

Constitution

1. NAME The name of the Society shall be The Spode Society.

2. OBJECTS The objects of the Society are:

- a. to promote further interest in and study of the history and products of the Spode Factory and relevant wares from the eighteenth century to the present day.
- b. to study all matters relating to the Spode Factory, the families of all proprietors and employees of the firm.
- c. to disseminate, publish and make available relevant information to members of the Society and to the public.
- d. in furtherance of these aims and purposes, but not otherwise, the Society, through its Committee shall have the following powers:
 - to hold meetings, lectures and exhibitions.
 - to arrange visits and other activities.
 - to publish papers, reports and other literature.
 - to promote research into subjects directly connected with the objects of the Society and to publish the results of such research
 - to raise funds, and to invite contributions by way of subscriptions, donations and otherwise to further the work of the Society.

3. MEMBERSHIP Membership of the Society is open to all who are interested in actively furthering the objects of the Society. The members shall NOT use the name, publications or activities of the Society for commercial purposes. Honorary membership may be conferred as deemed appropriate. Application for membership shall be made on the approved form, either via the website, or by post to the Membership Secretary or Treasurer.

4. SUBSCRIPTIONS There shall be annual subscriptions, the amounts thereof to be determined at the Annual General Meeting. These subscriptions shall be payable on, or before, 23rd March, the anniversary of the birthday of Josiah Spode the First. Subscriptions must be paid in Sterling currency. The current subscriptions rates can be obtained by application to the Treasurer. Membership shall lapse if the subscription is unpaid three months after it is due.

5. MEETINGS The Society shall meet at least once each year for the Annual General Meeting and shall hold as many additional meetings, visits or events each year as shall be attended by members in numbers sufficient to ensure such meeting, visit or event is viable. The Committee shall give fourteen days notice to members, of all meetings of the Society.

The Annual General Meeting shall be held in or about May each year. At the Annual General Meeting, ten members of the Society shall form a quorum and must include four members of the Committee, at least two of whom should be Officers of the Society. The Annual General Meeting shall receive audited Annual Accounts and such other reports as the

Committee considers necessary or desirable. The financial year of the Society shall end on the last day of February.

Special General Meetings of the Society shall be held at the written request of ten or more members of the Society whose subscriptions are fully paid up. At such a meeting, twenty five members personally present shall form a quorum.

Members may invite a guest, or guests, for single meetings, visits or events on payment of an appropriate charge which shall be fixed at an Annual General Meeting. The Events Secretary should be notified of such invitations at least ten days before the meeting, visit or event.

6. COMMITTEE The Executive Committee shall be responsible for the management and administration of the Society. The Committee shall consist of a maximum of fifteen properly nominated and elected members, from whom the Officers shall be chosen by the Committee. The Committee shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting of the Society. Five members of the Committee shall form a quorum and must include two Officers of the Society. In the event of an equality in the votes cast, the Chairman shall have a second or casting vote.

The Committee shall have the power to co-opt further members who shall attend in an advisory and non-voting capacity.

Nominations for election to the Committee shall be made in writing to the Secretary at least fourteen days before the Annual General Meeting. They must be supported by a seconder and have the consent of the nominee. If the nominations exceed the number of vacancies, a ballot shall take place. Committee members shall declare at the Annual General Meeting at which their election is to be considered, any financial or professional interest likely to be of concern to the Society.

A President may be elected at an Annual General Meeting. The President may attend any meeting of the Committee but shall not have a vote.

7. OFFICERS The Officers of the Society shall consist of: Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Events Secretary (North), Events Secretary (South), Public Relations, Editor of the Spode Society Review and an Historical Consultant to the Spode Society. They shall be appointed by and from the Committee following the Annual General Meeting.

8. COPYRIGHT The copyright of any and all material offered for publication in the Society's literature shall remain the property of the originator, who, in offering it to the Society for publication, does so without fee. Photographs and illustrations may be retained by the Society unless their return is requested specifically.

9. APPLICATION OF FUNDS Out of the monies raised from subscriptions, shall be defrayed all proper costs of running and the management of the Society. Cheques shall be signed on behalf of the Society by the Treasurer. The remaining funds of the Society shall be applied by the Committee in furtherance of the aims and objects of the Society.

10. AUDITOR/EXAMINER An Auditor/Examiner shall be appointed annually at the Annual General Meeting and shall not be a member of the Committee.

11. ALTERATION OF RULES The present rules may be amended or added to by a vote of two-thirds of the members present at an Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting called for such a purpose. Fourteen days notice of any proposed alterations or additions shall be given to the Secretary before the Meeting.

12. DISSOLUTION OF THE SOCIETY The Society may be dissolved by a resolution passed by three-quarters of those present at an Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting called for that purpose. Proxy forms shall be sent to all members and votes for members unable to attend shall be counted as if they were present. One month's notice of such a resolution shall have been given to members and that resolution shall give clear instructions for the disposal of any assets held by, or in the name of the Society, provided that any such assets shall be distributed to such other bodies or institutions having object in sympathy with some or all of the objects of the Spode Society.

Amended 26th April 2014