

INTERNATIONAL BRECHT SOCIETY

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

As amended by membership vote on April 30, 1977 and March 9, 1985, and updated by consensus on May 19, 2010

Article I: Name

The Society shall be named in English "International Brecht society" (hereafter IBS), in German "Internationale Brecht-Gesellschaft", in French "Société Internationale de Brecht", and in Spanish "Sociedad Internacional Brecht". The IBS is a non-profit, educational organization, incorporated in the state of Maryland (USA).

Article II: Objectives

1. The aim of the IBS is to encourage the international study of all aspects of Bertolt Brecht's life and work and (modeling itself on Brecht's own plans for a Diderot-Gesellschaft) the interdisciplinary study of the interrelationship of the modern arts and society at large. To these ends the IBS will encourage scholars and scholarship of every political persuasion and without regard to national and traditional boundaries of purely literary or aesthetic study. The IBS will also endeavor to consistently encourage people working in the arts, particularly theater performance.

2. The IBS will specifically support the following objectives:

(a) To hold international symposia. A conference committee, in conjunction with the President of the IBS, shall make the necessary arrangements for the organization of these meetings. The President of the society will normally preside at these conferences.

(b) To publish annually a Brecht Yearbook, to be distributed without further charge to the dues-paying members of the society. The responsibility for the yearbook rests with its Managing Editor, who shall be assisted, at his/her discretion, by further editors or consultants. The Editor will be appointed by the Steering Committee upon recommendation from the President, and will be accountable to the Steering Committee for any IBS funds expended for the Yearbook.

(c) To publish a bulletin, Communications, to be distributed without further charge to the dues paying members of the IBS. Primary editorial responsibility for the bulletin shall rest with the Editor elected for this office.

(d) To cooperate, whenever possible, with the furthering of Brecht's work at the Berliner Ensemble and other theaters.

(e) To support and contribute to the Brecht Archive in Berlin, and also to help in the establishment or extension of a number of additional major collections of Brechtian in several widely separated geographical locations.

Article III: Membership

Membership shall be open to anyone upon annual payment of dues.

Article IV: Officers

1. The officers of the IBS shall be: a President, a Vice-president, a Secretary-Treasurer, and the Editor of the bulletin.

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2. The officers shall be nominated at suitable business meetings or by letter to the bulletin, and elected by a electronic ballot vote of the membership, for a two-year term of office.
3. Anyone already holding an office in the IBS shall not be simultaneously eligible for any other office in the IBS.

Article V: Committees

1. The IBS shall depend increasingly for the furtherance of its aims upon such committees as the members may choose to form.
2. Any ten members may elect a special interest committee.
3. Each interest committee will elect its own leadership and have its own communications and meetings. It will report regularly to the IBS bulletin and at business meetings.

Article VI: Steering Committee

1. The elected officers of the IBS shall serve as the general Steering Committee of the Society.
2. Among the responsibilities of the Steering Committee will be to integrate and coordinate the work of the various committees and to advance the agreed tasks of the IBS, making the decisions necessary to that end, and presenting all matters appropriate for vote to the membership, either by electronic ballot or at business meetings.

Article VII: Meetings

1. Business meetings shall normally be held at each annual MLA (Modern Language Assn.) meeting and at such congresses as the IBS convenes.
2. All official business shall be conducted either according to Robert's Rules of Order or the national equivalent of these rules in the country where the official meeting is to be held.

Article VIII: Dues, Audit

1. The right to vote and hold office in the IBS shall be contingent upon the annual payment of payment of dues.
2. The annual dues shall include the following membership categories: Student Member (renewable for a maximum of three years) and Low Income or Emeritus Faculty Members; Full-time Employed Members; Sustaining Members and Institutional Members (libraries, universities, etc.), and Lifetime Members (for retirees only). The annual dues are to be paid to the Secretary-Treasurer of IBS upon notification each year when the Yearbook is to appear. European payments may be made directly to the society's European account, the number of which is available upon request from the Secretary-Treasurer.
3. Honorary members of the IBS, to be elected by a simple majority on a electronic ballot, are exempted from paying dues.
4. Annual dues may be changed by a majority vote of the membership.
5. Checks on the account or accounts of the IBS may be drawn by the President and the Secretary-Treasurer. The Secretary-Treasurer shall report annually to the membership on the stewardship of IBS funds for the previous year. At the discretion of the other officers or upon

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request of the membership at large, the IBS may appoint a firm of accountants to audit the financial records of the society.

Article IX: Amendments

Voting on amendments of the Constitution and By-Laws of the IBS shall be by electronic ballot and will require a two-thirds vote of those responding to the mail ballot.