

THE BALTIMORE BIBLIOPHILES
BYLAWS

ADOPTED NOVEMBER 18, 2023

ARTICLE I
NAME

The name of this organization shall be THE BALTIMORE BIBLIOPHILES.

ARTICLE II
OBJECT

Section 1. The purpose of the Baltimore Bibliophiles is to provide a focal point for community interest in matters pertaining to books and manuscripts and the collecting thereof, bookbindings, typography, printing, paper, calligraphy, prints and book illustration, maps, photographs, ephemera and aspects of the book arts such as bookbinding, book conservation, book design and related fields.

Section 2. The Baltimore Bibliophiles will function as a non-profit, cultural and educational organization.

ARTICLE III
MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. There shall be several classes of membership in the Baltimore Bibliophiles, namely: Regular, Student, Under 30, Bookseller/Corporate, Institution, Patron, Sustaining, Honorary. The Procedures Manual will provide information about each membership category.

Section 2. Active members are those individuals who have demonstrated their interest in the purposes of the Baltimore Bibliophiles and have paid their current dues for their respective membership category.

Section 3. Applicants for Active membership shall complete the application form on the Baltimore Bibliophiles website or in its recruitment brochure. By doing so, it is accepted that they have demonstrated an interest in the purposes of the Baltimore Bibliophiles. Upon payment of the yearly dues for the appropriate membership category, the applicant shall be considered an Active member in good standing.

Section 4. In recognition of merit, honorary members may be admitted by majority vote of approval at the annual meeting. Honorary members shall not be assessed dues or have a vote on any matters of policy or business before the Baltimore Bibliophiles. The Procedures Manual will provide criteria for nominating Honorary members.

Section 5. Dorothy M. H. Miner membership, established in 1973 in memory of Dorothy Miner, a noted librarian, art historian and founding member of the Baltimore Bibliophiles. It provides membership for a scholar working in one or more of the general areas of Dorothy Miner's interests in medieval and renaissance manuscripts, book illumination, renaissance printed books, and the history of bookbinding, for one year beginning at the annual meeting. The Executive Committee recommends nominees for election to Dorothy M. H. Miner membership to the members at the annual meeting. This membership is awarded only when there is a qualified candidate. The Procedures Manual will provide further information regarding Dorothy M. H. Miner membership.

ARTICLE IV DUES

Section 1. The amount of the dues for each membership category is to be established annually by a vote of the Executive Board and must be paid by January 30.

Section 2. Members whose dues are in arrears are not eligible to vote at any meeting, be a member of the Executive Committee or any other committee.

ARTICLE V MEETINGS

Section 1. There shall be a minimum of four regular meetings a year which generally include programming and may include consideration of organizational business items.

Section 2. The November meeting shall be the annual business meeting and shall be the occasion for the election of officers for the following year. Effort should be made to conduct the Annual Meeting and Election of Officers in-person.

Section 3. Special meetings may be called at the discretion of the President and/or the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE VI OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1. The officers shall consist of a President, the Immediate Past President, Vice President, Treasurer, Corresponding Secretary and Recording Secretary. These officers with four other at large members shall constitute the Executive Committee. The Chairs of the Program Committee and the Membership Committee, the Newsletter Editor, the Webmaster, the Archivist and the Social Media Coordinator shall be ex-officio members. Ex-officio members have the same voting rights as elected officers on board matters. A minimum of five Executive Committee members shall be considered a quorum for voting matters.

Section 2. Officers shall serve for a twelve-month term, which begins and ends with elections at the annual meeting. The President and Vice President shall be limited to serving no more than two consecutive terms in the same office. No term limits apply to any other officers. The four members-at-large of the Executive Committee shall serve for two-year terms, the terms to expire in alternate years (i.e. two in one year, two in the following year).

Section 3. The slate of officers shall be presented by the Nominating Committee for approval at the annual meeting. Nominations of officers are encouraged to be submitted to the Nominating Committee at least thirty days prior to the date set for the annual meeting.

Section 4. Any subsequent vacancies in the Executive Committee shall be filled by appointment of the President with the approval of the majority of the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE VII COMMITTEES

Section 1. The President shall appoint a Nominating Committee, with the approval of a majority of the Executive Committee, at least sixty days prior to the date for the annual meeting. The Nominating Committee shall consist of a Chairperson and at least two active members.

Section 2. The President shall appoint, with the approval of a majority of the Executive Committee, chairs of a Program Committee, a Membership Committee, and such other special committees as may be necessary from time to time. The President, Vice President and Secretaries are members ex-officio of all committees.

ARTICLE VIII PROCEDURES MANUAL

The duties of officers, functions of committees and other important operational information shall be described in a Procedures Manual. The Manual and any revisions to it are subject to the approval of a majority of the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE IX AMENDMENTS

The Executive Committee may recommend such amendments to these bylaws as are deemed proper and necessary in the interest of the Baltimore Bibliophiles, subject to approval at any regular meeting by majority vote of those present.