

## **INTERNATIONAL SHAKESPEARE ASSOCIATION – CONSTITUTION**

### **Title**

1. The Association shall be called 'The International Shakespeare Association' (hereinafter referred to as 'the Association').

### **Objects**

2. The object of the Association is to advance the education of the public by furthering the study of Shakespeare's life and work. In furtherance of this object but not otherwise:
  - (a) To link the work of the various Shakespeare Associations, etc., and to advise on the foundation and development of new associations
  - (b) To maintain liaison with U.N.E.S.C.O. and other international organisations
  - (c) To advise on the initiation and planning of any World Shakespeare Congresses
  - (d) To establish an information centre covering research, publications, translation and performance
  - (e) To keep and circulate a diary of future performances, conferences, graduate courses and opportunities for other graduate work, educational experiments, etc.
  - (f) To create a centre for the non-commercial interchange of books and articles where scholarly needs arise, and for further dissemination of significant work through translation
  - (g) To aid travel in the interests of Shakespeare scholarship and performance
  - (h) To co-ordinate and support requests for finance for internationally co-operative projects
  - (i) To keep members informed, as opportunity presents itself, of the activities of the Association

### **Membership**

3. Individual membership of the International Shakespeare Association shall be open to any person of any country who wishes to support the objects of the Association and who accepts its articles. Corporate membership shall be open to academic, theatrical and literary organizations or institutions which have interests in common with the work of the International Shakespeare Association.

### **Executive Committee**

4. The management of the Association's affairs and finances shall be vested in an Executive Committee consisting of a President and two Vice-Presidents and not more than eighteen members. The Executive Committee shall be elected every five years by ballot of the membership. Members shall be eligible to stand for re-election. Five members of the Executive Committee shall form a quorum.

Casual vacancies arising among the officers or other members of the Executive Committee may be filled by the Executive Committee.

5. The Executive Committee shall appoint from amongst its members a Chair and a Vice-Chair. In the case of equality of votes, the Chair or in the Chair's absence, the Vice-Chair, shall have a second or casting vote.
6. The Executive Committee shall appoint a Secretary, a Treasurer, and such other officers as may be considered necessary from time to time, and may pay to such Secretary, Treasurer or other officer (not being a member of the Executive Committee) such reasonable remuneration as the Executive Committee thinks fit.
7. The Executive Committee shall meet at such times and places as they may themselves appoint.
8. The Executive Committee may take such decisions as it deems necessary and expedient for the furthering of the affairs and concerns of the International Shakespeare Association by a postal ballot of all Committee members. A majority vote shall decide all questions.
9. Upon a requisition in writing to the Chair by any three members of the Executive Committee, a meeting of the Executive Committee shall be summoned or, at the Chair's discretion, a postal vote shall be taken on any matter in question.
10. The Executive Committee shall have the power to make, vary or revoke any regulations being not inconsistent with the provisions hereof respecting any of the affairs and concerns of the International Shakespeare Association that shall be thought necessary and proper. All questions shall be determined by a majority vote of those present at the meeting.
11. The Executive Committee may delegate any of its powers to a Sub-Committee or Sub-Committees and any such Sub-Committee shall in the exercise of the powers so delegated conform to any regulations that may be laid upon it by the Executive Committee PROVIDED THAT all acts and proceedings of any such Sub-Committee shall be fully and promptly reported to the Executive Committee.

### **Subscriptions**

12. The subscriptions for individual and corporate membership shall be such as the Executive Committee may from time to time determine. The Executive Committee shall have the power to waive a member's subscription in special cases where currency restrictions are prohibitive.
13. If any subscribing member is more than three years in arrears or if any member is judged to have acted in a manner contrary to the interests of the Association, the member's name shall upon the passing of an appropriate resolution by the Executive Committee be removed from the list of members of the Association. No such resolution as aforesaid shall be passed until the individual concerned shall have been given an opportunity to state his/her case to the Executive Committee orally or in writing. Any such resolution shall have immediate effect but may be rescinded by the members in general meeting or by ballot.

## **Meetings**

14. Meetings of the International Shakespeare Association shall be held at such times and places as the Executive Committee shall determine. The Executive Committee shall call a meeting upon receipt of a request for the purpose signed by not less than 25 members.

## **Rules**

15. The Executive Committee's decisions in the interpretation of the Association's rules shall be binding on all members of the International Shakespeare Association. Every member of the International Shakespeare Association shall receive a copy of its constitution.

## **Amendments**

16. Any proposal to alter this constitution must be delivered in writing to the Secretary of the Association. If such alteration is to be considered at a general meeting such notice should be received not less than 28 days before the date of the meeting at which it is to be considered. Any such proposal will require the approval of a two-thirds' majority either of the members present and voting at such meeting or voting by ballot. Notice of each such meeting must have been given in accordance with the normal procedure but not less than 21 days prior to the meeting in question and giving the wording of the proposed alteration PROVIDED THAT no such alteration shall be made to clause 2 hereof without the consent of the Charity Commissioners for England and Wales AND PROVIDED ALSO THAT no such alteration shall be made so as to cause the Association to cease to be a charity in law.

## **Dissolution**

17. The Association may be dissolved at any time by a resolution passed by a three-quarters' majority either of the members present and voting at a general meeting or voting by ballot. Such resolution may give instructions for the disposal of any assets held by or in the name of the Association PROVIDED THAT if any property remains after the satisfaction of all debts and liabilities such property shall be given or transferred to some other charitable institution or institutions having objects similar to the objects of the Association as the Executive Committee may with the approval of the Charity Commissioners determine.

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