

**Statute of the Association known as the
ITALIAN ASSOCIATION OF SHAKESPEAREAN
AND EARLY MODERN STUDIES
(IASEMS)**

Article 1 – Constitution and Registered Office

1. The Italian Association of Shakespearean and Early Modern Studies (IASEMS) - Associazione Italiana di studi shakespeariani e sulla prima età moderna - has been constituted with registered office in the Department of English Studies, Via S. Maria 67, Pisa.
2. The Association is non-profit making and shall not distribute any profits to its members.
3. The Association has no limits in time.

Article 2 – Objectives and Activities

The Association has the following objectives:

- to promote the study of Shakespeare's works in the context of Renaissance culture;
- to promote the study of the reception and appropriation of the works of Shakespeare and his contemporaries over the centuries and in all cultural contexts;
- to promote the study of English culture in the early modern period, including its relationship with the European culture of its times;
- to bring out the specific Italian contribution to research into the above themes;
- to contribute to the training of young scholars and researchers able to give their contribution to the above themes.

In order to reach these objectives, and with resources permitting, the Association undertakes

- to facilitate, coordinate and promote in forms and ways to be established according to circumstances, the exchange of information and research on the above themes among academics (scholars, critics, teaching staff, students), theatre and cinema lovers and professionals.
- to finance publications and favour the training of young scholars by means of grants and contributions destined for both single projects and study periods both in Italy and abroad.
- to establish and maintain contacts, also at a formal institutional level, with international associations following similar objectives.

The Association operates mainly by means of the direct and personal action of its members, whose services are offered without remuneration; to achieve its aims, it may also stipulate agreements and conventions with public and private bodies as well as other Associations.

Article 3 – Members

1. No limits are set on the number of members.
2. The Association shall consist of Charter Members who undersigned the Constituent Act, and Ordinary Members, Italians and non, who possess through their activities and personal qualities, the scientific and professional requisites for taking an active part in the initiatives of the Association and contributing to the objectives laid down in its statute. Applications for membership of the Association shall be addressed to the Executive Committee and contain a declaration accepting the norms and obligations stipulated in the Statute. Membership is granted via a majority decision of the Executive Committee in the first meeting following the presentation of the application.
3. The Executive Committee may accept Associate Members offering economic backing to the Association's activities, as well as put forward to the Assembly the nomination of Honorary

Members among those who have given an outstanding contribution to the sector of studies and activities specified in the aims and being of the Association itself.

Article 4 – Cancellation of Membership

1. Membership is cancelled because of :
 - non payment of membership dues, as established in the Regulations;
 - resignation, which shall be presented in written form to the Executive Committee and take effect at the end of the current year, providing the request is made at least three months earlier, according to Article 24 of the Civil Code.
 - expulsion decreed by the Executive Committee because of behaviour contrasting with the objectives of the Association.
2. The Executive Committee is obliged to justify its decision to expel a member, who can appeal to the Assembly, which after having heard the parties concerned, gives a final decision within thirty days from the presentation of the appeal.

Article 5 – Members’ Rights and Duties

1. Members are to:
 - respect the norms of the present Statute, the regulations and other decisions adopted by the assemblies, committees and officers.
 - be up to date with the payment of their membership dues;
 - carry out activities previously agreed in favour of the Association.
2. Members have the right to:
 - take part in all the initiatives and activities promoted by the Association;
 - take part in the Assemblies and vote on its deliberations, either personally or by proxy, with the maximum of one proxy vote per member.
 - be familiar with the Association’s plans for carrying out its functions;
 - propose projects and initiatives to submit to the Executive Committee;
 - discuss and approve the accounts and the programming of activities;
 - elect and be elected members of the Association’s bodies and committees.

Article 6 – The Bodies and Offices of the Association

1. The bodies and offices of the Associations are:
 - a) the Members’ Assembly;
 - b) the Executive Committee;
 - c) the President;
 - d) the Vice President ;
 - e) the Secretary ;
 - f) the Treasurer.
2. All offices in the Association are held via election, are without remuneration and for three years except in the case of revocation or resignation.

Article 7 – The Members’ Assembly

1. The Members’ Assembly is the sovereign body in the Association.
2. The Assembly is formed by all paid up members of the Association.
3. The Assembly meetings are normally convened by the President after having heard the Executive Committee, by means of notification including the agenda, place, date and time of the first call

and if necessary of later calls; a hardcopy version shall be posted in the registered office of the Association with at least ten days' advance and communicated to all the members, via e-mail, within the same terms.

4. The General Meeting of the Assembly is convened at least once a year for the approval of the accounts and general lines of programming, and also whenever there is need, on the request of the President or Executive Committee or at least one tenth of the members who propose the agenda. In this case, the meeting shall be called within thirty days of the President receiving the relative request.

5. Extraordinary Meetings of the Members' Assembly can be convened for modifications to the Statute as well as for the dissolution of the Association.

6. The Meeting of the Assembly is deemed valid on first call in the presence of half or more of the members and it shall deliberate on the points on the agenda with a majority of the votes of those present. On second call the Assembly shall be deemed valid with any number of participants and deliberate with the majority of those present and voting.

7. The functions of the Assembly are to:

- elect the Executive Committee;
- deliberate on the general lines of the programming of activities;
- approve the report on the activities undertaken and the previous year's accounts;
- deliberate on the budget estimate for the following year;
- ratify the emergency decisions taken by the Executive Committee.
- deliberate on the regulations proposed by the Executive Committee.
- deliberate on all matters related to the running of the Association.

8. The Assembly is presided over by the President, or in the case of his/her absence or impediment by the oldest member present, while the minutes are taken by the Secretary or in the case of his/her absence or impediment by another person chosen by the President among those taking part.

9. The decisions taken by the Assembly and the minutes are posted in the registered office and are kept with other documentation for members to consult at will, also by e-mail.

Article 8 – The Executive Committee

1. The Executive Committee is formed by three to seven members elected among the ordinary members by the Assembly, on first call by the absolute majority of those with a right to vote and on second call by the absolute majority of those present.

2. The Committee holds office for three years and members can be re-elected for another term up to a maximum of six consecutive years.

3. In its first meeting the Committee elects from amongst its members the President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer.

The Committee can also delegate to its members other functions concerning specific needs related to the Association's activities.

4. The Executive Committee is normally convened by the president by means of an e-mail message, containing the place, date and time of the meeting as well as the agenda, to be sent to the Committee Members at least five days before the meeting. Extraordinary meetings may be held on the request of at least a third of the Committee's members.

5. The Committee meetings shall be valid when the majority of members are present and its deliberations are approved by the absolute majority of those present. Minutes concerning its deliberations shall be drawn up by the Secretary and signed by him/her and the President. These minutes shall be archived and made available, also by e-mail, to members requesting vision.

6. The role of the Executive Committee is to:

- draw up the programme of the Association's activities and be responsible for their implementation according to the general lines laid down by the Assembly;
- deliberate on applications for membership and fix the annual dues;

- draw up the annual budget and estimate for the following year, as well as the report on activities to submit to the Assembly,
 - lay out the general lines of the programme of activities to submit to the Assembly.
 - fix the date of the following ordinary Members' Assembly and convene other assemblies when deemed necessary.
 - as a collegial body exercise all the ordinary and extraordinary administrative powers in order to achieve the Association's objectives.
 - decide on the ways of taking part in activities organized by other associations and bodies.
7. In the case of the resignation of a member of the Executive Committee, his/her place will automatically be taken by the first of the non-elected members, or if need be by co-option. Nevertheless, the number of co-opted members cannot be more than one third of the Committee members. Should this happen, the Committee will resign and new elections will be held. Where members are co-opted, they are to be ratified by the Assembly at the first possible meeting. Co-opted committee members finish their mandate together with the other members of the three-year period.

Article 9 – The President

1. The President of the Association carries out his/her functions without remuneration; he/she is elected by the Executive Committee from among its members with a secret vote. The mandate is for three years and the President can be elected for another term, but in any case for not longer than six consecutive years.
2. He/she has the power to sign for the association in connection with other bodies.
3. He/she carries out all the actions involving the Association, holds the chair and convenes the Executive Committee, deals with the regular proceedings and signs and approves the minutes of the meetings.
4. He/she has the authority to receive takings and accept donations of all kinds and under any title from public and private administrations and bodies, as well as issue receipts.
5. He/she has the authority to draw up, following the favourable opinion of the Executive Committee agreements and conventions with public and private bodies as well as other associations.
6. In case of urgent need the President shall function as the Committee and submit any decision to the ratification of the Committee at the following meeting.

Article 10 – The Secretary and the Treasurer

1. The Secretary shall draw up the minutes of the meetings of the Executive Committee and sign them together with the President.
2. The Secretary shall update the list of members. He/she shall guarantee the vision to members of the acts, registers and account books of the Association.
3. The Treasurer shall look after the administrative and accounting aspects of the Association. He/she shall deal with the cash flow, keep the books, draw up the yearly balance sheet and prepare the new budget.

Article 11 – Assets

1. The Association's assets are indivisible and are formed by:
 - movable goods, chattels and real estate belonging to the Association;
 - goods of all kinds purchased by the Association for the realisation of its institutional functions;
 - all types of contributions, grants and legacies;
 - possible reserve funds.

2. The Association's income shall be formed by:
- revenue from its own possessions;
 - contributions from individuals;
 - contributions from the State public bodies and institutions;
 - membership dues and other contributions from members;
 - any other kind of income coming from or connected to its activities.

Article 12 – Accounts

1. The financial year shall run from 1st January to 31st December each year. The yearly accounts shall be presented to the Members' Assembly for approval by 31st April of the following year.
2. The budget and implementation for the following financial year shall be approved by the Members' Assembly in accordance with the general terms of the Association's activities
3. Profits or budget surplus shall be totally re-invested in order to help carry out institutional activities and related initiatives.
4. No income from the Association's activities shall under any circumstances be divided among the members – directly or indirectly.

Article 13 – Modifications to the Statute

1. The Statute is binding for all members of the Association; it can be modified by the Assembly with the majority vote of those present.

Article 14 – Dissolution of the Association

In the case of the Association being dissolved for any of the reasons mentioned in the present statute or by law, one or more liquidators shall be appointed to wind up all the activities and settle any debts. The remaining assets of the Association, in the case of dissolution for any reason, shall be allocated to good causes, unless decreed otherwise by law.

Article 15 – Final and transitory dispositions

1. For circumstances unforeseen by the present Statute or the regulations of the Association, reference shall be made to the norms of the Civil Code and the laws in force.