

JESUS COLLEGE OXFORD

JC:PI42 DIARIES OF JOHN JONES OF DOLGELLAU (MATR. 1792)

John Jones (1773-1853) was born at Dolgellau, and came up to Jesus College in 1792, getting his BA in 1796 and MA in 1800. The online *Dictionary of Welsh Biography* shows that he was educated at Ruthin Grammar School. On leaving Oxford, he was curate in Tremeirchion in 1797-9 then in Llanblodwel, near Oswestry, and finally at Wrexham. In 1811 he was ordained vicar of Llansilin and then of Rhuddlan in 1820. In 1828 he became Rector of Llandderfel, and then moved to Llanaber in 1840. He retired in 1843 and lived at Borthwnog near Pemanpool. Jones had literary and antiquarian interests: in 1819 he was appointed secretary of the Cambrian Society of the province of Powys, and was a patron and adjudicator in provincial eisteddfodau. He also gave financial support to clergy of a literary bent, and in 1834 he published the second edition of *British Antiquities Revived* by Robert Vaughan.

These four diaries were found with a book dealer in Norwich, and purchased by the College in October 2017. They were passed to the archives as Accession No. 441.

Catalogued in October 2017.

JC:PI42/MSI – DIARIES

These four leather-bound printed diaries each measure 165 by 105 mm when closed. Jones uses the books partly as diaries, but also to make notes on his finances, or else to make notes on other matters of interest. The diary entries tend to be short and factual. They also contain some notes on Jones's finances.

JC:PI42/MSI/1

1794

Copy of *Kearsley's Gentleman and Tradesman's Pocket Ledger for the year 1794*, as used by Jones. Inscribed "J. Jones Jes: Coll: Oxon." This diary records the books Jones was reading at Oxford (usually classical authors), and the lectures he was attending. The entries get sparser after the end of May.

JC:PI42/MSI/2

1797

Copy of *The Newcastle Memorandum-book or, A Methodical Pocket-Journal for the year M.DCC.XCVII*, as used by Jones. This contains rather fewer diary entries than JC:PI42/MSI/1 above.

JC:PI42/MSI/3

1799

Copy of the 1799 edition of *The Daily Journal; or, Gentleman's, Merchant's, and Trademan's complete Annual Accompt-Book*, as used by Jones. This diary is kept quite fully until the end of March. Some entries are written in pencil, and so rather faint to read. In this volume Jones sometimes writes English words in Greek characters, as if in a private code (but also writes some passages actually in Greek). Later on in the year, Jones has written some verses into the book. In and the next book, Jones sometimes records whether he has preached a sermon in Welsh rather than English.

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JC:PI42/MSI/4

1800

Copy of the 1800 edition of *The Daily Journal; or, Gentleman's, Merchant's, and Trademan's complete Annual Accompt-Book*, as used by Jones. This contains rather fewer diary entries than **JC:PI42/MSI/3** above.