

THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY MALTA

c/o Official Address
National Museum of Archaeology
Auberge de Provence
Republic Street
Valletta

INTRODUCTION

Archaeology, as a science of the study of the evidence of past human endeavour, seeks to discover and preserve that evidence, and to interpret and evaluate it. The physical remains of past human existence and activity, particularly prehistoric remains (as they stand alone, uncorroborated by historic report), are a vital part of the common inheritance of mankind, the value and significance of which transcend the geopolitical considerations of the present age, and belong to all generations including those yet unborn.

These remains are held by the present generations as Trustees of a priceless heritage which of its very essence is irreplaceable. There is thus an awesome burden of responsibility on the community as a whole to ensure the least possible harm is done to these remains by insisting on the highest degree of expertise in exploration and the recording of finds using state of the art technology and techniques as well as the most effective means of conservation. Anything less than this is unworthy of a civilized community. The stigma of barbaric vandalism will haunt those guilty of neglect, negligence or wanton destruction of these remains, from generation to generation.

The only effective way to ensure that the archaeological heritage of a nation is preserved is to mobilise the concern of the public at large to safeguard what is essentially their own common inheritance. This can only be achieved by an enhanced public awareness as an integral part of education, which is itself a lifelong process. It is only when a critical mass of the population has an understanding of the significance and value of their archaeological heritage that the necessary force of public opinion can be generated to ensure its preservation.

It is with this principal objective in view that it has been decided to establish a Society to complement and support the work of the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage, Heritage Malta and that of the Department of Classics and Archaeology at the University. The Society would be open to members of the public with a serious interest in archaeology and particularly that of the Maltese Islands. It would promote an increased awareness and informed appreciation of our archaeological heritage by a variety of activities and in close harmony with the above institutions, support efforts to preserve and evaluate this rich heritage. It is of course recognised that modern techniques in archaeological exploration, recording and evaluation require rigorous training and therefore must be under the control of professional archaeologists.

A wider interest in archaeology overseas, both in the Mediterranean and elsewhere is necessary for a fuller appreciation and understanding of the significance of local remains. This would be facilitated by the development of mutually advantageous relations with overseas societies and other bodies, and the organisation of reciprocal visits and other joint activities, as well as enhancing the fame of archaeological remains in the Maltese Islands abroad.

STATUTE

I NAME

The name of the society shall be “The Archaeological Society Malta”, hereinafter referred to as the Society.

II AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1. The Archaeological Society, Malta shall be a non-profit making organisation as defined in the Voluntary Organisations Act (Chapter 492 of the Laws of Malta).

2. The Society shall be concerned with all matters relating to archaeology in general and in particular that of the Maltese Islands.

3. The Society shall encourage, promote, and facilitate the study of archaeology among its members by means of

MEETINGS for reading papers, lectures, for exhibitions, and discussion;

EXCURSIONS to places of archaeological interest, both in the Maltese Islands and abroad;

A COLLECTION of books, drawings, photographs and other material;

The PUBLICATION of a Newsletter and other such publications that may be feasible.

4. The Society shall endeavour to develop and maintain a close liaison with the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage, Heritage Malta and the Department of Classics and Archaeology at the University, and support the activities of these institutions.

5. The Society shall develop and maintain relations with corresponding archaeological institutions abroad with a view to exchanging information and facilitating visits by members to overseas sites and institutions as well as those by visitors from abroad.

III Officers of the Society

The Officers of the Society shall be the President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

IV Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer

The Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer of the Society shall be elected at the first committee meeting after the Annual General Meeting from amongst the committee members.

V GENERAL COMMITTEE

The business of the Society shall be conducted by a General Committee consisting of the President, the Vice-President, the Secretary, the Treasurer, and four others, elected by and from the Members of the Society, as hereinunder provided. The committee may co-opt two additional members until the end of the year. Five shall constitute a quorum, and the Chairperson shall have a casting vote as well as his/her ordinary one.

MEETINGS

VI

The hour and day of Meetings of the Society shall be fixed by the General Committee and due notice given to members. One of the Meetings shall be the Annual General Meeting for the election of Officers and the General Committee and for the adoption of the Report and Statement of Accounts (duly Audited) for the preceding year.

VII

Meetings of the Society shall be open to every Member of the Society. The General Committee may, however, in the case of certain Meetings, restrict the attendance to Members

only, due notice of such modification or restriction being given to Members on the circular convening the Meeting. The Annual General Meeting shall be confined to members.

VIII

All Meetings of the General Committee shall be called by the Secretary and six days notice shall be given.

IX

At all Meetings, whether of the General Committee or of the whole Society, the Chair shall be taken by the President, or, in his/her absence, by the Vice-President, or a member of the General Committee.

X

The Chairperson shall regulate all proceedings and discussion, shall have unlimited power in questions of order, and shall have a casting vote as well as his/her ordinary vote.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS, COMMITTEES, ETC.

XI

The post of President may be held by the same person for two consecutive two-year terms, after which the outgoing President will only be eligible for re-election after one term.

Secretary and Treasurer shall retire annually, but shall be eligible for re-election.

Two of the four elected members of the General Committee shall retire annually by rotation but shall be eligible for re-election.

XII

The election of the President and two members of the General Committee to fill the places of those who retire shall take place at the Annual General Meeting.

XIII

The President shall be elected from among candidates who, being Members of the Society, have been propose in writing to the Secretary by any two Members not less than three weeks before the Annual General Meeting, the consent of the candidate having previously been obtained in writing or by email.

The election, if there be more than one name proposed, shall proceed by ballot. If no names have been so proposed, the nomination of the President shall rest with the General Committee.

XIV

The appointment of the Auditor shall be approved by the Annual General Meeting.

XV

A) To fill the two places in the general Committee which are vacated by rotation, any two Members of the Society may propose in writing to the Secretary the names of any members, not less than three weeks before the Annual General Meeting.

B) At the Annual General Meeting if more than two names have been proposed the election shall be made by ballot. If no names are proposed, the nomination of two new members shall rest with the General Committee.

C) The General Committee may fill up any vacancies in its own body which may occur during the year. Members so co-opted shall be subject to re-election at the next Annual

General Meeting.

MEMBERSHIP

XVI

Membership of the Society is open to all interested in furthering the objectives of the Society.

Application forms duly submitted by the applicant should be forwarded to the Treasurer and approved by the committee.

XVII

Membership of the Society shall be divided into five categories;

1. Ordinary Members
2. Honorary Members
3. Student Associate
4. Life Members
5. Corporate Members

Honorary Membership is reserved for those whom the Society wishes to honour for outstanding service to archaeology, and must be approved by two thirds of the Members at the Annual General Meeting, the nomination having been made by the President and agreed by the General Committee,

and three weeks notice having been given before the Annual General Meeting.

Student Associates will be in full time education and must be nominated by a Head of an Archaeology Department at a University for election to membership.

Corporate Members shall be bodies or associations whose admission shall be approved by the General Committee and who shall pay such collective annual subscription as may be determined in each case by the General Committee.

XVIII

Subscription rates shall be fixed by the General Committee, but shall not be altered without the consent of the Annual General Meeting.

XIX

All subscriptions shall be due on the first day of January and shall be paid to the Treasurer.

XX

No member whose subscriptions are in arrears shall be entitled to his privileges as a Member. Any Member who fails to pay the annual subscription by 31st March shall not be entitled to receive any further notice of Meetings etc. If a Member's subscription is in arrears for two years the General Committee may remove the name from the list of Members.

XXI

The accounts of the Society shall be audited by the Auditor appointed as above, soon after the end of each calendar year, and after being passed by the General Committee shall be presented to the Annual General Meeting.

XXII ACTION BY THE SOCIETY

Any proposal for action by the Society must receive the prior sanction of the General Committee; in cases of urgency, the Officers, or a majority of them may take action in the name of the Society, without calling the General Committee, provided that they shall report their action to that Committee regularly summoned at the first opportunity.

XXIII CHANGES IN THE RULES

Any Member may suggest alterations in the existing Rules, or the enactment of new Rules, in writing to the Secretary. The General Committee may propose such alterations or enactments for the approval of the Society, to be granted or withheld at the next Ordinary Meeting, providing that such suggestions should have been received in time for consideration by the General Committee before the issue of the circular calling the Meeting and provided that the general sense of the proposed change shall be notified in the circular.

XXIV

In the event of the dissolution of the Society its assets shall be applied in favour of another non-profit making organisation with similar aims as the Society. This organisation may be selected by the committee at the time.

9th November 2002

Amended at AGM of 29 April 2004

Amended at AGM of 16 May 2007

Amended at AGM of 28 May 2008