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EDITED BY

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THE ACCOUNT BOOK OF AN OXFORD
UNDERGRADUATE.

1682-1688.

THE little book which is here published I bought in a shop in Oxford a short while ago. It is a small 12^{mo} of twenty-two leaves in a brown paper binding, and, with the exception of a few corners of the earlier leaves being torn, is in excellent preservation. The owner's name is not mentioned in the book, but when I bought it, it contained a slip of paper with a note in the writing of a contributor to this volume which ascribed it to J. Wildinge. About this time the number of men at the University was small, so that when we know a man's date and college, it is not hard to make a good guess at the name. J. Wilding matriculated at St. Mary Hall and afterwards migrated to Merton. In the University Matriculation Register A. g. 5, I find 'Aula B. Mar V. 1682 July 4 Jac Wildinge 18. Tho. W., Sea-Latton Salop [now Sellatyn near Oswestry in the diocese of St. Asaph], cler. o. 5. o.' He took his B.A. degree 23rd Feb. 1686-7, and M.A. July, 1689, both from Merton. There are two other Wildings in the first half of the 18th century, given in the catalogue of Oxford Graduates, and there are two authors of this name in the Bodleian Catalogue. In the Register of Canterbury Cathedral (Harl. Soc. 1878) a John Willdinge occurs as buried 23rd April, 1611. Eyton's 'Antiquities of Shropshire' mentions Sellatyn, but does not give any reference to the parsons thereof. The sums expended by James Wilding in his journeys to his home—on one occasion 6/8—illustrates the cheapness of travel. Through the kindness of the Bursar of Merton, I was allowed to look through the Buttery books, which are the only records of any sort which the College possesses for the

period, and as the name Wildinge is the only new name which occurs about 1685-86, we may be tolerably sure of the identity of the compiler of this little book. The name itself is not of common occurrence, but in looking over some genealogical books and visitations I find it occurring in Lancashire and Middlesex as well as in Shropshire.

About 1682 Oxford must have been in a state of great political excitement. In 1681 the Parliament was summoned by the king to meet there, for the first time since the great plague, and the attendant influx of visitors must have filled the town with business and stir. Again, in 1685, when the rebellion of Monmouth was imminent and the Dean of Christ Church was haranguing the students, and using all endeavours to make them fight for the crown, few could escape the excitement of the hour, or continue their University studies in such stirring times.

The only point in the account book which gives us any clue, or has any connection with these political events, is the entry of threepence paid for 'Monmouth's speech;' but it is hardly possible that Wilding escaped the general excitement, when small bodies of soldiers were raised at each College to fight against Monmouth. One of his benefactors, the Bishop of St. Asaph, was, we know, much interested in the events of this time, and his letter to Dr. Fell, published by Hearne, furnishes us with a full account of the execution.

A curious point to be noticed is the largeness of the library which Wilding possessed, when we consider his comparative poverty and the expensive nature of the books of those days. It consisted of ninety-two separate works, or over a hundred volumes, which in these days would be considered a large library for an undergraduate to possess, and in those days meant five or six times as much. Several titles in the list are carefully erased, perhaps those of some of the forbidden books, the political works of Buchanan, Milton, and Baxter, which were ordered by the University of Oxford to be publicly burnt in the court of the schools, and which a private owner

might have considered a dangerous ornament to his bookshelves.

There are few entries which require any explanation; those which relate to the schools, such as 'opponents,' 'senior Soph,' 'collector,' 'austins,' and which point to the way in which examinations were at that time conducted, contain the only expressions which might be considered obscure, but all of these occur constantly in Anthony Wood. The prices are worthy of notice, many seeming ludicrously small; one of Wilding's payments to his bookbinder, for instance, being sevenpence, and another threepence; and the bindings of those days were good honest calf.

The date of the account book prevents it from exhibiting many points interesting to the student of language or of antiquities; but still it is of interest as throwing light on the private life and expenses of the seventeenth century student.

ED. GORDON DUFF.

Wadham College, 1885.

Recēd from home and elsewhere.				
Recēd from home July y ^e 1 st 82		06	10	00
Money of my owne		02	00	00
Recēd from y ^e Gate and Bible		01	07	00
Sent me		00	07	00
Recēd from home Feb. y ^e 3 ^d 1683		01	10	00
Recēd for Bottles		00	05	09
Sent me		00	02	06
Given me		00	03	00
Sent me		00	03	00
Given me		00	01	00
Sent me		00	02	06
Recēd from y ^e Buttery book		02	01	00
Given me		00	01	06
Recēd from home 8 th ye 22		02	00	00
Recēd from home 10 th ye 6 th		02	00	00
Recēd from ye Buttery book		01	17	06
Sent me		00	02	06
Recēd from home April y ^e 16 th 1684		02	00	00
Given me		00	00	06
Sent me		00	01	00

.. .. in coursing	00	01	09
For a paper book	00	01	06
To the Carrier	00	01	00
For Galoom	00	01	00
For making my studding gown	00	02	00
For a Cravat	00	01	06
For white calico	00	01	06
For colouring my Stockings	00	00	04
To my bedmaker & Landress	00	04	08
To my Barber	00	02	06
To the Manciple for my Battles	00	01	06
Sum Total	01	05	06

The Quarter began at y^e Feast of St^t Thomas 1685.

For Candles	00	00	10
For bleeding me	00	01	00
For Letters	00	01	02
At y ^e Sacrament	00	00	06
To Frank	00	00	06
To y ^e Carrier	00	00	06
For Ale	00	01	05
For Wine	00	00	06
For Herrings	00	00	02
For mending my Key	00	00	30
Payd Mr Hunsdon	00	04	00
For mending my shoose	00	02	00
For books	00	06	06
For mending my cloaths	00	02	03
To my Bed maker & Landress	00	05	00
To my Barber	00	02	06
To the Apothecary	00	10	06
For my Battles	02	02	07
For a pair of shoose	00	03	06
Sum Total	04	05	08

The Quarter began upon Lady day 1686.

For Hugo Grotius de <i>Veritate Religionis</i>	00	01	00
For Ale & Wine	00	04	03
At y ^e Sacrament	00	00	06
To y ^e Cook	00	00	06
For Letters	00	01	01
To y ^e Carrier	00	01	06
For mending my sleeves	00	01	03

To y ^e mercer for deficient to my new suit	00	05	00
For mending my shoose	00	01	00
For colouring my stockings	00	00	06
For my Battles	00	08	04
For making my cloaths	00	06	00
To my Bedmaker & Landress	00	05	00
To my Barber	00	02	06
Sum Total	01	18	08

The Quarter began at y^e Feast of St^t John Baptist 1686.

For a Cap	00	01	00
To Mr Massy	00	02	00
To Mr Williams	00	01	00
For carrying down my goods	00	01	06
For making my gown	00	04	00
For battles at St ^t M Hall	00	08	04
For ale	00	03	00
For a Spoon	00	00	02
For entrance	00	05	00
For Letters	00	01	08
For thread	00	00	02
For mending my stockings	00	00	08
For Whey	00	00	05
For seing y ^e Rhinoceros	00	00	02
For Candles	00	00	04
For mending my shoose	00	01	00
At ye Cooks	00	01	00
At Wolfercot	00	01	06
For Battles at Merton	00	01	00
To Arthur Fowler	00	02	09
For Fruit	00	00	02
For a pair of shoose	00	04	00
To ye Mercer for my Gown	01	00	00
For dressing y ^e Fees & ale	00	03	00
Spent at other Fees	00	00	04
To my bedmaker	00	04	06
To my Landress	00	02	06
To my Barber	00	02	06
Sum Total	03	13	08

The Quarter began at y^e Feast of St^t Michael 1686.

Spent in Coursing	00	01	08
For mending my cloaths	00	01	06