

JONES, JOHN ('Leander') (1575 - 1636), Benedictine monk and scholar

Name: John Jones
Pseudonym: Leander
Date of birth: 1575
Date of death: 1636
Parent: Janet wraig Thomas ap John
Parent: Thomas ap John
Gender: Male
Occupation: Benedictine monk and scholar
Area of activity: Religion; Scholarship and Languages
Author: Emyr Gwynne Jones

Born at Llanfrynach, Brecknock, probably son of Thomas ap John of T Mawr, and Janet his wife. Brought up as a Protestant, he proceeded in 1591 from Merchant Taylors ' to S. John's College, Oxford, of which he was elected a Fellow in 1593. On account of his Romanist leanings he was deprived of his Fellowship in 1595-6, and left Oxford to study theology with the Jesuits at Valladolid, having in the meantime been received into the Roman Catholic Church.

There, in October 1599, he joined the Benedictine Order, taking the name 'Leander a Sancto Marino.' A doctor in divinity of the University of Salamanca, a brilliant scholar, and a great Oriental linguist, his advancement within the Order was rapid, and from 1619 to 1621 he officiated as the first President General of the English Benedictines. Early in 1634 he came to England under safe conduct to discuss with archbishop Laud the question of the reunion of the Anglican and Roman churches.

He died in London 17 December 1636, and was buried in the Chapel Royal, Somerset House.

Author

Emyr Gwynne Jones, (1911 - 1972)

Sources

Oxford Dictionary of National Biography and authorities cited therein

T. P. Ellis, *The Welsh Benedictines of the terror* (Newtown 1936), 35-42, 132-43

T. P. Ellis, *The Catholic Martyrs of Wales, 1535-1680*, 178

G. Albion, *Charles I and the Court of Rome A study in 17th century diplomacy* (London 1935), 145-7

Further reading

[John \(Leander of St Martin\) Jones \[alias Scudamore\]](#), Monks in Motion website, viewed 18 December 2019

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