

Renaissance English Text Society

By-Laws

Article I: The name of this Society shall be Renaissance English Text Society.

Article II: The Society was founded in 1965 to publish scarce literary texts, chiefly non-dramatic, of the period 1475-1660. The Society also serves to promote discussion in both regional and national conferences organized to advance the field of Renaissance studies.

Article III: The Society shall maintain the status of Allied Organization within the Modern Language Association where, within each annual convention and to be announced within the convention program, the Society shall both present a forum for the reading of papers on a selected topic and hold an Open Business Meeting of its membership.

Article IV: 1. The annual Open Business Meeting of the Society shall be held for the primary purpose of presenting the Society's program of publications to its membership. Discussion of further Council proposals for the work of the Society and transaction of any other appropriate business of the Society shall be undertaken within this open meeting.

2. Any matter brought before the meeting may be decided by a majority vote of the members of the Society participating. Should an institution or other corporate body which is a member of the Society wish to vote, it shall designate in writing in advance one individual to vote as its proxy. No other members may vote by proxy.

3. The President, or in the President's absence the Vice President, shall preside at the annual Open Business Meeting of the Society in accordance with accepted parliamentary procedure. The Secretary shall provide an agenda, record minutes, and report the results of the membership ballot previously mailed. The Treasurer shall offer a full report of the assets and liabilities as well as the current membership of the Society.

Article V: 1. The Society shall be governed by a Council elected from the Society's membership who together shall select a publisher and manage the Society's publication schedule, approve its program of scholarly forums, and shall direct all organizational matters. The Council shall have responsibility for the management of the Society's funds and shall closely review the Treasurer's reports of publication expense.

2. The Council shall adopt such By-laws for the Society as are found to accord with law and good practice and may, whenever deemed necessary amend the same.

3. The Council shall review all proposals for publication which are received by the Society and shall give due consideration in each case; when the Council adopts a proposal for publication, the President shall appoint a committee consisting of a Chair and two other Council members which shall review the proposing editor(s)' preparation of the text; after the editorial committee so constituted has recommended publication, the text as prepared will go forward to the publisher without opposition; the committee may assist in conference between the publisher and the editor(2); the published volume will record the names of the editorial committee and, as space permits, the full Council roster to be followed by a catalogue of publications by the Society to date.

4. The Council shall review all public sessions to be scheduled by the Society with appropriate wider forums, conferences, conventions, and shall appoint session conveners in each case; the Council shall either initiate or authorize any or all special occasions or meetings to be sponsored by the Society.

5. The Council shall authorize any public statement to be made on behalf of the Society; shall approve any relation to be established between the Society and another scholarly institution; shall oversee any distribution of the Society's membership list; shall authorize or discontinue liaison memberships to be established with other scholarly organizations or with institutions supporting the Society's efforts; shall appoint members of an International Advisory Council.

Article VI: 1. The Council shall be called to annual meeting by the President during the yearly convention of the Modern Language Association at a time set prior to the Open Business Meeting of the Society's membership. A majority of the members of the Council then in office shall constitute a quorum. All matters brought before the Council may be decided by a majority vote of those members of the Council participating in the presence of a quorum, except that the adoption, amendment, or repeal by the Council of any of the By-laws of the Society shall require the affirmative vote of at least two thirds of the members of the Council then in office. The President, or in his absence the Vice President, shall distribute an agenda with publication proposals as submitted to the Society prior to the annual Council meeting and shall preside in accordance with accepted parliamentary procedures.

2. Special meetings of the Council with a stated agenda may be called by the President when deemed necessary or by the Secretary at the direction of at least five members of the Council on not less than thirty days notice at such place and time as shall be directed in such notice.

3. The powers of the Council may, when it is deemed necessary, be exercised by a vote taken by mail or by telephone if later confirmed by mail.

Article VII: 1. The Council of the Society shall consist of officers, President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, to be elected as an entire slate to serve a five year term; former presidents of the Society of serve with term; members forming five classes of three persons each to serve a five year term; liaison members representing scholarly associations to serve as non-voting members by invitation of the Council.

2. The Council shall serve as a Nominating Committee and in its annual meeting shall select a slate of nominees for officers or member class whose term will conclude at the end of the succeeding year; during the following November, a Council member shall prepare a ballot, to be returned to the Secretary, for mailing to the membership in advance of the next annual meeting of the Council; the ballot, in addition to posting the Council's nominees for office, will also solicit "other" nominations which the Secretary will note and report to the Council along with the ballot results; a majority of member ballots cast prior to the report of the Secretary to the Council in its December meeting with constitute election.

3. A vacancy caused by the death or resignation of a member shall be filled, for the unexpired term, by vote of the Council upon the recommendation of the President.

4. The Council, in the meeting following that which these by-laws are adopted, shall nominate a slate of officers to serve through 1999; in years 1998, and 2003, and thereafter, the Council shall nominate a slate of officers to be voted in 1999 and 2004 to serve for a term of five years beginning in the years 2000 to 2005, and so on.

Article VIII: Annual membership dues shall be established by the Council; any person or any institution may become a member of the Society upon payment of the annual membership dues which entitle each member to receive the year's publication. A Life Membership will be available on terms set by the Council.

Article IX: In the event of the dissolution of the Society, its property and other assets, including all of its rights in and to its publications, shall be distributed to an institution or institutions designated by the Council which has or have scholarly purposes as closely related as possible to those of the Society as stated here.

[These by-laws were approved by a vote of 17 – 0 – 0 in the December 27, 1995 meeting of the Council with a quorum (11) present and other members contributing to the discussion by mail.]