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William D. Chase**

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## FOREWORD

On June 12th, 1950 Bernard Shaw sat in the drawing room at Shaw's Corner with two friends, Mr. and Mrs. Harold White. Mr. White, Director of The Legrave Press in Luton, and his wife had driven to Ayot St. Lawrence to witness the signing of Shaw's Last Will and Testament. At the editor's request Mrs. White has kindly written the following description of the occasion:

It was a beautiful summer day when we drove over to Ayot St. Lawrence in glorious sunshine to witness Mr. Shaw's signature to his Will. When we arrived, we went into the drawing room which looked very fresh with bowls of red poppies.

After a chat with Mr. Shaw, he produced the Will, which was ready on a secretaire. In his soft Irish voice, he made some jokes about his Wills, saying that it had always been a foible of his to have distinguished people witness them and that the worst job was not "the signing of it, but the initialling of the damned thing." He said this as we went through the fourteen large pages, each of which had to be initialled by the three of us. He asked me if I had any other occupation besides that of a housewife (as identified in the subscript to the Will, page 19) and I replied "No, that was quite enough."

Mr. Shaw seemed very relieved when it was finished, saying that the Will and the "Rhyming Picture Guide to Ayot St. Lawrence" were the two things he was most anxious to complete, and now the Will was finished. We sat down and chatted for about half-an-hour.

These memories will remain with me always, and I shall never forget those bright blue eyes of this old man of 93, his soft Irish voice and his extreme politeness and courtesy. He was a gentleman.

Barely three months later, on September 11th, while working in his garden, Shaw fell, fracturing his left femur. On November 2nd, 1950, he died.

Shaw's Will provided for the disposition of one of the largest estates amassed in the profession of literature. On March 24, 1951, The (London) Times announced that it amounted to £367,233 (\$1,028,252.40) with a net value of £301,585, on which duty of £180,571 was paid.

It is not the purpose of this note to provide biographical elaboration or to make any interpretive comment concerning Shaw's Will. The complete text is printed here without alteration. Variant spellings and punctuation are reproduced as written. The original document, hand engrossed by Edward Giles, is in the custody of Her Majesty's Principal Probate Registrar, Somerset House, London.

William D. Chase



# BERNARD SHAW'S LAST WILL

This is the last Will and Testament of me George Bernard Shaw of 4 Whitehall Court in the County of London and of Ayot Saint Lawrence in the County of Herts Author

1.

I revoke all Wills and testamentary dispositions heretofore made by me.

2.

I appoint the Public Trustee as the sole Executor and Trustee of this my Will who is hereinafter referred to as "my Trustee."

3.

I desire that my dead body shall be cremated and its ashes inseparably mixed with those of my late wife now in the custody of the Golders Green Crematorium and in this condition inurned or scattered in the garden of the house in Ayot Saint Lawrence where we lived together for thirty five years unless some other disposal of them should be in the opinion of my Trustee more eligible. Personally I prefer the garden to the cloister.

4.

As my religious convictions and scientific views cannot at present be more specifically defined than as those of a believer in Creative Evolution I desire that no public monument or work of art or inscription or sermon or ritual service commemorating me shall suggest that I accepted the tenets peculiar to any established Church or denomination nor take the form of a cross or any other instrument of torture or symbol of blood sacrifice.

5.

I bequeath my copyrights performing rights filming rights television rights and all cognate rights now in existence or hereafter to be created with the manuscripts typescripts and other documents in which I have such rights to my Trustee Upon trust to apply the proceeds resulting from the exploitation of such rights or the sale or other lucrative use of such documents as income of my estate.

6.

I bequeath all papers and documents in my possession in which I have no copyright and which belong to me as material objects only to my

Trustee to be examined as soon as conveniently after my death and divided as nearly as may be into sections as follows:

Section A. Papers (if any) concerning my late wife's family or affairs.

Section B. Old Diaries account books Bank passbooks paid cheques and their counterfoils expired agreements box office returns and other records of my business operations and personal and domestic expenditure capable of being used by economic or legal historians or by biographers seeking documentary evidence as to prices and practices during the period covered by my lifetime.

Section C. Such letters and documents as might be worth preserving in a public collection such as that of the British Museum.

Section D. All documents needed for the administration of my estate and the carrying out of the provisions of this my Will.

Section E. Uninteresting documents of no use except as waste paper.

I bequeath the contents of these sections to my Trustee with the suggestion that the contents of Section A (if any) be presented to my late wife's niece Mrs. Cecily Charlotte Colthurst or should she predecease me to such surviving relative of hers as my Trustee may select; that the contents of Section B be offered to the British Library of Political Science in Clare Market London for the purpose indicated and those of Section C. to the British Museum or failing acceptance to any other suitable public collection whilst the contents of Sections D and E can be retained or destroyed by my Trustee as may be expedient. And I declare that if any doubt or disputes should arise as to which papers shall be thus dealt with the question shall be settled by my Trustee whose decision shall be final Provided always that my Trustee shall retain all or any of the aforesaid papers and documents for such period as shall in his opinion be desirable.

7.

I declare that my Trustee shall manage and deal with my author's rights with all the powers in that behalf of an absolute owner (subject as hereinafter provided) for so long as may prove necessary or expedient during a period ending at the expiration of twenty years from the day of the death of the last survivor of all the lineal descendants of His late Majesty King George the Fifth who shall be living at the time of my death (hereinafter called "the Special period") bearing

in mind that the licensing of theatrical performances and especially of cinematographic exhibitions and the like with the collection of royalties thereon will be a principal source of revenue besides continuing my practice in England of manufacturing my literary works at the cost of my estate and causing copies thereof to be sold on commission by a Publisher and shall make such other arrangements with Publishers and others as my Trustee shall think fit Provided always that my Trustee shall not sell assign or alienate such copyrights and other rights or any of them and shall not grant any licence or enter into any agreement or other arrangement in respect of the said copyrights and other rights or any of them which shall irrevocably bind or affect the same for a period exceeding five years (unless with power of revocation) at any one time calculated from the date of the execution of such licence agreement or arrangement but with power to renew or re-grant the same for any period not exceeding the aforesaid period and so on from time to time And I further declare that my Trustee shall not in dealing with any such rights be bound by commercial considerations exclusively it being my desire that he shall give due weight to artistic and public and human considerations to the best of his judgment and counsel.

8.

I desire that my Trustee shall do all things and make out of my estate all payments necessary to preserve my aforesaid copyrights or any of them and to procure any renewal of the same that can be obtained And I authorise him to make such payments accordingly And for the guidance of my Trustee I record that with regard to my copyrights in the United States of America (which are of considerable value) the same do not continue automatically for a period of fifty years from the author's death (as in England and other countries) but continue for a period of twenty eight years only from the date of first publication with a right of renewal for a further period of twenty eight years upon application being made and registered within one year prior to the expiration of the first term.

9.

I direct my Trustee without charging any payment to authorise Mrs. Stella Mervyn Beech now residing at 122 Sussex Gardens in the County of London W.2 daughter of the late eminent actress professionally known as Mrs. Patrick Campbell to print and publish after my death

all or any of the letters written by me to the said eminent actress and in the event of Mrs. Beech's death before such publication to give such authority (which is a permission and not an assignment of copyright) to Mrs. Patrick Campbell's grandson Patrick Beech and without imposing any trust I desire that the proceeds of such publication should be reserved as far as possible by Mrs. Beech or Patrick Beech for the secondary education of Mrs. Campbell's grandchildren and their children (such being her own wish) and any legacy duty payable by reason of such authority being given shall be paid out of my estate.

10.

Whereas I possess a bust of myself in white marble by the eminent Hungarian sculptor Sigismund Strobl and now in the custody of the London County Council I bequeath it to the as yet unbuilt Shakespeare Memorial National Theatre in London and I direct my Trustee to leave the said bust in the said custody until the opening of the said National Theatre.

11.

Whereas certain portraits of myself in painting or sculpture are at present in public galleries or institutions as for example the marble bust by Rodin in the Dublin Municipal Gallery a painting by Augustus John in the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge a bust in bronze by Paul Troubetskoy in the National Gallery of British Art at Millbank in London (known also as The Tate Gallery) and an earlier bronze by the same sculptor in the Foyer of the Theatre Guild at 245 West 52nd Street in New York City I bequeath all of them and any others that may be in the like circumstances at my death to the several institutions in whose custody they stand save that in the case of the said Theatre Guild which is not in its nature a permanent institution I direct that on the Guild's dissolution or the winding up of its business from any cause during the special period the bust shall pass to the Metropolitan Museum in New York City or failing its acceptance for immediate or future exhibition in that institution to the next most eligible (in my Trustee's opinion) American public collection willing to accept it.

12.

I bequeath absolutely the Crayon drawing of the late Harley Granville-Barker by John Singer Sargent to the Trustees for the time being of the National Portrait Gallery in London in whose custody it now is.

13.

I bequeath to the National Trust all that is mine of the furniture cars and other contents except my cars and their appurtenances of the house garage and garden and grounds in the village of Ayot Saint Lawrence ordnance mapped as "Shaw's Corner" now the property of the said National Trust to be preserved as objects of memorial or artistic interest or disposed of or held in reserve for the benefit of the said premises or the said village as to the said Trust may in its judgment seem advisable.

14.

Whereas it has been my custom to allow the Actor's Orphanage to receive and retain fees collected by the Collection Bureau of the Incorporated Society of Authors Playwrights and Composers for performance in the United Kingdom of my play entitled "Passion Poison and Petrification" and I desire that such arrangement shall be continued Now I hereby direct my Trustee to continue such arrangement accordingly and to permit and authorise the performance (but without expense to my estate) of my aforesaid play at any time on the request of the Secretary of the aforesaid Society or of the aforesaid Orphanage and for the benefit thereof and to allow the aforesaid Society to continue to collect all fees in respect of the aforesaid play and pay the same to the aforesaid Orphanage for the benefit thereof and if any such fees as aforesaid shall come to the hands of my Trustee then my Trustee shall hold the same Upon trust for such Orphanage absolutely And I declare that the receipt of the Secretary Treasurer or other officer of the aforesaid Society or of the aforesaid Orphanage for any such fees as aforesaid shall be a sufficient discharge for the same and that any legacy duty payable in respect of the same shall be borne by the said Orphanage.

15.

I authorise the Fabian Society of London so long as it shall remain an avowedly Socialistic Society and after it shall have ceased so to be if and whilst such avowal shall be contrary to law to print and publish for the benefit of such Society and its Cause all writing of mine which are or shall be at the time of my death included or with my consent about to be included amongst its publications And I direct my Trustee if necessary to grant to such Society such license as will give effect completely or as far as possible to the provisions of this clause which

however must not be construed as giving the said Society any sole or exclusive property in the copyrights concerned and any legacy duty payable by reason of such license being given shall be borne by the said Society.

16.

I empower my Trustee to procure all necessary assistance and expert advice legal artistic literary or other for the discharge of his relevant functions and to pay its cost out of my estate.

17.

Provided always And I declare that as my fashion of literary composition often obliges me to make my first draft without full and final regard to temperance of expression generosity or justice to individuals accuracy of history or public propriety generally and to remedy this imperfection by later corrections it is my wish and I charge my Trustee and all others under whose eyes any of my literary works and documents may pass not to publish or quote or suffer to be published or quoted any edition or extracts from my works in which any earlier text shall be substituted either wholly or partly for the text as contained in the printed volumes finally passed by me for press except in the case of texts which I may be prevented by death or disablement from so passing And further that in any critical or biographical notes that may from good reasons make public any passages written by me but subsequently altered or discarded heed be taken both to the credit and the feelings of any surviving person alluded to therein but no suppressions need be made for the purpose of whitewashing my own character or conduct.

18.

I bequeath to every indoor and outdoor servant or labourer including charwoman chauffeur and gardener (hereinafter respectively referred to as such servant) of mine (other than any such as may be entitled to an annuity or pension under the provisions of the following clauses of this my Will) who shall be in the exclusive employ or in the case of my residing in a service flat the daily service of me at the time of my death and shall then have been in such employ for a continuous or virtually continuous period (that is to say only interrupted by illness or the like or military service and not by a formal discharge) of not less than seven years a sum equal to one year's wages or periodical gratuity of such servant and to every such servant of mine (other than as

aforesaid) who shall be in the exclusive employ of me at the time of my death and shall then have been in my employ for a period of less than seven years but for a continuous or virtually continuous period of not less than three years a sum equal to six month's wages or periodical gratuity of such servant and to every such servant of mine (other than as aforesaid) who shall be in the exclusive employ of me at the time of my death and shall then have been in such employ for a period of less than three years a sum equal to three month's wages or periodical gratuity of such servant all such bequests as aforesaid to be in addition to any wages that may be or become legally due to any such servant as aforesaid Provided always And I further declare that whether the foregoing bequests shall become operative or not my Trustee shall have absolute power to act reasonably and generously in the case of any servant of mine or of my late wife who in the opinion of my Trustee is not sufficiently dealt with under the provisions hereinbefore made and accordingly to make to any such servant any such payment or additional payment out of my Estate as my Trustee shall in his discretion think desirable but without imposing any obligation upon him to make any such payment.

19.

I declare that every annuity hereinafter or by any Codicil hereto bequeathed is bequeathed subject to the provisions relating to annuities hereinafter contained.

20.

I declare that if at the time of my death any person or persons who shall not then be in my employ but shall have formerly been in the employ of me or of my late wife and who shall not otherwise become entitled to any benefit under this my Will and shall be in receipt of a pension or allowance from me then I bequeath to such person or persons an annuity equal in amount to the amount of such pension or allowance of which such former servant shall be then in receipt.

21

I bequeath to my retired gardener Harry Batchelor Higgs an annuity of One hundred and fifty six pounds and I direct my Trustee to see to it that the monument I have had erected in Windlesham Cemetery to him and his late wife shall on his death at the cost of my estate have its inscription completed and thereafter be cared for by the Cemetery authorities in consideration of an appropriate capital sum.



22.

I bequeath to Emma Hodgman formerly in my service as Housemaid and now or lately resident at 130 Windmill Road in Gillingham Kent an annuity of Fifty two pounds.

23.

I bequeath to Mrs. Margaret Bilton now or lately residing at 48 Wilmer Road Tunbridge Wells and formerly in my service as housekeeper an annuity of One hundred and fifty six pounds to be continued after her death to her daughter Alice Bilton if surviving and on the respective deaths of the said Margaret Bilton and the said Alice Bilton I direct my Trustee to pay or apply for the benefit of the survivor of them or to such other person or persons and in such manner as he shall in his discretion think fit a sum of Twenty five pounds out of the capital of my Residuary Estate for or towards the funeral expenses incurred consequent on their respective deaths.

24.

Whereas the annuities hereby bequeathed to Harry Batchelor Frederick William Day and Margaret Day Mrs. Margaret Bilton and Alice Bilton and Emma Hodgman are provided for as from my death by the Will of my late wife Charlotte Frances Shaw my bequests to them herein shall be subject to such reductions and increases as may bring their benefits to the same level as if only one Will and that the most favorable to them shall come into force at my decease.

25.

I bequeath to Mrs. Georgina Musters the daughter of my mother's half sister Arabella Gillmore an annuity of Three hundred and sixty five pounds.

26.

I bequeath to Eames Bagenal Rogers now or lately residing at 1249 Yale Street Santa Monica California the son of my mother's late half sister Charlotte Rogers and to his wife after his death if she shall survive him an annuity of Fifty two pounds

27.

I bequeath to Georgina Meredith now residing at 34 Barron Street in the City of Dublin daughter of my mother's late half-sister Charlotte Rogers an annuity of Fifty two pounds.

**28.**

I bequeath to Ethel Gordon Walters at present residing at 34 Queens Gardens in the County of London W. 1. daughter of my first cousin the late James Cockaigne Shaw an annuity of Two hundred and thirty four pounds.

**29.**

I bequeath to my former housemaid Mrs. Ronald Smith (born Margaret Cashin) a deferred annuity of Fifty two pounds a year should she survive or be separated from her husband Ronald Smith or a later husband if any.

**30.**

I bequeath to my chauffeur and gardener Frederick William Day and his wife Margaret Day jointly an annuity of One hundred and fifty six pounds to be continued in full to the survivor of them.

**31.**

I bequeath to Eva Maria Schneider now residing at 196 Rivermead Court Hurlingham London S. W. 6. an annuity of One hundred and twenty pounds in remembrance of her devoted services to my late sister Lucy.

**32.**

I bequeath to my Secretary Blanche Patch Spinster an annuity of Five hundred pounds.

**33.**

The following provisions shall apply to all annuities hereby or by any Codicil hereto bequeathed-

(1) The bequest of an annuity shall become operative only if the named annuitant shall not at my death have done or suffered anything whereby the bequeathed annuity or any part of it would become vested in or payable to some other person or persons and shall continue only until the annuitant shall become bankrupt or assign or charge the said annuity or any part thereof or do or suffer anything whereby the said annuity or any part thereof would become vested in or payable to any other person and in the event of any annuity not becoming or ceasing to become payable by the effect of this sub clause my Trustee may at his absolute discretion during the rest of the life of the annuitant apply out of the income of my residuary trust funds hereinafter defined any sums not exceeding in any year the amount of the relevant annuity for the benefit of the annuitant and for the purposes of sub

clause (3) of this clause any sums which my Trustee decides to apply as aforesaid in any year shall be treated as if the aggregate of the same was an annuity.

(2) Every annuity shall be payable by equal quarterly payments payable in advance the first payment to become payable as at my death and to be paid as soon thereafter as my Trustee is in a position to pay the same.

(3) Every annuity shall unless and until a sum shall have been appropriated to provide for the same as hereinafter authorised or until the expiration of twenty one years from my death or the previous cesser whether partial or complete of the trust of the balance of the income of my Residuary Trust Funds hereinafter contained be payable only out of the income of my Residuary Trust Funds in each year from my death available for the payment thereof and if the income of my Residuary Trust Funds shall be insufficient to pay the said annuities in full the annuitant shall be entitled to be paid any capital sum in satisfaction of his or her annuity as a legacy but the said annuity shall abate pro rata for such period and to such an extent as shall be necessary having regard to the insufficiency of such income as aforesaid but if at the end of any year from my death there should be income available (after paying the full amounts of the said annuities for the time being payable for that year) to pay the amounts or part of the amounts by which the annuities then still payable had previously abated my Trustee shall out of such income pay the said amounts or such parts of the said amounts and rateably in proportion to such last mentioned annuities as such income shall be sufficient to satisfy. Upon the expiration of twenty one years from my death or the cesser whether partial or complete of the said trust of the balance of the said income the annuities then subsisting if not then provided for under sub-clause (4) hereof and any amounts by which such annuities had previously abated if not made good shall be a charge on the capital of my Residuary Trust Funds.

(4) My Trustee may in his discretion at any time provide for the payment of the annuities for the time being subsisting by appropriating and retaining out of my Residuary Trust Funds and investing in the name of my Trustee in any of the investments hereinafter authorized (with power for my Trustee to vary or transpose such investments for others hereby authorised) such a sum as when so invested shall at the time of investment be sufficient by means of the in-

come thereof to pay the said annuities And I declare that such appropriation as aforesaid shall be complete provision for such annuities and that in case the income of the appropriated fund shall at any time prove insufficient for payment in full of such annuities resort may be had to the capital thereof from time to time to make good such deficiency and the surplus (if any) of the income of the said fund from time to time remaining after payment of such annuities shall form part of the income of my Residuary Trust Funds And I declare that as and when any annuity provided for by means of the appropriated fund as aforesaid shall cease to be payable so much of the appropriated fund as my Trustee shall not think it necessary to retain to answer any remaining annuities shall revert to the capital of my Residuary Trust Funds.

(5) My Trustee shall have power if in his absolute discretion he thinks fit during the lives or life of any of the annuitants out of the income of my Residuary Trust Funds in any year not required for payment of such of the annuities as shall for the time being be payable or if he thinks fit out of the capital of my Residuary Trust Funds to make such additional payment to the annuitants for the time being living as in his opinion may be required to make good to such annuitants any decrease in the values of their annuities which shall be due to an increase in the purchasing power of the £ sterling after the date of this my Will

34.

I declare that all legacies (whether pecuniary or specific) and annuities bequeathed by this my Will or any Codicil shall be paid without deduction of legacy duty or any other duties payable in respect of the same and that the said duties including any duty chargeable by reason of an annuity arising on or being increased by the death of any annuitant shall be paid out of my real and personal estate hereinafter devised and bequeathed by way of residue.

35.

I devise and bequeath all my real and personal estate not otherwise specifically disposed of by this my Will or any Codicil hereto and all property over which I have general power of appointment unto my Trustee Upon trust that my Trustee shall (subject to the power of postponing the sale and conversion thereof hereinafter contained) sell my real estate and sell call in or otherwise convert into money as much as may be needed of my personal estate (other than any copy-

rights which as provided by Clause 7 of this my Will are not to be sold) to increase the ready monies of which I may be possessed at my death to an amount sufficient to pay my funeral and testamentary expenses and debts estate duty legacy duty and all the duties payable on my death in respect of my estate or the bequests hereby made free of duty (other than testamentary expenses) and the legacies bequeathed by this my Will or any Codicil hereto or to make such other payments or investments or change of investments as in his opinion shall be advisable in the interest of my estate and shall invest the residue of such monies in manner hereinafter authorised And shall stand possessed of the said residuary trust moneys and the investments for the time being representing the same and all other investments for the time being forming part of my residuary estate (herein called my Residuary Trust Funds) and the annual income thereof Upon the trusts hereby declared of and concerning the same

(1) To institute and finance a series of inquiries to ascertain or estimate as far as possible the following statistics (a) the number of extant persons who speak the English language and write it by the established and official alphabet of 26 letters (hereinafter called Dr. Johnson's Alphabet) (b) how much time could be saved per individual scribe by the substitution for the said Alphabet of an Alphabet containing at least 40 letters (hereinafter called the Proposed British Alphabet) enabling the said language to be written without indicating single sounds by groups of letters or by diacritical marks instead of by one symbol for each sound (c) how many of these persons are engaged in writing or printing English at any and every moment in the world; (d) on these factors to estimate the time and labour wasted by our lack of at least 14 unequivocal single symbols; (e) to add where possible to the estimates of time lost or saved by the difference between Dr. Johnson's Alphabet and the Proposed British Alphabet estimates of the loss of income in British and American currency. The enquiry must be confined strictly to the statistical and mathematical problems to be solved without regard to the views of professional and amateur phoneticians etymologists, Spelling Reformers, patentees of universal languages, inventors of shorthand codes for verbatim reporting or rival alphabets, teachers of the established orthography, disputants about pronunciation, or any of the irreconcilables whose wranglings have overlooked and confused the single issue of labour saving and made change impossible during the last

hundred years. The inquiry must not imply any approval or disapproval of the Proposed British Alphabet by the inquirers or by my Trustee.

(2) To employ a phonetic expert to transliterate my play entitled 'Androcles & The Lion' into the Proposed British Alphabet assuming the pronunciation to resemble that recorded of His Majesty our late King George V. and sometimes described as Northern English.

(3) To employ an artist-calligrapher to fair-copy the transliteration for reproduction by lithography photography or any other method that may serve in the absence of printers' types.

(4) To advertise and publish the transliteration with the original Dr. Johnson's lettering opposite the transliteration page by page and a glossary of the two alphabets at the end and to present copies to public libraries in the British Isles, the British Commonwealth, the American States North and South and to national libraries everywhere in that order.

### 36.

I desire my Trustee to bear in mind that the Proposed British Alphabet does not pretend to be exhaustive as it contains only sixteen vowels whereas by infinitesimal movements of the tongue countless different vowels can be produced all of them in use among speakers of English who utter the same vowels no oftener than they make the same finger prints. Nevertheless they can understand one another's speech and writing sufficiently to converse and correspond: for instance, a graduate of Trinity College Dublin has no difficulty in understanding a graduate of Oxford University when one says that "the sun rohze," and the other "the san raheoze" nor are either of them puzzled when a peasant calls his childhood his "chawldid." For a university graduate calls my native country Awlind.

### 37.

It is possible that the ministry of Education may institute the inquiry and adopt the Proposed British Alphabet to be taught in the schools it controls in which event subsection 1 of Clause 35 foregoing and its relevant sequels will be contra-indicated as superfluous and Clause 40 come into operation accordingly but the adoption must be exact and no account taken of the numerous alternative spelling Reforms now advocated or hereafter proposed.

### 38.

I hereby devise and bequeath the balance of the income of my Resi-

duary Trust Funds not required during the period of twenty one years after my death to pay the annuities hereby or by any Codicil hereto bequeathed or for any other purpose upon which income of my Residuary Trust Funds may under the trusts hereinbefore contained be applicable Upon trust during the special period but subject to cesser as hereinafter provided To apply the same as follows:-

- A. To remunerate the services and defray the expenses incidental to these proceedings and generally to the launching advertising and propaganda of the said British Alphabet.
- B. To acquire by employment purchase or otherwise the copy-rights and patents (if any) created by or involved in the designing and manufacture of the said Alphabet or the publication of the works printed in it without exploiting the said rights or for commercial profit.
- C. To wind-up the enterprise when the aforesaid steps have been taken or if and when its official adoption or general vogue shall make further recourse to my estate and action on the part of my Trustee in respect of this charitable Trust superfluous.

39.

Pending the operation of the foregoing clause I direct that my Trustee shall for the said period of twenty one years from my death accumulate the said balance of the income of my Residuary Trust Funds in the way of compound interest by investing the same and the resulting income thereof from time to time in any investment in which my Residuary Trust Funds are authorised to be invested.

40.

Subject to the trusts hereinbefore declared of my Residuary Trust Funds and the income thereof or if and so far as such trusts shall fail through judicial decision or any other cause beyond my Trustee's control my Trustee shall stand possessed of my Residuary Trust Funds and the income thereof but subject to a charge on the capital as well as the income thereof for payment of such of the annuities hereby bequeathed as shall be subsisting Upon trust as to one third thereof for the Trustees of the British Museum in acknowledgment of the incalculable value to me of my daily resort to the Reading Room of that Institution at the beginning of my career as to one third of the same Upon trust for the National Gallery of Ireland and as to the remaining one third of the same Upon trust for the Royal Academy of Dra-

matic Art at 61 Gower Street in the County of London and should any of these three institutions be permanently closed at the date when the trust to accumulate the said balance of income of my Residuary Trust Funds shall cease the others or other shall succeed to its share and if more than one equally.

41.

I authorise my Trustee to postpone for such period as he shall in his discretion think fit the sale and conversion of all or any part of my real and personal estate hereinbefore devised and bequeathed in trust for sale and conversion notwithstanding the same may be of a perishable or wearing out nature (but if any part of my estate shall be of a reversionary nature the same shall not be sold or converted into money until it falls into possession unless my Trustee shall think it probable that a loss will arise to my estate by postponing the sale and conversion thereof) and to retain any stocks shares or securities of which I may be possessed at my death whether fully paid up or not (but my real estate shall be impressed with the quality of personal estate from the time of my death) And I declare that the net income arising from any part of my real or personal estate previous to the sale or conversion thereof shall as well during the first year after my death as afterwards be applied in the same manner as if the same were income arising from such investments as are by this my Will authorized but that no reversionary or other property forming part of my estate not actually producing income shall be treated as producing income.

42.

Should my Trustee have occasion to realize any of my investments in the shares and loan stocks of Friendly Societies not quoted on the Stock Exchange and therefore often sold by Executors and others at less than their value I direct my Trustee not to dispose of them without first offering them to the Directors of the said Societies they being commonly ready to liquidate such stocks at their face value.

43.

I declare that my Trustee shall be at liberty to grant time or other indulgence to any debtor in respect of any unsecured personal loans made by me and (in particular when the loan has not in his judgment been a matter of business) to forego payment of and absolutely release all or any part of the amount of any such debts or loan without being answerable for any loss which may thereby arise and with regard

to any such debts owing to me or claims I may have against any person or persons I express it to be my wish that my Trustee shall in the exercise of the aforesaid power deal kindly or leniently with all such debtors or other person or persons where a strict observation of the law would involve manifest injustice hardship or meanness (but no distinction in this respect is to be made in favour of my relatives as distinguished from other persons) And I also declare that certain bequests I have made in former Wills in favour of various persons I have now omitted to make not on account of any change of feeling on my part towards them but because deaths marriages and change of circumstances have rendered such bequests unnecessary and I also record my regret that my means are not sufficient to provide for material pledges of my regard for the many friends who as colleagues in the Socialistic movement or as artists co-operating with me in the performance of my plays or otherwise have not only made my career possible but hallowed it with kindly human relations

44.

I declare that all monies liable to be invested under my Will may be invested in any investment or securities for the time being authorized by law for the investment of trust funds.

45.

I authorise my Trustee to apportion as my Trustee shall think fit among the trust premises any charges deductions or outgoings whatsoever and to determine whether any money shall for the purpose of this my Will be considered annual income or not and the power of appropriation conferred by the administration of Estates Act 1925 shall be exercisable by my Trustee whether acting as personal representative or trustee and without any of the consents made requisite by that Act.

46.

I declare that the Executor and Trustee for the time being of this my Will may instead of acting personally employ and pay a Solicitor Accountant Agent Literary Executor Bibliographer or any other person or persons to transact any business or do any act required to be done in connection with the administration of my estate or the trusts hereby declared including the receipt and payment of money and the keeping and preparation of books and accounts And I express it to be my wish (but without imposing any obligation) that my pre-

sent English Solicitors the firm of J.N. Mason & Co. of 41-44 Temple Chambers in the City of London my American Attorneys the firm of Stern & Reubens of 1 East 45th Street in New York City my Accountant Walter Smee now practising at 22 Shaftesbury Avenue West Central London, my British Publishers Messrs. Constable & Co. of 10 Orange Street in the County of London my Printers Messrs. R & R Clark of Brandon Street Edinburgh, my present Secretary Blanche Patch, my Bibliographer Fritz Erwin Loewenstein Doctor of Philosophy and Founder of the London Shaw Society (now residing at Torca Cottage in Saint Albans) whose knowledge of my literary affairs and interest in my reputation qualify him exceptionally for such employment shall be consulted and employed by my Executor and Trustee whenever their assistance may be desirable and available and that the Incorporated Society of Authors Playwrights and Composers shall continue to be employed as my Theatrical Agents on the special conditions now established between us. To this I add that my country Solicitor Ivo L. Currall of 2 Gordon Chambers 1 Upper George Street Luton in the County of Bedford is also familiar with my local affairs.

47.

Having been born a British subject in Ireland in 1856 subsequently registered as a citizen of Eire and finally privileged to remain a British subject by the Home Secretary's letter dated the twenty seventh day of June One thousand nine hundred and forty nine I declare that my domicile of choice is English and desire that my Will be construed and take effect according to English law. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand to this and the thirteen preceding sheets of paper this twelfth day of June One thousand nine hundred and fifty.

Signed and acknowledged by the said George Bernard Shaw the Testator as and for his last Will and Testament in the presence of us who in his presence at his request and in the presence of each other all being present at the same time have hereunto subscribed our names as witnesses

G. Bernard Shaw

E. Marjorie White Married woman  
22 Compton Avenue, Luton, Beds.

Harold O. White Master Printer  
22 Compton Avenue, Luton, Beds.







