

JESUS COLLEGE OXFORD

JC:P218 VOLUME OF NOTES ON THE DUTIES OF A JUSTICE OF PEACE, GIVEN BY THOMAS PARDO (PR. 1727-63) TO A JESUS UNDERGRADUATE, 1751

Thomas Pardo (1688-1763) came up to Jesus College in 1705, was elected Fellow in 1711, and then Principal in 1727, which post he retained until his death in 1763. There are a great many papers of Pardo held elsewhere in the archives, which were preserved by his cousin James Matthews, but this volume stands apart, because, although it was created by (or rather, for) Pardo, it was given away by him, as is explained below.

Enclosed with the manuscript is a letter (**JC:P218/CI/I** below) which shows that it was bought by the College in April 1939, and then placed in the Library, where it was catalogued as MS 165. It was then transferred to the archives in September 2018 as part of Accession No. 507.

Catalogued in December 2019.

JC:P218/MSI - MANUSCRIPT

JC:P218/MSI/I

1751

Manuscript volume (214 pages) described on the title page as “Collections relating to the Practice of a Justice of the Peace given by the Revd. Dr. Pardo Principal of Jesus College Oxford to Owen Hughes Esqr 1751”. The Owen Hughes referred to here is probably the same Owen Hughes, son of Edward, Llanhassa, Flintshire, Esq., who came up in 1749 aged 19. Hughes was no doubt expecting to live the life of a country gentleman (he never took a degree), and Pardo thought that such a volume would help him in his later life.

The manuscript is certainly not in Pardo's (rather untidy) hand, and so was evidently written out by an unnamed copyist for him to present to Hughes. There is no list of contents or index, but the text is divided up into sections which cover the various types of case on which a JP might have to adjudicate, giving plentiful quotations from the relevant legislation. The source of this long text is not yet known: it seems unlikely that Pardo either assembled or commissioned it himself, but more probable that he based it on an existing text.

JC:P218/CI - LETTER

JC:P218/CI/I

11 Apr 1939

Letter from William C. Mitchell (address 35 Braid Farm Road, Edinburgh) to Claude Hurst (F. 1934-75, and Fellow Librarian in 1939). Mitchell sends Hurst the manuscript **JC:P218/MSI/I**. He says nothing about the earlier provenance of the document.