

JESUS COLLEGE OXFORD

JC:PR26 PAPERS OF SIR FREDERICK WOOLF OGILVIE (PR. 1944-9)

Frederick Woolf Ogilvie (1893-1949) read Classics at Balliol College both before and after the First World War, in which he served and was seriously wounded, losing his left arm. In 1920 he was elected to an Economics Fellowship at Trinity College. In 1926, however, Ogilvie was appointed Professor of Political Economy at Edinburgh, and then in 1934 he moved to Belfast to become President and Vice-Chancellor of the Queen's University.

In 1938, Ogilvie's career took a very different turn when he was appointed the second Director-General of the BBC, following Sir John Reith. His entry in the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* suggests that his was not a very happy tenure, as he showed himself ill-suited to managing a large institution. In 1944 Ogilvie returned to education when he was elected Principal of Jesus College. He was the first Principal since Francis Howell in the 1650s to have had no previous links with the College.

Ogilvie was Principal for just five years, dying in office in 1949. He did not have much time to leave a mark on the College, but his *ODNB* entry says of him that, "by quietly infusing his own enjoyments and convictions into its way of life he made [Jesus College] a more friendly community, more enlightened, and more civilized." His widow Mary became Principal of St. Anne's College in 1953.

Few papers of Ogilvie are preserved in the archives of Jesus College. Of those few papers, **JC:PR26/NI/1** was transferred from the Library in June 2017 as Accession 418, and evidence from **JC:PR26/MSI/1** shows that it was given to the College by Ogilvie's widow in 1966, but all the other items were found in the archives in the summer of 2016 with no evidence as to their provenance.

Catalogued in January 2020.

JC:PR26/MSI – NOTES ON JESUS ALUMNI IN THE DICTIONARY OF NATIONAL BIOGRAPHY

JC:PR26/MSI/1

1946 & 1966

File containing notes, arranged in alphabetical order, by Sir Frederick Ogilvie on members of Jesus College who were in the *Dictionary of National Biography*. The file includes several letters sent to Ogilvie with information about some former members of the College, including John Ellis (1598/9 to Dec 1665; F. 1628-31), Hugo Harper (matr. 1840; F. 1845-52; Pr. 1877-95), Thomas Huet (d. 1591 - F. 1571), Robert Johnson (1540/1- to 23 Jul 1625; F. 1571), and some members of Jesus College during the Oxford Movement, namely David Lewis (matr. 1834; F. 1840-6), Evan Lewis (matr. 1838), Robert Owen (matr. 1838; F. 1845-64), and John David Jenkins (matr. 1846; F. 1849-76).

The notes come with some correspondence from July and September 1966, which show that Ogilvie's widow Mary had just come across them, and presented them to John Christie (Pr. 1950-67), who passed them on to the archives.

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JC:PR26/XI – DINNER MENU

JC:PR26/XI/1

13 Mar 1946

Menu for a dinner given by members of Jesus College in honour of Principal Ogilvie at the Park Hotel, Cardiff.

JC:PR26/PI - PHOTOGRAPHS

JC:PR26/PI/1

n.d. (c. 1944-9?)

Photograph of Sir Frederick Ogilvie.
Size (including mount): 190 by 150 mm.

JC:PR26/PI/2

n.d. (c. 1944-9?)

Photograph of Sir Frederick Ogilvie.
Size (including mount): 250 by 190 mm.

JC:PR26/CI - TELEGRAM

JC:PR26/CI/1

11 Jun 1949

Telegram from George VI to Lady Ogilvie sending condolences on the death of her husband, Principal Ogilvie.

JC:PR26/NI – COPY OF THE OXFORD MAGAZINE

JC:PR26/NI/1

13 Oct 1949

Copy of the *Oxford Magazine*, Vol. LXVII no. 1, which contains on pp. 10-12 an obituary for Sir Frederick Ogilvie. Enclosed with the *Magazine* is a typescript tribute by "R.C.C." (Robert Cross, F. 1938-53). Both the *Oxford Magazine* tribute, and the tribute from Cross, were printed in the *Jesus College Magazine* Vol. VII no. 92 (Dec. 1949), pp. 2-5.