

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 by a Petition presented unto Us in Our Council it has been most humbly prayed that We would be graciously pleased to grant a Charter of Incorporation to the unincorporated Organisation founded in the year of our Lord One thousand eight hundred and ninety-four and known as the Royal Society of St. George (hereinafter called "the unincorporated Society"):

AND WHEREAS We are minded to comply with the Prayer of the said Petition:

NOW THEREFORE KNOW YE that We being desirous of promoting the welfare of the Royal Society of St. George and the furtherance of its objects have of Our especial grace, certain knowledge and mere motion granted and ordained and do by these Presents for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, grant and ordain as follows:—

1. The persons now Members of the unincorporated Society and all other persons who may hereafter become Members of the body corporate hereby constituted shall for ever hereafter be one body corporate and politic by the name of "The Royal Society of St. George" and by the same name shall continue to have perpetual succession and a common seal with power to break, alter and make anew the said seal from time to time at their will and pleasure, and by the same name shall and may sue and be sued in all Courts and in all manner of actions and proceedings and shall have power to do all other matters and things incidental or appertaining to a body corporate.

2. In this Our Charter unless the context otherwise requires:

- (A) "The Society" shall mean The Royal Society of St. George as hereby incorporated.
- (B) "The Bye-Laws" shall mean the Bye-Laws set forth in the Schedule hereto or other the Bye-Laws from time to time of the Society.
- (C) "The Council" shall mean the Council of the Society hereinafter referred to and as from time to time constituted in accordance with the Bye-Laws.
- (D) Words importing the singular number only shall include the plural number and *vice versa*, words importing the masculine gender only shall include the feminine gender and words importing persons shall include corporations.

3. The objects of the Society shall be:

- (i) To foster the love of England and to strengthen England and the Commonwealth by spreading the knowledge of English history, traditions and ideals.
- (ii) To keep fresh the memory of those in all walks of life who have served England or the Commonwealth in the past, in order to inspire leadership in the future.
- (iii) To combat all activities likely to undermine the strength of England or the Commonwealth.
- (iv) To further English interests everywhere, to ensure that St. George's Day is properly celebrated and to provide focal points all the World over where English men and women may gather together.

4. The Society shall have power:

- (i) To acquire, take over and accept by way of gift from the unincorporated Society all the stocks, funds, securities and other assets of every description now belonging to the unincorporated Society or held in trust for the same and to undertake, execute and perform any trusts or conditions affecting any of such assets and to defray and provide for any debts and liabilities to the discharge of which the said assets or any of them shall at the moment of such acquisition be applicable and to give any trustees in whom any such stocks, funds, securities or other assets may be vested a valid receipt, discharge and indemnity for and in respect of the transfer or handing over the same to the Society.
- (ii) To purchase, take on lease or hire or otherwise acquire and hold any lands, buildings, easements or hereditaments of any tenure and any other real or personal property and to construct, provide, maintain, repair and alter any buildings, works, stores, plant and things which may from time to time be deemed requisite in any part of the World for any of the purposes of the Society.
- (iii) To form local branches and committees in any part of the World and to organise meetings and publish and sell or distribute papers, books of instruction, pamphlets and information for the purpose of stimulating interest in and promoting the objects of the Society and to take all other measures which may seem necessary for providing and maintaining an efficient organisation for the purpose of the Society.
- (iv) To receive and accept donations, endowments and gifts of money, lands, hereditaments, stocks, funds, shares, securities and any other assets whatsoever and either subject or not subject to any special trusts or conditions and in particular to accept and take by way of gift and absorb upon any terms the undertaking and assets of any society or body whether incorporated or not carrying on work similar to any work for the time being carried on by the Society and to undertake all or any of the liabilities of any such other society or body.
- (v) To borrow or raise money with or without security for any of the purposes of the Society.
- (vi) To make and carry out any arrangement for joint working or co-operation with any other society or body whether incorporated or not carrying on work similar to any work for the time being carried on by the Society.
- (vii) To undertake, execute and perform any trusts or conditions affecting any real or personal property of any description acquired by the Society.

- (viii) To pay or apply any moneys or assets of the Society for any charitable purpose which in the opinion of the Council may tend to promote all or any of the objects of the Society and either to do so directly or to pay or transfer any such money or assets to some other person to be applied in manner aforesaid.
- (ix) To apply for and exercise any powers obtained under any Supplemental Charter or any Act of Our United Kingdom Parliament or of the legislature of any part of the Commonwealth.
- (x) To accumulate, sell, improve, manage, develop, exchange, lease, mortgage or otherwise dispose of or deal with or turn to account all or any property or rights of the Society.
- (xi) To invest moneys of the Society awaiting investment—
 - (a) in or upon any investments authorised by Part I or II of the First Schedule to the Trustee Investments Act, 1961, as amended from time to time; or
 - (b) in or upon any of the securities of the government of any country within the Commonwealth, or of the government of any province or state within any such country that has a separate legislature, or of the government of the United States of America; or
 - (c) in or upon any mortgages or other securities of any municipality, county or district council or local or public authority or board in any country within the Commonwealth, or in any province or state within any such country, or in the United States of America; or
 - (d) in or upon any mortgages or other securities the capital whereof or a minimum rate of interest or dividend whereon is guaranteed by the government of any country within the Commonwealth, or of any province or state within any such country that has a separate legislature, or by the government of the United States of America; or
 - (e) in or upon the bonds or mortgages or the fully paid guaranteed or preference or ordinary stock or shares or ordinary, preferred or deferred or other stock or shares of any company incorporated either by Royal Charter or under any general or special Act of Our United Kingdom Parliament or any general or special enactment of the legislature of any other country within the Commonwealth or of the United States of America, having an issued and paid-up share capital of at least £750,000 or its equivalent at the current rates of exchange, being stocks or shares which are quoted upon a recognised stock exchange in any country within the Commonwealth or the United States of America, and

so that in the case of a company having shares of no par value such paid-up capital shall be deemed to include the capital sum (other than capital surplus) appearing in the company's accounts in respect of such shares: Provided always that no investment shall be made in any ordinary stocks or shares unless the Company shall have paid dividends thereon at the rate of at least 5 per centum per annum for at least four years prior to the date of the investment, or in the case of shares having no par value, the company shall have paid a dividend thereon for at least six years prior to the date of investment, and that the total amount at any time standing invested in investments authorised by this sub-paragraph as shown by the books of the Society shall not exceed sixty-six and two-thirds per centum of the total amount at such time standing invested in any of the investments hereby authorised as appearing by such books. For the purpose of valuing the investments authorised by this sub-paragraph and held by the Society the minimum price to be taken for each security shall be the cost price thereof to the Society; or

(f) in the purchase of freehold ground rents or freehold or leasehold land, messuages, tenements and hereditaments within Our United Kingdom, provided that as regards leaseholds, the term thereof shall have at least sixty years to run; or

(g) upon the security of freehold property, freehold ground rents, land charges or rent charges, by way of first mortgage, up to the limit of two-thirds of the value:

Provided nevertheless the Council may invest all moneys and funds of the Society in such investments as may be authorised with respect thereto by or by the powers contained in the instrument (if any) of gift of such moneys or funds or of the moneys or property from which the same shall have arisen or by the powers contained in any writing or writings under the hand or signed on behalf of the donor within six calendar months after the gift and to vary or transpose such investments as thereby authorised.

(xii) To grant, continue and pay such salaries, pensions, gratuities or other sums in recognition of services (whether rendered before or after the granting of this Our Charter) as the Council may from time to time think proper.

(xiii) To do all such other acts and things as are or may be deemed incidental or conducive to the attainment of any of the purposes of the Society or the exercise of any of its said powers.

5. The Society shall be unsectarian and independent of party politics.

6. There shall be a Patron of the Society and We do hereby reserve to Ourselves to continue as Patron or to be the first Patron after the granting of this Our Charter. Subsequent Patrons shall be such persons as may from time to time accept that Office upon the invitation of the Council.

7. There shall be a President of the Society who shall be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting. A retiring President shall be eligible for re-election. The first President shall be Our right trusty and right entirely beloved Cousin Gerald Hugh Duke of Westminster, Companion of Our Distinguished Service Order, who shall hold Office until the close of the Annual General Meeting in the year One thousand nine hundred and sixty-three.

8. There may be Vice-Presidents of the Society. Those persons who immediately before the granting of this Our Charter were Vice-Presidents of the unincorporated Society shall become the first Vice-Presidents. Subsequent Vice-Presidents shall be appointed in the manner provided by the Bye-Laws.

9. The affairs of the Society shall be controlled in accordance with the Bye-Laws by a Council consisting of a Chairman, a Deputy-Chairman (if elected under Bye-Law 47), a Vice-Chairman, an Honorary Treasurer and not less than eleven other persons all of whom shall be elected in manner provided by the Bye-Laws.

10. The Council shall from time to time appoint and fix the remuneration of the General Secretary of the Society.

11. An Annual General Meeting of the Society shall be held once in every year at such time and place as shall be prescribed by or in accordance with the Bye-Laws and the Council shall lay before every such meeting such accounts and make to it such reports as may from time to time be prescribed by the Bye-Laws. Subject as aforesaid meetings of the Society shall be convened and the proceedings thereat regulated in accordance with the Bye-Laws.

12. The accounts to be submitted to each Annual General Meeting of the Society shall be audited by a member of a body of accountants recognised by the Board of Trade under Section 161 (1) (a) of the Companies Act, 1948, or by a firm of which at least one partner is such a member.

13. The affairs of the Society shall be managed and regulated in accordance with the Bye-Laws set forth in the Schedule hereto. Any of the Bye-Laws may from

AT THE COURT AT BUCKINGHAM PALACE

The 2nd day of May, 1963.

PRESENT.

THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY
IN COUNCIL.

WHEREAS there was this day read at the Board a Report of a Committee of the Lords of Her Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council, dated the 25th day of April, 1963, in the words following, viz:—

“ YOUR MAJESTY having been pleased, by Your Order of the 30th day of July, 1962, to refer unto this Committee the humble Petition of The Royal Society of St. George, praying for the grant of a Charter of Incorporation:

“ THE LORDS OF THE COMMITTEE, in obedience to Your Majesty's said Order of Reference, have taken the said Petition into consideration, and do this day agree humbly to report, as their opinion, to Your Majesty, that a Charter may be granted by Your Majesty in terms of the Draft hereunto annexed ”.

HER MAJESTY, having taken into consideration the said Report, and the Draft Charter accompanying it, was pleased, by and with the advice of Her Privy Council, to approve thereof, and to order, as it is hereby ordered, that the Right Honourable Henry Brooke, one of Her Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, do cause a Warrant to be prepared for Her Majesty's Royal Signature, for passing under the Great Seal a Charter in conformity with the said Draft, which is hereunto annexed.

W. G. Agnew.