

JESUS COLLEGE OXFORD

JC:P224 COMMONPLACE BOOK OF JOHN LANGLEY (MATR. 1683)

This book has a pencil note on the inside front cover: "Bought at Britnell's, Toronto 5 February 1920", and on the next page a note in ink, which looks to have been written in the 18th century, "Bought at Golding at Genl Langley's sale". At some point after 1920, the book was then presented to Jesus College Library, where it was catalogued as MS 164.

Catalogued in January 2020.

JC:P224/MSI/I

c. 1684-9

Commonplace book (186 pages) inscribed on the inside back cover "Ex libris Johis Langley e coll Jesu: Oxon Sept 4th 1684 pret 18d.". On page 184 is written "John Langley 1689 Oxoniae incept' Londini finit'." On the inside front cover of the book is written "3 mnths: decr 21 1685". John Langley, the son of John of Broseley, Shropshire, gent., matriculated from Jesus College on 23 November 1683 aged 15.

Also, on the inside back cover, are written the names of John Langley and Thomas Langley. No Thomas of the right time period was at Oxford then, but he must have been a member of the same family. According to Volume X of *The Victoria Country History of Shropshire* (London, 1998), the Langley family owned the manor of Broseley.

The book itself consists of notes on and extracts taken from books which Langley has been reading at Oxford and afterwards and thought worth copying out (he usually identifies the author or the title of the book). The subjects covered include classical literature, ancient and modern history, philosophy, theology, and natural philosophy. There is a detailed index at the back, compiled by Langley, who also paginated the book. The book therefore sheds light on the sort of texts which a well born Oxford undergraduate of the 1680s chose to read.

The contents of the book are undated, but on page 16 has been added a note about an earthquake in Italy which occurred in 1688.