

JESUS COLLEGE OXFORD

JC:P211

LATIN POEM, 1628

No accompanying documentation explains how this document came to Jesus College. It was found in the Library, where it had been assigned the reference MS 362, and was transferred to the archives in September 2018 as part of Accession No. 507.

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JC:P211/MS1/1

1628

Manuscript of a Latin poem, three pages long, written in hexameters, and titled “In Johannem Sedgewick pastorem de Bysley in comitate Gloc: aedificantem ex monumentis et refossis sepulchrorum lapidibus anno Domini 1628” (i.e. “Against John Sedgewick, a shepherd of Bisley, Glos., who is building using monuments and the stones of monuments he has dug up, AD 1628”). It is signed “R.F.” at the end. Whether it is in the hand of “R.F.” or not, the manuscript certainly appears contemporary with the date.

The poem is an invective against Sedgewick for his blasphemous treatment of tombstones and memorials; the language is so excessive that it might be read as mock-heroic burlesque rather than as something deeply serious.