

Eighteenth-Century Ireland Society
Cumann Éire san Ochtú Céad Déag

Constitution

As ratified and revised at Annual General Meetings of the Society
in 1986, 1994, 2004 and 2005

This constitution is written in the two working languages of the Eighteenth-Century Ireland Society/Cumann Éire san Ochtú Céad Déag, viz. English and Irish, and both versions are of equal validity and effect.

1. Name

The name of the society is the Eighteenth-Century Ireland Society/Cumann Éire san Ochtú Céad Déag.

2. Objects

The purpose of the society is to encourage study and research into all aspects of life in Ireland in the eighteenth century. The society concerns itself with the holding of an annual conference and with such other activities as further study and research.

3. Languages

The two languages, English and Irish, are the two working languages of the society, of equal validity with each other in all written and spoken communication within the society or at its conferences. Written communication is through document, fax or e-mail. Spoken communication may be in person or by telephone.

4. Affiliation

The society seeks affiliation with organisations with aims similar to its own and invites such organisations to seek affiliation with the society.

5. Membership

Applications for membership are received by the secretary (as defined in Article 8 (a) below); election to membership is at the sole discretion of the committee (as defined in Article 8 (b and c) below).

6. Categories of Membership.

Membership of the society is divided into the following categories:

- (a) Ordinary membership (e.g. for individuals)
- (b) Corporate membership (e.g. for institutions, libraries, publishing houses, dealers in books or other artefacts, societies, commercial concerns)
- (c) Student /retired/unwaged

7. Subscriptions

The annual subscription is determined from to time by the committee in respect of each category of member. The committee has the power to allow reduced subscriptions for members retired from normal professional duties, for members who are unwaged, for undergraduate students and for graduates involved in full-time work for a higher degree. Other reductions have to be approved at the Annual General Meeting.

Subscriptions are due on the 1st January each year and the committee may without further notice, after a due warning terminate the membership of any member who is more than three months in arrears with his subscription.

8. Committee and Officers

- (a) The officers of the society are the president, the secretary and the treasurer. They are elected at the Annual General Meeting in each third year and hold office for a period of three years. Individuals may be re-elected.
- (b) The executive business of the society is conducted by a committee consisting of the president, the secretary, the treasurer, the immediate past president, the editor(s) of the journal, and six other members of the society who are elected at the Annual General Meeting in each third year and hold office for a period of three years. Individuals may be re-elected.
- (c) The committee may co-opt up to six additional members at a time from the membership of the society for consultation or particular purposes and stated terms not exceeding three years. Individuals may be re-selected.
- (d) It will be assumed that committee members not attending without explanation any committee meetings between Annual General Meetings have voluntarily withdrawn.
- (e) The committee may fill any casual vacancies among the officers and committee for the remaining term of the appropriate member.
- (f) The committee may name correspondents from the membership to represent the society for particular purposes and stated periods not exceeding three years. Individuals may be re-selected.

9. Treasurer

It is the duty of the treasurer to keep proper and sufficient accounts and he/she shall produce up-to-date records at each Annual General Meeting.

10. The journal *Eighteenth-Century Ireland: iris an dá chultúr*

- (a) *Eighteenth-Century Ireland: iris an dá chultúr* is the property of the Eighteenth-Century Ireland Society with the entailing rights and responsibilities.
- (b) *Eighteenth-Century Ireland: iris an dá chultúr* is a multi-disciplinary journal. Articles are accepted in Irish and in English.
- (c) The editor/s of the journal are appointed by the committee.
- (d) The editor/s are normally appointed for a five-year term, which may be renewed for a further term or part of a term.
- (e) The committee may terminate the term of the editor/s if two-thirds of the full membership of the committee so decide at a special meeting held for this purpose. In the event of such a proposal being made, the editor/s shall be afforded an opportunity to present their position to the committee at a meeting held at least four weeks before the meeting convened to decide on their retention or dismissal.
- (f) The editor/s report regularly to the committee on preparations for future issues of the journal.
- (g) Articles appearing in the journal shall have been referred to established scholars for a reader's report.
- (h) The editor/s select/s the contents of each volume and is/are responsible for seeing it through the press.

- (i) The editor/s is/are empowered to seek assistance from the members of the committee with the production of the journal.
- (j) The editor/s shall endeavour, as far as possible, to publish the relevant issue of the journal within its designated calendar year.

11. Annual General Meeting

An Annual General Meeting of the society shall be held every year and no more than fifteen months shall elapse between one Annual General Meeting and another. At the Annual General Meeting the following business is conducted.

- (a) The presentation and (if accepted) the passing of the accounts.
- (b) The election of the president, the secretary, the treasurer and the committee members from among the ordinary members of the society, only every third year, as set out in Article 8 above. Nominations for the election of officers and committee members shall have been received in writing by the secretary at least seven days before the Annual General Meeting. Where only sufficient nominations have been received for a particular office or for seat in the committee the person or people nominated are deemed elected. Where insufficient nominations have been received, nominations shall be taken from the floor at the Annual General Meeting. Each nomination in writing must be accompanied by a statement signed by the nominee expressing his/her willingness to stand. Each nomination at an Annual General Meeting must be of a member present who must indicate his/her willingness to stand. (Election of officers and committee members shall be as defined in Article 8.
- (c) Such other business as shall have been communicated to the secretary.

12. Extraordinary General Meeting

An Extraordinary General Meeting shall be called by the secretary if requested in writing for a stated purpose by not less than thirty members of the society. Such a meeting shall take place within forty-two days of such a request being received by the secretary and all the members of the society shall receive not less than twenty-one days notice of any such meeting.

13. Voting

At General Meetings of the society, only those paid-up members who are present at the meeting shall be entitled to vote. Voting in elections shall be by means of a single non-transferable vote. A vote shall be carried by a simple majority (except as stated in Articles 16 and 17).

14. President

The president of the society presides at all meetings of the committee and at all General Meetings of the society and in the case of equality of votes he/she shall have a second, or casting vote. If he/she is not present within fifteen minutes after the time appointed for the meeting or if he/she has signified his/her inability to be present at the meeting the members present shall choose one of their number to be president of the meeting in his/her place. The president is also entitled to request another member of the society or the committee act as chair for any portion of any meeting which is to be conducted in one of the working languages if his/her knowledge of that language is insufficient for him/her to discharge his/her duties adequately. In these circumstances, a summary of the business conducted under the substitute chair shall be made

available to the society president at the meeting before he/she resumes the chair and such a summary shall appear in the minutes of the meeting.

15. Records

- (a) It is the duty of the secretary to record and to circulate as appropriate minutes of all the meetings of the society and the committee. Minutes are in the language in which the meeting was conducted with a summary in that language of discussions in the other working language. Motions and other substantive matters shall be translated as accurately as possible from one language to the other whenever this is deemed necessary by any officer of the society.
- (b) The committee may also appoint an archivist from among its members to keep and maintain the records of the society.

16. Amendments

Subject always to Article 11, these articles may be amended by a two-thirds majority of those members voting at a General Meeting of which not less than twenty-one days' notice concerning the proposed amendment has been given.

17. Dissolution

If the committee decides at any time that it is advisable to dissolve the society it shall call an Extraordinary General Meeting of which at least twenty-one days' notice must be given in writing to all members of the society. Such notice must state clearly the purpose for which the meeting is convened. If the decision of the committee to dissolve the society be confirmed by a two-thirds majority of those members voting at the Extraordinary General meeting, the committee shall have the power to dispose of any assets held by or in the name of the society provided that any assets remaining after the satisfaction of any proper debts and liabilities shall (subject to Article 18) be applied towards such objects as the committee shall determine.

18. Charitable Intent

Notwithstanding anything contained herein, it is hereby declared that the society is established for charitable purposes only and that in no circumstances shall any funds or assets of the society be applied to non-charitable purposes.