

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS OF THE SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF EARLY CHINA  
(2016)

CONSTITUTION

Article I - Name

The name of the society shall be The Society for the Study of Early China

Article II - Objectives

The objectives of the Society for the Study of Early China shall be:

- (a) to form a scholarly, non-political, and non-profit professional association of all persons interested in the culture and civilization of China from earliest times down to and including the period of the Han dynasty (A.D. 220);
- (b) to further the progress of studies within this field and within Sinology in general, and to facilitate the tasks of the student, researcher, and scholar;
- (c) to provide for the cooperative exchange and communication of knowledge and ideas within the field;
- (d) to provide the necessary formal apparatus to encourage such exchange of information between scholars and scholarly organizations interested in early Chinese culture and civilization, in North America and other countries, through publication of the Society journal, *Early China*, maintenance of the Early China website, and other forms of communication; and
- (e) to encourage projects critical to the growth of the field.

Article III - Membership

Section 1.

There shall be two forms of full membership in the Society, individual and institutional.

- (a) Individual membership shall be open to all persons, regardless of age, sex, or academic or professional status, interested in studying and furthering the general knowledge of all topics related to the culture and civilization of early China. (b)

Institutional membership shall be open to all public and private institutions.

- (c) All members shall pay the annual dues under the terms specified in the Bylaws. Section

2.

(a) Individual members in good standing shall vote by ballot as specified in the Bylaws.

(b) Only individual members in good standing shall be eligible to hold elected or appointed offices and to serve on the committees that conduct the business and activities of the Society.

(c) All members in good standing shall receive the Society journal, *Early China*, and whatever general communications are published by the Society. Associate members will not receive the journal and are not eligible to vote.

#### Article IV - Organization

##### Section 1.

(a) Ultimate authority in the Society resides in the membership. (b)

The Society shall convene an Annual Meeting.

(c) Individual members in good standing shall choose the elected officers by ballot by procedures specified in the Bylaws.

(d) Proposals concerning Society policy and amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws may be initiated by members in good standing as specified in the Bylaws.

##### Section 2.

The Society's permanent officers shall be a Chairperson, who shall also serve as Editor of the Society journal; a Board; and a Secretary-Treasurer. These officers shall be selected by procedures specified in the Bylaws.

##### Section 3.

(a) The Society is organized exclusively for charitable, religious, educational an/or scientific purposes, including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

(b) No part of the net earnings of the Society shall ever inure to or for the benefit of or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the Society shall be empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the exempt purposes for which it was formed.

(c) Upon dissolution of the organization, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose. If it meets the criteria of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code as an exempt purpose, in the event of the dissolution of the Society, after paying or adequately providing for the debts and obligations of the Society, the remaining assets shall be distributed to the Association for Asian Studies, 1021 East Huron Street, Ann Arbor, MI

48104, with the stipulation that said assets shall be used for activities related to early Chinese culture and civilization.

## BYLAWS OF THE SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF EARLY CHINA

### Membership Dues

1. Annual regular membership dues shall be assessed at a rate to be determined by the Chair in consultation with the Board. Student membership dues shall be set at a concessionary rate to be determined by the Chair in consultation with the Board; student membership shall be open to all students, including post-doctoral research students, on provision of written evidence of full-time or part-time student status confirmed by the student's supervisor or advisor.

The annual subscription rate for institutional subscribers to *Early China* shall be set by the Chair in consultation with the Board. The annual subscription rate for institutional subscribers to *Early China* shall be set by the Chair in consultation with the Board.

Any proposed increase in membership dues and student membership dues shall be announced by the Chair by means of a posting on the Society's website and by a mailing to the membership.

2. Dues may be increased to meet operational, publication, and mailing costs.

### Finances

3. The fiscal year of the Society shall end on December 31.

4. (a) Income from dues or other sources of income generated by the Society shall be regarded as a General Fund available for publications and other current expenses and projects.

(b) Specific grants and contributions may be requested and accepted by the Chairperson for special projects.

(c) Contracts or other obligations, upon approval by the Board, shall be signed by the Chairperson, or by those of the Society to whom the Chairperson has specifically delegated authority.

### Officers and Committees

5. (a) The Chairperson shall be elected by the Society membership. He/she shall chair the Board, on which he/she is a voting member, and shall serve as Editor of the Society journal.

(b) The Chairperson shall coordinate and conduct the general business and activities of the Society. He/She shall conduct himself/herself in the office to further the realization of the objectives of the Society.

(c) The Chairperson shall represent the Society if called upon to do so at meetings of other groups and organizations.

6. (a) The Board shall consist of nine members, including the Chairperson. Of the other eight, six members shall be elected by the Society membership; and two members shall be appointed by the Chairperson, subject to the approval of the Board.

(b) The Board shall oversee the general operation of the Society.

(c) The Board shall oversee the publication of the Society journal, *Early China*, as well as other Society communications and scholarly publications, and shall assure the quality and integrity of the Early China website.

7. The Secretary-Treasurer shall be elected by the Society membership. He/she shall have charge of the Society records; shall keep the membership lists; shall collect dues at the time of the annual publication of the Society journal; and shall perform other duties involving the Society's finances as may be required by the activities of the Society.

8. If additional officers and committees are necessary to facilitate the activities of the society, the Chairperson shall make such appointments, subject to the approval of the Board.

#### Elections

9. (a) The Chairperson shall be elected for a six-year term. There shall be no limit on the number of terms of office. In the event that there are no candidates for the office of Chairperson, the current Chairperson shall be requested to continue in office for a period of up to two years while candidates for Chairperson are sought.

(b) The Chairperson shall be elected by the Society membership by ballot vote as specified in Bylaw 12.

10. (a) The six elected Board members shall be elected for a six-year term. An elected Board member shall not serve more than two consecutive terms of office, but may be elected again after a period out of office of not less than four years.

(b) The six elected Board members shall be elected by the Society membership by ballot vote as specified in Bylaw 12.

(c) Election of the six elected Board members shall be held every three years so that the years of service of elected Board members are staggered.

11. (a) The Secretary-Treasurer shall be elected for a six-year term. There shall be no limit on the number of terms of office.

(b) The Secretary-Treasurer shall be elected by the Society membership by ballot vote as specified in Bylaw 12.

12. (a) Elected Society officers shall be elected by a simple majority of the members in good standing of the Society who cast a vote. Voting shall be by ballot.

(b) In a year in which an election is to take place, the Board shall appoint a Nominating Committee to select candidates. Any member in good standing shall be eligible for nomination; and any member may propose names of candidates to the Nominating Committee. Any member in good standing shall become a candidate by submitting a petition to the Nominating Committee with the signatures of no fewer than ten (10) members of the Society.

(c) The Board shall be responsible for timely distribution and counting of ballots. Annual

Meeting of the Society

13. (a) The Annual Meeting shall be open to all members and guests of the Society. The meeting shall be held each year at the time and place of the Annual Meeting of the Association for Asian Studies.

(b) The Chairperson shall present an annual report on behalf of the Board to inform the membership of the activities of the Society for the preceding year, plans for the forthcoming year, and the current financial condition of the Society. Time shall be allowed for any member in good standing to present proposals to be considered for action by the Board. In addition, there may be special presentations of papers, roundtables, or discussions.

Member Initiatives and Amending the Constitution and Bylaws

14. (a) Any member in good standing may present proposals concerning Society policy to the Board. The Board shall consider all proposals presented to it.

(b) Any member in good standing may petition to have a proposal considered by the Society membership by submitting to the Board a petition with the signatures of no fewer than twenty (20) members in good standing of the Society. The Board will be responsible for conducting a ballot vote. A simple majority of the Society members who cast a vote shall constitute approval.

(c) Amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws may be proposed by the Board, which will be responsible for conducting a ballot vote. A simple majority of the Society members who cast a vote shall constitute approval. Any member in good standing may initiate amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws by the petition procedure specified in Bylaw 14 (b).

