

KAPPA PSI PHARMACEUTICAL FRATERNITY

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THE ASKLEPIOS KEY

ASKLEPIOS was the Greek god of medicine

Aesculapius is the Latin form for Asklepios

Asklepios is commonly represented standing, dressed in a long cloak, breast bare and bearing a club-like or knotted staff with a serpent coiled round it. Thus the staff and coiled snake or serpent are symbolic of medicine.

Caduceus appeared in early Babylonia as a winged staff with two serpents winding about it. This was carried by Hermes and later by Greek ambassadors as a symbol of truce and neutrality.

Hermes (the son of Zeus) was the God of commerce, invention and athletes, patron of thieves, flocks and travelers. He invented the lyre and the flute.

In art, Hermes is represented with the herald's staff or caduceus

Apparently the winged staff used in the various devices of Kappa Psi does not represent anything special. The early caduceus had a pair of wings attached at the top of the staff and it possible stems from this. The true staff of Asklepios did not contain wings .

An early ritual of Kappa Psi mentions this.....

"Ancient medical tradition informs us that since the days of the Greek physician physicians Aesculapius and Hippocrates, the caduceus consisting of the knotted wand and serpent has been symbolic of medical science."

The symbol was correct, the name incorrect. The proper name for the Greek physician was Asklepios