THE

ROYAL CHARTER

incorporating the

SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES OF LONDON

GEORGE THE SECOND by the Grace of God of Great Britain France and Ireland King Defender of the Faith &c TO ALL to whom these presents shall come Greeting WHEREAS the study of Antiquity and the history of former times has ever been esteemed highly commendable and useful not only to improve the Minds of Men but also to incite them to Virtuous and Noble Actions and such as may hereafter render them famous and worthy examples to late posterity AND WHEREAS several of our Loving Subjects who have for several years last past met together for their mutual improvement in such Studies and Inquiries have humbly besought us to Grant unto them and such others as We should be pleased to join to them OUR ROYAL CHARTER OF INCORPORATION for the better carrying on the said purposes KNOW YE that We out of our Princely Affection to all sorts of Learning and good Literature and for the encouragement of all such as shall be desirous to promote so laudable an undertaking HAVE of our Special Grace certain Knowledge and meer Motion Given and Granted and We do hereby for Us our Heirs and Successors Give and Grant that there shall be for ever hereafter a Society which shall be called by the Name of THE SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES OF LONDON of which Society We declare Ourselves to be the Founder and Patron AND that the said Society shall consist of a President Council and Fellows who by the name of THE PRESIDENT COUNCIL AND FELLOWS OF THE SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES OF LONDON aforesaid shall for ever hereafter be a Body Politick and Corporate and shall by the said Name and Style have perpetual succession AND shall have and use a Common Seal which they are hereby enabled to make a new and change from time to time as they may hereafter find occasion AND We do hereby further Grant that the said Society shall by the said Name and Style be enabled and rendered capable to sue and be sued AND to receive purchase take hold and enjoy in perpetuity or otherwise to themselves and successors any Antiquities Books Manuscripts Goods Chattels or any other things whatsoever AND also to purchase take hold and enjoy in perpetuity or otherwise any Lands Tenements and Hereditaments whatsoever not exceeding the yearly value
of One Thousand Pounds in the whole to them and their successors without incurring any of the Penalties or
Forfeitures of the Statutes of Mortmain or of any of them AND that it shall and may be lawful for any person
or persons to Give Grant Bargain Sell or Convey any Lands Tenements or Hereditaments whatsoever not
exceeding the said value of One Thousand Pounds a year in the whole to the said Society for the use and
benefit of the said Society and their successors without License of Alienation in Mortmain AND the said
Society shall govern themselves and all the Proceedings and Business according to the Statutes Rules Orders
and By Laws to be made as herein after is mentioned AND the said Society, having all the powers of a
natural person, may do anything lawful to promote the charitable purposes of the Society and, subject to this
our Royal Charter and any amendment thereof or addition thereto, the said Statutes Rules Orders and By
Laws may detail specific powers of the Society which may only be exercised in promoting the said charitable
purposes AND that our Royal Intention may take the better effect for the good Government and Regulation
of the said Society Wee do hereby Ordain and Appoint that the Council of the Society aforesaid shall in all
times hereafter consist of no less than Twelve and no more than Twenty one persons whereof the President
for the time being shall always be one AND for the better execution of this our Royal Grant Wee have
nominated and do hereby nominate constitute and appoint Our Trusty and welbelov
ed Martin Folkes
Esquire to be the First and Modern President of the said Society of Antiquaries of London to continue in the
said office from the date of these our Letters Patent to the Twenty third day of April next AND till one other
person of the Council of the said Society shall be duly chosen and admitted into the said office in his Room
AND WEE do hereby further Nominate and appoint the Persons following that is to say Our Right Trusty
and Welbeloved Cousin Richard Viscount Fitzwilliam Our Right Trusty and Welbeloved Hugh Lord
Willoughby of Parham Our Trusty and Welbeloved Sir John Evelyn Baronet Sir Joseph Ayloffe Baronet Sir
Clement Cotterell Dormer Knight James West James Theobald Charles Compton Phillip Yorke Samuel Gale
Edward Umfreville Phillip Carteret Webb and Daniel Wray Esquires John Ward Doctor of Laws Jeremiah
Milles Doctor of Divinity Cromwell Mortimer Doctor in Physick Richard Rawlinson Doctor of Laws Brown
Willis Doctor of Laws George Vertue and Joseph Ames Gentlemen to be together with the said President the
First and Modern Twenty one of the Council of the said Society of Antiquaries of London to be continued in
the Offices of the Council aforesaid from the date of these our Letters Patent to the said Twenty third day of
April next and till other fit persons shall be Chosen into the said offices in their Room if they shall so long
respectively live and not be removed for some just and reasonable Cause which said Council and their
Successors shall at all times be aiding and assisting to the President of the said Society for the time being in all
Matters and Businesses relating to the better regulation and Government of the said Society and all and every
the Members of the same AND WEE do further Give and Grant And it is Our Royal Will and Pleasure that all
persons which shall within Two Months next ensuing the date of these Our Letters Patent be Nominated and
Chosen by the said President and Council or any Eleven or more of them of which Wee Will the said President
or his Deputy always to be one And in all times after by the said President Council and Fellows of the said
Society or any Twelve or more of them shall be received and admitted into the said Society of Antiquaries as
Fellows of the same And being Noted in a Register kept for that purpose shall be and be called Fellows of the
said Society of Antiquaries of London during their respective lives unless in pursuance of the Statutes and By
laws of the said Society to be made as herein after is prescribed any of them shall for Just Cause happen to be
removed and Ejected from the same And by how much any Persons shall be more Excelling in the Knowledge
of the Antiquities and History of this and other Nations by how much the more they are desirous to promote
the Honour Business and Emoluments of this Society and by how much the more eminent they shall be for
Piety Virtue Integrity and Loyalty by so much the more fit and worthy shall such Persons be judged of being
elected and admitted into the said Society AND WEE WILL and Ordain and for Us Our Heirs and Successors
do hereby further Grant to the said President Council and Fellows of the Society of Antiquaries of London
aforesaid That they shall Assemble for that purpose and acting by a simple majority of those voting may on
the said Twenty third Day of April or as near to the same as may conveniently be Nominate and Choose the
President of the said Society to serve for such term of office as the Statutes Rules Orders and By Laws may
specify from time to time when another shall be chosen and admitted into the said Office in his Room AND in
case the said President of the Society of Antiquaries of London during the continuance of his said Office shall
happen to die or be removed That then and so often it shall be lawfull for the Council of the said Society to
meet within Twenty Days next after such Death or Removal And to Choose one of the said Council to be
President of the said Society And that the Person so chosen by the Council shall be President of the said
Society and continue in that Office until the Twenty third day of April then next following and til another shall
be duly elected and admitted into the said Office in his Room And that in case one or more Persons of the
Council of the said Society shall happen to die or be removed (which persons or any of them for
Misdemeanours or other reasonable Cause are hereby declared to be amoveable by the Council acting by a
two-thirds majority) or in case Council considers it to be in the interests of the said charitable purposes of the
Society That then and so often it shall be lawful for two-thirds of the members of the Council voting to choose
one or more of the Fellows of the Society aforesaid to be members of the Council (subject always to the
maximum number permitted by this our Royal Charter) And that the Person or Persons so chosen and
admitted shall continue in the said Office until the Twenty third day of April next ensuing and until other
Persons shall be duly chosen and admitted of the Council in his or their room AND WEE do hereby further
Give and Grant unto the said President Council and Fellows for Us and our Successors for ever that they and
their Successors acting by a simple majority of those voting may and shall yearly upon the said Twenty third
day of April change so many of the members of the Council and Nominate and appoint members of the
Council for such term as shall be determined according to the said Statutes Rules Orders and By Laws It
being Our Royal Will and Pleasure that a certain proportion of the Council of the said Society should yearly
be changed at every such Annual Election AND WEE do hereby further Grant to the said President Council
and Fellows and to their Successors That Whereas the President of the same for the time being may happen
to be sick indisposed or be otherwise employed so that he cannot attend the Business of the said Society that
it shall be lawfull for the said President at his pleasure to Nominate at the same or at different times Four
Persons of the Council of the said Society for the time being to be his Deputies One of which the Senior in
Nomination who shall be present or in readiness shall in the Absence of the President be impowered And is
hereby empowered to supply the Place of the President and to do all Acts concerning the Society and the
Business of the same which the President by Virtue of his said Office might do if he were himself actually
present And that all and every person so Nominated by the President for one of his Deputies shall continue
in the said Office all the time that the said President shall himself continue in his Office of President unless
such person shall be removed by the President from the said Office or be rendred incapable of holding the
same by ceasing to be a Member of the Council of the said Society AND WEE do further for Ourselves our
Heirs and Successors hereby Grant to not less than two-thirds of the said Council present and voting and
being an absolute majority of the whole number of the members of such Council entitled to vote at meetings
thereof According to the best of their Judgments and Discretions to make Constitute and Establish such
Statutes Rules Orders Bylaws and Constitutions as shall appear to them to be good useful honest and
necessary for the Encouragement Advancement and furtherance of the Study and knowledge of Antiquities
and History of this and other countries the Government Regulation and Direction of the said Society and
their Estate Goods Lands Revenues and Business and the particular manner of the Election Choice
Admission and Amoval of all and every the Fellows and Officers thereof and the same from time to time as
they may see Occasion to vary alter or revoke and to make such New Orders and Regulations in their Stead
as they shall to the best of their Judgments and Discretions think most proper and expedient so as the same
be just honest and reasonable and no ways repugnant or contrary to the Laws of this Our realm and
provided that the said making, constituting and establishing of such Statutes Rules Orders Bylaws and
Constitutions, the said varying, altering and revoking of such and the making of New Orders and
Regulations in their stead shall be confirmed at a general meeting of the Fellows of the Society held not less than one month nor more than four months afterwards by a resolution passed by not less than two-thirds of the Fellows voting thereat AND WE do hereby Give and Grant to the Council and Fellows of the said Society of Antiquaries of London and their Successors that in accordance with the said Statutes Rules Orders Bylaws and Constitutions they shall and may from time to time Nominate and Appoint so many and such Persons as they shall think proper to be Treasurers Secretaries Clerks and Officers of the said Society for the carrying on and executing their necessary Affairs AND ALSO that it shall and may be lawful to and for the said President Council and Fellows to have and Employ one Serjeant at Mace and such other Servants as may be necessary and useful to the said Society to attend upon the President or his Deputy on all proper Occasions or to do such other things as may from time to time be expedient for the Service of the said Society AND LASTLY if any Abuses or Differences shall at any time hereafter arise and happen concerning the Government or Affairs of the said Society whereby the Constitution Progress Improvement and Business thereof may Suffer or be hindered in such case We do hereby for us our Heirs and Successors Assign Constitute Authorise and Appoint The Most Reverend the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury The Lord Chancellor or Lord Keeper of our Great Seal of Great Britain The Lord Keeper of our Privy Seal and Our Two Principal Secretaries of State for the time being or any other person or persons appointed by the Council on the advice of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (or an equivalent successor body) to be Visitors of the said Society with full Power and Authority to them or any three or more of them from time to time to Compose and Redress any such Differences or Abuses IN WITNESS whereof We have Caused these our Letters to be made Patent WITNESS Our Self at Westminster the Second day of November in the Twenty fifth year of Our Reign

By Writ of Privy Seal COCKS
FIRST SUPPLEMENTAL CHARTER

of the

SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES OF LONDON

ELIZABETH THE SECOND by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

and of Our other Realms and Territories Queen, Head of the Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME, GREETING!

WHEREAS HIS Majesty King George the Second in the year of our Lord One thousand seven hundred and fifty-two by Royal Charter dated the Second day of November in the twenty-fifth year of His Reign constituted a body politic and corporate by the name of the Society of Antiquaries of London (hereinafter called ‘the Society’):

AND WHEREAS it has been represented unto Us that it is expedient that for the better management of the Society’s funds the Society should have power to make Rules prescribing the mode in which its funds may be invested:

AND WHEREAS supplication has accordingly been made unto Us to grant to the Society a Supplemental Charter:

NOW KNOW YE that We of Our Royal Will and pleasure and moved thereto by Our desire to promote the efficiency of the Society for Us, Our Heirs and Successors in addition to and notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in the said Charter of King George the Second have granted and declared and do by these Presents grant and declare that the Society shall henceforth have power to make Rules prescribing the mode in which funds of the Society from time to time available for such purpose may be invested and to revoke, alter or add to any such Rules in the same manner as provided by the Statutes of the Society for the making, alteration and revocation of such Statutes

IN WITNESS whereof We have caused these Our Letters to be made Patent.

WITNESS Ourself at Westminster the seventh day of July in the sixteenth year of Our Reign.

BY WARRANT UNDER THE QUEEN’S SIGN MANUAL

Coldstream
SECOND SUPPLEMENTAL CHARTER

of the

SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES OF LONDON

ELIZABETH THE SECOND by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
and of Our other Realms and Territories Queen, Head of the Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith:

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME, GREETING!

WHEREAS His Majesty King George the Second by Royal Charter dated the second day of November in the
twenty-fifth year of His Reign constituted a body politic and corporate by the name of ‘The Society of
Antiquaries of London’ (hereinafter called ‘the Society’):

AND WHEREAS we were graciously pleased on the seventh day of July One thousand nine hundred and sixty-seven to grant a Supplemental Charter to the Society:

AND WHEREAS it has been represented unto Us that it is expedient that for the better management of the
Society’s affairs the Society should have power to make Rules prescribing the mode in which the Council of the
Society shall be constituted:

AND WHEREAS supplication has accordingly been made unto Us to grant the Society a further Supplemental
Charter:

NOW KNOW YE that We, of Our Royal Will and pleasure and moved thereto by Our desire to promote the
efficiency of the Society, for Us, Our Heirs and Successors in addition to and notwithstanding anything to the
contrary contained in the said Charter of King George the Second have granted and declared and do by these
Presents grant and declare that the Society shall henceforth have power to make Rules prescribing the mode in
which the Council of the Society shall be constituted and to revoke, alter or add to any such Rules in the same
manner as provided by the Statutes of the Society for the making, alteration and revocation of such Statutes.

IN WITNESS whereof We have caused these Our Letters to he made Patent.

WITNESS Ourself at Westminster the fourth day of September in the thirtieth year of Our Reign.

BY WARRANT UNDER THE QUEEN’S SIGN MANUAL

Bourne
THIRD SUPPLEMENTAL CHARTER

of the

SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES OF LONDON

1 ELIZABETH the Second by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern
2 Ireland and of Our other Realms and territories Queen, Head of the Commonwealth, Defender of the
3 Faith:

4 TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME, GREETING!

5 WHEREAS His Majesty King George the Second by Royal Charter (hereinafter referred to as ‘the
6 original Charter’) dated the Second day of November in the year of our Lord one thousand seven
7 hundred and fifty-one constituted a body politic and corporate by the name of ‘The Society of
8 Antiquaries of London’ (hereinafter referred to as ‘the Society’) with perpetual succession and a
9 Common Seal:

10 WHEREAS We were graciously pleased on the seventh day of July one thousand nine hundred and
11 sixty-eight and on the fourth day of September one thousand nine hundred and eighty-one to grant
12 Supplemental Charters (hereinafter referred to as ‘the existing Supplemental Charters’) to the Society:

13 AND WHEREAS the Society has by a humble Petition prayed that We should be graciously pleased
14 to grant to it a further Supplemental Charter:

15 NOW THEREFORE KNOW YE that We having taken the said Petition into Our Royal Consideration
16 by virtue of Our Prerogative Royal and of Our especial grace, certain knowledge and mere motion
17 have granted and declared and by these Presents do for Us, Our Heirs and Successors grant and
18 declare as follows:

19 1. The original Charter shall be read as if “not exceeding the yearly value of One Thousand
20 Pounds in the whole to them and their successors without incurring any of the Penalties or
21 Forfeitures of the Statutes of Mortmain or of any of them”, “not exceeding the said value of
22 One Thousand Pounds a year in the whole”, and “without License of Alienation in Mortmain”
had been deleted and shall henceforward continue and operate as though it had been originally
granted and made accordingly.

2. The Council of the Society may by a resolution in that behalf passed at any meeting of such
Council by not less than two-thirds of the members of such Council present and voting (being
an absolute majority of the whole number of the members of such Council entitled to vote at
meetings thereof) and confirmed at a general meeting of members of the Society held not less
than one month nor more than four months afterwards by a resolution passed by not less than
two-thirds of the members voting thereat revoke, amend or add to the original Charter, either
of the existing Supplemental Charters or this Our Supplemental Charter and any such
revocation, amendment or addition shall when allowed by Us, Our Heirs or Successors in
Council become effectual so that the original Charter, the first Supplemental Charter, each of
the existing Supplemental Charters and this our Supplemental Charter as the case may be shall
thenceforward continue and operate as though it had been originally granted and made
accordingly. Provided that no such revocation, amendment or addition shall be made which
shall cause the Society to cease to be a charity in law. This provision shall apply to the original
Charter, the existing Supplemental Charters and this Our Supplemental Charter as revoked,
amended or added to in manner aforesaid.

IN WITNESS whereof We have caused these Our Letters to be made Patent.

WITNESS Ourself at Westminster the fifteenth day of July in the fifty-fourth year of
Our Reign. By Warrant under The Queen’s Sign Manual

Allan