

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 a Conference President, a Conference Vice-president, an Executive President, an Editor for the Newsletter and two members at large. The Conference President shall be the current program chair in any given year, and the Conference Vice-President shall be the succeeding program chair. The Executive President will be responsible for the treasury and the maintenance of a membership list. The Editor will be responsible for writing and distributing a Society newsletter at regular times throughout the year. [See Amendment I.]
- 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 and the two at-large members shall

be elected at annual meetings for three year terms. 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 at its annual meeting.

- C. Conference Presidents and Vice-Presidents shall hold office for one year. Executive President, Editor of Newsletter and members-at-large shall serve three-year terms.
- 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 at the annual meeting and shall be by a majority vote of the members in good standing. Nominations shall be made at the annual meeting by any member in good standing who is present at the 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 meeting.
- 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 annual 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.
- 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, along with registration materials for the annual conference.

## 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 at the next annual meeting. 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.

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.