

THE WORDSWORTH-COLERIDGE ASSOCIATION

THE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

The Wordsworth-Coleridge Association is a non-profit international literary society founded in 1970 to promote the study of British Romanticism through conferences, meetings, study groups, and publications. It has been housed at and worked in affiliation with the Department of English at Temple University, Philadelphia (1970-1988), New York University, New York City (1988-2006), and, since 2007, has been housed in The Editorial Institute at Boston University, Boston, Massachusetts.

The Wordsworth-Coleridge Association is primarily a non-profit literary society providing educational, professional services, charitable activities, and the material conservation of the literary tradition. Its activities include the annual meetings at the Modern Language Association, the publication of *The Wordsworth Circle* and the peer-review system on which it depends. Along with the journal and the annual meetings at the MLA conventions, the association is committed to providing a center for dialogue, review, and renewal; developing the voices of the future; assimilating contemporary concerns; enhancing the sense of community on a global scale among scholars and students of British and American Romanticism, and to preserving the great literary and cultural resources essential to the global community it serves.

The Association promotes the activities and interests of related organizations such as the Wordsworth Trust, the Wordsworth Conference Foundation, the Friends of Coleridge, the Keats-Shelley Association, the Charles Lamb Society, the International Byron Society, the North American Society for the Study of Romanticism, the International Conference of Romanticism, and other related conferences, schools and publications. It is an allied organization affiliated with the Modern Language Association.

Membership is open to anyone who shares the goals of the association: students, academics, librarians, independent scholars, writers, regardless of age, race, gender, nationality, or occupation—all are welcome. The privileges of membership include participation in the annual meetings, the right to hold office, to submit for peer-review, to participate in peer review, to publish in and to receive the journal. The annual dues are \$35.00 per year, which contribute to the cost of *The Wordsworth Circle*, \$40.00 for members outside the U.S. (to cover postage).

Through New York University, the Association and journal have a non-profit status and, through Boston University, a postal permit. The major sources of funding are memberships, library subscriptions, the sale of back issues and ads, and contributions from members. The journal is engaged in charitable work contributing copies of each issue to libraries and individual scholars all over the world that are suffering from the effects of war, natural disaster, or political dissent. Financial assistance is available to anyone who demonstrates a sincere commitment to the organization but cannot afford membership. Financial aid is also available toward participation in the annual meetings, conferences sponsored by another organization, and legitimate educational activities.

The Association meets annually during the Modern Language Association convention. Business is conducted at the first part of the first session. It includes nominations for officers, members of the board, and proposals for future activities. All other business is conducted by mail or through *The Wordsworth Circle*. Officers consist of an Executive Director, an appointed Advisory Board, an elected President and Vice-President, and a Secretary-Treasurer.

The Executive Director serves at the pleasure of and is accountable to the board and members. The Executive Director is responsible (a) for the legal and financial arrangements of the association and the journal; (b) for identifying and carrying out the wishes of the members; (c) for administering the peer-review process of the journal; (d) for promoting, publicizing and mediating among these activities; (e) and for conducting elections. The Executive Director reports to the advisory board and the elected officers on the financial state of the association and related business.

The President and Vice-President are elected by representatives of the members and serve at the pleasure of the membership. They may be nominated by the membership at large, by the advisory board, and by the former officers. To be nominated, they must have been members of the association for at least five years and have participated in its activities including the journal (either publishing, reviewing, or peer reviewing) and the MLA annual meetings.

These officers are specifically responsible for the annual meetings at the Modern Language Association. Their responsibilities include choosing a topic suitable to the MLA, for the association, and for publication in the journal, inviting appropriate guests, publishing notices about forthcoming meetings including calls for papers, supervising the peer review process for papers to be delivered at the meetings, and conducting the meetings. The President and Vice-President work in consultation with the Executive Director and the Advisory Board. The President serves for five years, renewable; the Vice-President for two years.

The Secretary-Treasurer is appointed by the officers and the Board and works primarily with the Executive Director. For continuity, the position is permanent but open to periodic review. The responsibilities include collecting membership dues, keeping the mailing lists, contracts, permissions, copyright, and, with the approval of the Executive Director, the officers, and the Board, distributing payments to printers, the postal services, and approved bursaries.

All the officers, including the Executive Director and members of the Board of the Association are members, pay dues, and do not receive any remuneration for any activity.

The Advisory Board of the Association serves *The Wordsworth Circle* as well. It is comprised of twelve to sixteen senior members of the profession, British and American, representing the different intellectual, demographic, and geographical facets of the profession. It includes former elected officers and the Executive Director. Its responsibilities include but are not limited to: nominating officers, policy development, recommending and approving topics for annual meetings, peer-review for both papers at the annual meetings and for publication in the journal. The Board also receives and responds to concerns from members, advises the Executive Director, and helps to promote the association, the conferences, and the journal. The names of the members of the Board appear on the masthead of each issue of *The Wordsworth Circle*.

Any member may address the Advisory Board at any time and may serve as an active consultant on any matter of interest to other members, including the annual meetings and publication in the journal. Members are also encouraged to form regional meetings of the association which are promoted through the journal.

All activities including meetings, elections, peer review, and publications are open to all members regardless of age, gender, race, professional status, nationality, or occupation, including retirees, graduate students, journalists, book collectors, men and women of letters.

Adopted in 1971. Amended in 1989, 1995, 1998 and 2010.