout the palace directly inspired the chapter's cadency mark.

Daphnis (1981), named for a Greek architect, chose a griffon. A griffon can be said to portray the Greek style of architecture. Griffons were depicted as supporters for fraternity's original arms.

Within the Egyptian pantheon, Seshait (1994) was goddess of architecture and measurement. She was commonly depicted with a headdress consisting of a seven-pointed star or flower between two turned-down cow horns. This headdress also served as the hieroglyph for her name. A simplified version of her standard was chosen to represent the chapter.

Imhotep (2002) among his responsibilities as architect and healer, was priest to the Egyptian god Ptah. Ptah was deity of Memphis and the patron of craftsman. Ptah is usually depicted as carrying a long staff known as a uass (pronounced “wass,” with a short “a” like the word dawn) scepter. A long and skinny staff is not well suited for heraldic display, so the chapter selected a prominent detail to represent the entire staff. The symbol is a combination of the ankh, symbol of life and creation, and djed pillar, symbol of strength, stability, and longevity.

The Pharos of Alexandria was built by Sostratus (2009) as a day beacon to help ships find the Egyptian port. The Romans added a fire to guide ships at night. As the Lighthouse of Alexandria, the structure is remembered as one of the seven wonders of the ancient world.

Philon (2013) enlarged the Athenian port of Piraeus and was famous for the arsenal he constructed there. The arsenal housed the equipment and tackle for the city-state's fleet of triremes. Powered by three rows of oarmen on each side and assisted by square sails, the trireme allowed Athens to become a naval power around the Aegean Sea.

Hemiunu (2013) selected the flail and crook, traditional symbols of the authority of the Egyptian pharaohs appropriate for a chapter named after the architect of the Great Pyramid.
The origins of naming Alpha Rho Chi chapters

- Rayonet fleur-de-lis
- Six link chain
- Cadency mark
- White rose
- Star mullets
- Bend
- Scroll
- Motto

Quartering

- Sanguine (maroon) 1
- Azure (blue) 2
- Azure (blue) 3
- Sanguine (maroon) 4
The origins of naming Alpha Rho Chi chapters

Alpha Rho Chi is unique among fraternities in naming its chapters after architects of ancient Egypt, Greece, and Rome. The ancient civilizations represented by the namesakes have been chosen due to their significance in the fraternity's ritual.

In most fraternities chapters are designated by Greek letters in order of their founding, either on a national or state-by-state basis, beginning with a founding “Alpha” chapter. With two founding chapters, Alpha Rho Chi adopted a more meaningful approach to naming chapters. Each chapter name is a reminder to study the origins of architecture and the profession.

Considerations for the selection of chapter namesakes

For the most part, chapters have selected their names simply based on the renown of their namesakes and their works.

Other considerations have influenced the selection. For example, chapters at the University of Memphis (named for the ancient Egyptian capital) and Florida A&M University (a historically African-American school) both chose names from ancient Egypt. Some namesakes, like Callimachus or Numisius, are sound-alikes for the name of school.

The selected name may reflect something about the school or the early history of the chapter. Some examples:

• Mnesicles – The first two letters of of the name, “MN” is an abbreviation for the University of Minnesota.

• Satyros – The satyr in the name is reminiscent of Arizona State University’s Sun Devil mascot.

• Pytheos – The architect Pytheos collaborated with Satyros in the construction of the Mausoleum at Halicarnassus. The colonists at the University of Nebraska chose the name in honor of Ted Ertl, their faculty advisor and a Satyros alumnus. Their choice of name reflects the link between the two chapters.

• Anthemios – The chapter at the University of Illinois was called Arcus Society prior to the founding of APX. The last two letters of “Arcus” were derived from acanthus. The beauty of the acanthus plant is the basis of many decorative elements in ancient Greek and Roman architecture. An anthemion is one such ornament, with its origins in the acanthus flower. The name Anthemios recalls this association.

An anthemion. Source: Franz Sales Meyer, A Handbook of Ornament (1898)
Selecting a prospective chapter namesake

If a chapter of Alpha Rho Chi has previously been established at your university, the revived chapter will adopt its established name.

If APX is new to your school, your prospective chapter may select its namesake. The request should be made in writing. The following list of names has been identified by the Grand Council for use as chapter names:

**List of “pre-approved” chapter/colony namesakes**

Notes: The spelling of many names may vary depending on the sources consulted. Alternate spellings for some of the names are listed here. Be aware that some names are shared by multiple ancient historical figures. Take care when researching namesakes.

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<tr>
<th>Namesake</th>
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<td>Agamedes</td>
<td>Demetrios (Demetrius)</td>
<td>Megacles</td>
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<td>Agaptos</td>
<td>Democopus Myrilla</td>
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<td>Amenophis</td>
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<td>Andronicus Cyrrhestes</td>
<td>Dignetus</td>
<td>Metagenes</td>
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<td>Anthemios (Anthemius)</td>
<td>Diphilus (Diphilus)</td>
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<td>Antiphilus</td>
<td>Domitian</td>
<td>Mustius</td>
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<td>Antimachides</td>
<td>Erysichthon</td>
<td>Mutius</td>
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<td>Antistates</td>
<td>Euphranor</td>
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<td>Apollodorus</td>
<td>Eupolemus (Eupalinus)</td>
<td>Nicon</td>
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<td>Argelius</td>
<td>Eurycles</td>
<td>Numisius</td>
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<td>Aristobulus of Cassandreia</td>
<td>Gitiadas</td>
<td>Olynthius</td>
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<td>Batrachus</td>
<td>Hadriam</td>
<td>Paenios (Paenios)</td>
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<td>Bupalus</td>
<td>Hemiuunu</td>
<td>Parmenion (Parmenio)</td>
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<td>Callaeschrus (Calleschos)</td>
<td>Heracleides</td>
<td>Phaeax (Pheaces)</td>
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<td>Callias</td>
<td>Hermocreon</td>
<td>Phileus (Phiiteus)</td>
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<td>Callimachus (Kallimachos)</td>
<td>Hermodorus of Salamis</td>
<td>Philippus</td>
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<td>Carpio (Karpion)</td>
<td>Hermogonus</td>
<td>Philocles</td>
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<td>Celer</td>
<td>Hermogenes</td>
<td>Philomusus</td>
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<td>Chares (sculptor)</td>
<td>Hermon</td>
<td>Philon (Philo)</td>
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<td>Chersiphron (Ctesiphon)</td>
<td>Hippias</td>
<td>Pollio (Postumius)</td>
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<td>Chirisophus</td>
<td>Hippias</td>
<td>Polykltos (Polycleitus)</td>
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<td>Chrysippus</td>
<td>Hippodamus of Miletus</td>
<td>Polyidus of Thessaly</td>
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<td>Cleoetas</td>
<td>Iktinos (Ictinus)</td>
<td>Porinos (Porinus)</td>
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<td>Cleanender</td>
<td>Imhotep</td>
<td>Pothaeus (Pothoeus)</td>
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<td>Cleisthenes</td>
<td>Ineni (Anena)</td>
<td>Posthumius, C.</td>
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<td>Cocceius Auctus, Lucius</td>
<td>Isidorus of Miletus</td>
<td>Pteras</td>
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<td>Coroebus</td>
<td>Kalikrates (Callikrates)</td>
<td>Pyrrhus (Pyrrhus)</td>
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<td>Cossutius</td>
<td>Kleomenes</td>
<td>Pytheos (Pythis)</td>
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<td>Cyrus</td>
<td>Lacer, C. Julius</td>
<td>Rabirius</td>
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<td>Daedalus</td>
<td>Lacrates</td>
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<td>Daphnis</td>
<td>Leonidas</td>
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<td>Detrianus (Decrianus)</td>
<td>Libon of Messena</td>
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<td>Dinocrates (Deinocrates)</td>
<td>Lupus, C. Servius</td>
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<td>Mandrocles</td>
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This list is not all-inclusive. Some additional names are mentioned in passing in ancient texts or known from inscriptions. New scholarship or archaeological finds may uncover names of additional ancient architects. Prospective chapters may propose names not on the above list for the Grand Council’s consideration, provided sufficient research and evidence of the namesake’s work as an architect is provided to merit approval.

Whether or not the namesake is “pre-approved,” your colony should research the ancient architect and his works. Online sources on ancient architecture are often fragmentary or misleading. Consult references available in your university’s libraries.

A brief biographical sketch of the namesake is a requirement for the colony’s petition to affiliate as a chapter. Sample biographies of each chapter’s namesake can be found in *The Archi Pledge*.

The Grand Council grants names to colonies on a provisional basis. Should a colony be dissolved before its installation as a chapter, the namesake will be reserved for approximately five years and then made available to other prospective chapters.