

JESUS COLLEGE OXFORD

JC:P207 MINUTE BOOKS OF THE DENBIGHSHIRE AND FLINTSHIRE SOCIETY (LATER THE NORTH WALES SOCIETY), OXFORD, 1773-1826

The Denbighshire and Flintshire Society was founded in 1773. As originally conceived the Society was open to sixteen members, who had to have a connection with these two counties (and were, presumably, sufficiently wealthy and well-connected to participate in its events). The Society would meet once a week, on Wednesday evenings. Each term the Society elected a "Lady Patroness", with a preference given to ladies from the counties of Denbigh and Flint. There is no hint of any of these "Patronesses" ever attending any of these meetings – they were more probably merely the subjects of members' toasts at meetings held during "their" terms.

In 1784 it was agreed to open up to the Society to members from the other four counties of North Wales. The Society also had a uniform, including a coat with the buttons "N.W.", whose details changed over the years. The Society ceased to operate in 1805, and was revived in March 1809 as the North Wales Society. Records of the new Society cease in 1826, with no explanation for its end.

These minute books were presented to Jesus College at an unknown date, and stored in the Library, where they were assigned the references MS 262-3. They were transferred to the archives in September 2018 as part of Accession No. 507.

Catalogued in November 2019.

JC:P207 – MINUTE BOOKS

JC:P207/A1/1

1773-1809

Minute book of the Denbighshire and Flintshire Society. Its contents are as follows:

Fols. 1-17: A list of a list of the rules of the Society, with many emendations, resolutions and additions. Interspersed with these rules are lists first of members, many of whom, unsurprisingly, were members of Jesus College, and then of the Lady Patronesses adopted for each term from 1773-99. There are annotations added to indicate the married names of these women.

Fols. 18-39: left blank.

Fols. 40-86: For these pages the book has been turned upside down, and entries begun from the back of the volume. These entries record the names of attendees at the Society's meetings, with a note of the bills run up for each occasion. From 1800 these lists also include the names of the Lady Patronesses. On Fol. 40 is a note that, after the meeting in Lent Term 1805, the Club "was dropped and revived again on March 1st 1809 under the title of the North Wales Society."

The handwriting in much of this book suggests that the members of the Society enjoyed well-lubricated meetings.

JC:P207/X1/1 was found between fols. 34v and 35r of this book.

JC:P207/A1/2

1809-26

Minute book of the North Wales Society (the new name of Denbighshire and Flintshire Society). Its contents are as follows:

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Fols. 1-17: Records of attendees at the Society's meetings for 1809-26, with notes of their locations, the bills run up, and the names of the Society's Lady Patronesses.

Fols. 18-65: left blank.

Fols. 66-87: For these pages the book has been turned upside down, and entries begun from the back of the volume. This section opens with a fresh collection of regulations. They include the rule that Jesus College appoints a President every other year. There then follow various emendations to the rules, and resolutions, mainly concerning the election of new members.

JC:P207/XI - INVITATION**JC:P207/XI/I****Before "Monday 9 June" (1823)**

Invitation from the President of the North Wales Society to the Hon. Mr. Wynne to attend a meeting at his rooms in Balliol College on Monday 9 June. On the back is a note of the bills run up by individual members at a Society dinner. The day of the week, and the name of the President. George Irby (mat. Balliol 1821), dates this card to 1823.

This card was found in **JC:P207/AI/I** between fols. 34v and 35r.