



Society for the Study of Early Modern Women

EMW CONSTITUTION and BYLAWS

Adopted by the Organizing Committee in 1993, ratified by the Membership in 1994.
Amendments ratified by the Membership, March 2007, March 2008.

SSEMW CONSTITUTION

Articles of Association of the undersigned, a majority of whom are citizens of the United States, desiring to form a non-profit society, do hereby certify:

1. The Society for the Study of Early Modern Women is a community that fosters and promotes scholarship and teaching on women and issues of gender from all parts of the world in the early modern period.
2. Name. The name of this society shall be the Society for the Study of Early Modern Women.
3. Purpose. The objectives of this Society shall be to further scholarship on Early Modern Women by bringing scholars together, by maintaining a website and a listserv, by encouraging research in progress, by promoting the exchange of ideas in this field, by selecting outstanding scholars for honor, and by carrying on such other activities as the members of the Society may determine from time to time, within the meaning of section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Said organization is organized exclusively for charitable, religious, educational, and scientific purposes, including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code. Upon the dissolution of the corporation/ organization, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future Federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the Federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose.
4. Membership. Any person may become a member of the Society upon payment of annual dues as fixed in the Bylaws, and may continue as a member by payment of subsequent annual dues.
5. Officers. The officers of the Society shall be: a President, the immediate Past-President, a Vice- President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. The Vice-President shall be elected for a term of one year in accordance with the provisions of the Bylaws, after which the Vice-President shall be President for a one-year term. The President may not serve two consecutive terms. The Treasurer and the Secretary shall be appointed by the President in consultation with the Executive Committee,

- and shall serve for a three-year term, renewable at the discretion of the Executive Committee and the incumbent,.. under such conditions as the Committee may specify. No part of the net earnings of the corporation shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in Article Third hereof. No substantial part of the activities of the corporation shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the corporation shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, the corporation shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by a corporation exempt from the federal income tax under section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.
6. Administration. The affairs of the Society shall be administered by an Executive Committee, consisting of the Officers, six term members, two of whom shall be elected each year for terms of three years in a manner described by the bylaws, and a student, selected by the President, who shall serve for 1 year. The Webmistress, the Chairs of the Nominating and the Awards Committees, and the previous Past-President shall serve as ex officio non-voting members of the Executive Board . Nominations to the Executive Committee should take account of diversity of academic disciplines and geographic areas. The Committee shall take all appropriate action on behalf of the Society, creating committees when it so desires, and through the Secretary and Treasurer shall furnish a report at the Society's Annual Meeting. Seven voting members of the Executive Committee, including at least two officers, shall constitute a quorum.
 7. Amendments. Any amendment of this Constitution shall take effect immediately upon approval by the membership. Voting shall take place by mail ballot; a measure receiving a clear majority of the votes cast will be considered to have been approved.

BYLAWS

1. Dues. The annual dues shall be set by the Executive Committee, with reduced rates for graduate students, independent scholars, and members who are retired or working part-time.
2. Duties of Officers. The President shall preside at the Annual Meeting and at meetings of the Executive Committee, shall direct the call of all meetings of the Executive Committee, shall name a replacement for any officer who is unable to serve, and shall make decisions, in consultation with the Executive Committee, on matters that arise between meetings of the Committee. The Vice-President, in the President's absence, shall preside at the Annual Meeting and at meetings of the Executive Committee and upon the death or resignation of the President, shall become President. The Secretary shall also act as Secretary of the Executive Committee, shall at the direction of the President call all meetings of the Committee, shall within one month of any Committee meeting issue minutes to

the members thereof, and shall conduct the general correspondence of the Society. The Treasurer shall be the custodian of all funds, shall call for and collect annual dues, shall pay all bills properly incurred, shall prepare a proposed budget by July 1 and shall submit records for audit by the Executive Committee whenever the Committee so directs.

3. Elections. Each year the Nominating Committee shall prepare a slate of nominations for Vice-President and for new members of the Executive Committee, and the standing committees. At least two candidates shall be presented for each open position, except for the Vice-President. These nominations shall be reported to the Executive Committee and presented to the membership at the Annual Meeting for approval. Nominations will be accepted from the floor at the Executive Committee and at the Annual Meeting, provided that the nominee has given her/his permission. The first slate of officers shall be elected at the Inaugural Meeting; thereafter, elections shall be conducted by mail ballot. A person receiving a clear majority of the votes cast shall be deemed to have been elected.
4. Participation in the Annual Meeting. The Annual Meeting is open to non-members, but only members may vote upon Society business.
5. Amendments. Any amendment of these Bylaws shall take effect immediately upon approval by the membership. Voting shall take place by mail ballot; a measure receiving a clear majority of the votes cast shall be deemed to have been approved.

Organized on 23 April 1994

Constitution and By-Laws ratified on 20 November 1994

Margaret P. Hannay, Secretary. Siena College Loudonville, NY

Jane L. Donawerth, Treasurer. University of Maryland College Park, MD

- 1) Amendments approved by the EMW Executive Committee, November 9, 2006.
approved by postal vote of the EMW membership, March 20, 2007.
- 2) Amendment approved by the EMW Executive Committee, October 25, 2007.
approved by postal vote of the EMW membership, March 20, 2008.

Jane Couchman, Secretary. Glendon College, York University, Toronto, Canada

Nancy Gutierrez, Treasurer. University of North Carolina at Charlotte, NC