



Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland

Statutes and Bye-Laws of the Royal Society of Antiquaries

Objects

1. The Society is instituted to preserve, examine, and illustrate all Ancient Monuments and Memorials of the Arts, Manners, and Customs of the past, as connected with the Antiquities, Language, Literature and History of Ireland. The Society shall organise Lectures, Outings, Seminars and other appropriate events to achieve these objects.

Constitution

2. The Society shall consist of Fellows, Honorary Fellows, and Members, who shall be Members of the Body Corporate; with (a) Associate Members who shall be the spouses of Fellows or Members, (b) Associate Members who shall be Students under the age of 25 years and who are in full-time attendance at a Institute of Learning, (c) Associate Members who shall be Museums, Libraries and other Societies and Institutes of Research and Learning.

Admission, Privileges and Obligations of Fellows, Members and Associate Members

3. Fellows shall be elected only at a General Meeting of the Society on the nomination of Council with the name of a Fellow or Member as proposer. Each Fellow shall pay an annual subscription of such an amount as shall be fixed by a General Meeting of the Society on the recommendation of the Council.
4. Honorary Fellows may be elected by the Society at the Annual General Meeting on the nomination of the Council.
5. Members and Associate Members shall be elected only at the General Meeting of the Society on the nomination of the Council with the name of a Fellow or Member as proposer. Each Member and Associate Member shall pay an annual subscription of such an amount as shall be fixed by a General Meeting of the Society on the recommendation of the Council for each category of membership.
6. The first Annual Subscription of Fellows and Members must be paid within twenty-eight days of notification of election.
7. All Subscriptions of Fellows and Members and all categories of Members elected at the last meeting of any year may be placed to their credit for the following year. Any Fellow, Member or Associate Member whose Subscription is two years in arrears shall cease to be a Member of the Society but liability for monies due to the Society shall continue.

8. Fellows, Honorary Fellows, Members and Associate Members (categories (b), (c) shall be entitled to receive the Journal of the Society and they may obtain extra Publications of the Society at a reduced price fixed by the Council
9. Any Fellow, Member or Associate Member whose subscription for the year has not been paid shall not be entitled to the Journal and any Fellow, Member or Associate Member whose Subscription for the current year remains unpaid and receives the Journal shall be held liable for the payment of the full published price.
10. If any Fellow, member or Associate member signifies in writing to either of the Honorary General Secretaries of the Society that he desires to withdraw from the Society, he shall cease to be a Fellow, Member or Associate Member of the Society.
11. Fellows and Members whose subscriptions for the current year have been paid shall alone have the right of voting at General Meetings of the Society. Associate Members have not the right of voting and shall not be eligible to be elected as Officers of the Society or Members of the Council.

The Council

12. The management of the business of the Society shall be entrusted to a Council. The Council shall consist of the President, Vice-Presidents, the Honorary General Secretaries and Honorary Treasurer, all of whom shall be *ex officio* Members thereof, and of twelve Fellows or Members. The three longest elected Members of the Council shall retire each year by rotation, as may be determined by the council. In case of a vacancy occurring for a Member of the council during the year the Council may at its next meeting co-opt a Fellow or Member until the next ensuing Annual General Meeting. A Member of Council who has failed to attend four (three in the case of a Member who ordinarily resides more than fifty miles from the Offices of the Society) of the Meetings of the Council shall not be eligible for re-election at the next Annual General Meeting. The Council shall meet at least eight times in each year, when possible. Four Members of Council shall form a quorum.
13. The Officers of the Society shall be a President, who must be a Fellow, one or more Vice-Presidents for each Province, also to be Fellows; Honorary General Secretaries and the Honorary Treasurer who may be either Fellows or Members. It shall be within the discretion of the Council to propose an additional Vice-President for any Province, to hold office for one year from the date of election.

The President and Vice-Presidents

14. The President shall take the Chair at all meetings of the Society, the Council and all Standing Committees at which he is present and shall keep order and regulate the proceedings. He shall be *ex-officio* a member of all Standing Committees, and he may at any time summon Extraordinary Meetings of the Council and shall have a casting vote on all occasions. In the absence of the President at Council Meetings or at General meetings of the Society, a Vice-President or Past President shall preside. On the resignation or death of the President during his term of office, the Council shall nominate a Past President or Vice-President to act as President until the next Annual General Meeting. A President shall not hold

office for more than four consecutive years. Vice-Presidents shall not hold office for more than three consecutive years.

The Honorary General Secretaries

15. The Honorary General Secretaries shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting and shall be *ex-officio* members of the Council and of all Standing Committees. They shall keep the Minutes of the proceedings of the Society and cause them to be correctly and legibly transcribed. They shall generally superintend the ordinary business of the Society. In case of a vacancy occurring in the offices of Honorary General Secretaries during the year of office the Council shall appoint a Fellow or Fellows, a Member or Members to hold office until the next Annual General meeting.

The Honorary Treasurer

16. The Honorary Treasurer shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting and shall be an *ex-officio* member of the Council and of all Standing Committees. He shall keep or cause to be kept the Accounts of the Society in proper books provided for the purpose. He shall not make any payment (other than for current and petty expenses) without the previous order of the Council. He shall from time to time pay to the Society's Bankers all money received on its account, and shall invest money as directed by the Council. He shall be prepared to produce the Accounts at any time if so required by the Council and shall submit the same personally to the Auditor. In the case of a vacancy occurring in the office of Honorary Treasurer during a year of office, the Council shall appoint a Fellow or Member to hold that office until the next Annual Meeting.

The Corporate Seal of the Society

17. The Corporate Seal of the Society shall be in the joint custody of the President, the Honorary Treasurer and one of the Honorary Secretaries for the time being, who shall affix it to documents on the authority of the Council

18. The Corporate Seal of the Society shall not be affixed to any instrument for the sale or transfer of any of the Society's property, unless by vote of the Society on the recommendation of the Council.

Election of President Vice-President, Officers, and Council

19. The Officers of the Society shall be elected and vacancies arising on the Council shall be filled at the annual General Meeting. A Meeting of the Society shall be held in December, at which the vacancies shall be declared. Nominations for these vacancies must be received at the Rooms of the Society on or before the third Tuesday of January preceding the Annual General Meeting, addressed to the Honorary General Secretaries and endorsed 'Nomination of Officer' or 'Nomination for Council'. Each nomination paper for these vacancies must be signed by seven Fellows or Members as proposers; and in the case of a candidate who has not held such office before, his nomination paper must be accompanied by an intimation that he will serve in that office if elected. At its January meeting further names may be added by the Council to the list of those proposed. In case the number of persons so nominated shall exceed the number of vacancies, a printed Balloting paper, containing the names of all such Candidates arranged in alphabetical order, distinguishing those recommended by Council, shall be placed before the Annual General Meeting. Every election of the Society shall be

decided by a majority of the Members and Fellows present and voting. Each person voting shall mark with a cross the name of the Candidate for whom he votes. In case a voter signs the balloting paper, or votes for more Candidates than the number specified thereon, or otherwise spoils the balloting paper in the opinion of the scrutineers, such balloting papers shall be rejected. The balloting papers shall be scrutinized on the day of election by at least two Scrutineers appointed by the Chairman who shall report the result at the General Meeting held upon that day. The Honorary Treasurer if requested by the Scrutineers shall furnish them with a list of the Fellows and Members whose subscriptions have been paid up to the day preceding the election. Those candidates who obtain the greatest number of votes shall be declared elected, provided that, when there appears an equality of votes for two or more Candidates, the Candidate whose name has been longest on the books of the Society shall be declared elected. Existing Officers and Members of Council eligible for re-election may be nominated by the Council for election at the next Annual General Meeting. In case no nomination has been received for any or all of the vacancies for Officers and Members of Council, in the manner prescribed, such vacancies shall be filled by election at the Annual General Meeting.

20. The Council shall report to the Annual General Meeting the state of the Society's funds, and other matters which may have come before them during the preceding year. They may appoint such committees for dealing with special departments of the Society's work as they think fit.

Auditor

21. The Accounts of the Society shall be audited each year by Auditors nominated by the Council and approved by the Society at the Annual General Meeting. The accounts so audited together with the report of the auditors shall be presented by the Council at the next General Meeting of the Society.

Meetings of the Society

22. The Society shall meet at least eight times in each year, when possible, on such days as the Council shall determine, for the election of Fellows, Members and Associate members; for the reading and discussion of papers on historical, archaeological and related subjects; for the exhibition of objects of antiquarian interest and for the transaction of other business of the Society. Excursions may be arranged when practicable.
Twelve Members shall form a quorum at a General Meeting.
23. The Annual General Meeting shall be held in Dublin in the last week of the month of January in every year. The other meetings shall be held in such places as the Council may recommend. Notice of such General meetings shall be forwarded to each Fellow and Member of the Society.

Publications

24. No paper shall be read at the Meeting of the Society without the permission of the Council. The Council shall determine the papers to be read at any meeting of the Society. All papers listed or communications shall be published.
25. All matters concerning existing religious or political differences shall be excluded from the papers to be read and the discussions held at the Meetings of the Society.

26. The Proceedings of the Society and the papers read at the several meetings when approved of by the Council and at the discretion of the Council may be printed in the Journal. If the funds of the Society permit, extra publications may be printed at the discretion of the Council.

General

27. A Proposal for the enactment of any new Rule, or for the alteration or repeal of any existing Rule, must be in the first instance submitted to the Council; the proposal to be signed by seven Fellows or Members, and forwarded to the Honorary General Secretaries. On such proposal being made, the Council shall lay the same before a General Meeting, with its opinion thereon; and such proposal shall not be ratified unless passed by a majority of the Fellows and Members present at such General meeting.

All By-Laws and Regulations dealing with the General Rules formerly made are hereby repealed.