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L A W S,

BYE-LAWS, AND REGULATIONS,

OF THE

Botanical Society of Edinburgh.

CORRECTED TO 1ST OCTOBER 1841.



EDINBURGH:

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# I. LAWS OF THE SOCIETY.

(CORRECTED TO OCT. 1, 1841.)

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## CHAPTER I.

### FUNDAMENTAL LAWS.

1. The Society shall be denominated "THE BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF EDINBURGH."

2. The object of the Society shall be the advancement of Botanical Science, by means of periodical meetings, correspondence, and the mutual interchange of specimens amongst its Members.

3. The Society shall consist of Honorary, Resident, Non-Resident, and Foreign Members, who shall have the privilege of denominating themselves Fellows of the Society; also of Ladies, who shall be denominated Life Members; and of Associates.

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## CHAPTER II.

### ORDINARY MEETINGS.

1. A meeting of the Society shall be held on the second Thursday of every month, from November to July inclusive.

2. The following order of business shall be regularly observed:—

PRIVATE BUSINESS.

1. Chair taken.
2. Minutes of preceding Meeting read.
3. Report of Committee of Management read.
4. Applications for admission read.
5. Members proposed at preceding Meeting balloted for.
6. Motions intimated at previous meetings discussed.
7. New motions intimated.
8. Miscellaneous business.
9. Society adjourned.

PUBLIC BUSINESS.

1. Chair taken.
2. Minutes of preceding Public Business read.
3. Papers and Communications for next Meeting announced.
4. Laws signed by new Members.
5. Specimens, Books, &c., presented.
6. Communications and Papers read.
7. Society adjourned.

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CHAPTER III.

EXTRAORDINARY MEETINGS.

1. An extraordinary Meeting of the Society may be called at any time, by authority of the Committee of Management, on the requisition of three or more Resident Fellows.

## CHAPTER IV.

## ADMISSION OF MEMBERS.

## SECTION I.—HONORARY MEMBERS.

1. The Honorary Members shall be limited to six British and twenty-five Foreign ;—by British, being understood British subjects, whether resident in this country or not.

2. The Committee of Management shall have the privilege of proposing Honorary Members,—the names of the gentlemen proposed being always stated in the billets calling the Meeting at which they are to be balloted for. Three negative balls to exclude an individual.

3. Any Member may submit to the Committee of Management the names of individuals whom he would wish proposed as Honorary Members ; and should the Committee decline to bring these forward, he may demand that they be balloted for.

4. Honorary Members shall be entitled to all the privileges of Resident Fellows.

## SECTION II.—RESIDENT FELLOWS.

1. A candidate for admission into the Society, as a Resident Fellow, must present an application, with a recommendation annexed, signed by at least two Resident Fellows. The application shall be read at the proper time during private business, and at the next Ordinary Meeting.

ing shall be determined by ballot. Three negative balls shall be sufficient to exclude a candidate.

2. Resident Fellows shall, on admission, sign the Laws, and pay the sum of One Guinea to the funds of the Society; and shall contribute One Guinea annually thereafter at the November-Meeting.

3. Resident Fellows may at any time compound for their annual contributions, by payment of Ten Guineas.

4. Resident Fellows leaving Edinburgh within three years from the date of their admission, may be enrolled as Non-Resident Fellows, if they have paid, besides their Entry-Money, three annual contributions; or, after that period, on payment of all arrears due at the time of their departure.

5. The Society shall from time to time adopt such measures regarding Members in arrears as shall be deemed necessary.

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SECTION III.—NON-RESIDENT FELLOWS.

1. Any person not residing in Edinburgh may be elected a Non-Resident Fellow, on being recommended by two Members of a Scientific or Literary Society, and paying a contribution of Three Guineas. From such no annual payment is required.

2. Non-Resident Fellows wishing to become Resident, must be balloted for, pursuant to Sect. 2. Law 1. but shall be exempt from payment of Entry money. In the event of any such Candidate being black-balled, his name shall be struck out of the List of Members.



3. Non-Resident Fellows coming to Edinburgh, shall, for a period of two months, be entitled to attend the Meetings of the Society, and participate in the other privileges of Resident Fellows; after which, should they remain longer, they must become Candidates for admission, and, if elected, pay the same annual contribution as Resident Fellows.

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SECTION IV.—FOREIGN MEMBERS.

1. Any person residing abroad may be admitted a Foreign Member on the transmission of 500 specimens of Plants, (including at least 100 species,) or a Botanical work of which he is the author. If the former, he will be entitled to specimens from the Society's collection in exchange.

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SECTION V.—LIFE MEMBERS.

1. Any Lady, whether Resident or Non-Resident, may become a Member for Life, on payment of a single contribution of Two Guineas.

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SECTION VI.—ASSOCIATES.

1. The Society shall have power to elect by ballot Associates from those who, declining to become Resident or Non-Resident Fellows, may have acquired a claim on the Society by transmitting specimens or Botanical communications.

## CHAPTER V.

## OFFICE-BEARERS.

1. The Office-Bearers of the Society shall consist of a President, four Vice-Presidents, six Councillors, four Secretaries, viz. a General Secretary, a Corresponding Secretary, and two Foreign Secretaries, a Treasurer and a Curator; who shall be elected annually, by means of signed lists, at the Ordinary Meeting in December. All of them may be re-elected except the two senior Vice-Presidents, and the three senior Councillors, who shall not be re-eligible to the same offices, till after the interval of one year.

2. These Office-Bearers shall together form a Committee of Management for the general direction of the affairs of the Society. Three to be a Quorum.

3. This Committee shall nominate two Sub-Committees from their number,—one as a Finance Committee to assist the Treasurer in the management of the Society's Funds;—the other as a Museum and Library Committee to assist the Curator in these departments, and in the distribution of the Society's Duplicates.

4. Agreeably to an act of the Town Council of the City of Edinburgh, dated Jan. 8, 1839, the Professor of Botany in the University of Edinburgh is constituted Honorary Curator *ex-officio*, with free access to the Society's Collection, whether a member of the Society or not.

## CHAPTER VI.

### THE PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENTS.

1. It shall be the duty of the President and Vice-Presidents when in the chair, and of the Chairman in their absence, to conduct the Business of the Society according to the order of the Business laid down in Chap. II. Law 2, and to attend carefully to the enforcement of the Laws of the Society.

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## CHAPTER VII.

### THE SECRETARIES.

1. The General Secretary shall give intimation of all General and Committee Meetings, and shall minute their proceedings in Books to be kept for the purpose. The Corresponding Secretary shall conduct all the Society's correspondence in Britain. The Foreign Secretaries shall have charge of all the Foreign correspondence.

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## CHAPTER VIII.

### THE TREASURER.

1. The Treasurer, subject to the inspection and control of the Finance Committee, shall receive and disburse all money belonging to the Society, granting the necessary

Receipts and collecting the money when due. He shall keep regular Books of Accounts, and present them for inspection at each Ordinary Meeting.

2. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to place all money belonging to the Society in one of the Chartered Banks of this City, unless the same shall have been ordered by the Society to be otherwise invested; and he shall never keep more than Ten Pounds of the Funds of the Society in his hands at a time. The Bank Account shall be kept in the name of the Society, and all drafts thereon shall be signed by the Treasurer, and countersigned by the Convener or a Member of the Finance Committee.

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## CHAPTER IX.

### THE CURATOR.

1. The Curator shall have charge of the Society's Specimens, Museum, and Library, and, with the assistance of the Museum and Library Committee, shall arrange, classify, and keep a Catalogue or other account of the same.

2. In the arrangements of the Society's duplicates for distribution, the Curator is authorised to adopt that system which experience shall prove to be best adapted for carrying into effect the views and intentions of the Society in respect to these, and for meeting most effectually the wishes of Members in reference to the supplying of their desiderata. It is at the same time recommended that he should classify Foreign Plants according to their respective countries, to accommodate more easily those Members who assign a preference to the Botany of any particular country.

## CHAPTER X.

## THE COUNCILLORS.

1. Besides the duties already assigned to them as Members of the Committee of Management, the Councillors may at any time be called upon by the President, Vice-Presidents, or Secretaries to meet with them for the transaction of private business.

## CHAPTER XI.

## VISITORS.

1. Each Member shall have the privilege of admitting one visitor to the ordinary Meetings of the Society, at the close of the private business.

## CHAPTER XII.

## MAKING AND ALTERING LAWS.

1. When a motion is made for the alteration of existing Laws, or the enactment of new ones, it shall lie over till next ordinary Meeting, and if then approved of by two-thirds of the Members present, shall be held as carried. The purport of such motion to be stated in the Billets calling the Meeting at which it is to be considered.



## II. BYE-LAWS AND REGULATIONS.

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1. The distribution of the Society's duplicates shall be commenced annually, on or about the 1st of September, and shall be conducted by the Curator, with the assistance of the Museum Committee.

2. To entitle a Resident Fellow to a share of the Society's British duplicates, at any of the annual distributions, it is requisite that he shall not be in arrear, and shall have transmitted to the Society, on or before the 1st of March, not less than fifty species of Plants, with as many duplicate specimens of each as possible. He must also communicate to the Secretary, at the same time, a signed list of his desiderata.

3. The same regulation shall also apply to Non-Resident Fellows, Life Members, and Associates.

4. Foreign Members must, subsequent to the year of their admission, (see Laws, Chap. IV. Sect. 4.) annually transmit, previous to the 1st of March, 300 specimens, including at least 50 species, in order to entitle them to a share of the Society's duplicates.

5. Members contributing for the first time, or at irregular intervals, shall be classed, and have their desiderata supplied in the order of their election; and after each distribution, one-third of the Members then highest on the list shall be placed at the foot, and rise by rotation.

6. National Institutions, Universities, and Chartered Societies, forming Herbaria, and corresponding with the

Society, shall be permitted to take precedence of the Members at the annual distributions; and all other Societies shall have specimens supplied to them in the order of their application on the same conditions, and in the same routine, as Members.

7. Any Member may commute his contribution of specimens at the rate of One Pound for 100 species; being entitled for each Pound to claim 200 species of British, or 100 species of Foreign Plants in return.

8. Members who contribute less than 500 specimens of British Plants, or have not commuted their contributions as above-mentioned, shall be entitled to British Plants only in return.

9. Any Member who contributes 500 specimens of British Plants, including at least 100 species, shall be entitled to a portion of the Society's Foreign Plants, *if desired*, but only at the rate of 100 species of Foreign for each 500 specimens of British Plants so contributed.

10. If the Society shall be unable adequately to supply the desiderata of any Member *not wishing Foreign Plants*, it shall be in the power of such Member either to take his parcel as made up, or allow it to lie over till the following year's distribution, in which it shall be placed according to his order in the list, without any farther contribution being required for that year; this privilege, however, not to extend beyond three consecutive years.

11. Any Member about to leave Britain for some time, without the prospect of communication with the Society, on depositing along with his list of desiderata, a written promise of collecting for the Society during his absence, shall be entitled to his share of the duplicates in the same



order and quantity as if he were present, in exchange for the specimens which he may present.

12. No Member shall be entitled to claim more than double the number of species he has contributed.

13. The Museum Committee are empowered to reject all bad and imperfect specimens in determining the number of species to which Members shall be entitled in return for their contributions.

14. After supplying the *desiderata* of Members, the Committee is authorised, in the farther distribution of the duplicates, to take into account the number and value of the specimens sent by any correspondent, and to assign him a preference accordingly.

15. All specimens issued by the Society shall be accompanied by labels having the words, "Societas Botanica Edinensis," with the name of the plant, locality, date of collecting, and donor's name, written or printed thereon.

16. An Herbarium shall be formed for the use of the Members of the Society, to which easy access may always be obtained for the purposes of consultation or reference, subject to such regulations as shall from time to time be found expedient. In the formation of this Herbarium, the Curator, and Museum Committee, shall have the power to select from all specimens sent to the Society such as they may think desirable to retain for that purpose.

17. The Society shall also have in view the formation of a Botanical Library and Museum, by means of donation and purchase.

18. No purchases of Books or Specimens for the Society's Library or Museum exceeding Two Pounds in

value shall be made until the same shall have been approved of at an Ordinary Meeting.

19. The Secretary shall keep lists of all the Members of the Society, with the date of their admission, of the communications which shall be brought before it, of those from whom parcels of Plants are received, and of all Books, Specimens, &c., presented to, or purchased by the Society. And the corresponding Secretary shall keep a regular record of all the correspondence which he carries on for, or in name of the Society.

20. Intimation of all papers to be brought before the Society, must be given to the Secretary eight days at least previous to the Meeting at which they are to be read.

21. Any Member may transmit to the Society papers and communications, which, if approved of by the Committee of Management, may be read by the author, or, in his absence, by the President or Secretary at any of the Ordinary Meetings.

22. The Society shall print a report of its progress annually, (including a List of its Members), in time to be despatched with the parcels to correspondents.

### III. GENERAL VIEWS AND OBJECTS OF THE SOCIETY.

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The attention of the Society is turned to the whole range of Botanical Science, together with such parts of other branches of Natural History as are more immediately connected with it, and these objects are cultivated:

1. By holding periodical Meetings for the interchange of Botanical information,—for the reading of original papers, or translations, abstracts or reviews of Botanical works, regarding any branch of Botanical knowledge, practical, physiological, or geographical,—and the application of such knowledge to Agriculture or the Arts.

2. By publishing in the Proceedings or Transactions of the Society, a selection of the papers read at the meetings.

3. By the formation in Edinburgh of an Herbarium of Foreign and British Plants, and of a Library and Museum for general consultation and reference.

4. By distributing annually amongst the Members the duplicates received, and thus contributing to the formation of authenticated Herbaria wherever the Society's correspondence extends, and affording to Botanists at a distance, opportunities of comparison and reference as accurate as are enjoyed by those having access to the Herbarium in Edinburgh.

5. By printing and distributing along with the duplicates, short annual Reports, and summaries of the Society's proceedings.

6. By printing from time to time Catalogues of Plants, with the view of facilitating the study of their geographical distribution, and furthering the principle of exchange.

7. By making Botanical excursions both in the neighbourhood of Edinburgh and to distant parts of Britain.

8. By appointing Local Secretaries, from amongst the Members of the Society, from whom, in their respective districts, all information regarding the Society's objects and proceedings may be obtained.



