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CHARTER

AND

BYE-LAWS

OF THE

ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

1957

REGULATIONS FOR THE LIBRARY

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CHARTER

1. **William the Fourth,** by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland King, Defender of the Faith, to all to whom these presents shall come, greeting.

2. **Whereas** SIR JAMES SOUTH, of the Observatory, *Kensington*, in the County of *Middlesex*, Knight, has, by his Petition, humbly represented unto Us, that he, together with others of Our loyal subjects, did, in the year 1820, form themselves into a Society, of which We have since been pleased to become the Royal Patron, for the encouragement and promotion of *Astronomy*, and have subscribed and collected considerable sums of money for such purposes; and have also collected, and become possessed of, a valuable library and various astronomical instruments, as well as other property to a considerable amount; and have been actively employed in, and are still further desirous of, extending the use and advantage of the same for the benefit of Science, by the publication of various works, and by promoting a general spirit of inquiry on Astronomical subjects; and that it would materially effectuate the designs of the Petitioner and the other Fellows of the said Society, if they were incorporated; the Petitioner therefore, on behalf of himself and the other Fellows of the said Society, most humbly prayed that, for the better enabling them to carry into effect the objects aforesaid, We would be graciously pleased to grant a Royal Charter for incorporating into a Society the several persons who have already become Fellows, or who may at any time hereafter become Fellows thereof:

3. **Now know ye,** that We, being desirous of encouraging a design so laudable, have of Our especial grace, certain knowledge, and mere motion, willed, granted, and ordained, and do by these presents, for Us, Our heirs and successors, will, grant, and ordain, that the said SIR JAMES SOUTH, Knight, and such others of Our loving subjects as have formed themselves into, and are now Fellows of the said Society, or who shall at any time hereafter become Fellows thereof, according to such Bye-laws as shall hereafter be framed or enacted, shall by virtue of these presents, be one body politic and corporate, by the name and style of THE ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY: by which name and style they shall have perpetual succession and a common seal; with full power to alter, vary, break, and renew the same at their discretion; and by the same name and style to sue and be sued, to implead and be impleaded, to answer and be answered unto, in every court of Us, Our heirs and successors:

4. And be forever able and capable in the law to purchase, receive, hold, possess, and enjoy, to them and their successors, any goods and chattels

whatsoever; and also be able and capable in the law (notwithstanding the Statutes of Mortmain), to take, purchase, possess, hold, and enjoy, to them and their successors, a hall or college, and any messuages, lands, tenements, or hereditaments whatsoever, the yearly value of which (including the said hall or college) shall not exceed in the whole the sum of Two Thousand Pounds, computing the same respectively at the rack rent, which might have been had or gotten for the same respectively, at the time of the purchase or acquisition thereof; and to act and do in all things relating to the said body politic and corporate, as fully and effectually to all intents, effects, constructions, and purposes whatsoever, as any other of our liege subjects, or any other body politic or corporate, in Our United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland (not being under any disability), might or could act, or do in their respective concerns. And We do hereby grant Our especial licence and authority unto all and every person and persons, bodies politic and corporate (otherwise competent), to grant, sell, alien, and convey in mortmain, unto and to the use of the said Society, and their successors, any messuages, lands, tenements, or hereditaments, not exceeding such annual value as aforesaid.

5. **And Our Will** and Pleasure is, and We further grant and declare, that there shall be a *General Meeting* of the Fellows of the said body politic and corporate, to be held from time to time, as hereinafter mentioned; and that there shall always be a *Council* to direct and manage the concerns of the said body politic and corporate.

6. **And We do** hereby also will, grant, and declare, that the Council shall consist of a President, four Vice-Presidents, one Treasurer, not more than three Secretaries, and not more than twelve nor less than eight, other Fellows, to be elected out of the Fellows of the said body politic and corporate; and that the first members of the Council shall be elected within six calendar months after the date of this Our Charter; and that the said SIR JAMES SOUTH shall be the first President of the said body politic and corporate, and shall continue such until the election as aforesaid.

7. **And We do** hereby further will, grant, and declare, that it shall be lawful for the Fellows of the said body politic and corporate, hereby established, to hold General Meetings once in the year, or oftener, for the purposes hereinafter mentioned, viz.—That the General Meeting shall choose the President, Vice-Presidents, Treasurer, Secretaries, and other Members of the Council; that the General Meeting shall make and establish such Bye-laws as they shall deem to be useful and necessary for the regulation of the said body politic and corporate; for fixing the days on which the ordinary meetings of the Society shall be held; for determining the mode in which Fellows and Associates shall be elected, admitted, or expelled; for the management of the estates, goods, and affairs of the said body politic and corporate; and for fixing and determining the manner of electing the President, Vice-Presidents, Treasurer, Secretaries, and other Members of the Council, and the period of their continuance in office (but

it is Our Will and Pleasure, that no Fellow who has filled the office of President for two successive years, shall be again eligible to the same situation until the expiration of one year from the termination of his office); and such Bye-laws, from time to time, shall or may alter, vary, or revoke; and shall or may make such new and other Bye-laws, as they shall think useful and expedient.

8. But Our Will and Pleasure is, that no such General Meeting as aforesaid shall, without the consent of the Council of the said Society or body politic, have the power of altering or repealing any existing Bye-law, or of making any new one, unless the Fellow or Fellows of the said Society, or body politic, who shall be desirous of altering or repealing any such existing Bye-law, or of making any new one, shall have given to the Council of the said Society, or body politic, one month's previous notice of such his or their intention.

9. **And We further** will, grant, and declare, that the Council shall (but not inconsistently with, or contrary to, the provisions of this Our Charter, or any existing Bye-law, or the Laws and Statutes of this Our Realm) have the sole management of the income and funds of the said body politic and corporate ; and also the entire management and superintendence of all the other affairs and concerns thereof ; and shall or may do all such acts and deeds as shall appear to them necessary or essential to be done for the purpose of carrying into effect the objects and views of the said body politic and corporate.

10. **And We further** will, grant, and declare, that the whole property of the said body politic and corporate shall be vested, and We do hereby vest the same, solely and absolutely, in the Fellows thereof ; and that they shall have full power and authority to sell, alienate, charge, or otherwise dispose of the same, as they shall think proper ; but that no sale, mortgage, encumbrance, or other disposition of any messuages, lands, tenements, or hereditaments, belonging to the said body politic or corporate, shall be made except with the approbation and concurrence of a General Meeting.

11. **And We lastly declare** it to be Our Royal Will and Pleasure that no Resolution or Bye-law shall, on any account or pretence whatsoever, be made by the said body politic and corporate, in opposition to the general scope, true intent, and meaning of this Our Charter, or the Laws and Statutes of this Realm : and that, if any such Resolution or Bye-law shall be made, the same shall be absolutely null and void, to all intents, effects, constructions, and purposes whatsoever.

In witness whereof We have caused these Our letters to be made patent.

Witness Ourself, at Westminster, this Seventh day of March in the first year of Our Reign. 1831

By writ of Privy Seal.

SCOTT.

SUPPLEMENTAL CHARTER

George the Fifth, by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and of the British Dominions beyond the Seas, King, Defender of the Faith, Emperor of India. To all to whom these Presents shall come Greeting :

Whereas our Royal predecessor King William the Fourth by letters patent by writ of Privy Seal, bearing date at Westminster the seventh day of March in the first year of His said late Majesty's reign, did will, grant, and ordain that Sir James South, Knight, and such others, as therein mentioned, as had formed themselves into and were then Fellows of the Society for the encouragement and promotion of Astronomy therein mentioned, or should at any time thereafter become Fellows thereof, according to such Bye-Laws as should thereafter be framed or enacted, should be one body politic and corporate by the name and style of " THE ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY " with perpetual succession, and with the powers, liberties, and privileges, and subject to the provisions, in the said Royal Charter set forth :

And our Royal predecessor did thereby also grant and declare that there should be a General Meeting of the Fellows of the said body politic and corporate to be held from time to time as therein mentioned, and that there should always be a Council to direct and manage the concerns of the said body politic and corporate, and that the General Meeting should make and establish such Bye-Laws as they should deem to be useful and necessary for the regulation of the said body politic and corporate and (*inter alia*) for determining the mode in which Fellows and Associates should be elected, admitted, or expelled, and such Bye-Laws from time to time should or might alter, vary, or revoke, and should or might make such new and other Bye-Laws as they should think useful and expedient :

And whereas it has been represented to us by the Council of the said Society (acting in pursuance of a resolution in that behalf passed at a General Meeting of the Fellows thereof, and of a further resolution in that behalf passed at a meeting of the said Council) that it would increase the usefulness of the said Society if women could be elected Fellows and Associates thereof, and that it is apprehended by the said Society that women may not now be eligible to be elected Fellows and Associates thereof :

And whereas the said Society have by their petition humbly besought Us to grant them Our Royal Charter for carrying into effect the above-mentioned objects in manner hereinafter appearing :

Now know ye, that We, taking the premises into Our Royal consideration do of Our special grace, for Ourself, Our Heirs, and Successors, by way of addition to the said hereinbefore recited Charter, grant and declare that persons may be elected and admitted to be Fellows and Associates of the said Society, and expelled therefrom, without distinction of sex, and that every such election, admission, and expulsion, and every consequent alteration, variation, and revocation of or addition to the Bye-Laws of the said Society (so that the same be duly made in manner provided in that behalf by the said hereinbefore recited Charter and be not in opposition to the general scope, true intent, and meaning of the said hereinbefore recited Charter, as amended or supplemented by this present Charter, nor in opposition to the Laws and Statutes of this realm) shall have the same effect as if made in pursuance of the said hereinbefore recited Charter.

In witness whereof We have caused these Our letters to be made Patent.

Witness Ourself at Westminster this fifth day of June, 1915, in sixth Year of Our Reign.

By Warrant under the King's Sign Manual.

MUIR MACKENZIE.

BYE-LAWS

OF THE

ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

MADE AT THE SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING 1831 APRIL 6 AS AMENDED AND ADDED TO AT SUBSEQUENT ANNUAL AND SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS

The date of original adoption of each Bye-law is 1831 April 6 unless a different date is given in **heavy** *type. The date of the approval of the latest amended form is given in ordinary type.*

SECTION I.—*Of the Object of the Society*

1. THE ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY is instituted for the encouragement and promotion of Astronomy.

SECTION II.—*Of its Constitution*

2. The Society shall consist of Fellows and Associates, already elected, and to be elected in the manner hereinafter mentioned.

1857 July 10 — 3. The Officers of the Society shall be chosen out of the Fellows, and shall consist of a President, Four Vice-Presidents, One Treasurer and Three Secretaries, who, with Twelve other Fellows, shall constitute a Council for the management and direction of the affairs of the Society.

SECTION III.—*Of the Election of the Officers and Council*

1857 July 10 — 4. The President, Vice-Presidents, Treasurer, Secretaries and the other Twelve Members of the Council shall be elected annually by ballot at the Annual General Meeting.

5. No Fellow who has filled the office of President or Vice-President for two successive years shall be again eligible to the same situation, until the expiration of one year from the termination of his office.

1933 Feb. 10 — 6. A newly elected Council shall contain at least four Fellows who have not served as Officers or otherwise on the retiring Council.

1946 Feb. 8 — 7. If, in the interval between any two successive Annual General Meetings, the office of President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary or Member of the Council may have become vacant by death, resignation or otherwise, the Council shall have power to fill such office until the next Annual General Meeting.

1858 June 11 — 8. Any two or more Fellows who shall be desirous of nominating any other Fellow or Fellows to be submitted to Ballot for election, either as President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary or Member of the Council, shall have power to do so, provided that the lists of persons so nominated be delivered at the Society's Rooms, duly signed, before noon on the day of the ordinary meeting in December.

9. The Council shall, at their ordinary meeting in December, take into

consideration the subject of the election of Officers and Council, and shall decide upon a list of names to be recommended to the Society at the ensuing Annual General Meeting ; and this list, together with all such lists as shall have been duly transmitted under the preceding Bye-law, shall be circulated among the Fellows with all convenient speed ; and the Council shall, at any meeting subsequent to that of December, supply any deficiencies which may have been created in their own list by death or resignation. 1858 June 11 1933 Feb. 10

10. All the names proposed by the Council, as well as those proposed by other Fellows, shall be printed in one Balloting List, and the Names of the Nominors, or the words, " The Council ", as the case may be, shall be attached to each name thus proposed. 1858 June 11

11. Those of the Fellows who make use of the Balloting List thus provided, shall reduce the List to the number required for each office, by striking out or removing the names for which they do not vote ; and the Scrutineers shall hold any List null and void in all its parts, which contains more or fewer than the number of names required for any office, or which, for any other reason, cannot be received entire. 1858 June 11

12. Nothing herein contained shall lessen or limit the right of any Fellow to make use of a List of his own preparation, provided the same be neither insufficient nor redundant, or to insert any eligible names in any part of the printed List in lieu of those proposed by the Council or by other Fellows. Any List addressed and posted to the Scrutineers of the Ballot by any Fellow not present at the meeting shall be accepted, if duly verified by the signature of the absent Fellow on the envelope. 1858 June 11 1885 May 8

SECTION IV.—*Of the Election, Admission and Expulsion of Fellows and Associates*

13. Every person, desirous of admission into the Society as a Fellow, must be proposed and recommended agreeably to the Form No. 1 in the Appendix hereto ; wherein must be inserted the Christian name, surname, rank, profession and usual place of residence of the candidate ; and which form must be subscribed by at least three Fellows or Associates, one of whom must certify his personal knowledge of such candidate. 1928 Feb. 10

14. Every recommendation of a proposed Fellow must be delivered to one of the Secretaries, and read at one of the ordinary meetings of the Society ; after which it shall be exhibited in the Library of the Society (or in such other place as the Council may from time to time direct), and there remain until the election is decided. 1937 Feb. 12

15. The election of candidates proposed as Fellows shall rest with the Council, subject to confirmation by the Fellows in meeting assembled. Such election shall be decided at the second ordinary meeting of the Council after the reading of the recommendation as prescribed by the preceding Bye-law. 1928 Feb. 10

16. At the next ordinary meeting a list of the candidates so elected shall be read and put to the meeting for confirmation, when, unless any Fellow demands a ballot, the election of all candidates in such list shall be 1947 Dec. 12

deemed to be confirmed. If a ballot is demanded, it shall be taken at the close of the same meeting, when each of the candidates shall be balloted for separately.

17. Whenever a person is elected a Fellow, one of the Secretaries shall inform him of the same, by letter, as soon as possible ; and shall at the same time forward to him a copy of the Charter and Bye-laws of the Society, and a card announcing the days on which the ordinary meetings are held during the Session.

18. Every person, elected a Fellow, shall pay his admission fee and first annual contribution within two calendar months of the day of his election, otherwise his election shall be void ; but the Council shall, in particular cases, have the power of extending the period within which such first payment shall be made.

1908 Feb. 14 19. Every *elected* Fellow, having subscribed the Form No. 2 in the Appendix hereto, and having paid his admission fee and first annual contribution, shall be *admitted* at the first meeting at which he is present, according to the ensuing form, viz. the President, or other Fellow in the chair, addressing him by name, shall say, " In the name of the Royal Astronomical Society, I admit you a Fellow thereof."

1928 Feb. 10 20. But when an elected Fellow, residing at a distance from the metropolis, may not be able to attend the meeting of the Society, he may be admitted by a proxy nominated by himself. In which case (the Form No. 2 having been subscribed) the President or other Fellow in the chair, addressing such proxy by name, shall say, " In the name of the Royal Astronomical Society, I admit————a Fellow thereof."

1864 Feb. 12 21. Whenever there may appear cause, other than non-payment of moneys due to the Society, for the expulsion of any Fellow, or Associate, from the Society, the Council may call a Special General Meeting of the Society for that purpose ; and (not less than twenty-four Fellows being then present) if three-fourths of those voting agree by ballot that such Fellow or Associate be expelled, the President, or other Fellow in the chair, shall declare the same accordingly.

SECTION V.—*Of the Contributions of Fellows*

1956 Feb. 10 22. The contribution of each Fellow shall, for the first year, be six guineas or four guineas, according to the month in which he may have been elected (viz. two guineas in all cases as an admission fee, and four guineas as the first year's contribution, if such election has taken place in the month of January, February, March, April, May or June ; but only two guineas as the first year's contribution, if such election has taken place in the month of October, November or December), payable at the time of his election ; and four guineas for every subsequent year ; such subsequent contributions to become due and be payable in advance on the first day of January in every subsequent year. In the event of a former Fellow seeking re-election, or of a former Junior Member seeking election as a Fellow, the Council

may, if it thinks fit, waive the admission fee normally payable, it being understood that in all such cases the individual concerned must be formally proposed and submitted for election as provided in Bye-laws 13 to 20, apart from the payment of the admission fee.

23. Any Fellow may at his entrance compound for his annual contributions, exclusive of his admission fee, by the payment of a composition fee of one hundred guineas less one guinea for each year of age (on the first day of January in the year of entrance) in excess of thirty ; or he may at any time afterwards (all sums then due having been paid) compound for his subsequent annual contributions, in which case the payment shall be the composition fee as calculated according to this Bye-law for the date of entrance, reduced by one and one-half guineas for each year of Fellowship with a minimum payment of ten guineas. 1956 Feb. 10

24. Whenever a Fellow of the Society shall be one year in arrear of the payment of his annual contribution, the Treasurer shall write a letter of the Form No. 3 in the Appendix, and address and forward the same to the last known place of abode of such Fellow, together with a copy of the following Bye-law. 1928 Feb. 10

25. Whenever a Fellow of the Society shall be one year in arrear in the payment of his annual contribution he shall cease to enjoy the right of attending any meeting of the Society, of assuming the title of a Fellow of the Society, and of receiving the publications of the Society and other advantages thereof until his arrears be paid ; and should such Fellow become two years in arrear as aforesaid, his name shall be publicly exhibited as that of a defaulter in the Library (or in such other place as the Council may from time to time direct) at any ordinary meeting of the Society ; and should his arrears be still unpaid at the next ordinary meeting of the Society (or in the case of Fellows resident abroad, at such later date as the Council shall determine), and no satisfactory reason assigned to the Council for such non-payment, he shall cease to be a Fellow of the Society. 1938 Apr. 8

26. Every Fellow shall be considered as belonging to the Society until he has either signified in writing to the Society his desire to resign, or has ceased to be a Fellow under Bye-laws 21 or 25 ; when his name shall be erased from the List of Fellows. 1950 Dec. 8

SECTION VI.—*Of Junior Members*

27. Any person under the age of 25 desirous of admission into the Society as a Junior Member must be proposed and recommended agreeably to the Form No. 4 in the Appendix hereto ; wherein must be inserted the Christian name, surname, date of birth, place of training, or occupation, and usual place of residence of the candidate ; and which form must be subscribed by at least one Fellow or Associate who must certify his personal knowledge of such candidate. 1947 Dec. 12

28. Every recommendation of a proposed Junior Member must be delivered to one of the Secretaries, and read at one of the ordinary meetings of the Society.

29. The election of candidates proposed as Junior Members shall rest with the Council, subject to confirmation by the Fellows in meeting assembled. Such election shall be decided at the first ordinary meeting of Council after the reading of the recommendation as prescribed by the preceding Bye-law.

30. At the next ordinary meeting of the Society a list of the candidates so elected shall be read and put to the meeting for confirmation, when, unless any Fellow demands a ballot, the election of all candidates in such list shall be deemed to be confirmed. If a ballot is demanded, it shall be taken at the close of the same meeting when each of the candidates shall be balloted for separately.

31. Whenever a person is elected a Junior Member, one of the Secretaries shall inform him of the same, by letter, as soon as possible ; and shall at the same time send him a copy of this Section VI of the Bye-laws, and a card announcing the days at which ordinary meetings are held during the session.

32. Every person, elected a Junior Member, shall on payment of an annual contribution of one guinea be entitled to attend all ordinary meetings of the Society and to receive the *Monthly Notices* of the Society, or the *Geophysical Supplement*. The Junior Member shall also have the right to receive other publications of the Society at a reduced cost and the right to use the Library. The Junior Member shall not be a corporate member of the Society, and shall therefore have neither the right to confirm the election of Fellows, Associates or Junior Members, nor the right to attend the Annual General Meeting or Special General Meetings of the Society, nor the right to take part in the election of Officers and Council, nor finally shall be himself be eligible to hold any office in the Society.

33. Every person, elected a Junior Member, shall pay his first annual contribution within two calendar months of the day of his election, otherwise his election shall be void. On payment of his first annual contribution the Junior Member shall receive the *Monthly Notices* (or the *Geophysical Supplement*) for the whole of the year in which his election took place, and his subsequent annual contributions will become due and payable in advance on the 1st day of January of the subsequent years. Delivery of the *Monthly Notices* (or the *Geophysical Supplement*) to the Junior Member in these subsequent years shall commence on receipt of his annual contribution, and shall be continued until he has received the whole of the numbers for that year. Whenever a Junior Member shall be one year in arrear in the payment of his annual contribution, he shall cease to enjoy the rights of a Junior Member, and shall be deemed to have resigned.

34. A Junior Member may retain his status and privileges for a period of four years from the 1st day of January of the year of his election, or until the end of the year during which he attains the age of twenty-five, whichever is

earlier. At any time before his automatic retirement as a Junior Member and provided his annual contribution has been paid, a Junior Member may be proposed for admission into the Society as a Fellow, in accordance with Section IV of these Bye-laws. If elected, his contribution shall be that determined by Section V of these Bye-laws, except that he shall not be required to pay the usual admission fee of two guineas.

35. Nothing in the present Section VI of these Bye-laws shall be deemed to hinder any person being proposed for admission as a Fellow, who though eligible has not taken advantage of the possibility of becoming a Junior Member.

SECTION VII.—*Of Associates*

36. Every person, eminent in the science of Astronomy, not being a British subject, nor having a permanent residence in any of the British dominions, is eligible as an Associate.

37. The election of Associates shall rest with the Council.

38. Whenever a person is elected an Associate, the Foriegn Secretary shall inform him of the same, and forward to him his Diploma, drawn up agreeably to the form prescribed by the Council. 1933 Feb. 10

39. Associates shall not have the right of holding any office in the Society.

SECTION VIII.—*Of the Council*

40. The Council shall have the management and direction of all the affairs of the Society, subject to the control of the General Meetings of the Society.

41. The Council shall meet at the house, hall or apartments of the Society, at least once in every month during the Session; but the President, or any three Members of the Council, may, by letter to one of the Secretaries, require an extra meeting to be called : and if the Secretary refuse or neglect to call such meeting, any one of the said Members may call it.

42. Due notice of each meeting of the Council shall be sent, by one of the Secretaries, to the usual address of every Member thereof. 1844 Feb. 9

43. At any meeting of the Council, five Members thereof shall constitute a quorum.

44. All questions shall be decided in the Council by vote, unless otherwise directed, or unless a ballot be demanded.

45. The determination of the Council, whether by vote or ballot, shall, at the desire of any two Members present, be deferred to the succeeding meeting.

46. The Council shall draw up a report on the state of the affairs of the Society, to be presented at the Annual General Meeting. 1908 Feb. 14

47. The Council shall have the power of appointing, employing, and remunerating such assistants as may be necessary for conducting the business of the Society, and may discharge them when they think proper. 1844 Feb. 9

1946 Feb. 8

48. Minutes of the proceedings of the Council shall be taken during their progress by one of the Secretaries, which shall be afterwards fairly entered (as early as convenient) into the Minute-book, and the accuracy of such entry having been confirmed at the next meeting of the Council shall be signed by the President or other Fellow then in the chair.

1946 Feb. 8

SECTION IX.—*Of the Ordinary Meetings*

49. The ordinary meetings of the Society shall be held on the second Friday in every month during the Session, from October to May,* both inclusive: and twelve Fellows shall constitute a quorum. But, when the second Friday happens to be *Good Friday*, the meeting shall be held on the *Wednesday* preceding.

1946 Feb. 8

50. Business shall commence at half-past four o'clock in the afternoon *precisely*; when the minutes of the preceding meeting shall be read, and the minutes of the Council laid on the table, for the inspection of the Fellows, if required.

1938 Apr. 8

51. The business of the ordinary meetings shall be to propose and ballot for Fellows; to announce such donations as may have been made to the Society; to read such communications relating to Astronomy and the subjects connected therewith, as may have been presented to the Society; and to proceed upon any other subject which may have been authorized by the Council: provided always that the same do not relate to the Bye-laws, nor to the management of the Society.

52. Every Fellow and Associate shall have the privilege of introducing a visitor at any of the ordinary meetings, on writing his name in the book provided for that purpose.

1908 Feb. 14

53. The Council shall have the power of issuing invitations to visitors to the ordinary meetings of each session.

1918 June 14

SECTION IXA.—*Of Additional Meetings*

54. The Council may at any time call additional meetings, when it seems to them necessary, for the purpose of reading communications relating to Astronomy and the subjects connected therewith.

1946 Feb. 8

SECTION X.—*Of the Annual General Meeting*

55. A General Meeting of the Society shall be held annually on the second Friday in February, immediately following the ordinary meeting, to receive the Report of the Council on the state of the Society, and to deliberate thereon; to discuss and determine such questions as may be proposed relative to the affairs of the Society; to elect the Officers for the

* It is at the option of the Council, at its discretion, to insert or omit, year by year, the month of June in the list of ordinary meetings.

ensuing year; and to enact, alter or repeal Bye-laws, agreeably to the recommendations of the Council, on proper notice given thereto according to the Charter.

56. Should it happen that, at any such General Meeting, the whole of the business cannot be completed on the day appointed, the Meeting shall have power to adjourn to such other day as may be most convenient for concluding the same without the necessity of a fresh summons.

57. Notice of business to be brought forward by the Council at the Annual General Meeting shall be posted to every Fellow at least one week before the date of meeting. 1946 Feb. 8

58. The President, or other Fellow in the chair, shall appoint two or more Scrutineers, from amongst the Fellows present, to superintend the ballot during its progress, and to report the result to the meeting. The ballot shall commence and close at the pleasure of the meeting.

SECTION XI.—*Of Special General Meetings*

59. The Council may at any time call a Special General Meeting of the Society, when it seems to it to be necessary.

60. Any five Fellows, not being of the Council, may recommend the adoption or rejection of any measure, or the adoption, repeal or alteration of any Bye-law, to the Council, by a letter addressed to one of the Secretaries. Such recommendation the Council shall take into consideration at its next meeting; and, if its decision be not satisfactory to the Fellows proposing the recommendation, the Council, if required by them, shall bring forward the same for the opinion of the Society at large, at a Special General Meeting to be held for that purpose, and which it is hereby required to convene within one month after such requisition. 1844 Feb. 9

61. Notice of the time of any Special General Meeting, and of the business for which it is summoned, shall be posted to every Fellow at least a week before the time of such meeting; and no business shall be brought forward at such meeting except that which has been so notified. 1908 Feb. 14

SECTION XII.—*Of Altering the Bye-laws*

62. Whenever the Council may think it advisable to propose the enactment of any new Bye-law, or the alteration or repeal of any existing Bye-law, it shall recommend the same to the Society at the Annual General Meeting next ensuing, or at a Special General Meeting convened for that purpose.

63. No new Bye-law, nor alteration or repeal of any existing Bye-law, shall be brought forward at any meeting of the Society, except in the manner directed in this and the preceding section; and unless the Fellows, other than the Council, who shall be desirous of altering or repealing any existing Bye-law, or of making any new Bye-law, shall have given to the Council one month's previous notice of their intention. 1908 Feb. 14

SECTION XIII.—*Of Scientific Committees*

64. Committees for forwarding specific objects connected with Astronomical Science may, from time to time, be appointed by the Council, to whom their Report shall be submitted. And in the formation of those Committees, the Council may request the co-operation of persons not Fellows of the Society, who shall have an equal voice with the other Members of the Committee.

1908 Feb. 14 65. Each Committee so appointed shall elect its own Chairman and Secretary or Secretaries.

SECTION XIV.—*Of the President and Vice-Presidents*

66. The duty of the President shall be to take the chair at all the meetings of the Society and Council, and to regulate and keep order in all their proceedings; to state and put questions according to the sense and intention of the meeting; and to carry into effect the Bye-laws of the Society.

67. In the absence of the President, one of the Vice-Presidents, or in their absence the Treasurer, or one of the Members of the Council, shall take the chair, and conduct the business of the meeting; and in case of the absence of all those Officers, the meeting may elect amongst themselves any other Fellow present to take the chair at that meeting.

68. The President, or other Fellow in the chair, shall not vote on any question brought before the meeting, except where a casting vote is necessary to decide the question; in which case he shall be required to give such casting vote.

1908 Feb. 14 69. The President shall not be a Member of any Committee unless specially nominated thereon.

SECTION XV.—*Of the Treasurer*

70. The Treasurer shall receive, on account and for the use of the Society, all sums of money due to the Society; and, out of those funds, pay all sums due by the Society.

71. He shall keep a regular account of receipts and payments in the mode which may seem most proper to the Council, who shall have the direction and control of the money in his hands.

1908 Feb. 14 72. He shall give proper receipts to every Fellow for all fees and contributions.

1952 Feb. 8 73. No sum of money, payable on account of the Society, amounting to twenty pounds and upwards, shall be paid except by order of the Council, signed by the President or other Fellow in the chair.

1928 Feb. 10 74. The account of the Treasurer shall be audited annually by two or more Auditors, chosen by the Society at one of the three ordinary meetings immediately preceding the Annual General Meeting; who shall report at such Annual General Meeting the particulars of the receipts and expenditure

of the past year, the balance in hand and the general state of the funds and property of the Society: and shall also lay on the table a list of the names of those Fellows who may be in arrears for sums due on the 1st day of January of the preceding year, together with the amount of the same.

75. The Treasurer may, with the approbation of the Council, appoint a proper person to collect the annual contributions of the Fellows; such Collector, however, giving bond with good and sufficient surety thereto for the faithful discharge of his duty. 1928 Feb. 10

SECTION XVI.—*Of the Secretaries*

76. The duty of the Secretaries shall be to attend all meetings of the Society and of the Council; to take minutes of all their proceedings, and cause them to be entered as early as possible in the proper books provided for that purpose.

77. Their duty at the ordinary meetings shall also be to read the minutes of the preceding meeting; to announce the donations made to the Society since the last meeting; to give notice of any candidate that is proposed for admission, or whose election is for confirmation; and to read the letters and papers presented to the Society. But should any person be desirous of reading his own paper, he shall be at liberty so to do, with permission of the President, or other Fellow in the chair. 1928 Feb. 10

78. The Secretaries shall have the superintendence of all the persons employed by the Society, not being Fellows, and the management of the correspondence of the Society and of the Council, subject, however, to the direction and control of the Council. But the Assistant Secretary shall act on the directions which may be given him from time to time by the Treasurer in that part of his duties which relates to the finances of the Society. 1908 Feb. 14

79. The Secretaries shall be the Editors of all the Society's publications, and, when the Council does not otherwise provide, they shall have the charge (under the direction of the Council) of printing and publishing the Memoirs, Papers and other publications of the Society. 1908 Feb. 14

SECTION XVII.—*Of Awarding the Gold Medal*

80. No more than one Gold Medal shall be awarded or given during the course of any one year. 1897 Jan. 8

81. At the regular meeting of the Council, in the month of November in every year, the Council shall (prior to any other business) take into their consideration the propriety and expediency of awarding such Gold Medal; and the name of every person who may be proposed and seconded as deserving the same shall be entered in the Minute-book. 1897 Jan. 8

82. Whenever one person or more shall have been proposed, the Council shall, at their regular meeting in December, either decide that no medal shall be given or select one of the persons so proposed to be submitted to the Council in January following, on the question, whether he shall or shall not receive the Gold Medal. 1910 Feb. 11

1897 Jan. 8 83. At the regular meeting of the Council in January following, the Council shall decide whether the nominee then before the Council shall or shall not receive the Gold Medal.

1897 Jan. 8 84. No Gold Medal shall be awarded in any other way than in the manner, and at the time, above prescribed; nor unless three-fourths at least of the Members of the Council present shall agree thereto.

1871 June 9 1897 Jan. 8 85. Notwithstanding the preceding Bye-laws, in cases where two or more persons have been jointly concerned in the production of any scientific treatise, or the carrying out of any research, work or discovery, or have been the simultaneous but independent authors of any such treatise, work, research or discovery, the Council may, under these circumstances, receive the nomination of such two or more persons as joint recipients of the Gold Medal, and proceed thereupon, in like manner as above mentioned with respect to the names of separate persons; and should the Gold Medal be ultimately awarded to such joint authors, workers or discoverers, an impression of the Gold Medal shall be provided for, and given to, each of such joint recipients.

1908 Feb. 14 1946 Feb. 8

SECTION XVIII.—*Of the Hannah Jackson* (née *Gwilt*) *Medal*

86. The award of the Hannah Jackson (*née* Gwilt) Medal shall be made by the Council at intervals of not less than three nor more than seven years.

1908 Feb. 14 1946 Feb. 8 87. The award shall consist of a money grant and a bronze medal.

SECTION XIX.—*Of the Eddington Medal*

1951 Feb. 9 88. The services to astronomy and to the Society of Arthur Stanley Eddington (1882–1944) shall be commemorated by the award from time to time of a gold medal to be known as the Eddington Medal.

89. The Medal shall be awarded by the Council at intervals of not less than one year for a specific investigation or a group of related investigations in astronomy, with a preference for theoretical astronomy, more especially those branches in which Eddington worked, but not excluding celestial mechanics. If the investigation deemed worthy of the award is the joint work of two or more persons, an impression of the Medal shall be given to each of the joint recipients.

90. The Council shall consider each year the propriety of making an award of the Eddington Medal.

SECTION XX.—*Of the Common Seal and Deeds.*

91. The Common Seal of the Society shall be a representation of Herschel's telescope, with the motto *Quicquid nitet notandum*; and surrounded with the words and figures *Royal Astronomical Society*, 1820.

1928 Feb. 10 92. The Charter, the Common Seal and the Deeds of the Society shall be placed in suitable iron boxes, or otherwise properly secured, so that in

every case the same shall be under two different locks; the key of one of which locks shall be kept by the President or other Fellow acting for him during his absence, and the key of the other by the Treasurer.

93. The Common Seal shall not be affixed to any Deed or Writing, except at a Meeting of the Council, and by the Council's authority; and such Deed or Writing shall then be signed by the President or other Fellow in the chair, and by one of the Secretaries, and the particulars of the same entered in the Minute-book.

SECTION XXI.—*Of the Property of the Society*

94. The whole of the funded property of the Society shall be placed in the name of "The Royal Astronomical Society". The Society shall not make any dividend, gift, division, or bonus in money unto or between any of its members. 1953 Feb. 13

95. Every paper which may be presented to the Society shall, in consequence of such presentation, be considered as the property of the Society, unless there shall have been any previous engagement with its author to the contrary; and the Council may publish the same in any way and at any time that it may think proper. But should the Council refuse, or neglect within a year, to publish such paper, the author shall have a right to copy the same, and publish it under his own directions. No other person, however, shall publish any paper belonging to the Society without the previous consent of the Council.

96. Every Fellow may at all seasonable hours inspect the Minute-books, and also the books and instruments in the Catalogue of the Library and the List of Instruments belonging to the Society, and may make extracts, drawings and models therefrom, and may also borrow books or instruments, in accordance with the regulations annexed to these Bye-laws. Except as aforesaid, no Fellow shall be entitled to inspect or borrow any of the papers, manuscripts, documents or property belonging to the Society without the permission in writing of the Council or one of the Secretaries. 1916 Feb. 11

SECTION XXII.—*Of Donations and Bequests*

97. Every person who shall contribute to the collection, to the Library or to the General Funds of the Society shall be recorded as a Benefactor, and his name and gift shall be recorded in the *Monthly Notices*. 1908 Feb. 14

SECTION XXIII.—*Interpretation*

98. In the construction of these Bye-laws words denoting the masculine gender only shall include the feminine gender also. 1916 Feb. 11

RECOMMENDATIONS

Every person desirous of bequeathing to the Society any Money, Stock, Manuscripts, Books, Instruments or other *personal* property, is requested to make use of the following form in his or her will, viz. :

> " I give to the Society formed in London, and incorporated by the name and style of the Royal Astronomical Society [*here specify the sum of money or stock or the other personal property intended to be given*], the same to be delivered within six months after my decease. And I hereby declare that the receipt of the Treasurer of the said Society for the time being shall be an effectual discharge to my executors for the said legacy."

It may be proper also to add, for the information of every person desirous of conveying or devising to the Society any land or other *real* property, or any interest connected with land, or money to be laid out in land, or the proceeds of the sale of land, that it is desirable that he should not proceed to carry his intention into execution without first consulting some professional person.

APPENDIX

FORM No. 1

A. B. [*here state the Christian Name, Surname, Rank, Profession and usual Place of Residence of the candidate*], being desirous of admission into the Royal Astronomical Society, we, the undersigned, proposed and recommend him as a proper person to become a Fellow thereof.

Witness our hands, this day of 19

_____ { *from personal knowledge.*

_____

_____

FORM No. 2

1884 Feb. 9

I, the undersigned, being elected a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society, do hereby promise that I will be governed by the Charter and Bye-laws of the said Society, as they are now formed, or as they may be hereafter altered, amended or enlarged ; and that I will advance the objects of the said Society as far as shall be in my power. Provided, however, that whenever I shall signify in writing to the Society that I am desirous of withdrawing my name therefrom, I shall, after giving up any books, instruments or other property belonging to the Society, in my possession or entrusted to me, be free from this obligation.

Witness my hand, this day of 19

FORM No. 3

1928 Feb. 10

SIR,

I am directed by the Council of the Royal Astronomical Society to inform you that it appears by its books that on the 1st day of January last you were one year in arrear of the payment of your annual contribution, and that, including the contribution of the current year, which is payable in advance, you are now indebted to the Society in the sum of

I have to request that the sum stated be paid to me forthwith, and I have further, for your protection, to call your special attention to the following extract from the Bye-laws.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Treasurer.

BYE-LAW No. 25

1938 Apr. 8

" Whenever a Fellow of the Society shall be one year in arrear in the payment of his annual contribution he shall cease to enjoy the right of attending any meeting of the Society, of assuming the title of a Fellow of the Society, and of receiving the publications of the Society and other advantages thereof until his arrears be paid ; and should such Fellow

become two years in arrear as aforesaid, his name shall be publicly exhibited as that of a defaulter in the Library (or in such other place as the Council may from time to time direct) at any ordinary meeting of the Society ; and should his arrears be still unpaid at the next ordinary meeting of the Society (or in the case of Fellows resident abroad, at such later date as the Council shall determine), and no satisfactory reason assigned to the Council for such non-payment, he shall cease to be a Fellow of the Society."

FORM No. 4

A. B. [*here state the Christian Name, Surname, Date of Birth, Place of Training or Occupation, and usual Place of Residence*], being desirous of admission into the Royal Astronomical Society as a Junior Member, I the undersigned, do propose and recommend him *from my personal knowledge* as a proper person for such admission.

Witness my hand, this day of 19

_____ { *from personal knowledge.*

_____

_____

INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERSHIP

Resolution of the Council: 1924 March 14.

" That an Institution, on the payment of the ordinary annual contribution, be eligible on the nomination of the Council to receive the publications of the Society, and to send a representative to the ordinary meetings, but that such representative shall not possess the right of a Fellow."

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REGULATIONS FOR THE LIBRARY

I. A record shall be kept of the details of every book borrowed, the name of the Fellow borrowing the same and the date on which it is lent; and an acknowledgment in writing shall be given of the loan of any book from the Library; and on the return of such book the Librarian shall record the date on which the book has been returned, and acknowledge its return.

II. If, on the return of any book, the Librarian shall consider that it has sustained damage during its loan, the particulars shall be noted and reported to the Library Committee.

III. No book shall be taken out of the Library until the expiration of five weeks from the date of its acquisition.

IV. A list of books and periodicals, which are not to be taken out of the Library without special permission from the Council, shall be placed in a conspicuous position in the Library.

V. No Fellow shall be permitted to have more than ten volumes from the Library in his possession at any time without special permission from the Council.

VI. In case any book borrowed from the Library shall be lost or damaged, the Fellow by whom it was borrowed shall be held responsible for the loss or damage; and, if it belong to any set, he shall be held liable to make good the set to the satisfaction of the Council.

VII. All books must be actually returned to the Library on or before an agreed date each year, of which due notice will be given to Fellows, and not taken out again for two weeks without special permission. It shall be the duty of the Librarian before such annual date, to forward to all Fellows of the Society who, according to the records, have any books belonging to the Society in their possession, a letter requesting that all such books be returned to the Society on or before the day specified.

VIII. If any Fellow signify to the Librarian that he requires a book already taken out from the Library, it shall be the duty of the Librarian to make application to the Fellow who has borrowed it, and he shall return it, free of expense, within two weeks from the day on which application was made for it by the Librarian; provided that the total period of loan allowed shall not be less than four weeks.

IX. Every Fellow who shall have transgressed any of the above regulations shall be precluded from borrowing any book from the Library until he receives the special permission of the Council.

X. No person who is not a Fellow or Associate of the Society shall be permitted to borrow any book without permission in writing from the President or one of the Secretaries; nor shall he have access to the Library without permission from one of these Officers or from the Librarian.