ACADÉMIE INTERNATIONALE D’HÉRALDIQUE

CONSTITUTION
Constitution

Preamble
The International Academy of Heraldry was established in 1949 to bring together a group of heraldic experts from different cultural arenas of the world. The Academy is governed by the following statutes.

Article 1. Description
The International Academy of Heraldry (the Academy) is an association in the meaning of the article 60 and following of the Swiss civil code; it has a juridical form.

Article 2. Aim
The Academy has the aim of centralising and disseminating study and scientific research in heraldic matters based on as large an international cooperation as possible. It aims to define the place of heraldry within the field of modern humanities, to study the interdisciplinary relationships, to coordinate research, to define trends, to give researchers appropriate assistance.

Article 3. Location and Duration
The Academy has its international headquarters in Switzerland, at a place determined by the council; it is of indefinite duration.

Article 4. Members
1. The Academy consists of specialists with an established interest in the art and science of heraldry. It includes active and associated members.
2. Active members are entitled “Academicians” and membership is restricted to a maximum of 75.
3. There is no limit to the number of associated members.

Article 5. Admission of Members
1. The Academy appoints members for their scientific expertise with a view to a balanced geographical distribution.
2. Each candidate for membership must submit a resume in writing and must be proposed by a member of the Bureau.
3. The Bureau examines each candidature and submits the name to the General Assembly with their recommendation; each proposal indicates if the candidate is nominated to be an academician or associate member.
4. The General Assembly make its decision without requiring to give reasons.

Article 6. Removal of Members
1. A member may resign from the Academy on a written request to the President either six months in advance or at the end of a a year.
2. All members who are in arrears with the subscription for three years, despite reminders, will be considered to have resigned.
3. On a proposal from the Bureau the General Assembly may exclude a member with immediate effect without requiring to give reasons.
1. The General Assembly must meet at least once a year.
2. Notice calling a meeting of the General Assembly will be given a month in advance by the Bureau and the General Assembly will be presided over by the President or one of the Vice Presidents.
3. Only Academicians may participate in any debate and vote on resolutions. An academician may participate by appointment of a proxy in writing.
4. Associate members may attend the General Assembly and participate in the debate but have no vote.

Article 8. General Assembly. Powers
1. The General Assembly governs the Academy.
2. The General Assembly considers and approves the reports of activities and the final report of the bureau for the relevant period.
3. The General Assembly elects from amongst the Academicians members of the bureau who will serve for five years and be eligible for re-election.
4. The General Assembly elects from amongst the members of the Bureau a President who will serve for five years and be eligible for re-election.
5. The General Assembly sets the annual subscription for Academicians and associate members for the following year.
6. The General Assembly requires a majority of two thirds of Academicians present or represented to amend the constitution.

Article 9. Bureau. Organisation
1. The Bureau of the Academy consists of at least seven members. It meets when required.
2. The Bureau appoints from among its members two Vice Presidents, a Secretary-General and a Treasurer. (note this seems to have been amended in 1980)
3. Notice calling a meeting of the Bureau will be given two weeks in advance by the President, a Vice President or, in their absence, the most senior Academician.
4. The Bureau will be presided over by the President, a vice President, or in their absence, the most senior Academician.

1. The Bureau executes the decisions of the General Assembly, administers and represents the Academy, it establishes the rules of the Academy, maintains the international aspect of the institution and sets the programme of events of the Academy.
2. The Bureau maintains minutes of meetings and general assemblies; which minutes are signed by the individual presiding over the meeting or assembly and by the minute-taker.
3. The Bureau shall oversee any international cooperation undertaken by the academy or under its auspices and shall ensure the proper implementation of ensuing commitments.
4. The Bureau undertakes all functions outwith the competence of the general assembly.
5. In a case of urgency a limited executive committee is authorised to make all necessary decision within the limits of the powers of the Bureau. The committee will comprise the President, the vice Presidents, the Secretary General and the Treasurer. There
must be a minimum of three votes. No proxy is allowed. Each member has one vote and in the case of no majority the President shall have a second vote. The President shall inform the next meeting of the Bureau of the urgent decisions which have been taken (Note again this appears to have been adopted in 1980).

Article 11. Representation
The Academy is bound by two signatures being that of the President together with that of a Vice President or member of the Bureau.

Article 12. Finances
1. Subscriptions, donations and legacies belong to the Academy and members are only liable for the amount of their subscription.
2. The Academy may seek and accept grants to further relevant scientific study.
3. The bureau will manage the finances of the Academy through the Treasurer.

Article 13. Dissolution
1. Dissolution of the Academy shall be decided by the General Assembly with a two thirds majority of Academician.
2. Following a decision to dissolve the Academy the archives shall be offered to an institution involved in heraldic affairs or to a major public library.
3. Any remaining sums shall be transmitted to a relevant charity.

Article 16. Miscellaneous
1. These statutes repeal and replace in their entirety those of 9 February 1949.
2. The code of conduct relating to the scientific activities of the Academy are set out in an internal rule established by the Bureau and adopted by the General Assembly.
3. These statutes were adopted by a meeting of the General Assembly of the Academy which took place in Paris on 6 November 1965.

Geneva, 6 November 1965

President
Léon Jéquier

Secretary General
Hérve Pinoteau