

## CONSTITUTION OF THE APHRA BEHN SOCIETY FOR WOMEN IN THE ARTS, 1660-1830

I. The name of this society shall be the APHRA BEHN SOCIETY FOR WOMEN IN THE ARTS, 1660-1830[See Amendment II].

### II. PURPOSE

- A. The purpose of this society is to encourage and advance research that focuses on issues of gender and/or women's role in the arts of early modern culture, circa 1660-1800.
- B. The society carries out its stated aim by promoting an exchange of information and ideas among members of the various disciplines engaged in related research through interdisciplinary meetings and by any other means it may deem appropriate.

### III. MEMBERSHIP

- A. Membership shall be open to any person interested in the purpose of the society. Voting members shall be those who have paid current dues to the Executive Secretary of the Society.
- B. All members who have paid annual dues for the calendar year at least thirty days before the annual meeting shall have full voting rights. Members present at the business meeting may extend voting rights to those who pay dues after the deadline but before the business meeting.

### IV. AFFILIATION

The society shall maintain affiliation with the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies on such terms as both determine to be mutually acceptable.

### V. ORGANIZATION

- A. Officers. The Society shall have an Executive President, Conference President, Conference Vice President, Past Conference President, Membership Secretary, Editor of the Newsletter, British representative, and two Members at Large. The person who serves as Executive President must serve one term on the Executive Board prior to becoming Executive President. The Conference President shall be the current program chair, to serve between one conference and the conference he or she is hosting. The Conference Vice-President shall be the succeeding program chair. The Past Conference President shall be the program chair of the most recent past conference. The Executive President will be responsible for the treasury, including providing funding for the Society's journal, [Aphra Behn Online](#), and administrative responsibilities such as liaising between the Aphra Behn Society and other societies, providing publicity for the Society, conducting officer elections, and supervising Society activities. The Executive President must provide a letter from his or her dean promising to support, financially and otherwise, the Executive President's activities on behalf of the Society during his or her term in office. The Membership Secretary is responsible for maintaining membership lists. The Editor of the Newsletter sends out a newsletter three times per year to the membership with information about the Society's and its members activities. The

British Representative and Members-at-Large provide administrative support for the Society. [See Amendment I, III.]

- B. Executive Board. The governing body of the Society shall be the Executive Board, consisting of the officers of the Society and the two immediate past presidents. The Executive President, Editor of the Newsletter, Membership Secretary, and the two at-large members shall be elected electronically during the fall, with elections to be concluded by the close of the annual meeting in years when one takes place. The number of at-large members may be increased by amendment as growth of Society demands it. Elected members may succeed themselves for one additional term. They may also be re-elected after one term has passed. The Executive Board shall determine the policies of the Society, direct the President to receive and disburse the monies of the Society in a way consistent with its purpose. The policies and actions of the Executive Board shall be subject to the direction and approval of the members of the Society, and a full report of its activities during the year shall be submitted to the Society every fall. In years when there is a conference, this report shall be issued immediately following the conference. [See Amendment III]
- C. Conference Presidents and Vice-Presidents shall hold office for two years. The Executive President, Membership Secretary, Editor of the Newsletter, and Members-at-Large shall serve three-year terms. [See Amendment III]
- D. The program chair/President shall be a voluntary position. The new President shall assume her duties as soon as the business of the annual conferences is finished or as soon as the Call for Papers for the next meeting goes out, whichever is last.
- E. Elections shall be conducted by electronic ballot during the autumn and shall be by a majority vote of members in good standing. Nominations shall be solicited electronically from the general membership by the Executive President and made by any member in good standing by the deadline determined by the Executive President in the solicitation. All candidates for Executive President must provide a letter of support from their dean before being placed on the ballot. Results shall be announced to the membership electronically via listserv and newsletter, and at the annual meeting in years when there is an annual meeting. If for any reason an office or a place on the Executive Board should fall vacant before the scheduled election to that position, the remaining members of the Executive Board shall appoint a member of the Society to fill the office until the next election cycle. [See Amendment III]
- F. Committees and Appointed officers. The Executive Board may, at its discretion and for such terms of office as it may decide, appoint standing committees, *ad hoc* committees, and additional officers. Members of such committees and holders of such appointive officers may be invited to take part in the deliberations of the Executive Board in their own right. The Executive Board shall clearly define the duties of all such standing committees, *ad hoc* committees, and additional officers, and shall inform the members of the society of their actions through appropriate means.

## VI. MEETINGS

- A. Meetings of the Society. There will be biannual meetings of the Society. Other special meetings of the Society may be arranged at the discretion of the Executive Board, but no business affecting the whole membership shall be transacted at such meetings unless four weeks' notice has been given to all members of the Society. In years when the Society does not meet, the Executive Board may conduct the business of the Society by other media, such as by email or listserv. [See Amendment III]
- B. Meetings of the Executive Board. Meetings of the Executive Board shall be held at the call of the President, or in her absence, the Vice-President. A quorum of the Executive Board shall be five members. In intervals between meetings of the Executive Board, routine and urgent business of the Society may be handled by the President, subject to the later approval of the Executive Board.

## VII. DUES

The Society shall collect annual dues for membership for a calendar year; the amount of dues will be determined by the president and approved by the Executive Board. Notices of the dues will be mailed by the President. [See Amendment III]

## VIII. AMENDMENTS AND DISSOLUTION

Motions to adopt a new constitution of the Society, or to amend the existing constitution, or to dissolve the Society shall be made in writing over the signature of at least ten (10) members of the Society in good standing and shall be transmitted to the Executive Board, which shall submit them to the membership of the Society for balloting either at the annual meeting or electronically, e.g. via listserv. Motions to adopt by-laws shall follow the same procedure, except that only five (5) signatures of Society members in good standing will be required. Adoption of any of the above motions shall require a two-thirds majority by members voting and in good standing. [See Amendment III]

### **Resolution #1 -- January 27, 1997**

Be it resolved that the constitution for the Aphra Behn Society will be amended with the following clauses:

- i. The purposes for which the organization is organized are exclusively religious, charitable, scientific, literary, and educational within the meaning of section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue law.
- ii. Notwithstanding any other provisions of these articles, this organization shall not carry on any activities not permitted to be carried on by an organization exempt from Federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law.
- iii. Under the dissolution of the organization, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the Federal, state or local government for a public purpose. Any assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by the Court of

Common Pleas, of the county in which the principal office of the corporation is then located, exclusively for such purposes.

### Amendments

I. The name of the Executive Secretary will be changed to Executive President, and the person who serves in this capacity must serve one term on the Executive Board prior to becoming Executive President. The name of the President and Vice President will be changed to Conference President and Conference Vice President respectively. The terms and duties will remain as before. Passed 1999.

II. The name of the society shall be changed from The Aphra Behn Society, to The Aphra Behn Society for Women in the Arts, 1660-1830. Passed 1999

### III. Mass amendments, fall 2011

#### V. ORGANIZATION

##### A. OFFICERS.

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D. Conference Presidents and Vice-Presidents shall hold office for two years. The Executive President, Membership Secretary, Editor of the Newsletter, and Members-at-Large shall serve three-year terms.

E. Elections shall be conducted by electronic ballot during the autumn and shall be by a majority vote of members in good standing. Nominations shall be solicited electronically from the general membership by the Executive President and made by any member in good standing by the deadline determined by the Executive President in the solicitation. All candidates for Executive President must provide a letter of support from their dean before being placed on the ballot. Results shall be announced to the membership electronically via listserv and newsletter, and at the annual meeting in years when there is an annual meeting. If for any reason an office or a place on the Executive Board should fall vacant before the scheduled election to that position, the remaining members of the Executive Board shall appoint a member of the Society to fill the office until the next election cycle.

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