

STATUTES
OF
THE ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY
OF
NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE.

INSTITUTED JANUARY, 1813.

THE ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY OF NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE was established on the 6th day of February, 1813; when the purport of its Institution was declared to be "Inquiry into antiquities in general, but especially into those of the north of England, and of the counties of Northumberland, Cumberland, and Durham, in particular." The following Code of Statutes was adopted for the regulation of the Society:—

I. THE Society shall consist of Ordinary, Corresponding, and Honorary Members. The number of Ordinary Members limited to one hundred; the number of Corresponding and Honorary Members unlimited. The candidates for admission as Ordinary Members shall be proposed at a regular meeting by at least three Members, and balloted for at the next succeeding meeting; three-fourths of the Members present to confirm the admission of the candidate. The election of Corresponding and Honorary Members shall be subject to the same regulations as the election of Ordinary Members, excepting that they may be balloted for the same meeting at which they are proposed. Twelve Members to form a constitution.

II. Persons residing within the town and county of Newcastle upon Tyne, the counties of Northumberland, Durham, or Cumberland, shall not be eligible as Corresponding Members.

III. The Officers of the Society to consist of a Patron, one President, three Vice-Presidents, two Secretaries, one Treasurer, and a Council of six. The office of Patron to continue for life, the other Officers to be annually elected out of the Class of Ordinary Members by written lists to be delivered by the Members in person at the Anniversary Meeting. These Officers to have charge of the property of the Society, and any five to be competent to act.

IV. The interest of each Member in the funds and property of the Society to continue so long only as he shall remain a Member, and the property shall never be sold or otherwise disposed of (except in the case of duplicates hereinafter mentioned), so long as there remain Members sufficient to form a constitution; but should the Members be reduced below the number of twelve, and so remain for twelve calendar months then next following, the funds and property of the Society shall be delivered unto and vest in the oldest Society of Antiquaries in Great Britain.

V. Each Ordinary and Corresponding Member to pay an admission fee of two guineas, and each Ordinary Member to pay an annual subscription of one guinea, commencing at the Anniversary Meeting in 1814.

VI. The Meetings of the Society to be held in the Society's room, at 6 o'clock in the evening, on the first Wednesday in every month; and the Anniversary Meeting at twelve o'clock in the day, at the same place, on the first Wednesday in January.

VII. All papers to be read in the order of their dates. If any Member declines reading his own paper, any other Member may be allowed to read it; but such as are to be read by the Secretaries shall be sent to them a month previous to their being laid before the Society.

VIII. Three Censors to be annually chosen by the Officers out of the Ordinary Members, to whom shall be intrusted the charge of revising and printing all such papers and communications as the Officers may admit into the Transactions of the Society.

IX. All donations to the Society to be regularly recorded in a book kept for that purpose, describing at length their nature, when and where discovered, the donors' names, &c. And all duplicates of Coins, Books, &c., to be at the disposal of the Officers, for the benefit of the Society at large.

X. Each Member on his admission shall sign the Statutes; but any Ordinary Member, may, on producing and leaving the authority by letter for it, sign them for such Members as cannot conveniently attend at the time of their admission.

XI. No alteration shall be made in the Statutes, except at the Anniversary Meeting in January. And every alteration intended to be then proposed, must be publicly announced and inserted in the Transactions at a meeting previous to the General Meeting.

XII. And lastly,—We, the undersigned Members, oblige ourselves to observe and fulfil the above Statutes, and conform ourselves to all the future Rules and Regulations, which may be made by the Society and regularly entered in their Minute Book.—The Members sign a copy of the above Statutes placed at the commencement of the Society's Transaction Book.

It having appeared advisable that certain alterations should be made in this Code of Statutes, the following alterations have, from time to time, been made at anniversary meetings:—

January 5, 1814.—I. That every new Member shall conform to the Statutes of this Society, within four of its meetings after his election, or such election to be void.

II. That all donations to the Society be presented through the Council.

III. That the Council be increased from six to twelve.

IV. That at the time of balloting for any gentleman as a Member of this Society, one of the gentlemen who proposed him shall be present, and in case of his election, pay his admission fee and subscription.

January 4, 1815.—"That the Constitution be reduced from twelve to eight Members."

January 5, 1820.—"That the 4th Rule do end at the word 'mentioned,' and that the remainder be expunged."

January 2, 1822.—"That the Constitution be reduced from eight Members to six."

January 1, 1823.—"That the original fourth Statute do stand so far as the words—'below the number of;' and that the following addition be made thereto instead of such original fourth Statute:—'Six, and so remain for twelve calendar months then next following, the funds and property of the Society shall be delivered unto and become the property of the Literary and Philosophical Society of Newcastle upon Tyne, if that Society be then in existence; and should that Society not be in existence, that then the same be delivered to, and become the property of, the Mayor and Corporation of Newcastle upon Tyne.'"

"That one hundred Members having now been elected to this Society, any new Member to be elected will only be entitled to such publications as may be printed after his election; but may purchase any of the previous publications at the same price as the same are furnished to the booksellers."

January 5, 1825.—"That after the next Anniversary Meeting the Members dine together, and that the Committee for the year take the management of providing for such dinner."

January 4, 1826.—"That no Member shall be entitled to take books out of the Society's Library, until his subscription in advance for the current year be paid; and if any Member shall suffer his subscription to remain unpaid for three successive years, his name, at the end of three months, shall be erased from the list of Members in the books of the Society; and he shall be required to deliver up his diploma; and further, that a copy of this Resolution be sent to the usual place of residence of every Member of this Society."

January 3, 1827.—"That the Monthly Meetings of the Society be advertised to be held at 7 o'clock instead of 6 o'clock in the evening,"

January 2, 1828.—"That in order to secure (as was the intention of the Society), that all books belonging to the Society shall be in the Library during the Monthly Meetings, a fine of one shilling for each book not brought in at such meetings be imposed upon those Members who hold such books at the time, and a further fine of sixpence each week after-

wards, and that for the purpose of examination, all books be returned to the Library on the Wednesday preceding the Anniversary, to remain until after the meeting of that day, under a fine of two shillings and sixpence."

Also,—“That not more than two volumes of any work be allowed to go to any Member at one time; and that the Abbey Churches, Vertue’s Plates, the Vetusta Monumenta, Gregson’s Proofs for the History of Lancashire, &c., and all manuscripts, do not circulate without leave of the Council, obtained at a meeting.”

January 6, 1830.—“That the number of Ordinary Members be extended from one hundred to one hundred and fifty:—That the Council have power to mitigate or remit fines in particular cases; that all books be returned to the library a fortnight previous to every anniversary meeting, under a penalty of two shillings and sixpence; and that no books be taken out during that fortnight, and that the rule as to fines for not returning books generally be altered, so that the fine will attach if the books are not returned by half-past six o’clock on the nights of meeting.”

October 2, 1831.—At a meeting this evening, it was PROPOSED,—“That notice be given that the Anniversary Meeting be in future held on the first Wednesday in February instead of the first Wednesday in January, which was afterwards moved and carried.”

February 6, 1833.—“That the Council shall meet every first Wednesday of the month, at 7 o’clock, attend to the entries in the Recommendation Book, and keep a record of their transactions to lie on the table for the inspection of all the Members of the Society.”

“That the election shall take place after the annual report shall be considered, by which order of proceeding it will appear whether the Members in the direction have so attended to the affairs of the Society as to make it advisable to re-elect them.”

February 3, 1836.—“That in future the anniversary Meetings be held on the Monday preceding the anniversary Meetings of the Literary and Philosophical Society.”

—“That four of the Council who have attended the Meetings of the Society the least frequently, be ineligible for the succeeding year.”

February 6, 1837.—“That the Monthly Meetings of the Council and of the Society be held on the same evenings as those of the Literary and Philosophical Society, and that the Chair be taken at half-past 6 o’clock precisely.”

February 3, 1840.—“That the attendance of four Members at the Monthly Meeting should be sufficient to constitute a meeting.”

“That Members hereafter elected may have the option of paying the admission fee of £2. 2s., and receiving such books published by the Society as they would be entitled to on such payment, or of paying merely the annual subscription of £1. 1s., and not receiving them.”
