John Cadwallader Evans came up to Jesus College in 1872, having been educated at the Friar’s School, Bangor, and Dolgellau Grammar School. He was a scholar of the College, and took his BA in 1877. He was awarded a Second in Classics Mods in 1875, and a Fourth in Classics Finals in 1877.

These notebooks were given to the College by Eric Brooks in December 2014 and assigned the Accession Number 125 in the spring of 2016. They provide very rare examples of work done by undergraduates in the third quarter of the nineteenth century.


Two notebooks by John Cadwallader Evans containing passages of English verse and prose with translations into Latin and Greek prose and verse written out on the facing pages. Some of JC:P66/MS1/1 was written when Evans was still at school, but all of JC:P66/MS1/2 was written when he was at Oxford. Some of the translations, especially after Evans has come up to Oxford, are credited to other individuals, as if these were examples of good work for Evans to copy out and learn from.

Several passages are drawn from a collection of passages for translation abbreviated as “Fol. Cent.” or “Fol. Sil.” These are references to two textbooks by Hubert Ashton Holden, namely Foliorum centuriae and Foliorum silvula, both first published in 1852 and regularly reprinted. Foliorum centuriae was a collection of passages in prose, and Foliorum silvula a collection of passages in verse. Sometimes Evans writes out the whole passage from Holden’s textbook; sometimes he only gives a Latin or Greek version. This therefore provides rare evidence for which textbooks were being taught from at Jesus College in the 1870s.