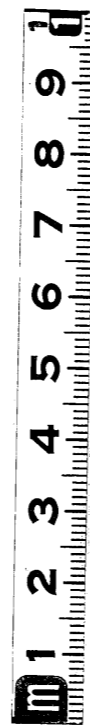


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PROPOSALS
FOR THE
Regulation of a SOCIETY
For Improving
Arts and Sciences,
And particularly
Natural Knowledge.



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I. **T**HE Society, at the first Institution, shall consist of Forty five Members, one third of whom, at least, shall be Gentlemen who do not make Philosophy or Physick their particular

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tical Profession. The Number of Members may afterwards be increased, if two thirds of the Members present at the annual Meeting for Elections agree thereto, but shall always be limited.

II. EVERY Person, at his Admission, shall promise that he will endeavour to pursue the Ends proposed by the Institution of this Society, for the Improvement of Arts and Sciences, and to undertake any Enquiry or Experiment recommended to him by the Society, who shall defray the necessary Charges thereof.

III. ALL Elections and Questions shall be determined by Ballot; and every Member shall give his Word of Honour that he shall not bind himself by Promise, or in any manner of way, how he shall ballot on any Occasion.

IV. THE Members of this Society, at their first Meeting, shall distinguish themselves into two Classes of Ordinary and Extraordinary Members; the Ordinary being such as do engage, each in his Turn, to give in a Paper or Memorial to be read in a Meeting of the Society. The Extraordinary Members, who are not under so strict an Obligation, shall not exceed in Number.

V. THAT

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V. THAT the Time of the Meetings of the Society may be employed to promote the End of the Institution, and for the better Regulation, Government and Policy of the Society, there shall be chosen at the first Meeting of the Society Thirteen Persons, whereof eight at least shall be of the Ordinary Members, to compose a Council for managing the Affairs of the Society; and out of these thirteen shall be chosen in the same manner a President, two Vice-Presidents, two Secretaries, and a Treasurer, to continue in their respective Offices, till other fit Persons be chosen into the said Offices, on the Day appointed for the annual Election. Of this Council, Six, with the President, or one of the Vice-Presidents, shall be a *Quorum*.

VI. ON the first *Thursday* of *December* 1737, and annually thereafter, the Society shall chuse Eight of the former Council, and five other Members as the Council for the ensuing Year; and immediately after shall proceed to elect a President, two Vice-Presidents, two Secretaries, and a Treasurer.

VII. ON or before the first *Thursday* of *July* 1737, and yearly thereafter, sometime betwixt the annual Election, and first *Thursday* of *July* following, each Member shall pay to the Treasurer one
Guinea

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Guinea for purchasing Instruments or Books, making Experiments, and for defraying other Charges of the Society. It is however hereby provided, That the Council shall have Power to exempt from these Payments such Members as they shall judge proper.

VIII. THE Treasurer shall advertise all the Members a Month before the Term of Payment, and likewise before the annual Election; and every Member who shall neglect or refuse to pay the above Contribution at the Time appointed shall forfeit his Place in the Society; but it shall be in his Power to redeem the same, by paying two Guineas to the Treasurer, before, or at the next Meeting for the annual Election: otherwise he shall be incapable of being re-elected a Member during the Pleasure of the Society. But this Law is not to be extended to any Member who shall happen not to be within *Great Britain* or *Ireland* at the Time.

IX. AFTER the first Election of Council and Officers, the Order and particular Day on which every ordinary Member is to present a Paper to the Society, is to be determined by Lot; the first Diet being at least Six Months after this Meeting, and to go on in a Rotation.

X. EVERY

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X. EVERY ordinary Member who does not deliver his Paper on the Day appointed, shall, for the first Neglect, incur a Mulct of Half-a-Guinea; if he does not give in his Paper in the next Course, he shall be fined in a Guinea; and, for the third Neglect, shall forfeit his Place.

XI. THE Society shall meet on the first *Thursday* of every Month, except in *September* and *October*, in one of the Chambers in the College belonging to any of the Professors who are Members, at Four o'Clock in the Afternoon, until some other convenient Place shall be appointed.

XII. EVERY Member, who shall be absent from the stated Meetings of the Society, if he is within the Kingdom, shall be fined in a Shilling, for each Meeting. But the Council shall have Power to exempt from these Fines certain Members, whose constant Residence and Business lies at a considerable Distance.

XIII. IN all Meetings the President, or, in his absence, the first Vice-President; and if both are absent, the second Vice-President, shall regulate the Conversation, keep good Order, appoint Meetings of the Council, and summon extraordinary Meetings of the Society.

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XIV. THE

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XIV. The Provinces of the two Secretaries may be distributed in such a Manner, that one of them shall have the collecting and reporting what relates to the general Parts of Natural Philosophy; the other, what is more particular. Geometry, Astronomy, Mechanicks, Opticks, and some of the general Parts of Geography may belong to the former. Anatomy, Medicine, Chemistry, Botany, what relates to Metals and other Minerals, and the natural History of the Country, to the latter. The Secretaries are to write down all the Transactions, Orders and Resolutions of the Society, and afterwards to record them in a Journal-Book; to insert all the Statutes or Laws in a Statute-book; to keep Copies of all Letters and Queries by written Order of the Society; to lay up in a safe Place the Memoirs of Members and Correspondents, taking care that no surreptitious Copies or Excerpts be taken from any of the Books or Papers of the Society. One of the Secretaries, whom the Council shall appoint, shall have the Charge of all Books, Instruments, Models and Curiosities of Nature or Art, gifted to, or purchased by the Society; at the Delivery of which to the Secretary, their Names or Titles, with a Value fixed by the Council, are to be inserted in two Books or Catalogues, under their proper Classes: One of which Books is to be kept by the President, and the other by the Secretary appointed.

XV. THE

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XV. THE Treasurer shall collect and deburse the Money of the Society, but is not to lay out any Sum exceeding Ten Shillings at one Time, and on one Account, without an Order of the Council, or at least of the President, or one of the Vice-Presidents, and two of the Council, by a Writing under their Hands. He shall keep an exact Account of what Money he has received or debursed for the Society, and every three Months shall lay before the Council an Account of his Debursements. The Treasurer's annual Account and Vouchers shall be laid before the Society at the first monthly Meeting after the Election; and if another Person has been chosen Treasurer at the preceeding Election, the late Treasurer shall then pay to his Successor in Office the Ballance of Cash in his Hands, if there happens to be any, or give Security for the same, before he is discharged by the Society.

XVI. At the annual Meeting for Elections, the Society shall appoint a Committee to audite the Treasurer's Accounts for the preceeding Year, and to lay the same with the Vouchers before the next Meeting.

XVII. A Committee shall likewise be appointed at the annual Election to inspect all the Papers, Memorials and Letters in the Secretaries Hands,
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and to prepare a List to be laid before the Council of what they think should be preserved, and what others may be thrown aside. The same Committee, with the Secretaries, shall likewise determine when there are a sufficient Number of Papers that seem fit to be published in a Volume, of which they shall give in a List to the Council, who may make such Alterations therein as they shall think proper: Then the List shall be laid before the Society, to be considered by the Members; and, at the next Meeting, the Members shall give in a folded Paper by way of Ballot, in which any Member may write his Objections against any of the Papers contained in the List. These Ballots shall be delivered to the President, who shall read them privately before the next Meeting; and if he finds, in any of them, any thing unfit to be read publickly, he shall suppress and destroy the Paper, but report the Objection itself, and any other Objections made to any of the Papers. After this the Members shall be at Liberty to reason fully on what Papers are fit to be published, and the Matter decided by a Majority of Ballots.

XVIII. AT the annual Meeting for Elections, if there happen to be any Vacancies in the Society, or if two thirds of the Members present agree to increase the Society, any Member may propose one or more Persons to be put upon the List of Candidates;

dates; and the Society shall determine by Ballot, what Persons shall be admitted Candidates, by voting every Person proposed separately. Then the List of Candidates being made up, every Member shall put into a Box the Names of so many of the Candidates as there are Places to be filled up; and the Persons who have the Majority of Votes shall be declared Members.

XIX. THE Society shall consider and agree on fit Persons in different Places to be their Correspondents. These shall have Access to the Meetings of the Society, if they happen to be in Town when any Experiments are to be performed, or Papers read; but not without the Permission of the President, and Consent of the Member or Members whose Papers are to be read that Day; and the Names of such Correspondents shall be mentioned in the Minutes. When any Matter of more private Concern is to be debated or voted in the Society, the Correspondents shall be desired to withdraw.

XX. THE Council shall at some convenient Time revise all the Statutes of the Society, and take into their Considerations what Alterations may be necessary, what Laws ought to be repealed, and what new Laws they think proper to be made for the Advantage of the Society; and the President shall lay
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the same in Writing before the Society, at least two Meetings before the annual Election, to be perused and considered by the Members, and such Amendments made thereon as seem proper. At the annual Meeting for Elections, the Laws proposed to be altered or repealed, and the new Laws proposed to be made, shall be read and separately voted; and every Amendment, or new Law that is approved of by two thirds of the Members present, shall be inserted in the Statute-book.

XXI. RESOLUTIONS or temporary Regulations taken by the Society are to be recorded by the Secretaries in the Journal-book, but are not to be esteemed concluded on, till they are read and agreed to at another Meeting, when any Member may object against them; and if he is seconded, it shall be determined by a Majority of Ballots, to approve the Resolutions or not.

XXII. AFFAIRS proposed from the Council by the President shall be given in to a Meeting of the Society in Writing, and shall be put into the Secretary's Hands for the perusal of the Members till next Meeting.

XXIII. THE ordinary Meetings of the Society shall begin by one of the Secretary's reading an Abstract

abstract of what passed at the former Meeting; then any thing that is new may be offered by any Member; Letters and Queries to Correspondents to be drawn up; Memorials and Answers from Correspondents to be read and considered; Experiments proposed to be made by some of the Members, and reported at the next, or some following Meeting, and the Treasurer appointed to defray the necessary Charges. Then the Paper of the ordinary Member appointed for that Day, and Papers presented by other Members to be read. After which any Member may propose such Difficulties or Objections as occur to him upon what has been read.

XXIV. SUCH Papers as cannot be judged of by reading in a publick Meeting, shall be referred to a Member, and a Day appointed when he shall give an Account and Judgment of the Performance.

XXV. No Papers given in to the Society shall be communicated to any Person not of the Society, nor lent out to a Member, without Consent of the Author, and an Order of the Council upon the Borrower's Obligation to return it in a certain time, under such a Penalty as the Author or Council shall think fit. Books and Instruments belonging to the Society may be lent out, but to Members only, upon their Obligation to the Secretaries to return them

them in a certain Time, under a Penalty exceeding the Value.

XXVI. IN the Meetings of the Society, no Conversations are to be allowed on Religious or Political Disputes. But this is not to be understood as if these Reflexions should be unacceptable, which Enquiries into Nature suggest, concerning the Wisdom of its Author, and the Beauty of its Workmanship.

XXVII. IN their Conversations, any Warmth that may be offensive or improper for Philosophical Enquiries, is to be avoided. No injurious Insinuations or Expressions of Dislike are to be suffered. Every Member is to have the Intention of the Institution in his View, and to avoid shewing in their Meetings any Remembrance of Differences, if there happen to be any, betwixt him and any other Member.

XXIX. AUTHORITY is to be held of no Weight in their Reasonings. The Shew of Learning, and Quotation of Authors sparingly used in their Papers. Things to be minded, not Words. Arguments to be chiefly drawn from proper Experiments and clear Consequences deduced from them, or

or from evident Propositions. Metaphysical Subtilities not to be insisted on.

XXIX. IN making Experiments, and reporting them, great Caution and Accuracy is to be observed. The Members who report Experiments and Observations are to sign them.

Alphabetical List of the Members of the Society for improving Arts and Sciences, particularly natural Knowledge, established at Edinburgh 1739.

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| M R. William Adams Architect. | Dr. John Clerk, Vice-President. |
| Dr. Charles Alston Professor of Medicine and Botany in the University of Edinburgh. | The Right Honourable Lord Colvill of Culross. |
| Sir John Anstruther Baronet. | James Crow of Netherbyers Esq; |
| Dr. John Boswell. | Sir James Dalrymple Bart. |
| Mr. Dougal Campbell. | Mr. John Douglas Surgeon. |
| The Honourable Mr. William Carmichael. | Sir Gilbert Elliot of Minto, one of the Senators of the College of Justice. |
| Sir John Clerk of Pennycuik, one of the Barons of Exchequer, Vice-President. | The Rt. Hon. Lord Elphinston. |
| | The Rt. Hon. Duncan Forbes Esq; |

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Esq; Lord President of the Session.	Professor of Medicine and Chemistry in the University of Edinburgh, Secretary.
<i>William Fullarton</i> of Fullarton Esq;	Dr. <i>William Porterfield</i> .
Mr. <i>James Gray</i> .	Dr. <i>John Pringle</i> Professor of Moral Philosophy in the University of <i>Edinburgh</i> .
The Rt. Hon. Lord <i>Hope</i> ,	Mr. <i>Thomas Ruddiman</i> .
Dr. <i>John Johnston</i> Professor of Medicine in the University of <i>Glasgow</i> .	Dr. <i>John Rutherford</i> Professor of Medicine in the University of <i>Edinburgh</i> .
The Rt. Hon. the Earl of <i>Lawderdale</i> .	The Rt. Hon. Lord <i>Sinclair</i> ,
Mr. <i>Peter Leith</i> .	Mr. <i>Charles St. Clair</i> Advocate.
Mr. <i>Alexander Lind</i> Advocate, Treasurer.	Dr. <i>Andrew St. Clair</i> Professor of Medicine in the University of <i>Edinburgh</i> .
Mr. <i>Charles Macky</i> Professor of History in the University of <i>Edinburgh</i> .	Mr. <i>David Scot</i> of <i>Scots-tarvet</i> Advocate,
Mr. <i>Colin Maclaurin</i> Professor of Mathematicks in the University of <i>Edinburgh</i> , Secretary.	Dr. <i>Thomas Simson</i> Professor of Medicine and Anatomy in the University of <i>St. Andrews</i> .
Dr. <i>George Martin</i> .	Mr. <i>James Short</i> Optician.
Monfr. <i>De Mairan</i> of the Royal Academy of Sciences at <i>Paris</i> .	Mr. <i>Robert Steuart</i> Professor of Natural Philosophy in the University of <i>Edinburgh</i> .
Mr. <i>Alexander Monro</i> Professor of Anatomy in the University of <i>Edinburgh</i> .	Dr. <i>John Stevenson</i> .
The Rt. Hon. the Earl of <i>Morton</i> , President.	Mr. <i>James Stirling</i> .
Mr. <i>Hugh Murray-Kynnymound</i> Advocate.	The Rt. Hon. the Viscount of <i>Stormont</i> .
Mr. <i>John Paisley</i> Surgeon.	The Rev. Mr. <i>Robert Wallace</i> one of the Ministers of <i>Edinburgh</i> .
Mr. <i>Francis Place</i> .	
Dr. <i>Andrew Plummer</i> Pro-	