

Spring 2023



Lincoln College
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

The Grove

Lincoln College Murray Society Newsletter



Contents

Update from the Murray Society
President..... 3

How to leave a legacy..... 4

Sustainability at Lincoln College 5

Ukrainian Scholarship Appeal..... 7

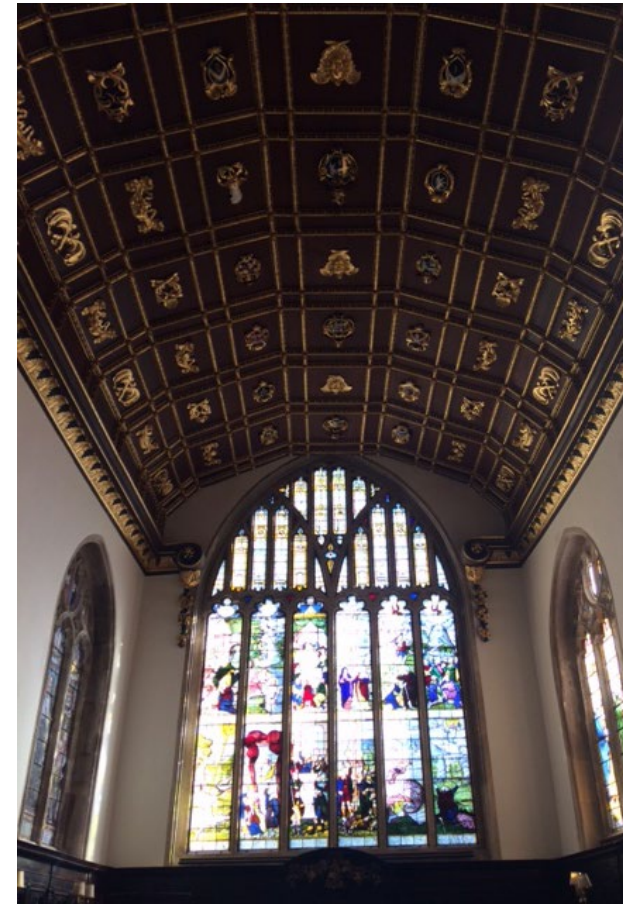
Samuel Alexander: Lincoln College’s
first Jewish fellow..... 9

Events 11





Report from the President of the Murray Society



The merry band of the Murray Society met on 15 October 2022 for the 26th Annual Murray Society Day (its quarter-centenary having been somehow overlooked). After a sumptuous lunch in Hall, we repaired to the Chapel. Almost unchanged since the late seventeenth century, the Chapel, after its programme of restoration, is tended and adorned for the next generations. We have all so often gazed and wondered in the



Chapel – perhaps especially during the longueurs of a sermon – that we thought that we knew it well, but the explanations of Dr Mark Kirby, Child Shuffrey Fellow in Architectural History, were revelatory. Who knew – well I did not – that the broken masonry in the tracery in the upper part of the East window represented Christ’s promise in the Gospel of St John: “In my Father’s house are many mansions: if it were not so, I

would have told you”? We eagerly await the book about the donation, building and iconography of the Chapel which will be the fruit of Dr Kirby’s research.

In May we will visit Rousham House and its glorious gardens. Dog lovers will wish to view the memorial to Ringwood, a ‘most sagacious otterhound’.

Susan Brigden

Leaving a legacy

Leaving a legacy to Lincoln enables you to invest in the future of the College with a gift that endures beyond a lifetime. Making a bequest to Lincoln in your Will can be an important way of supporting our future. Lincoln has always relied greatly on bequests from its alumni, Fellows and friends. Virtually every major building, scholarship and facility in the College owes something to a legacy benefaction.



How to leave a legacy to Lincoln

It is easy to remember the College in your Will. Our official name is ‘the College of the Blessed Mary and All Saints, Lincoln, in the University of Oxford, commonly called Lincoln College’, but it is acceptable to shorten this to Lincoln College, Oxford. UK residents are advised to include our charity number (1139261).

When making or adjusting your Will, we recommend you seek professional legal advice from a qualified solicitor. If you are interested in making a specific gift or legacy to the College, for example to establish a scholarship, we recommend that you talk to us first to ensure that we can honour your wishes. Lincoln’s solicitor is available to offer advice to your own legal representative.

Benefits to you

Inheritance tax is payable following your death if your estate is worth more than a certain net amount after the deduction of any liabilities. At present, the threshold is £325,000 (or up to £650,000 for married couples or registered civil partners), and anything above that may be taxed at 40%. If you leave 10% of your estate to a charity in the UK, your estate will qualify for the reduced inheritance tax rate of 36%.

Lincoln is recognised by the Inland Revenue as a charity (number 1139261) and pays no tax on gifts of money or property received either during your lifetime or on your death. Bequests made to tax-exempt beneficiaries, such as the College or other recognised charities, can be deducted from the net value of your estate, thus reducing the amount on which your estate is liable to pay inheritance tax.

When you remember the College in your Will, you will be playing a part in the future of Lincoln. In recognition of this, you will be invited to join the Murray Society. As a member, you will receive the following (subject to change from time to time):

- Invitations to exclusive Murray Society events, including the annual Murray Day luncheon and talk. You can read more about the latest Murray Society event on p.3.
- An annual issue of this newsletter, *The Grove*.
- An exclusive Murray Society tie and/or scarf in Lincoln colours.

For more details and information about legacies or planned giving, please contact [Susan Harrison](#).



Peter Nitsche-Whitfield, Sustainability Coordinator

Sustainability at Lincoln College

Sustainability is at the forefront of all of our minds, and there are changes that we can all make, individually and collectively, to decrease our environmental impact. Lincoln College, we are pleased to say, has been working hard to create a more environmentally sustainable environment for some time now. This has involved, among other things, reducing our carbon emissions by focusing on how we use energy and also on how we use and improve our buildings stock. In addition, Lincoln is working to improve its biodiversity, reduce waste, conserve water and purchase more sustainable products.

creating a shared role, it will be possible to exchange insights and best practice between three historic institutions (founded in the 14th, 15th and 16th centuries, respectively), who all face similar challenges.”

In addition to running this year’s Green Impact Team, the Sustainability Coordinator has given particular focus to energy initiatives. This includes working on a baseline for future carbon calculations and reducing our electricity and gas use. One recently started project is the first phase of the installation of EcoSync smart thermostatic radiator valves in Staircase 15 and Lincoln House. These valves will help us reduce gas use by preventing energy being wasted on heating empty rooms. Furthermore, we are currently planning the long-term decarbonisation of our buildings and are developing a strategy to improve insulation and assess which renewable heating options are suitable.

This year, Lincoln’s Green Impact Team has been joined by a Green Impact Project Assistant, Beatrice McWilliams, who will help us further improve our biodiversity in College. This work includes adding a new pond within the beautiful wildflower meadow next to the library to create another habitat for wildlife. The College Head Gardener, [Mike Hawkins](#), has also set up new

As part of our sustainability mission, Lincoln participated in the [University’s Green Impact scheme](#) last academic year. This scheme brings together students and staff on sustainability initiatives. We are proud to have achieved a Silver award in the first round.

We are working to systematise our approach to sustainability and have now employed a [Sustainability Coordinator](#), Peter Nitsche-Whitfield, to advance Lincoln’s goals. The Coordinator post is shared between Lincoln, Exeter and Corpus Christi Colleges.

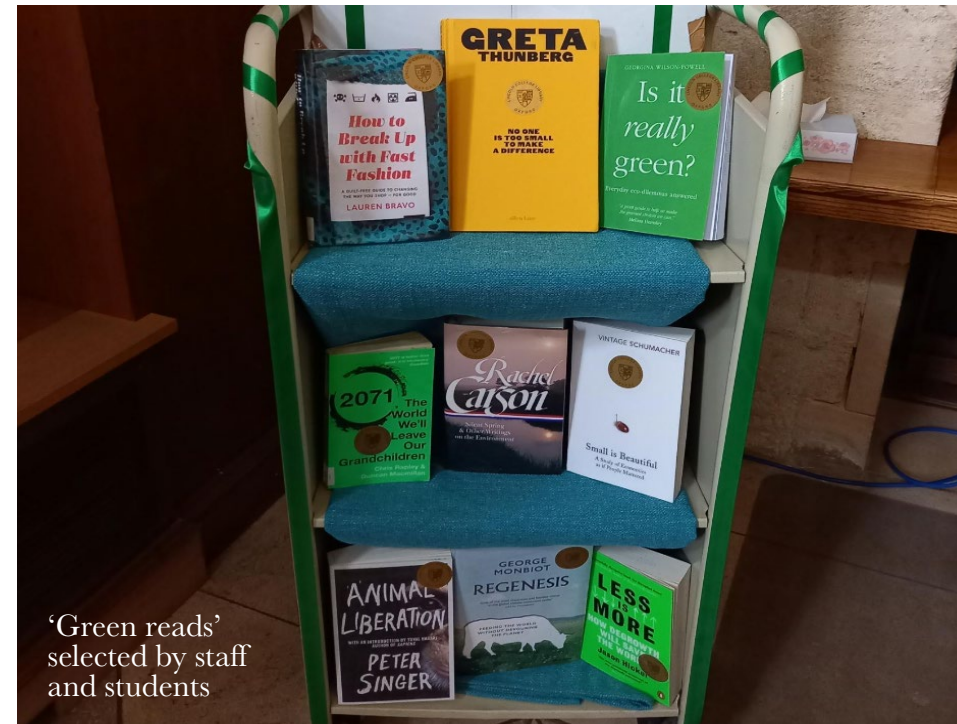
Peter said, “This is the first time any Oxford college has created a post solely dedicated to sustainability. By



Compost bins



Pond near Library



compost bins made from recycled plastic that will last for many years. Being able to compost most of our green waste will give us a good supply of annual mulch for our borders. These initiatives will help us save on emissions from haulage and plastic waste from previously having to buy it in. We have also invested in battery powered machinery and our gardener hopes to be operating petrol-free by the end of spring. In other news, we will see the delivery of Lincoln's electric van, which will replace the current diesel van, so that by the end of this year, gas will be our only scope 1 emissions contributor.

Our students have been keen to play their part. The JCR and MCR, for example, have been running a scheme to incentivise recycling to reduce the amount of general waste we produce. In sixth week of Hilary Term, Lincoln

“This is the first time any Oxford college has created a post solely dedicated to sustainability.”

students participated in the university-wide Green Action Week with various events from sustainable welfare teas, volunteering at a local nature reserve, and a *Pint of Sustainability* talk with alumnus Sandy Arbuthnott (1999). Our staff and students also selected some great green books to help us improve our sustainability since the more we know, the more considered our impact can be!

Amy Pryce-Jones, the JCR Environment and Ethics Rep, said, “I have greatly appreciated the motivation within college to improve sustainability with the Green Impact initiative and the Ecosync introduction, plus the hiring of Peter, our dedicated sustainability co-ordinator! It has been a pleasure to be involved and contribute to these schemes alongside my student-based work, including a recycling incentive scheme with the MCR.”



Ukrainian Scholarship Appeal

In response to the unprovoked invasion of Ukraine by Russia and the resulting refugee crisis this has caused, the College launched the Lincoln Ukraine Scholarship Appeal in May 2022, in conjunction with Oxford University's graduate scholarship scheme. It was heartwarming how quickly Lincoln alumni and friends responded to the appeal. Within a week, alumni and parents donated £23,000, allowing Lincoln to fully fund a graduate refugee scholar from Ukraine for the 2022-23 academic year. Thanks to the generosity of the Lincoln community, we welcomed graduate scholar, Diana Zhuromska, this academic year.



Diana, who is pursuing her Master's of Public Policy said, "As a recipient of the Lincoln Ukraine Scholarship Appeal, I am grateful to Lincoln College for providing me with the chance to pursue my passion for public service. I believe that studying at the University of Oxford will equip me with the skills and knowledge required to become a young, professional leader making a meaningful contribution towards Ukraine's continued development as an independent, democratic and prosperous country."

The College is fortunate to have been able to help another Ukrainian student, Denys Karlovskyi. A journalist from Ukraine, Denys received a [Sloane Robinson/Weidenfeld-Hoffman Scholarship](#) – part funded by the generosity of Lincoln College benefactors – that enabled him to come to Lincoln College to pursue his Master's of Public Policy at the Blavatnik School of Government. On the one-year anniversary of the Russian invasion, Denys wrote [a moving, but harrowing, account](#) of his experiences and fears for the safety of friends and family left behind.

Denys wrote, "As the year has passed by, I write these recollections with an immense sense of gratitude and honour to have this privilege to study at the world's leading university while my home country is ravaged badly by missile attacks, artillery fire and power cuts. In Oxford, I feel proud to be granted a life-changing

chance to acquire all the skills, knowledge and connections I need to help my country withstand the after-shocks of the war."

The Ukraine Appeal is now raising funds to support a Ukrainian graduate student at Lincoln for the next academic year. The Appeal has already seen a very successful start, due to the JCR hosting comedian Nick Revell (1976) in Michaelmas term, for a comedy fundraiser. As part of a University-wide scheme to provide graduate scholarships for refugees from Ukraine, Lincoln will support a scholar who is ordinarily resident in Ukraine and has suitable qualifications, for admission onto a one-year, full-time postgraduate taught course. This scheme will provide the scholar with free accommodation and meals within Lincoln, membership of the Middle Common Room, a stipend of £7,500, and full inclusion within College life. Importantly, the University will provide access to relevant welfare services and is waiving graduate course fees. In addition, Oxford's Refugee Studies Centre will act as a hub for refugee scholars, offering access to a programme of seminars and events, and mentorship.

You can [find out more on our website](#).



Samuel Alexander (1859-1938): Lincoln College's first Jewish fellow

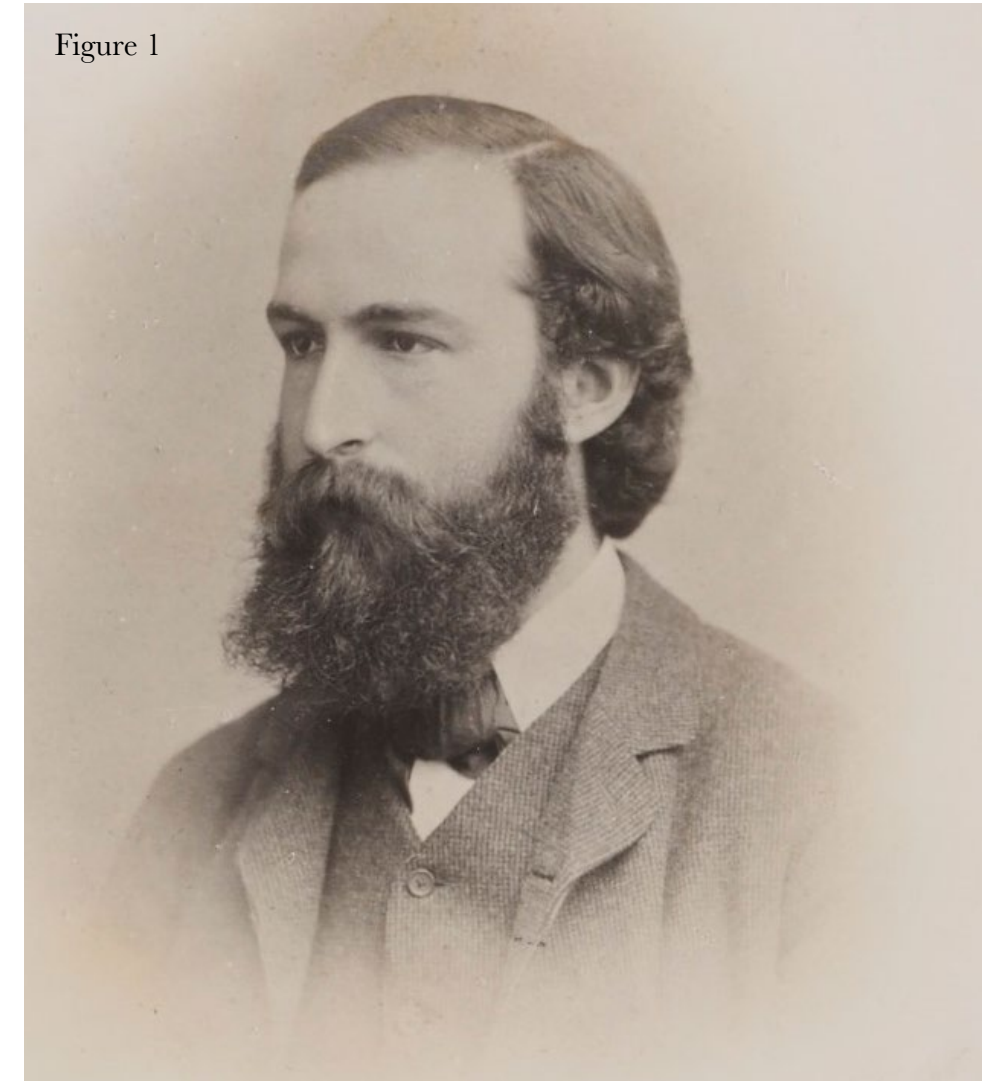
Samuel Alexander's election to a fellowship at Lincoln College in 1882 marked a significant moment in the remoulding of Oxford University which occurred during Britain's nineteenth-century age of reform. In a university which had been a closed Anglican society for undergraduates until 1854, and for tutors, professors, and heads of house until 1871, Alexander became the first Jewish fellow of an Oxford college (figure 1). Unlike the admission of Roman Catholics and Protestant nonconformists to the University, the arrival of Jewish students and fellows produced no architectural monument in the form of a new college or hall at Oxford. But Alexander's time at Lincoln has left significant traces in the College's archive, some photographs from which are reproduced here.

Born in Australia in 1859, Alexander had come to England in order to try for a classical scholarship at Balliol College, which he won in 1877. Five years later

he successfully put himself forwards for the fellowship examination, also in Classics, held in the Lincoln College hall on 21 April 1882. The Oxford University Gazette printed a notice of Alexander's election on 2 May (figure 2). After a probationary period of one year, the Rector of the College, Mark Pattison, admitted Alexander and his twin-probationer, John Edward King, to 'the rights and privileges of perpetual fellows' of Lincoln. The ageing Pattison's frail hand can be seen confirming them to this agreeable station in the College Register for 1883 (figure 3).

It was fitting, and probably not coincidental, that Alexander should have been elected to Lincoln at a period when Rector Pattison was one of the leading advocates of the secularisation of the University, and the cultivation of 'modern' subjects within the context of the emerging tutorial system. Alexander's own intellectual ambitions placed him at the avant garde of a university that was shedding its formerly ecclesiastical character, though not its engagement with the anxiety over the future of religion, and the prospects for maintaining a shared framework of moral reference, which marked Victorian intellectual culture. Teaching philosophy as part of the study of Classics at Oxford, Alexander broke with the Idealism which then predominated amongst the University's philosophers in favour of a more self-consciously scientific approach to ethics in his first book, *Moral Order and*

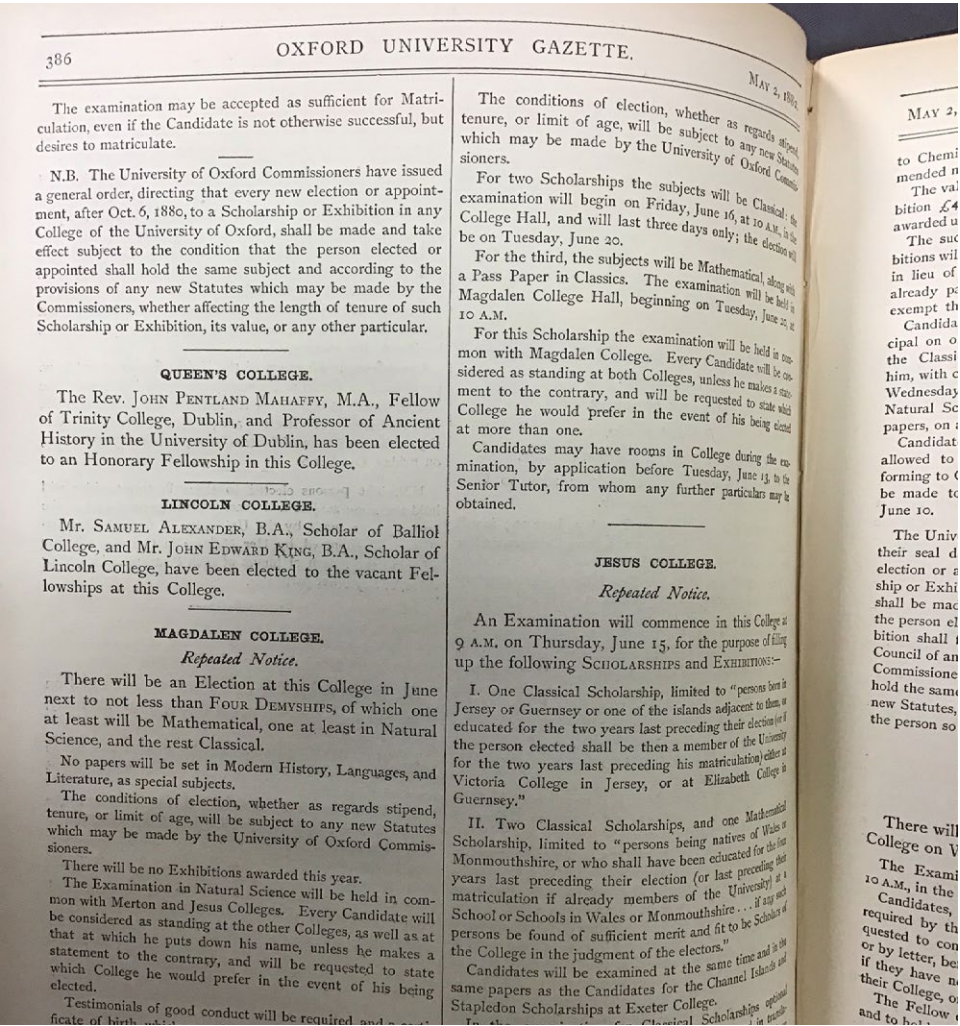
Figure 1



Progress (1889). He relatedly developed his interest in experimental psychology, studying the subject in Germany in the winter of 1890-91.

In search of new opportunities to pursue his increasingly scientific and realist approach to philosophy, Alexander left Lincoln to take up a position at the University of Manchester in 1893, where he remained until his retirement in 1924. There he would apply himself to renewing the intellectual vitality of metaphysical

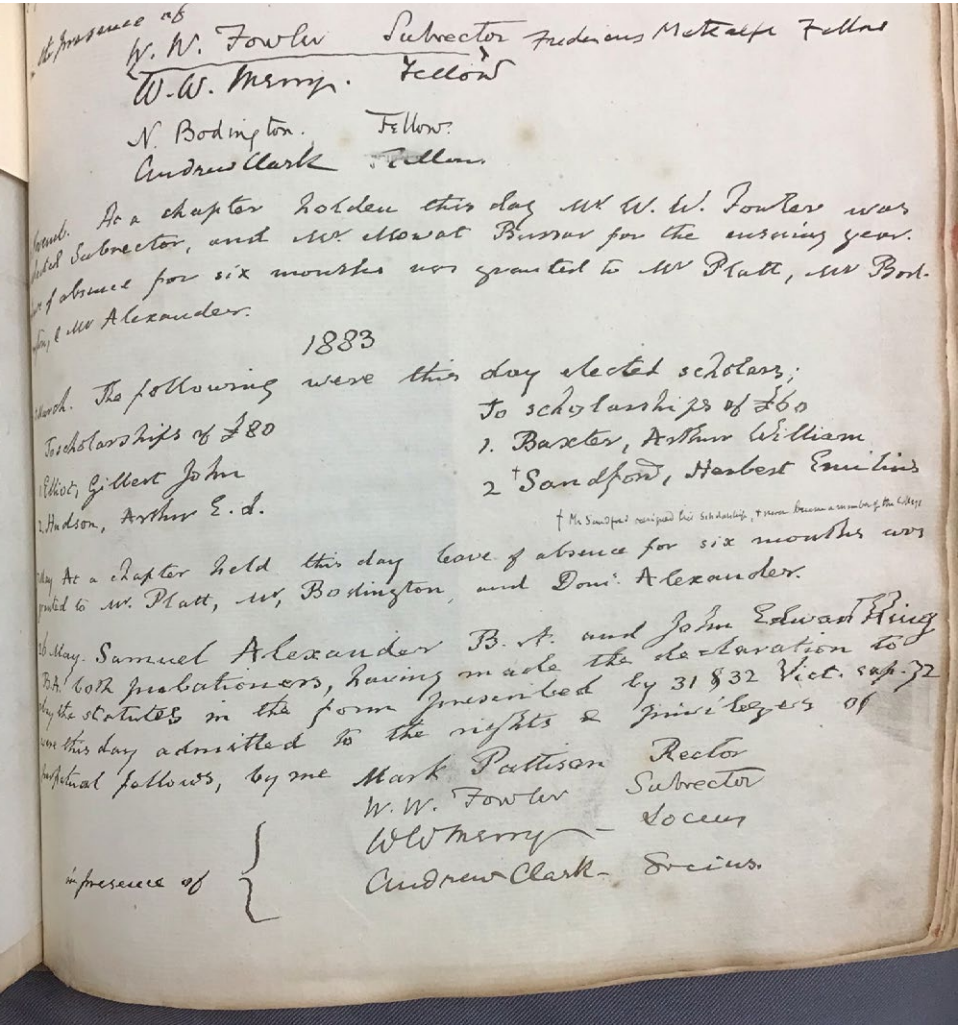
Figure 2



philosophy in the light of his interests in the philosophy of science, a work that reached its fullest expression in his *Space, Time, and Deity* (2 vols, 1920). Alexander also became a supporter of the Zionist movement, as he watched with sadness the intensification of political anti-Semitism on the continent. He died in Manchester in 1938, replete with academic honours, and was buried in the section reserved for the Jewish Reform Congregation at the Manchester Southern Cemetery.

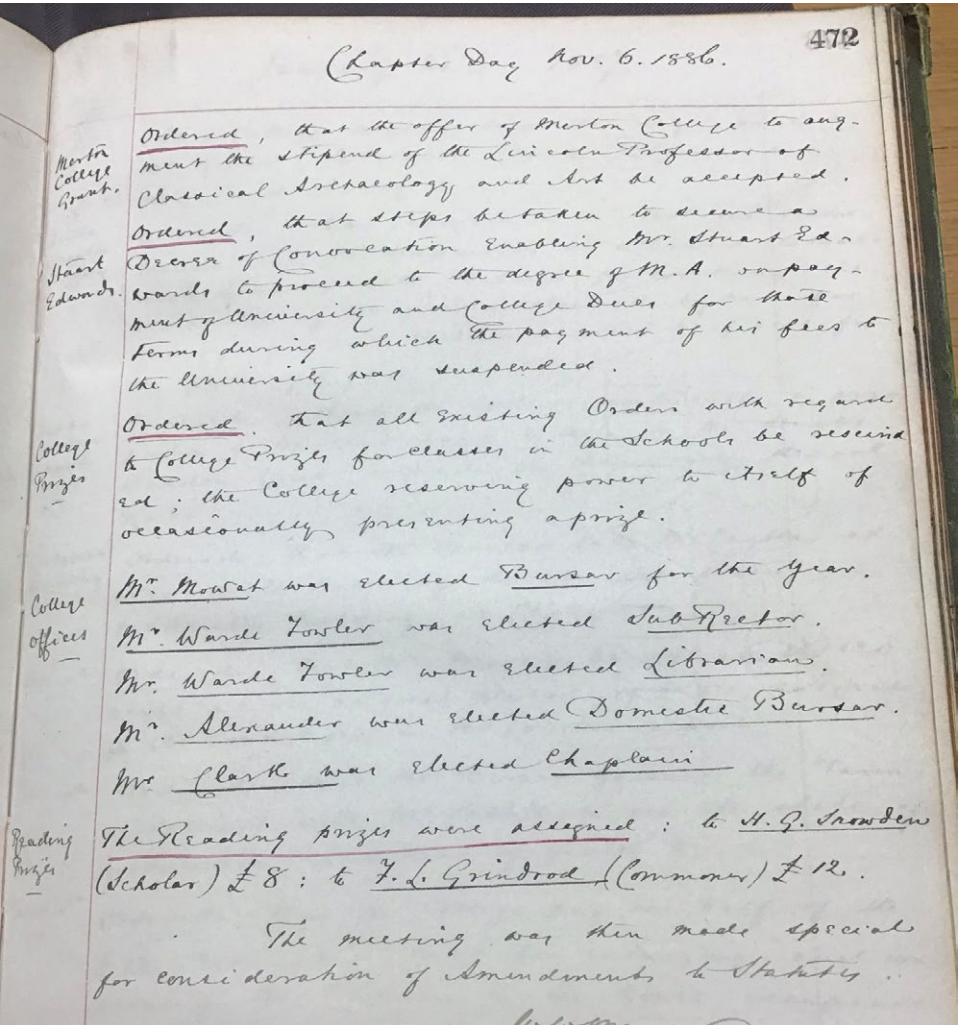
Despite his later distance from Oxford, Alexander

Figure 3



remained fond of Lincoln, and retained his associations with a college he had served energetically for ten years. Lincoln's Order Book records that he became Domestic Bursar on Chapter Day in November 1886, in the more amateurish times when such posts, which have since grown vastly in complexity, were filled by the College's academics on a rotating basis (figure 4). Long after his departure from Lincoln, one of Alexander's friends amongst the fellowship, the Roman historian, Warde Fowler, orchestrated his election to an Honorary Fellowship in 1918. Lincoln's

Figure 4



present-day members can look back with satisfaction on the constructive role which their society played in a significant episode of modern Britain's Jewish history.

A fuller version of this piece can be found on the [Opening Oxford: 1871-2021 website](#), which contains a series of essays dedicated to the consequences of the 1871 Universities Tests Act for religious diversity at the University.

Joshua Bennett, Darby Fellow in Modern History

Upcoming events