Thomas Deane (1651-1735) matriculated from University College in 1669, and was elected a Fellow there in 1684. In 1686 Deane attracted much attention and notoriety when he joined the Master of University College (and his former tutor) Obadiah Walker in converting to Roman Catholicism. After the deposition of James II, Deane was deprived of his Fellowship in February 1689. He spent the rest of his life in England, sometimes undergoing imprisonment. For more on Deane’s life, see his entry in the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, and Robin Darwall-Smith, A History of University College, Oxford (Oxford, 2008), 202-18.

This copy of one of Deane’s works of Catholic apologetics was given to Jesus College at an unknown date, and ended up in the Library, where it was catalogued as MS 161. It was then transferred to the archives in in September 2018 as part of Accession No. 507.

Catalogued in December 2019.

A manuscript copy of Deane’s pro-Catholic treatise The Religion of Martin Luther Neither Catholick nor Protestant, Proved from his own Works, which was printed in Oxford in 1688. The title page claims that it was printed by Henry Cruttenden, one of the King’s printers, but Deane’s ODNB entry suggests that it was really printed in the press which Obadiah Walker set up in the stables of the Master’s Lodgings at University College.

The manuscript is complete, and is 100 pages long, although the first 12 pages have become separated from the text of the text. It is unsigned, and the hand in which it is written is unknown, but probably dates from not many decades after the work’s publication. There is no explanation of how a Catholic text ended up in a Protestant College, but perhaps a Fellow of Jesus College thought it worth reading to consider how to rebut its claims.