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BY-LAWS OF THE SOCIETY FOR MEDIEVAL FEMINIST SCHOLARSHIP



I. OBJECTIVE

The Society for Medieval Feminist Scholarship is organized to promote the interest and activity of scholars in feminist issues connected with the Middle Ages and Renaissance.

II. MEMBERSHIP

1. Membership is open to all those who are interested in feminist issues in medieval and Renaissance studies.
2. Each member is required to pay such annual dues as may be set by the Society. A portion of these dues will be used to pay all the costs of publishing the *Medieval Feminist Newsletter*. The amount of dues is set or revised by the Executive Committee and approved by the members of the Society present at a duly called meeting.

III. OFFICERS

1. The officers of the Association shall be a President, a Vice-President who shall succeed the president, an Executive Secretary/Treasurer, and the General Editor of the *Medieval Feminist Newsletter*.
2. The President of the Association shall serve for one two-year term. The first president shall be elected by a mail ballot of all members of the Society distributed in the spring issue of the *Medieval Feminist Newsletter* following the meeting at the International Conference on Medieval Studies held annually in May. After the first president's tenure, the vice-president will succeed to the office of president of the Society. Should a President resign or die, the Vice-President will serve as President for the remainder of the two-year term.
3. The Vice-President of the Association shall be elected for one two-year term by a mail ballot of all members of the Society distributed in the spring issue of the *Medieval Feminist Newsletter* following the meeting at the International Conference on Medieval Studies, held annually at Kalamazoo, MI. If the office is uncontested, the election of the nominee shall take place at the spring Kalamazoo meeting among the members of the Society present. The Nominating Committee, consisting of two advisory board members and one *Newsletter* editor shall present nominations. Members may take other nominations from the floor at the Kalamazoo meeting. After her/his two-year term, the Vice-President will succeed the President for a two-

year term. Should a Vice-President resign or succeed the President because of the latter's death or resignation, the Executive Committee shall appoint an Acting Vice-President to serve the unexpired portion of the term.

4. The Executive Secretary/Treasurer shall be elected along with the Vice-President, and will serve a two-year term which may be renewed. The Executive Secretary/Treasurer shall be responsible for mailing announcements of meetings (including the text of any proposed amendment to these by-laws), ballots, dues, notices to the members, and dues collection. The Executive Secretary/Treasurer shall keep an accurate list of members. The Executive Secretary/Treasurer shall also, under the supervision of the Executive Committee, keep a full and accurate record of the financial transactions of the Association and make such disbursements as are authorized by the officers. The Executive Secretary/Treasurer shall perform any other duties delegated to him or her by the Executive Committee or the President.

IV. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1. The Executive Committee shall be composed of the President, the Vice-President, the Executive Secretary/Treasurer, and the General Editor of the *Medieval Feminist Newsletter*.

2. The Executive Committee shall reach decisions by a majority vote of its membership.

3. The President of the Society shall serve as Chair of the Executive Committee and shall call all meetings of the Committee on her or his initiative, or at the request of the Executive Secretary/Treasurer or of any three Committee members.

4. The Executive Committee shall appoint members of the Nominating Committee which shall report nominees for any vacant office at the annual spring meeting at Kalamazoo.

5. The Executive Committee may from time to time appoint such additional committees as may be necessary for the functioning of the Society.

V. MEETINGS

1. The Society will meet in the spring of each year at the International Conference on Medieval Studies at Kalamazoo.

2. To conduct business at a duly-called meeting, the quorum will be 10% of the paid-up members of the Society present in person. When there is not a quorum, the members will be polled by mail ballot on any question requiring a vote, such ballot to be distributed no later than the spring issue of the *Medieval Feminist Newsletter*, to be returned by a date specified.

3. The President of the Society in conjunction with the Executive Committee will arrange for the annual meeting at the International Conference on Medieval Studies, as well as any additional meetings deemed necessary.

VI. THE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

1. The *Medieval Feminist Newsletter* will function as the Society's journal and shall be published biannually in the fall and spring. Cost of publishing the *Newsletter* will be paid from dues raised by the Society.

2. Officers of the *Newsletter* will include one General Editor and three Associate Editors to be elected from membership of the Advisory Board, each for four-year terms. One new Editor per year will be elected by the Advisory Board, as one editor per year finishes her/his term. Terms begin July 1 and end June 30. The longest-ranking editor will serve as General Editor for the period of one year and will be responsible, in consultation with the other editors, for gathering and editing copy, producing and distributing the *Newsletter* for one academic year.

Elections of editors will proceed as follows: the President of the Society will receive nominations by April 15 of each year, and discussion will take place at the meeting of the Society at the Medieval Institute in Kalamazoo. Voting will be conducted by mail after the spring meeting.

The four *Newsletter* editors of record as of June 1992 will be offered permanent, rotating membership on the Advisory Board after their terms as editors cease; only two may serve actively at one time. They will end their activities as editors at the rate of one editor per year, beginning with the academic year after these by-laws are approved until all four have been replaced in consecutive years.

3. The Advisory Board will be made up of Society members; ideally, they should represent a variety of academic disciplines. They will be nominated by the general membership, such nomination being subject to approval by the general membership through a mail ballot. Board members will serve three-year terms and advise the editors on matters of *Newsletter* submission, issues, and policy.

4. The editors shall meet with the Executive Committee of the Society at the annual meeting of the International Conference on Medieval Studies to discuss upcoming issues, policy, and conference session topics.

VII. Amendments

Members of the Society in good standing, including members of the Executive Committee may submit proposed amendments to the Executive Committee no less than sixty (60) days in advance of any duly-called meeting. Action on amendments proposed

from the floor of the meeting must be deferred until the next duly-called meeting. When the Executive Committee concurs with the submission of the proposed amendment to the membership, it shall distribute an exact text and an accompanying explanation of the proposed amendment no less than thirty (30) days before the meeting at which the amendment is to be discussed and voted upon. Amendments shall require a two-thirds majority of members present and voting for approval.

VIII. IMPLEMENTATION

1. At the spring, 1992 organizational meeting, the elected officers of the Executive Committee shall present the by-laws to the *Newsletter* officers for approval. Then the by-laws will be enclosed in the fall issue of the *Newsletter* for ratification for Society members.
2. At the spring, 1992 organizational meeting, a Secretary/Treasurer was appointed to the Executive Committee of the Society.

RATIFICATION BALLOT



(All current subscribers to the *Medieval Feminist Newsletter* are eligible to vote.)

I hereby endorse the by-laws of the Society for Medieval Feminist Scholarship. _____

I do not endorse the by-laws of the Society for Medieval Feminist Scholarship. _____

Return ballot to: Thelma Fenster
Medieval Studies
Keating 107
Fordham University
Bronx, New York 10458

Deadline: February 1, 1993

PLEASE VOTE! THE SOCIETY CANNOT
BE DULY CONSTITUTED WITHOUT RATIFICATION
OF ITS BY-LAWS!