Peter Bleackley (1915-2002) came up to Jesus College in 1933 to read Modern Languages, getting a Second in 1936. He went to work for the Colonial Office, spending time in Tanganyika, the Caribbean, and Uganda, before retiring in 1961. He then returned to Oxford in to read for a Dip. Ed, after which he became a schoolmaster in the UK, teaching at Shiplake College until his retirement in 1978.

A letter in OM.EMQ.23 from the then Home Bursar and Editor of the Jesus College Record, John De’Ath, shows that the photocopied manuscript was in the College’s possession by September 1997, at which time a typescript copy was made. At the time, no one knew when or in what circumstances the manuscript reached the College.

Catalogued in January 2019.

May 1942
Photocopy of Chapters 3-5 of a memoir written by Peter Bleackley (matr. 1933) in South Africa when on health leave from Tanganyika. Subjects discussed included rugger, cricket, rowing (which Bleackley disliked), his study of French and German, dining in Hall (and sconcing), the Junior Common Room, Bleackley’s scouts, a production of Aristophanes’s “The Birds” by the Jesus College Dramatic Society, the Oxford Union, his rustication for a term (which period he spent studying in Hamburg), the Elizabethane Society, and the Henry Vaughan Society.

Sep 1997
Typescript copy of the preceding manuscript, typed at Jesus College for John De’Ath.