Andrew Clark (1856-1922) came up to Balliol College in 1875, but migrated to Lincoln College the following year, on being elected to a scholarship there. In 1880 he was elected Fellow of Lincoln College, where he served as tutor and chaplain until in 1894 he moved to a Lincoln College living at Great Leighs, Essex. He remained at Great Leighs for the rest of his life, although he regularly revisited Oxford, and devoted much time to scholarly work, publishing among other things important editions of some of the writings of Anthony Wood for the Oxford Historical Society. More on Clark’s life and work can be found in his entry in the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography. Most of his papers are now in the Bodleian Library.

In 1912 and 1913, Clark devoted himself to examining the early Buttery Books of Jesus College, and producing these notebooks which analyse the College’s members in detail. At present, there is no evidence in the College archives to explain why he chose to do this (whether, for example, he was planning to publish anything on the basis of this work). The sequence ends with the Buttery Books for 1799, although a later volume, for 1800-13, is in the Bodleian (see below). It is not known whether Clark chose to end his survey there, or whether he planned to continue, but failed to do so. It is also not known when the books were given to the College, but the letter found in JC:P150/MS1/4 suggests that they arrived here during Clark’s lifetime.

Buttery Books record the weekly expenditure for members of Colleges in the buttery. As such, for many Colleges they provide the most complete evidence for who was regarded as a member of a College (and, indeed who was resident in a College at any given time).

In these notebooks Clark aimed to list the names of all members of the College whom he found mentioned in a Buttery Book in the last week in December in each year, giving details of, among other things, their matriculation date and status in the College. He also supplied statistical tables analysing the data assembled in his notes. One important editorial decision was that members who were regularly in residence in a given year have their names written in Clark’s books in black ink, but members who were usually absent have their names written in red ink. Clark’s work is still valuable as a source for the membership of Jesus College.

The Bodleian Library holds several volumes compiled by Clark in relation to his work on Jesus College. Ms Top. Oxon. c. 260 is a list of members of Jesus College from 1800-13, which appears to follow on directly from JC:P150/MS1/9, and MSS. Top. Oxon. e. 128-143 and e. 197-9 are nineteen volumes of what appear to be Clark’s rough notes on the Buttery Books from 1638-1814, which he drew on to create his fair copies.

Catalogued in December 2017.

JC:P150/MS1/1

Notebook of Andrew Clark in which he records lists of names of members of Jesus College found in the extant Buttery Books for 1637-68. This book opens with some notes made by Clark on general features of Buttery Books, as well as details of his own editorial policies in the notebooks.
JC:P150 NOTEBOOKS OF ANDREW CLARK ON THE BUTTERY BOOKS OF JESUS COLLEGE 1637-1799 (COMPILED 1912-13)

JC:P150/MS1/2  n.d. (1912/13?)
Notebook of Andrew Clark in which he records lists of names of members of Jesus College found in the extant Buttery Books for 1669-83.

JC:P150/MS1/3  n.d. (1912/13?)
Notebook of Andrew Clark in which he records lists of names of members of Jesus College found in the extant Buttery Books for 1684-1700.

JC:P150/MS1/4  Oct 1913
Notebook of Andrew Clark in which he records lists of names of members of Jesus College found in the extant Buttery Books for 1701-16. Enclosed in this book is a letter from Clark to William Hawker Hughes (F. 1873-1919; Bursar 1895-1919) in which Clark apologises that he has been unable to work on his lists for a while. This book has been damaged by damp at some point, but the text is still legible.

JC:P150/MS1/5  n.d. (1913?)
Notebook of Andrew Clark in which he records lists of names of members of Jesus College found in the extant Buttery Books for 1717-24, with statistical tables for 1717-42. Like JC:P150/MS1/4 above, this book has been damaged by damp, but the text is still legible.

JC:P150/MS1/6  Oct 1913
Notebook of Andrew Clark in which he records lists of names of members of Jesus College found in the extant Buttery Books for 1725-34 (Clark’s tables covering this period are in JC:P150/MS1/5 above). Like JC:P150/MS1/4-5 above, this book has been damaged by damp, but the text is still legible.

JC:P150/MS1/7  Nov 1913
Notebook of Andrew Clark in which he records lists of names of members of Jesus College found in the extant Buttery Books for 1735-57, with statistical tables for 1743-65.

JC:P150/MS1/8  n.d. (1913?)
Notebook of Andrew Clark in which he records lists of names of members of Jesus College found in the extant Buttery Books for 1758-79, with statistical tables for 1758-92.

JC:P150/MS1/9  n.d. (1913?)
Notebook of Andrew Clark in which he records lists of names of members of Jesus College found in the extant Buttery Books for 1780-99, with statistical tables for 1793-9.