

JESUS COLLEGE OXFORD

JC:P221 COMMONPLACE BOOK OF WILLIAM LE MARCHANT (MATR. PEMBROKE COLLEGE 1699) WITH REFERENCE TO JESUS COLLEGE

This book, as explained in **JC:P221/CI/I** below, was given to Jesus College in April 1920 by J. B. Hué, who had apparently been tutor to Edward VIII and George VI as princes. He gave no information about how it came into his hands. It has been in the College archives at least since the 1990s.

Catalogued in December 2019.

JC:P221/CI – CORRESPONDENCE

JC:P221/CI/I

16 Apr 1920

Letter from J. B. Hué (address, The Cottage, St. Laurence, Ventnor, Isle of Wight) to the Librarian of Jesus College. Hué offers **JC:P221/MSI/I** to the College, having previously presented them with two other unspecified MSS. The two other MSS which Hué apparently gave the College are unknown.

JC:P221/MSI – COMMONPLACE BOOK OF WILLIAM LE MARCHANT

William Le Marchant matriculated from Pembroke College in 4 May 1699 aged 17, and left without taking a degree. He returned to his native Guernsey, and evidently played his part in the administration of the island, as the contents of this book make clear. His son James likewise matriculated from Pembroke College on 6 May 1729 aged 15, but in 1730 was elected to a Channel Islands Fellowship at Jesus College, a post he held until 1754.

Although William had been at Pembroke College, this book shows that he took a very great interest in Jesus College, partly thanks to his son, and also in Exeter College, because these were the three Colleges which Charles I in 1635 had ordained should be beneficiaries of his endowment of Fellowships open to applicants from the Channel Islands.

JC:P221/MSI/I

1730s-1750s

Commonplace book kept by William Le Merchant. Most of the book is written in his hand, but there are some pages written in other hands, as indicated below. William himself seems to have made entries into this book over at least three decades, from the 1730s to the 1750s. Some of the titles to the various sections are written in French. Not all pages have writing on them; Where a folio number is not given, it may be assumed that the relevant leaf is blank. The numbering is erratic, but is nevertheless followed here.

The book has been foliated up to fol. 157v, and is then paginated for a while before being foliated once more from fol. 199v. However, the first few pages were not foliated. They contain the following material:

A list of Fellows of Jesus College from 1746/7.

A list of livings in the Presentation of Jesus College.

A list of the members of the Society of Jesus College in 1736.

A list of benefactors to Jesus College.

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Fols. 1r-65r: A transcription of the statutes of Jesus College. A list of contents to the statutes is given at the very front of the book.

Fols. 65r-65v: Lists of the heads of Jesus Pembroke and Exeter Colleges from 1566 to 1689.

Fol. 66r-68r: Notes on the benefaction of Bishop Morley endowed in 1678 to establish scholarships at Pembroke College for applicants from Guernsey and Jersey.

Fol. 68v: Copy (in another hand) of a letter from Charles II, dated 11 Dec 1678, on the three Channel Islands Fellowships endowed by his father.

Fols. 70r-72r: Extracts from the foundation charter for Charles I's Channel Islands Fellowships.

Fols. 73v-75r: Notes and tables about the holders of Holders of Channel Island Fellowships at the three Oxford colleges to 1733.

Fols. 76r-80r: Correspondence about elections to Channel Island fellowships at Oxford, 1728-30.

Fols. 81v-82r: Epitaphs of John Hall, Master of Pembroke College (d.1710) and William Le Marchant (d. 1699).

Fols. 83r-85r: Charter and statutes of Queen Elizabeth College, Guernsey.

Fol. 86r: Note on the election of Peter Carey as a Channel Islands Fellow at Exeter College.

Fol. 87r: An anonymous note praising the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge.

Fol. 87v: Letter from William Le Marchant (address, Guernsey, 18 April 1753) to his son James, on the latter's proposal to resign his fellowship.

Fol. 90r-91r: Bull of Pope Alexander VI annexing the Channel Islands to the see of Winchester, 1499, based on a copy made in 1703.

Fols. 92r-95r: Copies of two letters from Charles II; the one is to Christopher, Lord Hatton, Governor of Jersey, about extending the Act of Uniformity to the Channel Islands, 15 July 1664; the other is Mr. Le Bailey and others about dissent in Guernsey, 8 October 1671.

Fol. 96v: Extract from Peter Heylin's *Survey of Guernsey*, recording the parishes in Guernsey, with the names of their incumbents and the size of their stipends, 1629-30.

Fols. 97v-99r: Historical survey of Guernsey churches with details of location, foundation and consecration, from 1111-1312.

Fol. 99v: Copy (in another hand) of a letter from William Le Marchant to his son James, (address, Guernsey), 11 October 1733. William discusses why the parishes of Jersey were never in the "Valor Beneficiorum."

Fols. 100r-103r: Copies of extracts from acts of the States of Guernsey, 1606-28 (all written in French).

Fols. 104v-105r: Copies of Letters of the Privy Council concerning the Reformation in Guernsey, 1553 and 1565.

Fols. 106r-113v: Copy of a letter from William Le Marchant (address, Le Hyvrence, Guernsey) to John Bonamy, Dean of Guernsey, Jan 1728/9. Le Marchant discusses at length the maintenance of Protestantism in the island. He expresses concern about, however, the influence of proselytes and foreigners on the church.

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- Fols. 114v-118r: Copy of a letter from William Le Marchant, as Procureur du Roy, and Henry Mauger, as Controle du Roy to the Bishop of Winchester, 1729. Le Marchant and Mauger urge the Bishop not to appoint a foreigner to a Guernsey living, 1729.
- Fols. 118v-119v: Copy (in a different hand) of a decision of the Visitor of Exeter College in a disputed election to a Channel Island Fellowship there, 1731.
- Fols. 120r-124r: Extracts from Prynne's *Chronicles* (1670) with reference to the Channel Islands.
- Fols. 124v-126r: Correspondence about the establishment of a garrison chapel in Guernsey, 1715.
- Fols. 127r-128r: Royal order for restoration of the Guernsey clergy to their customary seats in the States, 10 October 1735
- Fols. 130r-132r: Extracts from further papers about the Church in Guernsey.
- Fol. 132v: Copy of two letters from William Le Marchant, 16 January 1747/8. The first (in French) is to Joshua Le Marchant, about the latter's grandson Joshua coming up to Oxford. The second is to William's son James recommending him to look after Joshua when he gets to Oxford.
- Fols. 140r-146r: Copy of document titled "Explanation of King Charles 1st Charter of Foundation of 3 Fellowships in Oxford; in behalf of the natives of Guernsey and Jersey", by Edward [altered to William] Jones, former Principal of Jesus College, over the case of Mr. Payn of Jersey and Mr. Fiot of Guernsey. William Jones was Principal in 1720-5, and Francis Payne was elected Jersey Fellow in 1722.
- Between fols. 146v and 147r is bound in another set of papers, written in a quite different hand, which relate to a disputed Fellowship election of 1718. In this case, the dispute centred on how many Fellows from each island there could be in place at any one time.
- Fols. 147r-148r: Copies of two letters to Exeter College on the election of a new Channel Islands Fellow.
- Fols. 148v-150v: Drafts of a letter which Le Marchant was asked by Dean Bonamy to draft for the Bishop of Winchester to seek his advice on certain aspects of church practice in Guernsey, undated.
- Fols. 151r-156v: Drafts of other letters, some in French, in which Le Marchant appears to have been involved, relating to Guernsey matters. Also undated, but one letter refers to events from the year 1733.
- Fol. 157v and p. 158: Copy of a report on August 1677 of proceedings in the States at Guernsey.
- pp. 159-61: Copy of a letter (written in French) from William Le Marchant to his son James, 11 Aug 1750. Le Marchant gives his son advice about how wealthy a benefice must be before a Fellow holding one has to resign his Fellowship.
- pp. 161-2: Copy, in a different hand, of a letter from William le Marchant to his son James, 15 Jan 1750. Le Marchant advises James on what to do about rumours that an unnamed Fellow of Jesus College has married in secret.
- pp. 163-9: Copy, made in June 1750, of what Le Marchant calls "un Ancien MSS", on relations between church and state.

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Bound in after p. 171: Extract (in another hand) from the Statutes of University College from 1736 and 1311 concerning the size of a benefice which a Fellow can hold in plurality with his Fellowship.

Unnumbered pages after p. 171: Copy (in another hand) of an opinion of the Visitor of Brasenose College on Fellows and livings, 1627. After these more notes (also in another hand) on the Channel Islands Fellowships at Exeter, Jesus and Pembroke Colleges.

Fols. 199v-210v: Copies of documents illustrating the history of Guernsey in the 14th and 15th centuries.

The end of the book has been turned over, and contains the following material, on unnumbered pages:

Copy of a letter (written in Latin) by William Le Marchant to his father four months after arriving in Oxford in 1699.

Chronology (written in French) by William Le Marchant of his son James's education and career, 1728-49.

A list of the Fellows of Jesus College, 1746.