

Griffith POWELL 1560/61–1620

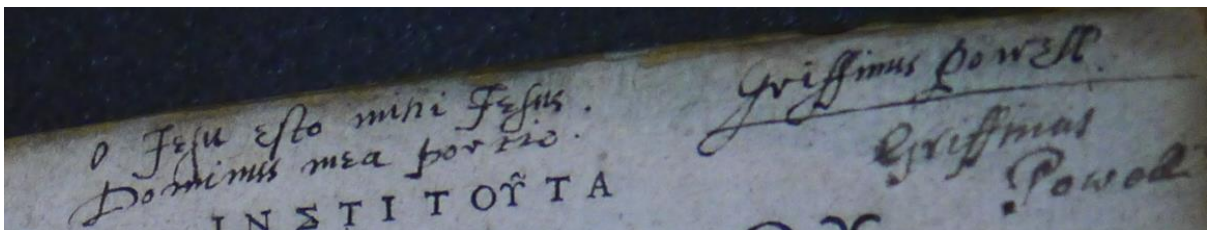
Powell was born in Llansawel, Carmarthenshire. He entered Jesus College, Oxford in 1581, graduated as a BA in 1584 and gained his MA in 1589, upon which he became a Fellow of the college. He went on to be awarded a BCL in 1593 and DCL in 1599. During this early part of his career, Powell published two works on Aristotelian philosophy: *Analysis analyticorum posteriorum* (1594) and *De sophisticis elenchis* (1598). In 1613 he was elected principal of the college, where he was noted for his prudent management of the college estates.

Books

Powell's books form the first substantial printed book donation to Jesus College, at a time when no records of a college library exist. An inventory list compiled in 1649 by Francis Mansell, entitled 'A Catalogue of Bookes belonging of old unto the Library of the said College' lists around 400 titles in manuscript and print. However, a number were printed after Powell's death, which suggests that a portion of these books were paid for with donations or offered by students and fellows. 114 catalogued books within Jesus College Fellows' Library bear evidence of Powell's ownership. These are predominantly legal works, and all except two English works are in Latin. A significant portion (41%) was published before Powell's lifetime, while only three works in Powell's possession were published during the seventeenth century.

Characteristic Markings

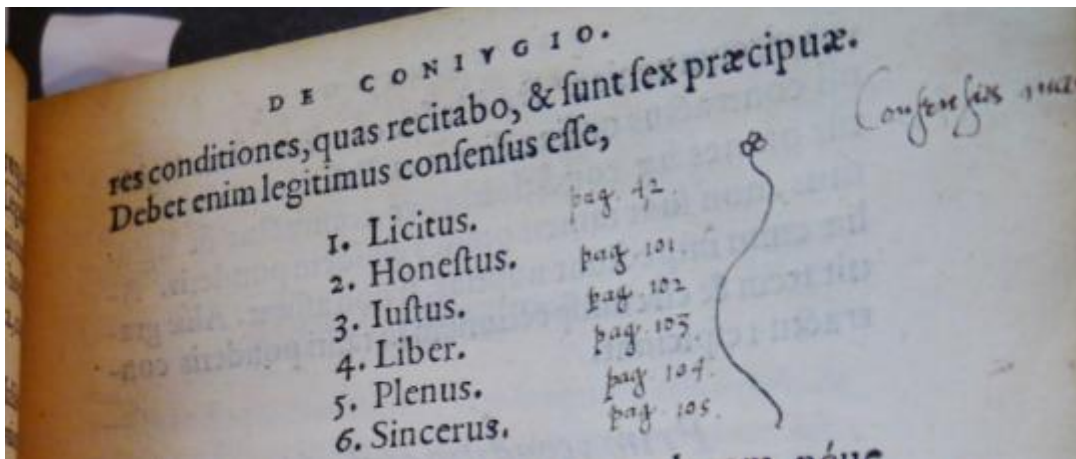
Most books associated with Powell have a college inscription on the lower part of the title-page stating, 'Liber Coll: Jesu Oxon ex dono. Gr. Powell Principalis.' In addition, Powell appears to have inscribed many books himself: 'Griffinus Powell' can often be seen in the top right corner of title-pages, together with two mottoes: 'O Jesu esto mihi Jesus. | dominus mea portio'. Another motto, 'Spero timidus. timeo sperans' is sometimes written on either side of the title-page's vignette. Powell also annotated some of his books. One contains a manuscript contents page, while others display underlining, marginal comments and trefoil *nota bene* symbols. There are no distinctive bindings or bookplates associated with Powell.



Jesus College Fellows' Library C.6.3 title-page



Jesus College Fellows' Library M.12.2 title-page



Jesus College Fellows' Library O.4.4 Gall. p. 41

Bibliography

Fordyce, J.C. and Knox, T.M., *The Library of Jesus College, Oxford, with an Appendix on the Books Bequeathed Thereto by Lord Herbert of Cherbury*, Oxford: Oxford Bibliographical Society, 1937, pp. 11-12

Williams, Barry, 'Powell, Griffith (1560/61–1620)', *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, Oxford University Press, 2004

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