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RULES AND REGULATIONS

OF THE

OXFORD UNION SOCIETY.

CORRECTED TO JANUARY, 1837.



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RULES OF THE  
OXFORD UNION SOCIETY.

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OF THE SOCIETY.

I.

The Society shall be called "*The Oxford Union Society.*"

II.

The Meetings of the Society shall be held on Thursday Evenings during Term, at Eight in Winter and Nine in Summer; and shall begin as soon as residence shall have generally commenced.

III.

But a discretionary power shall be vested in the President to alter the appointed day, or hour, and to call extraordinary meetings of the Society.

## OF THE DEBATE.

## IV.

The Society shall have for its object the Discussion of any subject not immediately involving Theological questions.

## V.

No Member shall be allowed to alter a question which has been chosen, without the sanction of the President.

## VI.

The Debate shall commence within a quarter of an hour of the time of meeting; it being in the power of any Member to enforce an adjournment if less than fifteen Members are present.

## VII.

The question shall be put in form of a motion; when it shall be competent for any Member to move an amendment.

## VIII.

It shall not be lawful for the President to put a second amendment to the vote before the Society has disposed of the first.

## IX.

Any Member may move a rider either to a motion or amendment, but it shall be put to the vote afterwards as a distinct clause, if the motion or amendment to which it is annexed shall have been carried.

## X.

It shall be the duty of the President to refuse to put to the vote any amendment or rider which he shall not consider entirely relevant to the original motion.

## XI.

No Member shall be permitted to speak more than once during the Debate; the privilege of reply being reserved to the Mover of the question.

## XII.

It shall be lawful, however, for a Member to rise a second time during the Debate, or after the reply of the Mover, for the purpose of explanation; or of

correcting any *matter of fact* which may have been erroneously stated by any speaker. But in neither of these cases may any argument be introduced.

### XIII.

And during the course of a speech, with the consent of the speaker, *but not otherwise*, a Member may rise for either of these purposes, and with the same limitation.

### XIV.

The President shall be allowed to take part in the Debate on resigning his chair to the Librarian, Treasurer, or Secretary.

### XV.

When the numbers are equal, the President shall have the casting vote.

### XVI.

The President's decision shall be final on every question of order; and it shall be his duty to interfere, when there is a breach of order, although not appealed to by either party.



## PRIVATE BUSINESS.

## XVII.

Notices of motions may be given, but no recommendation of the Committee shall be received, nor any other business transacted, unless there be twenty Members present at the time it is introduced.

## XVIII.

Any Member wishing to introduce a motion on private business, shall give notice thereof before the Sunday previous to the Debate.

## XIX.

All measures recommended by the Committee shall be discussed without previous notice.

## XX.

Any motion may also be brought forward without notice, of which it was impossible that notice should have been given, and which has reference solely to the conduct or adjournment of the then meeting.

## XXI.

No motion shall be put to the vote, as a single question, which shall appear to the President to involve two or more distinct propositions, but each shall be brought forward separately.

## XXII.

No motion shall be brought forward more than once in the same Term.

## XXIII.

No motion shall be altered or withdrawn without the sanction of the majority of the Society.

## XXIV.

A decision to which the Society has come within the Term, can only be altered once in the same Term.

## XXV.

In the discussion of private business every Member may speak more than once.

## XXVI.

In the discussion of private business when the President addresses the House, some other Member of Committee, not the Secretary, shall on the motion of any Member take the chair.

## XXVII.

It shall not be out of order to address the President, requesting him to fine any Member. It shall not be out of order to ask questions of Officers and Members of Committee relative to their official duties. Discussions upon such points shall be regulated by the President.

## ADJOURNMENT.

## XXVIII.

Adjournment shall not be moved more than once in half an hour.

## XXIX.

Any Member may enforce an Adjournment at half past eleven.

## CANDIDATES.

## XXX.

Any Member may propose any Candidate who has resided at least one term in the University.

## XXXI.

Any Member having a Candidate to propose, shall write the Candidate's name, together with his own, on a board placed in a conspicuous part of the Reading Room for that purpose. Those whose names have been so placed before the previous Sunday, shall be ballotted for at each meeting, unless they exceed twelve, in which case the twelve first shall be ballotted for.

## XXXII.

No Candidate can be ballotted for unless the initials of his Christian name have been entered upon the boards.

## XXXIII.

The balloting for Candidates shall take place before the Debate.

## XXXIV.

No balloting box shall be carried round a second time, after it has once been opened.

## XXXV.

The election of Members shall be vested in the whole Society ; and one black ball in four shall exclude.

## XXXVI.

The President shall give public and immediate notice of the names of such Candidates as are elected.

## XXXVII.

No Candidate shall be proposed at more than two meetings in each term.

## HONORARY MEMBERS.

## XXXVIII.

All Members of the Cambridge Union Society, and of the Historical Society of Dublin, are Members of the Society. This privilege does not extend to those Gentlemen who having been Members of the Universities of Cambridge or Dublin, shall *hereafter* become Resident Members of the University of Oxford ; but if such Member shall be a Graduate, or shall have otherwise paid the full amount of Subscription required by the Rules of the Society to which he formerly belonged, he shall not be liable to the payment of the £5. on election, required by Rule XXXIX.

## XXXIX.

Graduates shall be ballotted for as in rule XXXI, and if elected shall pay £5. and become Honorary Members.

## XL.

Every Member becomes an Honorary Member on leaving the University, or at the commencement of the Term in which his name appears on the list of Candidates for the second Examination, provided he has paid at least £5. in subscriptions.

## XLI.

The President, Secretary, Librarian, and Treasurer, shall have the power of introducing two strangers to the Debate, and the other Members of the Committee one each. The mover of the question chosen for debate, whether on the Committee or not, shall also have the privilege of introducing two strangers.

## XLII.

Any Member may introduce to the Debate any Member of the University who has not resided one Term, or any stranger who is not a Member of the University. All Masters of Arts are privileged to attend the Debate.

## XLIII.

A book shall be kept in the Debating Room, in which every Member shall write the name of any stranger he may introduce to the Debate. And if any Member fail to enter the name, he shall incur the same fine as if he had introduced a stranger contrary to the law.

## XLIV.

A Book shall be kept in the Reading Room in which shall be entered the names of all strangers introduced by any Member to the Reading Room who are not Members of the University, or are non-resident Masters of Arts: and such strangers shall be admitted to the Reading Room during their stay in Oxford without further introduction.

## PAYMENTS.

## XLV.

The Treasurer shall give notice to every Member, immediately on his election, of the sum due from him to the Society as entrance money.

## XLVI.

When a Candidate is elected, he shall, on receiving notice to that effect, pay before the second meeting

after his election, in addition to the Terminal subscription, one pound—in default of which payment his election shall become void. The Terminal subscription of a Member elected at any one of the four first meetings in Term is one pound ; if he be elected after the fourth meeting, ten shillings ; but if at the last meeting in Term the entrance money only is required.

#### XLVII.

The regular Subscription for each Term shall be twenty shillings ; but no subscription shall be required of any Member, who shall reside less than one full week in the Term.

#### XLVIII.

Every Member, who is in Oxford before the Sunday previous to the third meeting in Term, shall be bound to pay his subscription before the third meeting ; and all Members not included in this provision shall pay their subscription before the second meeting after their arrival in Oxford ; under penalty in either case of a fine of ten shillings.

#### XLIX.

The Treasurer shall give notice a fortnight before the last meeting in Term to all Members, who owe



subscriptions or fines, provided they be in Oxford. And the names of *all* Members, who have not discharged their whole debt before the last meeting in Term, shall be struck off the list by the President, who shall communicate the same to the House. The Names of Members so struck off shall be printed and placed in the Reading Room.

L.

The President shall state these rules in his Circular letter announcing the first meeting in each Term.

LI.

No part of the funds of the Society shall be applied to the support of any public subscription whatever.

LII.

The names of all Members, who may be proposed to fill any office, shall be submitted to the Society on the proper day of election in the form of a motion, of which the usual notice shall be given. And which shall have precedence of all other private business. Such motions shall not be severally put to the vote, but when the whole have been gone through, the names of the gentlemen nominated shall be read from the chair; and the decision of the Society shall be

taken by secret suffrage, in which the Members so nominated, who shall have the largest number of votes, shall be elected.

## THE COMMITTEE.

### LIII.

The affairs of the Society shall be managed by a Committee of ten.

### LIV.

No Member shall be eligible to be on the Committee until he has been in the Society during the space of one Term, and taken part at least once in the public Debates.

### LV.

The Committee shall retire from office at the third meeting of each Term, and a new one be elected by secret suffrage. Each Member present shall give in a list of Members, not exceeding eight. The Secretary and Librarian shall be elected by the Committee from their own body. The six others, with the President and Treasurer, shall complete the number of the Committee.

## LVI.

If in voting for a new Committee any Member send in a list of more than eight, he shall be considered as having voted for the first eight on his list.

## LVII.

When a vacancy occurs in the Committee a new Member shall be elected by secret suffrage.

## LVIII.

The Committee shall meet once every week, and three shall form a quorum, of whom one of the officers must be one: their office shall be,

1. To select in succession Questions for Debate, of which written notice shall be given three weeks before their discussion.

2. To consider all subjects referred to their arbitration, and report thereon to the House.

3. To examine the votes of the Society in election of the Committees.

## LIX.

The President shall have the power of calling extraordinary meetings of the Committee.

## LX.

The Committee shall have the power to order pamphlets, and any Nos. of Lardner's Cabinet Library and Cyclopædia; of the Edinburgh Cabinet Library; of the Family Library; of the publications of the Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge; and of Constable's Miscellany; for the use of the Reading Room.

## LXI.

The choice of Tradesmen to serve the Society shall be wholly vested in the Committee.

## LXII.

If a Member of the Committee shall refuse to transact any business assigned to him, such refusal shall be equivalent to the resignation of his office.



## THE PRESIDENT.

### LXIII.

1. It shall be the duty of the President to interfere, when any words are spoken in the Society, which in his judgment impute dishonourable motives, or conduct, or are otherwise injurious to the personal honour and character of any Member of the Society ; and the Member so called on by the President shall be bound immediately to explain.

2. All explanations shall be received without question as to the real meaning and intention of the Speaker, but it shall be in the power of the President (if he shall deem it necessary) after such explanation, to direct the Speaker to withdraw the expression objected to.

3. It shall be competent to any Member to appeal to the President for his interference, whenever any words may be spoken which in the opinion of such Member are objectionable. But no words shall be questioned except at the time they are used, and in the manner directed by the foregoing Rules.

## LXIV.

The President shall be elected on the second meeting in each Term, by the majority of the Society ; but shall not enter into office until after the third meeting, simultaneously with the new Committee.

## LXV.

All decisions of the President shall be subject to appeal, by a motion brought forward after the expiration of his office ; but notice of such appeal must be given within a week of the decision complained of, and shall be placed by the Secretary in a conspicuous part of the Reading Room.

## LXVI.

The absence of the President for two successive meetings, without a sufficient reason being laid before the House, shall be considered as a virtual resignation of his office.

## THE SECRETARY.

## LXVII.

The Secretary shall minute the proceedings of the Society, and shall have the charge of all its records.

## LXVIII.

The Secretary shall place in some conspicuous part of the Reading Room, written notices of the questions chosen for debate, and of those private motions of which notice has been given at the previous meeting.

## THE TREASURER.

## LXIX.

The Treasurer's office is Terminal, and he shall be elected by the majority of the Society, at the first meeting in each Term.

## LXX.

The Treasurer shall keep a regular account of the receipts and disbursements, and he shall conduct the business of the Reading Room.

**LXXI.**

The Treasurer shall place in a conspicuous part of the Reading Room a list of all fines and subscriptions due, with the date at which they became due.

**LXXII.**

The Treasurer shall make a financial statement to the Society at the last meeting in each Term.

**THE LIBRARIAN.**

**LXXIII.**

The Librarian shall transact all business relating to the Books and Periodical Publications ordered by the Society.

**LXXIV.**

The Librarian shall be in every respect on the same footing as the Secretary and Treasurer.



## THE LIBRARY AND READING ROOM.

### LXXV.

The Librarian on entering into office in each Term shall receive from the Treasurer the sum of £20 to be applied to the purposes of a Library Fund.

### LXXVI.

It shall be the duty of the Librarian to consider the best manner of applying the Library Fund, and to keep account of its expenditure.

### LXXVII.

A book shall be kept in the Reading Room in which any Members may enter the names of such Books as they may think desirable for the Society.

### LXXVIII.

No Member but the Librarian shall have the power to propose Books for the Society ; and it shall be necessary for him to give notice of his intention before the Sunday previous to the Debate. But it shall be in the power of any other Member to propose Reviews, Magazines, and Newspapers ; provided the motion do not extend to volumes already formed.

## LXXIX.

But it shall be in the power of the Committee, if they should think fit, after giving notice of their intention before the Sunday previous to the Debate, to recommend the Society to purchase any of the Books whose names are entered in the Book above mentioned.

## LXXX.

Any Member desiring the use of a Book at his own Rooms may receive it upon application to the Society's Servant, at the Reading Room. But if he take it without seeing the Servant or leaving notice for the Librarian, he shall incur a fine of 5s.

## LXXXI.

The Society's Servant shall keep a Book, in which he shall enter the titles of all Books borrowed, the Names of the borrowers, and the dates at which they were sent and returned, together with the Names of any Members desiring to borrow a Book which has been already taken out.

## LXXXII.

No Member shall have more than one volume out at the same time, or detain it longer than a week, if a claim is made for it as provided for in the preceding Rule; but, if no such claim be made, the Member who is in possession of the book may retain it for another week: but in no case shall any book be kept out longer than a fortnight.

## LXXXIII.

In the Easter vacation, however, any Member may have two Books out at the same time; in the Christmas three; and in the long vacation five.

## LXXXIV.

The Servant shall deliver Books at the rooms of Members desiring the use of them, *only* between the hours of Ten and Eleven, of Two and Three, and of Eight and Nine.

## LXXXV.

At some one of these hours the Servant shall call at the rooms of any Member, who has had a Book from the Library in his possession for a week, in order to receive and bring it back to the Library: but he shall not in the absence of the Member take such Book from his rooms, unless he shall have been specially directed by him to do so.

## LXXXVI.

If the Servant shall call at any Member's rooms, and shall not find him at home, he shall leave a notice, and in no case shall the Servant call a second time for the same Book. But every Member, who has received the notice before Eight o'clock, shall be bound to return the Book the same night: if after Eight, before Eleven the next morning. If he neglect to do so, a notice shall be sent him by the Librarian, requiring him to return it within a day after receipt of the notice on pain of a fine of five shillings: and every Member who receives such notice, shall pay a fine of one shilling: for every additional week which he may keep it, he shall pay a fine of £1; and if he do not return it within a year, his name shall be struck off the list of the Society. Absence from Oxford shall be considered no excuse whatever.

## LXXXVII.

Every Member shall be held responsible for the safety of all Books which he may borrow: and for any material injury the Committee shall authorise the President to inflict a fine according to the value of the Book; or a fine of one shilling for smaller injuries.

## LXXXVIII.

All Fines that have relation to the Library shall be exacted by the Librarian; but shall be subject to an appeal to a General Meeting. And all monies hence proceeding shall be applied to the use of the Library.

## LXXXIX.

All Books shall be returned on or before the day of the last meeting in every Term, on pain of a fine of £1.

## XC.

The following Books are always confined to the Reading Room.

All ATLASSES and MAPS.  
 All NEWSPAPERS, bound or unbound.  
 All REVIEWS, MAGAZINES, or PAMPHLETS, unbound.  
 All JOURNALS, REGISTERS, LISTS, and CALENDARS.  
 ANNUAL REGISTER.  
 BAYLE'S DICTIONNAIRE HISTORIQUE, with CHAUFFEPIE'S  
 CONTINUATION.  
 BLACKSTONE'S COMMENTARIES.  
 BOYER'S DICTIONNAIRE FRANCOIS.  
 BURN'S JUSTICE.  
 CAMDEN'S BRITANNICA.  
 CAMPBELL'S POLITICAL SURVEY OF GREAT BRITAIN.  
 CARLISLE'S TOPOGRAPHICAL DICTIONARY.  
 CHALMERS' BIOGRAPHICAL DICTIONARY.  
 CRUTTWELL'S GAZETTEER.  
 ENCYCLOPÆDIA BRITANNICA.  
 ENCYCLOPÆDIA METROPOLITANA, except the volumes contain-  
 ing History and Biography.  
 JOHNSON'S DICTIONARY.  
 LIBER ECCLESIASTICUS.  
 M'CULLOCH'S DICTIONARY OF COMMERCE.  
 MIRROR OF PARLIAMENT.  
 PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES.  
 PARLIAMENTARY HISTORY.  
 PATERSON'S ROADS.  
 RAPIN'S HISTORY OF ENGLAND.  
 SCOTT'S BORDER ANTIQUITIES.  
 SMITH'S WEALTH OF NATIONS.  
 UNIVERSITY POLL BOOK.

**XCI.**

The Committee shall have the power at any time of recommending to the Society the addition to this List of any Books they may think fit.

**XCII.**

The Librarian also shall add to this List at any time such Books as he may conceive to be much wanted for reference upon the subject of an approaching Debate. And the Committee shall have power at their next Meeting to annul, confirm, or extend all such additions.

**XCIII.**

No Book shall be allowed to circulate among the Members for the first week after its purchase by the Society.

**XCIV.**

The bound volumes of Reviews, Magazines, and Pamphlets, may be taken out of the Reading Room for the space of one day only during Term ; but in the Vacations they may be taken out in the same way as other Books.

## XCV.

In the long vacation there shall be no Books whatever confined to the Reading Room.

## XCVI.

The Reading Room shall be open between the hours of Nine A. M. and Ten P. M. ; and no Member shall on any pretext be allowed to enter it after the Servants have left.

## XCVII.

The Reading Room shall be closed on Sundays.



## FINES.

## XCVIII.

The sole authority of inflicting Fines shall be vested in the President : but it shall be imperative on him to inflict them when he considers any of the offence specified to have been committed : nor can they be remitted but by an appeal to the Society at the expiration of his office ; subject, however, to the limitations of Rule LXV.

On any Member being fined by the President for being out of order, the specified fact of disorder shall be entered on the Journals of the House, in order that the same may be fully considered, if an appeal should be afterwards brought forward,

£. s. d.

1. Any Member whose question is selected,  
not opening the Debate in person or  
by proxy . . . . . 2 0 0
  
2. Any Member giving notice of a private  
motion, and not appearing to support  
the same either by himself or proxy :  
(this Penalty not to apply to Members  
who may not be resident in Oxford) . 0 10 0

£. s. d.

3. Any Member persisting in what the President has declared to be disorderly conduct . . . . . 1 0 0
  
4. Any Member introducing to the Debate a Bachelor, or Undergraduate of the University who has resided more than one Term . . . . . 1 0 0
  
5. Any Member introducing to the Reading Room any Member of the University except a non-resident Master of Arts . . . . . 1 0 0
  
6. Any Member convicted by a majority of the Society of a breach of any of the Standing Rules . . . . . 1 0 0
  
7. Any Member of the Committee absenting himself therefrom without sufficient excuse, or not attending within a quarter of an hour of the time appointed for its sitting, unless he shall have already served on the Committee three Terms, or filled one of the offices, provided that he does not then hold any of them 0 5 0

£. s. d.

8. Any Member taking out or intercepting  
any Newspapers belonging to the  
Reading Room . . . . . 0 5 0
9. Any Member taking out or intercepting  
any other Publication belonging to  
the Reading Room . . . . . 1 0 0
10. Any Member defacing or damaging the  
property of the Society, or its Reading  
Room . . . . . 0 5 0
11. Any Member *wantonly* defacing the  
property of the Society; [under this  
head shall be considered the writing  
*irrelevant* questions, or *any* questions  
under fictitious signatures] . . . . . 2 0 0
12. Any Member proposing a Candidate  
who has not resided at least one Term  
in the University . . . . . 2 0 0