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CLWYD RECORD OFFICE

PALMER MSS

(Notebooks of A.N. Palmer, historian, from Wrexham Library, deposited in the Clwyd Record Office by the County Librarian and Information Officer)

Ref: DD/PA

AN 2006

Clwyd Record Office
46 Clwyd Street
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13 December 1991

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THE NOTEBOOKS OF A.N. PALMER

A.N. Palmer (1847-1915) is best known as the author of a series of books on the history of the Wrexham area, including The History of the Parish Church of Wrexham (1887), A History of the Older Nonconformity of Wrexham and its Neighbourhood (1889), The History of the Town of Wrexham (1893), John Wilkinson and the Old Bersham Iron Works (1899), and The Thirteen Country Townships of the Old Parish of Wrexham (1903). He also wrote histories of the parishes of Gresford, Holt, Isycoed, Bangor on Dee and Ruabon. After his death, most of his notebooks were presented to Wrexham Library. They include his personal diaries, as well as his extensive notes on the manuscript sources which formed the basis of his works. Among these sources were parish registers and records, and many deeds and documents then in private custody, some of which have since disappeared. Five of these notebooks have always been missing from the series in Wrexham, but these came to light in 1985, when they were purchased by the National Library of Wales.

The notebooks provide a wealth of information on the Wrexham area and its history, much of which could not be included in Palmer's published works. His notes are also useful for following up information given in the books. Most of the notebooks were indexed by Palmer in his own cumulative index volume; others have simple indexes or tables of contents included.

To increase access to the notebooks the Clwyd Record Office has prepared microfiche copies of them, including the index volume and those held by the National Library of Wales. The books are therefore now united on fiche, and available for consultation as one series for the first time.

How to use the microfiche

List of contents. The list of contents provided with the fiche gives very brief details of the contents of each volume, and a heading, e.g. PARISH RECORDS. It should be emphasized that it is by no means complete; in particular, it ignores the many notes Palmer took from printed sources. A complete list of the contents of the volumes, page by page, would be an enormous undertaking. The list of contents should serve to indicate which volumes contain such information on, for instance, nonconformity, or parish records, or the Acton Hall MSS. It also indicates whether Palmer indexed the volumes himself.

For example, if one wishes to see the notes on Wrexham town hall, described in the list of contents as being in Vol. 4, pp.172-8, select the relevant fiche. This is the one entitled 'Palmer 4 pp.172-230'.

Palmer's index volume. Palmer compiled his own index, which covers vols 1-13 and 15-24. It gives his volume numbers in Roman numerals, and the page numbers in Arabic, for example:

Bersham Furnace VIII, 182, 208(2)...

This indicates that there are references in Vol 8 at pages 182 and 208, there being two on the latter page. For those unfamiliar with Roman numerals, the list of contents provides a conversion table.

The index volume is stronger on places and personal names than subjects, although unusual occupations are generally indexed. It will be noted that the entries for any particular letter are together, but not in alphabetical order, as they were written in by Palmer as he came to them. Even entries in his own diaries were indexed. For instance, 'Rothesay, No III 88-105' refers to his diary of a stay at that place in May 1882!

Indexes/lists of contents of individual volumes. Volumes not included in the Index volume (and some that do) have indexes or lists of contents at the end. The headings were written in as Palmer came to them, and start on the last page of the volume, working backwards.

The page numbers on the fiche are Palmer's own, although he occasionally made errors in his numbering. The volumes contain many loose notes and press-cuttings. These have been filmed where they were, except in the case of the five volumes in NLW. The inserts in these have been collected together and filed, guarded and bound in a separate volume, numbered 38 in the fiche.

The list of contents of the volumes that follows describes them in their original order, and gives the present location and reference of each volume. The microfiche are normally produced for searchers, rather than the original volumes.

CLWYD RECORD OFFICE

PALMER NOTEBOOKS

CONTENTS

- 1 (I) DIARY 30 December 1879 - 30 May 1881.
DD/PA/1
List of contents at end; indexed in Index volume.
- 2 (II) DIARY 1 June 1881 - 2 October 1881.
DD/PA/2
List of contents at end; indexed in Index volume.
- 3 (III) DIARY 23 October 1881 - 4 May 1883.
DD/PA/3
List of contents at end; indexed in Index volume.
- 4 (IV) PLACE-NAMES; MISCELLANEA Notes on place-names and extracts from tithe apportionments for Wrexham, Ruabon, Holt, Bangor, Erbistock, Hope, Minera, Esclusham Above, Is-y-coed, Marchwiell, Bersham, Overton, Chirk, Mold and Treuddyn; extracts from printed sources, including Offa's Dyke (pp.62-78); notes on the town hall, Wrexham (pp.172-8).
DD/PA/4
List of contents at end; indexed in Index volume.
- 5 (V) PARISH REGISTERS; MISCELLANEA Notes, etc., including extracts from Pentrebychan MSS (pp.10-21, 100-29, 220-1), and from Wrexham parish registers for 1618-86; extracts from tithe apportionments of Allington, Gresford and Nerquis.
DD/PA/5
List of contents at end; indexed in Index volume.
- 6 (VI) PARISH REGISTERS; MISCELLANEA Notes, etc., including extracts from Pentrebychan MSS (pp.1-33), and from Wrexham parish registers for 1682-96 (pp.162-232), and 1730-56 (pp.34-132); and notes on field-names of Llangollen (pp.154-8).
DD/PA/6
Indexed in Index volume.
- 7 (VII) PARISH REGISTERS Extracts from Wrexham parish registers for 1696-1763 (pp.1-44, 62-236); extracts from Erbistock tithe apportionment (pp.53-5); notes on Holt Common Wood (pp.56-61); and miscellaneous notes.
DD/PA/7
Indexed in Index volume.
- 8 (VIII) PARISH REGISTERS Extracts from Wrexham parish registers for 1764-1812 (pp.1-147); extracts from tithe apportionments of Hope (pp.148-55), Is-y-coed (pp.156-8), and Bangor (pp.162-3); extracts from deeds of Charles Street, Wrexham (pp.158-61), and High Street (pp.206-7), and from Erddig MSS (pp.167-73, 198-202); extracts from Norden's survey re common fields (pp.173-80), and memorial inscriptions in Wrexham church and churchyard, and the dissenters' burial ground (pp.196-227 passim); copy terrier of Marchwiell, 1791 (follows p.236); and misc. notes on local families, etc.
DD/PA/8
Indexed in Index volume.

- 9 (IX) PARISH RECORDS Extracts from Wrexham vestry book, church and poor rate assessments, 1714-1845, and from tithe apportionments; extracts from various local deeds.
DD/PA/9
Indexed in Index volume.
- 10 (X) PARISH RECORDS Extracts from Wrexham churchwardens' accounts, rate assessments and vestry minutes for 1661-1766.
DD/PA/10
Indexed in Index volume.
- 11 (XI) PARISH RECORDS Extracts from Wrexham church and poor rate assessments for 1766-1857.
DD/PA/11
Indexed in Index volume.
- 12 (XII) PARISH RECORDS, etc. Extracts from marriage registers of Wrexham 1754-67 and 1813-23 (pp.11-12, 18-20); Wrexham church and poor rate assessments 1818-57 (pp.49-112); tithe apportionments of Minera (pp.12-18), Brymbo (pp.24-6) Esclusham (pp.31-4), and Erbistock (pp.47-8); memorial inscriptions in Wrexham church (pp.43-6); early registers of Erbistock, Bangor and Marchwiell (pp.113-35); laws of Hywel Dda (pp.143-68); and Stansty deeds (pp.184-93).
DD/PA/12
Indexed in Index volume.
- 13 (XIII) MISCELLANEA Extracts (summary) from memorial inscriptions in Wrexham, Gresford and Marchwiell churches and churchyards; notes on local families, etc., including reports on Minera lead mines, 1849 (pp.28-31); extracts from Wrexham marriage and burial registers (post 1754), and from 17th c Denbs Quarter Sessions order books.
DD/PA/13
Indexed in Index volume.
- 14 (XIV) MEMORIAL INSCRIPTIONS Extracts (summary) from inscriptions in Wrexham churchyard. Ground plan at front.
DD/PA/14
Index at end.
- 15 (XV) NONCONFORMITY; MISCELLANEA Notes on Chester Street Baptist chapel, Wrexham, dissenters' burial ground in Rhosddu Road, and nonconformity generally in the Wrexham area; extracts from parish registers of Gresford (pp.100-28), Holt (pp.141-9), and Ruabon (pp.217-22); extracts from Wynne Hall MSS (pp.84-96) and Galltfaenan MSS (pp.154-81).
NLW MS 22160B
Indexed in Index volume.
- 16 (XVI) MISCELLANEA Extracts from tithe apportionments for Wrexham area; early registers of Ruabon and Bangor; 17th c Denbs Quarter Sessions order books; memorial inscriptions in Bangor, Overton and Gresford churches and churchyards; extracts from the Wilkinson papers (pp.75-90), and Gwysaney MSS (pp.197-205); notes, including the Welsh in Cheshire and Shropshire (pp.52-70); extracts from sale catalogue of ironworks and collieries of Edward Lloyd Rowland, 1825 (pp.223-7).
DD/PA/15
Indexed in Index volume.

- 17 (XVII) DIARY 31 May 1883 - 28 August 1886; and 25 April 1905 - 16 December 1906.
NLW MS 22157B
List of contents at end; indexed in Index volume.
- 18 (XVIII) MISCELLANEA Extracts from deeds and documents in private hands--Acton Hall, Erddig, Marchwiel Hall and other properties; extracts from Holt corporation books and early Gresford parish registers and records.
DD/PA/16
Indexed in Index volume.
- 19 (XIX) MISCELLANEA Notes, etc., mostly on Wrexham area, including notes on Holt church (pp.13-16), the poet Huw Morris (82-5); extracts from Worthenbury deeds by W M Myddelton (44-81); extracts from Wrexham vestry book for 1759-1808 (pp.89-116); extracts from deeds of Walter Jones's premises, Charles Street, Wrexham (pp.121-9), letters on Bersham furnace (pp.129-37), and Erddig deeds (pp.150-243); copy survey of Wrexham Abbot and Stansty (pp.248-51).
NLW MS 22161 i B
List of contents at end; indexed in Index volume.
- 20 (XX) MISCELLANEA Extracts from Pentrebychan MSS, Erddig deeds, and Borrass and Gredington deeds; records of bailiwick of Wrexham, 1339-40 (pp.213-20); early Pulford registers (pp.246-51).
DD/PA/17
Partial list of contents at end; indexed in Index volume.
- 21 (XXI) MISCELLANEA Notes, many from printed sources, but including extracts from the court rolls of Marford and Hoseley, 1729-1880 (pp.6-23), and from Gredington and Erddig deeds.
DD/PA/18
Indexed in Index volume.
- 22 (XXII) MISCELLANEA Notes, including extracts from Erddig deeds and St Asaph wills; memorial inscriptions in Gresford, Holt and Farndon churchyards; early registers of Holt and Farndon; items of Welsh interest from Cheshire newspapers, 1780-9 (pp.176-201).
DD/PA/19
List of contents at end; indexed in Index volume.
- 23 (XXIII) MISCELLANEA Notes, including extracts from Norden's survey for Holt, 1620 (pp.49-60), Harleian MSS, and Land Revenue Miscellaneous Books in Public Record Office; extracts from Welsh wills at Chester, and St Asaph wills; Plas Power deeds and documents (pp.164-214).
DD/PA/20
Indexed in Index volume.
- 24 (XXIV) MISCELLANEA Notes, many being extracts from various records in the Public Record Office concerning the lordship of Bromfield and Yale; extracts from Plas Power deeds (pp.11-24, 49-68); notes on Mary, daughter of John Wilkinson, ironmaster (pp.175-9), and on the Welsh calendar (pp.188-203).
DD/PA/21
List of contents at front; indexed in Index volume.

- 25 (XXV) DIARY 18 January 1907 - 16 August 1909.
DD/PA/22
List of contents at end.
- 26 (XXVI) MISCELLANEA Notes, including extracts from public records concerning the lordship of Bromfield and Yale; extracts from printed Oswestry registers (pp.70-88); notes on the Welsh calendar (pp.89-111); extracts from Gatewen deeds (pp.117-46).
DD/PA/23
List of contents at end.
- 27 (XXVII) MISCELLANEA Extracts from public records concerning the lordship of Bromfield and Yale; extracts from Messrs Bury and Acton's deeds (pp.186-99).
DD/PA/24
List of contents at end.
- 28 (XXVIII) FLINTSHIRE, etc. Notes on Flintshire monuments [in connection with work for the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments], 26 April - 22 September 1910; notes including extracts from extent of Chirkland, 1391 (pp.1-13), Stansty deeds (pp.15-33), Pont y meibion [Llansilin] deeds (pp.51-61, 171-80); and extracts from various public records relating to Flintshire.
DD/PA/25
List of contents at end.
- 29 (XXIX) DIARY 1 August 1909 - 3 May 1911.
NLW MS 22158B
List of contents at end.
- 30 (XXX) FLINTSHIRE; DENBIGHSHIRE Further notes on Flintshire monuments, 23 September - 22 November 1910 (pp.1-46); extracts from public records, etc.; notes on Denbighshire monuments [for the Royal Commission], 3 April - 30 August 1911 (pp.72-242).
DD/PA/26
List of contents at end.
- 31 (XXXI) DIARY 7 MAY 1911 - 12 March 1913.
DD/PA/27
List of contents at end.
- 32 (XXXII) DENBIGHSHIRE Further notes on Denbighshire monuments, 31 August - 11 September 1912.
DD/PA/28
List of contents at end.
- 33 (XXXIII) DENBIGHSHIRE Further notes on Denbighshire monuments, 12 September - 14 November 1912 (pp.152-95); extracts from public records, etc.; extracts from Oswestry registers (pp.62-78, 144-50).
DD/PA/29
Index of contents at end.
- 34 (XXXIV) DIARY 15 March 1913 - 18 February 1915.
DD/PA/30
List of contents at end.

- 35 (XXXV) MERIONETH Notes on Merioneth monuments [in connection with work for the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments], 15 May 1913 - 17 June 1914.
DD/PA/31
List of contents at end.
- 36 (XXXVI) MERIONETH, etc. Extracts from public records, relating mainly to Merioneth.
DD/PA/32
List of contents at end.
- 37 (XXXVII) MERIONETH Further notes on Merioneth monuments, 18 June - 22 October 1914.
NLW MS 22159B
List of contents at end.
- [38] MISCELLANEA Notes and press-cuttings found loose in the five notebooks now in the National Library of Wales.
NLW MS 22161 ii E
- [39] INDEX to the contents of Vols 1-13 and 15-24.
DD/PA/33
- [40] NORDEN'S SURVEY Copy of Wrexham portion of the survey of the lordship of Bromfield and Yale by John Norden senior and John Norden junior, 1620 (British Museum, Harleian MS 3696).
DD/PA/34
List of contents at end.