

THE FURNITURE HISTORY SOCIETY

The Furniture History Society

RULES

Adopted at the Special General Meeting of the Society on 28th October 1967,

as amended at Special General Meetings of the Society on

17th November 1979, 21st November 1992, 24th January 2019, 23rd November 2024 and
29th November 2025

1. The name of the Society shall be THE FURNITURE HISTORY SOCIETY.
2. The principal objects of the Society shall be to advance the study of furniture of all periods, places and kinds, and to further public knowledge and appreciation of it. The Society shall assist as far as possible in the preservation of furniture and of its records for the public benefit.
3. In furtherance of these objects the Society may in particular:
 - a) edit and publish such material as the Council of the Society may select.
 - b) organise the distribution of publications.
 - c) make grants out of the funds of the Society of such amounts as the Council of the Society, after Consultation with the Honorary Treasurer of the Society, may determine, by way of contribution to the travelling and other incidental expenses to be incurred by any person, whether or not a member of the Society, for the purposes of the study of, or research into, the history of furniture where such study or research shall in the opinion of the Council of the Society be of importance in furthering the objects of the society and where the Council of the Society is of the opinion that such travel could not be undertaken without a contribution by the Society by way of such a grant.
 - d) arrange meetings either alone or in co-operation with other bodies.
 - e) apply sums out of the funds of the Society for or towards the preservation or restoration of furniture or the purchase of appropriate furniture for deposit in museums or other places of display owned by bodies of charitable status.

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f) apply sums out of the funds of the Society for or towards the preservation of archives and other records relating to furniture or the purchase of such records for deposit in suitable record offices, libraries, museums or other places where scholars and students can consult them.

g) promote or assist in the sponsorship of exhibitions of or relating to furniture to be mounted by museums or similar organisations, including paying or contributing to the cost of compilation and printing of catalogues for such exhibitions, where in the opinion of the Council of the Society, such exhibitions will be likely to further public knowledge and appreciation of furniture.

h) apply such sums out of the funds of the Society for and towards the publication of scholarly articles, periodicals or books relating to the history of furniture.

4. The Society shall consist of such members, either individuals or institutions, as may be elected by the Council on application. On joining, members shall pay such annual subscription as shall from time to time be decided by the Society in General Meeting, and a further subscription by the 15th October in each succeeding year in respect of the year beginning on the preceding 1st July. The Council shall determine variations of the membership subscription for particular categories of members, for example overseas members and younger members. Members whose subscriptions are in arrears shall not be entitled to receive the Society's Journal until their subscriptions are paid. Failure to pay the due subscription by 28 February next following shall be regarded as resignation from membership.
5. The name of the Society and of its publications shall not be used by any members for any purpose of trade or profit. The copyright of all articles appearing in the Society's publications shall be vested in the Society.
6. All members shall receive the Society's Journal and Newsletters, and shall be entitled to subscribe to any special Works published by the Society. The Council shall have power to distribute free copies of the Society's publications to contributors, to the Press, or for complimentary reasons.

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7. The affairs of the Society shall be administered by a Council consisting of a President, Chairman and three other Honorary Officers – namely Secretary, Treasurer and Editorial Secretary – and six ordinary or non-executive members, each being a member of the Society (or such higher number of non-executive members as the Council or the Society may decide). Honorary Officers appointed on or after the date of adoption of this Rule and also those Honorary Officers appointed before that date shall not serve in any one role for more than nine years following the date of their appointment, unless agreed by the Council and approved by the Society in General Meeting.

Ordinary or non-executive members of Council shall serve for a term not exceeding three years ending at the third AGM following the AGM at which they were first elected, and shall not be eligible for re-election in that year.

All members of Council shall be elected each year at the Annual General Meeting.

At the AGM in each year the Society shall elect two members of the Society (or such other number as the Society or the Council may decide) as non-executive members of Council to replace those non-executive members retiring in that year or to fill a casual vacancy.

A vacancy in the non-executive members occurring between AGMs may be filled by the Council appointing another member of the Society as a non-executive member of Council, and any member so appointed shall continue in that capacity until the next AGM and shall be eligible for election as a non-executive member for a new term at that AGM.

The Council may from time to time appoint officers to carry out administrative duties on behalf of the Society.

8. The Secretary shall keep a Minute Book and record therein the business transacted at meetings of the Council and at Annual and Special General Meetings, and such Minutes shall be signed, after adoption, by the Chairman at the appropriate meeting next following.

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9. The Council shall meet at least once in every year. Three members and one Honorary Officer shall form a quorum. The Council may delegate any of its powers to committees consisting of members of the Society, of which the Officers of the Society shall be ex officio members. The Council and its delegated committees shall have power to co-opt persons whether or not they be members of the Society.
10. The Council may also elect Honorary Vice-Presidents, not exceeding six in number, who shall thereby become honorary members of the Society. They shall be persons distinguished by their service to the general objects of the Society.
11. The funds of the Society shall be kept in such Bank as the Council shall direct. Cheques drawn upon the Society's account shall require the signature of the Treasurer and of one other Officer of the Society, except that the Council may delegate this authority to the single signature of an Officer of the Society in respect of cheques below an individual value to be decided by the Council. The Council shall have power to invest surplus moneys in such manner as they see fit. The accounts of the Society, made up to 30th June each year, shall be submitted to an Auditor or Auditors, who shall be appointed by the Society at the Annual General Meeting.
12. In no circumstances shall any of the assets of the Society at any time be given or refunded to any member except by way of re-imbusement of expenses, or as proper remuneration for services rendered to the Society or by way of grant pursuant to Rule 3.
13. An Annual General Meeting, at such time and place as the Council may appoint, shall be held, on not less than fourteen days' notice being given to members, normally in the autumn of each year, to receive the Annual Report and Statement of Accounts, to elect the Officers and Members of the Council and the Auditors, and to transact the general business of the Society.
14. The Council may at any time, on not less than fourteen days' notice to members, call a Special General Meeting. They shall be bound to do so on receipt of letters of request from each of fifteen members, specifying the business for which such Special General Meeting is to be convened.

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15. The non-receipt of a notice by any member shall not invalidate the proceedings of any General Meeting.
16. Twenty members shall form a quorum for a General Meeting.
17. If after an hour from the time appointed for a Special General Meeting convened upon a requisition of members a quorum be not present the Meeting shall be dissolved. In any other case the Meeting may transact such business as is thought necessary notwithstanding the absence of a quorum.
18. The President of the Society, or, in his absence, the Chairman of the Council, shall take the chair at a General Meeting, and if neither be present the Meeting shall elect a Chairman.
19. At every ordinary Meeting of the Society or of the Council the resolutions of the majority present and voting shall be binding. At a Special General Meeting a two-thirds majority of those present and voting shall be necessary. Voting shall be by a show of hands. At both ordinary and Special Meetings the Chairman shall have a casting vote in addition to his vote as a member of the Society or of the Council.
20. If at a Special General Meeting it be decided by a majority of two-thirds of the members present to wind up the affairs of the Society, the Treasurer shall realise so much of the assets as may be necessary to discharge the liabilities of the Society and shall make over any of the assets remaining to one or more Learned Bodies having charitable objects similar to those of this Society or to one or more charitable institutions as the Council may direct.
21. No change shall be made in these Rules except by resolution of a Special General Meeting.
22. A copy of the Rules shall be sent to every member on joining.