

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR
THE STUDY OF SCOTTISH LITERATURES
(IASSL)

*Approved by the Advisory Board and the Office of the
Scottish Charity Regulator for charitable registration*

Constitution

1. **Name:** The title of the Association shall be the **International Association for the Study of Scottish Literatures (IASSL)**, a charity on the Scottish Charity Register which is also regarded as a charity in relation to the application of the Taxes Acts in its operation and in the clauses which follow.

2. **Objects:** Subject always to Clause 18, the purposes of the Association shall be to encourage study and research in the literatures of Scotland and Scottish Studies more broadly. The Association shall concern itself with the holding of conferences at regular intervals (normally every three years); with publication of papers relating particularly to research in the literatures of Scotland; with travel and exchange facilities for scholars who wish to study and teach these literatures; and with the collection of information about the nature and location of source materials.

3. **Affiliation:**

- a) The Association shall seek affiliation with organisations with similar aims, and shall invite such organisations to seek affiliation with the Association.
- b) The basis of any affiliation shall be determined by the Executive Committee.

4. **Application for Membership:** Application for membership shall be received by the Secretary for approval by the Executive Committee at its sole discretion.

5. **Membership:** Membership of the Association shall be divided into the following categories:

- a) Ordinary, i.e. for individuals.
- b) Corporate, i.e., for institutions, libraries, publishing houses, societies.
- c) Such other categories (e.g., membership for students and the unsalaried, membership of the Association for members of affiliated organisations) as the Executive Committee may from time to time determine.

6. **Subscriptions:**

- a) The annual subscription shall be such as may be determined from time to time by the Executive Committee in respect of each category of member.
- b) The Executive Committee shall have power to allow reduced subscriptions following an Ordinary Member's retirement from professional duties, for members who are unemployed, for

undergraduate students and for graduates engaged in full time work for a higher degree. Other reductions shall have to be approved by the Annual General Meeting.

c) Subscriptions shall be due on 1 August each year and the Executive Committee may, without further notice and after due warning, terminate the membership of any member who is more than three months in arrears with her/his subscription.

7. Officers, and Executive Committee:

a) The Officers of the Association shall be the Convenor, the Secretary, and the Treasurer. They shall be elected at the General Meeting held at the conference in each third year, and shall hold office for a period of three years. At the same General Meeting, the members shall also elect (or nominate ex officio in the case identified below), for a period of three years, five Depute Convenors, who may be called upon to assist and deputise for, the Convenor, when and where necessary. The Depute Convenors shall represent five geographical areas: Scotland, EU, North America, Australasia, Rest of the World. The organizer of the following conference should be identified at that General Meeting, and (s)he will be ex officio Depute Convenor for the relevant geographical area for the next three years and (unless a candidate for the Convenorship or other office, in which case a Returning Officer will be nominated by the Executive Committee) act as Returning Officer for the elections at the General Meeting held at that conference. One further Depute Convenor, who should normally have previously served on the Executive Committee, may be co-opted at the discretion of the Executive.

b) The executive business of the Association shall be dispatched by the Executive Committee consisting of the Convenor, the Secretary, the Treasurer, the 5 Depute Convenors, and 2 representatives for each of the 5 geographical areas mentioned in Clause 7 (a), who shall be elected for a period of 3 years at the General Meeting when the Officers are elected. All Executive Committee members except the Convenor, Secretary and Treasurer may stand for re-election for one further period of office for the office they hold. The immediately preceding term's Officers (Convenor, Secretary and Treasurer) will continue ex officio as additional geographical members for one further term to preserve continuity, unless one of them is elected to another office.

c) The Executive Committee may fill any casual vacancies among the Officers and the Committee, but any Officer or member of the Executive Committee so appointed shall hold office only until the next following Annual General Meeting, and shall then be eligible for re-election.

8. Sub-Committees: The Executive Committee may, from time to time, appoint such Sub-Committees as they may deem expedient and depute to them such of the Executive Committee's powers and duties as they think appropriate. All Sub-Committees shall report their proceedings to the Executive Committee and shall conduct their business in accordance with the directions of the Executive Committee. Sub Committees (which may include the Conference Committee) should not normally exceed a year in duration.

9. Treasurer and Independent Examiners: It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to keep proper and sufficient accounts and (s)he shall produce to each Annual Meeting accounts for the year ended on the previous 31 December. The accounts should be subject to external scrutiny in line with the relevant requirements of legislation. Copies of the independently examined account shall be distributed at each General Meeting.

10. General Meeting: A General Meeting of the Association shall be held at each conference, and in any case every three years. It will conduct the following business:

- a) The election of the Convenor, Secretary, Treasurer, Depute Convenors, and other members of the Executive Committee as specified in Clause 7. above, every third year.
- b) Confirmation of the subjection of the accounts to external scrutiny in line with the relevant legislative requirements.

There will in addition be an Annual Meeting where the following business shall be conducted:

- a) The presentation, and, if accepted, the passing of the accounts for the previous financial year ended 31 December which shall first have been externally examined.
- b) Such other business as shall have been communicated to the Secretary.

11. Extraordinary General Meetings: An Extraordinary General Meeting may be convened by the Executive Committee at any time and shall be convened within 21 days on the written request of one-fifth of the members entitled to vote. Such a request must state the purpose for which the meeting is required.

12. Secretary: The Secretary shall, at least one month before any Annual Meeting, send to every Member, at her/his address as recorded in the Association's books, a notice of the meeting, stating the time and place where it will be held. General Meetings will form part of the conference programme.

13. Business at General Meetings: The business at a General Meeting shall be limited to that provided for in these Clauses.

14. Elections: Elections of Officers and members of the Executive Committee (as specified in Clause 7) shall be by electronic vote, to be organised by the Returning Officer.

15. Convenor: The Convenor of the Association shall preside at all meetings of the Committee and at all General Meetings of the Association and in the case of equality of votes (s)he shall have a second casting vote. If (s)he shall have signified her/his inability to be present at the meeting, the members present shall choose one of the Depute Convenors, or, if none is present, one of their number to be Chair of the meeting in her/his place.

16. Amendments: Subject always to Clause 18 these Clauses may be amended, repealed, altered or added to, by a two-thirds majority vote at a General Meeting, of

which not less than one month's notice containing the proposed amendment has been given.

17. Dissolution: If the Executive Committee decides at any time that it is advisable to dissolve the Association it shall call an Extraordinary General Meeting, and if their decision shall at such an Extraordinary General Meeting be confirmed by a simple majority, the Committee shall have the power to dispose of any assets held by or in the name of the Association provided that any assets remaining after the satisfaction of any proper debts and liabilities shall, subject to Clause 18, be applied towards such charitable objects as the Executive Committee may determine. The expression 'charitable purpose' shall mean a charitable purpose under section 7 of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 which is also regarded as a charitable purpose in relation to the application of the Taxes Acts.

18. Charitable Intent: Notwithstanding anything hereinafter contained, it is hereby declared that the Association is established for charitable purposes only, and that under no circumstances shall any funds or assets of the Association be applied towards non-charitable purposes.