FIRST REPORT

OF THE

Glamorgan Public Library,

ALSO

CATALOGUE OF THE BOOKS,

WITH

THE RULES AND REGULATIONS

OF

THE INSTITUTION.

ESTABLISHED 29TH MARCH, 1862.

Tasmania:

PRATT AND SON, PRINTERS, ELIZABETH STREET, HOBART TOWN.

1863.
At a Public Meeting of the Subscribers to this Library, held Friday, 29th March, 1862, the following Rules were adopted:

1. That the affairs of the Library be managed by a President, Secretary, and Executive Committee, annually elected by the members.

2. That the members have authority to appoint a Local Manager for each of the following places; viz.:
   - Swansea
   - Little Swanport
   - Gala Kirk
   - Apsley
   - Bicheno

3. That the members shall annually elect an Executive Committee of three members, whose duty it shall be to select books, and to perform all the executive work necessary for the proper management of the Library.

4. The members shall also annually appoint a President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Librarian.

5. All elections for Officers shall take place at Swansea on the last Friday in March in each year.

6. Any person who has paid his subscription in advance shall be entitled to all the privileges of membership.

7. The rates of Subscription are as follows:
   - Life Member: £10 10s.
   - Annual Member (1st Class): 1 10s.
   - Annual Member (2nd Class): 0 10s.

8. The subscriptions shall become due on the 1st March in each year.

9. There shall be five Depôts for Books—Swansea, Bicheno, Little Swanport, Gala Kirk, and Apsley.
RULES AND REGULATIONS.

10. The Local Manager in each place shall be answerable for passing the boxes.
11. The order in which the boxes shall be sent shall be regulated by the Secretary.
12. No member shall have in his or her possession more than two volumes at one time.
13. Books may be kept fourteen days; but any member keeping a volume beyond that time shall be fined at the rate of twopence per volume for every day in excess.
14. That all Newspapers lie on the table a week after the arrival of the new ones, and be then filed; and that all Periodicals be on the table fourteen days after their arrival, and be then circulated as Books.
15. Any person damaging Books, or making marginal notes, shall be bound to restore to the Library the value in money of the books injured.
16. Any person who shall sit down in the Public Library to read any Books, Magazines, or Newspapers, shall, before leaving the room, be careful to put all things where be found them.
17. Members borrowing or returning Books must see that the number is properly entered in the register.
18. A Book shall be kept on the Reading-room table, in which members may suggest the names of any Books they may wish to see introduced into the Library.
19. That a member of the 1st class shall have two votes; of the second class one vote.
20. That the Library be opened on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, from 1 to 4 p.m., for the exchange of Books; and that the Reading-room be opened every day from 10 to 4 p.m.
21. No book shall be lent by a subscriber to a non-subscriber.
22. It shall be in the power of the Executive Committee to expel any member who shall infringe any of the foregoing rules. The Secretary and Librarian shall be members of the Executive Committee ex-officio.

REPORT
OF THE
GLAMORGAN PUBLIC LIBRARY,
1862-3.

That a Public Library should be established in this district, had long been the wish of several of its influential inhabitants. To accomplish such an undertaking, so as to distribute its usefulness fairly, was a problem so difficult to solve, that the idea was from time to time laid aside as impracticable; at last a few individuals about Swansea succeeded in forming the "Swansea Book Club," thus introducing, amongst themselves, the circulation of several periodicals.

The members of the Book Club, not satisfied however with the benefit accruing solely to themselves from this step, and feeling desirous to extend these benefits, determined upon canvassing the district to ascertain to what extent a Public Library, based upon liberal principles, would be supported; the result of this appeal showed that the inhabitants generally hailed the establishment of such an Institution with great satisfaction, and promised their support.

Encouraged by so favorable a reception of their proposal, the Swansea Book Club invited the inhabitants to a public meeting at Swansea, on 28th March, 1862; at this meeting it was resolved to establish a Library, to be designated the "GLAMORGAN PUBLIC LIBRARY." The property of the Institution was vested in Trustees, a President, Secretary, Librarian, and Treasurer, and an Executive Committee were appointed; Rules were drawn up and agreed to, and it now only depended upon the Committee to bring the Institution into action.

The Committee obtained permission of the Municipal Council to make a temporary use of the Council Chamber, as a Reading Room;
they then applied for the Government bonus granted in aid of Public Libraries.

These matters were easily accomplished; the Committee had, however, difficulties to deal with they did not foresee, causing repeated delays in opening the Library.

One of the difficulties, where to obtain suitable books, caused much consideration and enquiry. Applications were made to Hobart Town and Melbourne; and at one time it was contemplated to send to England for them, as affording the best and cheapest market; but, in the end, a liberal arrangement was made with Walch & Sons, of Hobart Town; many of the books ordered from them had to be sent for to England, and some have not yet arrived; books have also been purchased from W. Westcott, and the Depot of the Religious Tract Society.

The Committee were anxious to make such a selection of works as would not only please all parties, but would confer a character of superiority on the Library, and lead its members into profitable and useful, as well as entertaining reading; they therefore found great difficulty in selecting from works of fiction. Another difficulty arose in the selection of newspapers and periodicals. As the Government bonus is granted on the condition of having a Public Reading Room, it was necessary that it should be furnished with periodical literature; the Committee have found it necessary to make several changes in this respect; and hope that it will soon be placed on a footing of extended usefulness to the members.

The Government wishes in aiding the funds of Public Libraries, that their Reading Rooms should be kept open, and more than that—that they should be open to the Public; this we have not done, although it is to be wished, that those individuals who are not in circumstances to pay a subscription of ten shillings per annum to the funds, could be admitted. For what is the view taken in the establishment of Public Libraries, and why does Government so willingly lend its aid in their support, but to place within the reach of everyone books such as few could afford to purchase, and to aid in distributing literature and scientific knowledge amongst the humbler classes; thus raising them in intellectual attainments, expanding their minds, and enabling them to comprehend the various occurrences going forward in the world, the utility of scientific discoveries to the world in general, and dispensing narrow and contracted views of men and things.

The Committee found, soon after the Reading Room was opened, that many members could not, in consequence of their duties, visit the Library during the day, and to meet this they resolved to try the experiment of opening the Room in the evening; accordingly,
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