

THE
ROYAL CHARTER

incorporating the

SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES OF LONDON

1 GEORGE THE SECOND by the Grace of God of Great Britain France and Ireland King Defender of the Faith
2 &c TO ALL to whom these presents shall come Greeting WHEREAS the study of Antiquity and the history of
3 former times has ever been esteemed highly commendable and usefull not only to improve the Minds of Men
4 but also to incite them to Virtuous and Noble Actions and such as may hereafter render them famous and
5 worthy examples to late posterity AND WHEREAS several of our Loving Subjects who have for several years
6 last past met together for their mutual improvement in such Studys and Inquiries have humbly besought us
7 to Grant unto them and such others as Wee should be pleased to join to them OUR ROYAL CHARTER OF
8 INCORPORATION for the better carrying on the said purposes KNOW YE that WEE out of our Princely
9 Affection to all sorts of Learning and good Literature and for the encouragement of all such as shall be
10 desirous to promote so laudable an undertaking HAVE of our Special Grace certain Knowledge and meer
11 Motion Given and Granted and Wee do hereby for Us our Heirs and Successors Give and Grant that there
12 shall be for ever hereafter a Society which shall be called by the Name of THE SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES
13 OF LONDON of which Society Wee do hereby declare Ourselves to be the Founder and Patron AND that the
14 said Society shall consist of a President Council and Fellows who by the name of THE PRESIDENT
15 COUNCIL AND FELLOWS OF THE SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES OF LONDON aforesaid shall for ever
16 hereafter be a Body Politick and Corporate and shall by the said Name and Style have perpetual succession
17 AND shall have and use a Common Seal which they are hereby enabled to make a new and change from
18 time to time as they may hereafter find occasion AND WEE do hereby further Grant that the said Society
19 shall by the said Name and Style be enabled and rendered capable to sue and be sued AND to receive
20 purchase take hold and enjoy in perpetuity or otherwise to themselves and successors any Antiquities Books
21 Manuscripts Goods Chattels or any other things whatsoever AND also to purchase take hold and enjoy in
22 perpetuity or otherwise any Lands Tenements and Hereditaments whatsoever not exceeding the yearly value

23 of One Thousand Pounds in the whole to them and their successors without incurring any of the Penalties or
24 Forfeitures of the Statutes of Mortmain or of any of them AND that it shall and may be lawful for any person
25 or persons to Give Grant Bargain Sell or Convey any Lands Tenements or Hereditaments whatsoever not
26 exceeding the said value of One Thousand Pounds a year in the whole to the said Society for the use and
27 benefit of the said Society and their successors without License of Alienation in Mortmain AND the said
28 Society shall govern themselves and all the Proceedings and Business according to the Statutes Rules Orders
29 and By Laws to be made as herein after is mentioned AND the said Society, having all the powers of a
30 natural person, may do anything lawful to promote the charitable purposes of the Society and, subject to this
31 our Royal Charter and any amendment thereof or addition thereto, the said Statutes Rules Orders and By
32 Laws may detail specific powers of the Society which may only be exercised in promoting the said charitable
33 purposes AND that our Royal Intention may take the better effect for the good Government and Regulation
34 of the said Society Wee do hereby Ordain and Appoint that the Council of the Society aforesaid shall in all
35 times hereafter consist of no less than Twelve and no more than Twenty one persons whereof the President
36 for the time being shall always be one AND for the better execution of this our Royal Grant Wee have
37 nominated and do hereby nominate constitute and appoint Our Trusty and welbeloved Martin Folkes
38 Esquire to be the First and Modern President of the said Society of Antiquaries of London to continue in the
39 said office from the date of these our Letters Patent to the Twenty third day of April next AND till one other
40 person of the Council of the said Society shall be duly chosen and admitted into the said office in his Room
41 AND WEE do hereby further Nominate and appoint the Persons following that is to say Our Right Trusty
42 and Welbeloved Cousin Richard Viscount Fitzwilliam Our Right Trusty and Welbeloved Hugh Lord
43 Willoughby of Parham Our Trusty and Welbeloved Sir John Evelyn Baronet Sir Joseph Aylofffe Baronet Sir
44 Clement Cotterell Dormer Knight James West James Theobald Charles Compton Phillip Yorke Samuel Gale
45 Edward Umfreville Phillip Carteret Webb and Daniel Wray Esquires John Ward Doctor of Laws Jeremiah
46 Milles Doctor of Divinity Cromwell Mortimer Doctor in Physick Richard Rawlinson Doctor of Laws Brown
47 Willis Doctor of Laws George Vertue and Joseph Ames Gentlemen to be together with the said President the
48 First and Modern Twenty one of the Council of the said Society of Antiquaries of London to be continued in
49 the Offices of the Council aforesaid from the date of these Our Letters Patent to the said Twenty third day of
50 April next and till other fit persons shall be Chosen into the said offices in their Room if they shall so long
51 respectively live and not be removed for some just and reasonable Cause which said Council and their
52 Successors shall at all times be aiding and assisting to the President of the said Society for the time being in all
53 Matters and Businesses relating to the better regulation and Government of the said Society and all and every

54 the Members of the same AND WEE do further Give and Grant And it is Our Royal Will and Pleasure that all
55 persons which shall within Two Months next ensuing the date of these Our Letters Patent be Nominated and
56 Chosen by the said President and Council or any Eleven or more of them of which Wee Will the said President
57 or his Deputy always to be one And in all times after by the said President Council and Fellows of the said
58 Society or any Twelve or more of them shall be received and admitted into the said Society of Antiquaries as
59 Fellows of the same And being Noted in a Register kept for that purpose shall be and be called Fellows of the
60 said Society of Antiquaries of London during their respective lives unless in pursuance of the Statutes and By
61 laws of the said Society to be made as herein after is prescribed any of them shall for Just Cause happen to be
62 removed and Ejected from the same And by how much any Persons shall be more Excelling in the Knowledge
63 of the Antiquities and History of this and other Nations by how much the more they are desirous to promote
64 the Honour Business and Emoluments of this Society and by how much the more eminent they shall be for
65 Piety Virtue Integrity and Loyalty by so much the more fit and worthy shall such Persons be judged of being
66 elected and admitted into the said Society AND WEE WILL and Ordain and for Us Our Heirs and Successors
67 do hereby further Grant to the said President Council and Fellows of the Society of Antiquaries of London
68 aforesaid That they shall Assemble for that purpose and acting by a simple majority of those voting may on
69 the said Twenty third Day of April or as near to the same as may conveniently be Nominate and Choose the
70 President of the said Society to serve for such term of office as the Statutes Rules Orders and By Laws may
71 specify from time to time when another shall be chosen and admitted into the said Office in his Room AND in
72 case the said President of the Society of Antiquaries of London during the continuance of his said Office shall
73 happen to die or be removed That then and so often it shall be lawfull for the Council of the said Society to
74 meet within Twenty Days next after such Death or Removal And to Choose one of the said Council to be
75 President of the said Society And that the Person so chosen by the Council shall be President of the said
76 Society and continue in that Office until the Twenty third day of April then next following and til another shall
77 be duly elected and admitted into the said Office in his Room And that in case one or more Persons of the
78 Council of the said Society shall happen to die or be removed (which persons or any of them for
79 Misdemeanours or other reasonable Cause are hereby declared to be amoveable by the Council acting by a
80 two-thirds majority) or in case Council considers it to be in the interests of the said charitable purposes of the
81 Society That then and so often it shall be lawful for two-thirds of the members of the Council voting to choose
82 one or more of the Fellows of the Society aforesaid to be members of the Council (subject always to the
83 maximum number permitted by this our Royal Charter) And that the Person or Persons so chosen and
84 admitted shall continue in the said Office until the Twenty third day of April next ensuing and until other

85 Persons shall be duly chosen and admitted of the Council in his or their room AND WEE do hereby further
86 Give and Grant unto the said President Council and Fellows for Us and our Successors for ever that they and
87 their Successors acting by a simple majority of those voting may and shall yearly upon the said Twenty third
88 day of April change so many of the members of the Council and Nominate and appoint members of the
89 Council for such term as shall be determined according to the said Statutes Rules Orders and By Laws It
90 being Our Royal Will and Pleasure that a certain proportion of the Council of the said Society should yearly
91 be changed at every such Annual Election AND WEE do hereby further Grant to the said President Council
92 and Fellows and to their Successors That Whereas the President of the same for the time being may happen
93 to be sick indisposed or be otherwise employed so that he cannot attend the Business of the said Society that
94 it shall be lawfull for the said President at his pleasure to Nominate at the same or at different times Four
95 Persons of the Council of the said Society for the time being to be his Deputies One of which the Senior in
96 Nomination who shall be present or in readiness shall in the Absence of the President be empowered And is
97 hereby empowered to supply the Place of the President and to do all Acts concerning the Society and the
98 Business of the same which the President by Virtue of his said Office might do if he were himself actually
99 present And that all and every person so Nominated by the President for one of his Deputies shall continue
100 in the said Office all the time that the said President shall himself continue in his Office of President unless
101 such person shall be removed by the President from the said Office or be rendred incapable of holding the
102 same by ceasing to be a Member of the Council of the said Society AND WEE do further for Ourselves our
103 Heirs and Successors hereby Grant to not less than two-thirds of the said Council present and voting and
104 being an absolute majority of the whole number of the members of such Council entitled to vote at meetings
105 thereof According to the best of their Judgments and Discretions to make Constitute and Establish such
106 Statutes Rules Orders Bylaws and Constitutions as shall appear to them to be good useful honest and
107 necessary for the Encouragement Advancement and furtherance of the Study and knowledge of Antiquities
108 and History of this and other countries the Government Regulation and Direction of the said Society and
109 their Estate Goods Lands Revenues and Business and the particular manner of the Election Choice
110 Admission and Amoval of all and every the Fellows and Officers thereof and the same from time to time as
111 they may see Occasion to vary alter or revoke and to make such New Orders and Regulations in their Stead
112 as they shall to the best of their Judgments and Discretions think most proper and expedient so as the same
113 be just honest and reasonable and no ways repugnant or contrary to the Laws of this Our realm and
114 provided that the said making, constituting and establishing of such Statutes Rules Orders Bylaws and
115 Constitutions, the said varying, altering and revoking of such and the making of New Orders and

116 Regulations in their Stead shall be confirmed at a general meeting of the Fellows of the Society held not less
117 than one month nor more than four months afterwards by a resolution passed by not less than two-thirds of
118 the Fellows voting thereat AND WEE do hereby Give and Grant to the Council and Fellows of the said
119 Society of Antiquaries of London and their Successors that in accordance with the said Statutes Rules
120 Orders Bylaws and Constitutions they shall and may from time to time Nominate and Appoint so many
121 and such Persons as they shall think proper to be Treasurers Secretaries Clerks and Officers of the said
122 Society for the carrying on and executing their necessary Affairs AND ALSO that it shall and may be lawful
123 to and for the said President Council and Fellows to have and Employ one Serjeant at Mace and such other
124 Servants as may be necessary and useful to the said Society to attend upon the President or his Deputy on
125 all proper Occasions or to do such other things as may from time to time be expedient for the Service of the
126 said Society AND LASTLY if any Abuses or Differences shall at any time hereafter arise and happen
127 concerning the Government or Affairs of the said Society whereby the Constitution Progress Improvement
128 and Business thereof may Suffer or be hindred in such case Wee do hereby for us our Heirs and Successors
129 Assign Constitute Authorise and Appoint The Most Reverend the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury The Lord
130 Chancellor or Lord Keeper of our Great Seal of Great Britain The Lord Keeper of our Privy Seal and Our
131 Two Principal Secretaries of State for the time being or any other person or persons appointed by the
132 Council on the advice of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (or an equivalent successor body) to be
133 Visitors of the said Society with full Power and Authority to them or any three or more of them from time to
134 time to Compose and Redress any such Differences or Abuses IN WITNESS whereof We have Caused these
135 our Letters to be made Patent WITNESS Our Self at Westminster the Second day of November in the
136 Twenty fifth year of Our Reign
137 By Writ of Privy Seal COCKS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

22 BY WARRANT UNDER THE QUEEN'S SIGN MANUAL

23 Coldstream

SECOND 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 Ireland
2 and of Our other Realms and Territories Queen, Head of the Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

22 BY WARRANT UNDER THE QUEEN'S SIGN MANUAL

23 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"

23 had been deleted and shall henceforward continue and operate as though it had been originally
24 granted and made accordingly.

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

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

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

43 Allan