

JESUS COLLEGE OXFORD

JC:PR27 PAPERS OF JOHN TRAILL CHRISTIE (PR. 1950-67)

John Traill Christie (1899-1980) was educated at Winchester and then at Trinity College, Oxford. Having taught for a while at Rugby, from 1928-32 he was a Classics Fellow at Magdalen College. In 1932, however, Christie returned to the world of the public school, when he was appointed Headmaster of Repton. He then became Headmaster of Westminster in 1937.

The Second World War made Christie's period at Westminster a very demanding time, involving evacuations of the school, and reconstructions to its buildings. In 1950, however, he returned to Oxford when he was elected Principal of Jesus College.

Outside the College, Christie was much involved in education matters. In 1952-3, he went to India as part of a commission on secondary education, and in 1956 the British Council had him visit South America to report on the quality of the teachers sent there by the Council. He also served on the governing bodies of several schools. Within Jesus College, however, Christie's time was perhaps less happy. Rightly or wrongly, it was felt that he was more at home in dealing with men from public schools than those from grammar schools, even though the latter were far more numerous within this particular College. He retired in 1967.

Only a handful of papers relating to Christie are preserved in the archives of Jesus College, and nothing is currently known of the location of the main body of his papers. From this collection, **JC:PR27/C1/4** was transferred to the archives in February 1997, and **JC:PR27/C1/1** was found in the archives in the spring of 2016 and assigned the Accession Number 341. Nothing is known of the provenance of the other items here.

Catalogued in January 2020.

JC:PR27/C1 - CORRESPONDENCE

JC:PR27/C1/1

1 Nov 1957

A typed (and unsigned) memorandum addressed to the Principal about Honorary Fellowships, accompanied by a list of Honorary Fellows of Jesus College from 1877 to the present.

JC:PR27/C1/2

30 Oct 1964

Letter (with envelope) from Harold Wilson (matr. 1934) to John Christie, thanking him for his telegram congratulating him on winning the General Election.

JC:PR27/C1/3

27 Apr 1965

Letter from Christie to David Rees, both a Latin and an English version of his poem, *To the Translator's Muse, an ex-headmaster reflects on the practice of Latin Verse Composition*.

JC:PR27/C1/4

1996-7

Papers relating to a memoir by Jane Darwin of her mother Lucie Catherine Christie (née Le Fanu, 1901-96), which was published in the *Jesus College Record*, 1995/6 [5 items].