

## **Jonathan EDWARDS (1638/9–1712)**

Edwards was born in Wrexham, Denbighshire. After gaining his bachelor's degree from Christ Church, Oxford, he completed his doctorate in Divinity at Jesus College and gained a fellowship there. A popular and influential teacher, Edwards was unanimously elected Principal in 1686, a post he held for more than 25 years. He also held the position of University Vice-Chancellor (1689-1692), as well as acting as Treasurer of Llandaff Cathedral and possessing a number of church livings.

A staunch Anglican and tory, he fought to quash nonconformist rights and to protect the University's privileges. He was also a writer of religious polemic, defending his orthodox beliefs in the trinity against Socinianism.

### *Books*

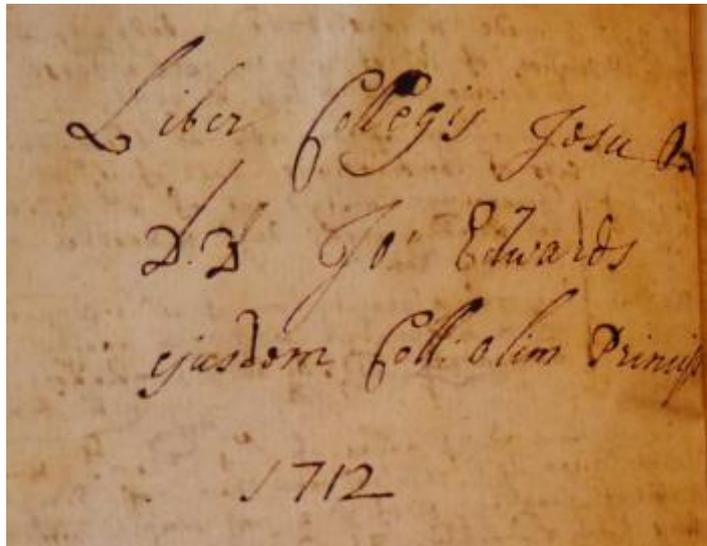
Edwards was a keen book collector. 492 books in Jesus College Fellows' Library belonged to the former Principal according to the catalogue data. These are listed by title in the college's seventeenth-century Benefactors' Book. Many of the books are church controversies, Biblical commentaries and works on church history. Edwards also owned books on history, politics, classics and the sciences. Notable works include some early editions of Robert Boyle's publications, as well as books inscribed by Anthony Wood and a book signed by Isaac Casaubon (O.15.10). Only one of Edwards's own works, *The Doctrine of Original Sin* (1711), can be found in the collection. Edwards appears to have had interests in both contemporary and earlier texts: 102 out of 455 books catalogued with publication dates were published before his lifetime, while a similar number were published during the 1690s alone, a decade which corresponds with his highest output as a writer.

### *Characteristic Markings*

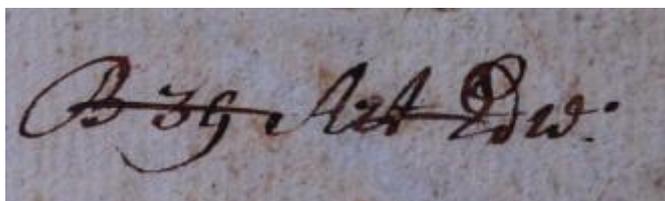
Most books can be identified as belonging to Edwards through the College's bequest bookplate. Where this is not present, a college inscription often records the donation. Another indication of Edwards' previous ownership is the old shelfmark references on the front leaves of some books, such as 'B 39 Art Edw:'. A shelflist written in the eighteenth century reveals that most books donated by Edwards were classified separately as 'Art Edw:' or 'Theol Edw:'. There are some annotations in books, although confirming the hand as Edwards's is difficult. No distinctive bindings, signatures or mottos have been found.



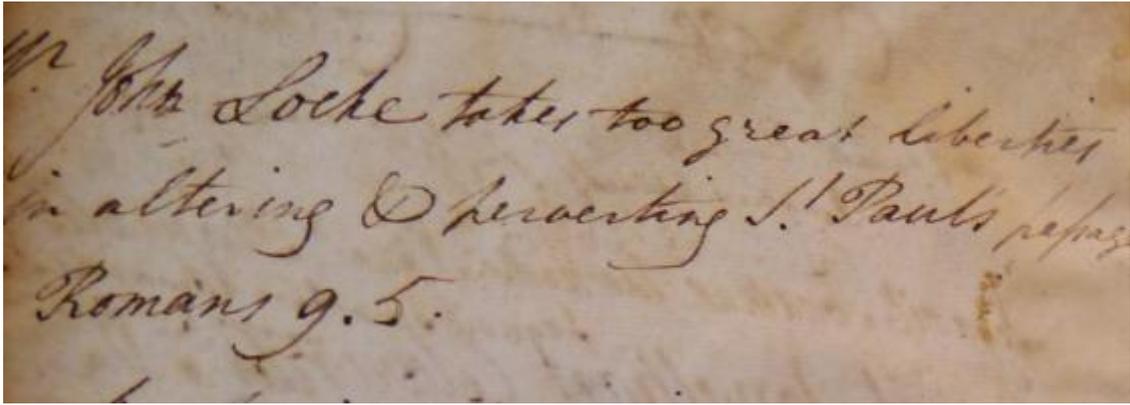
A.2.9 title-page



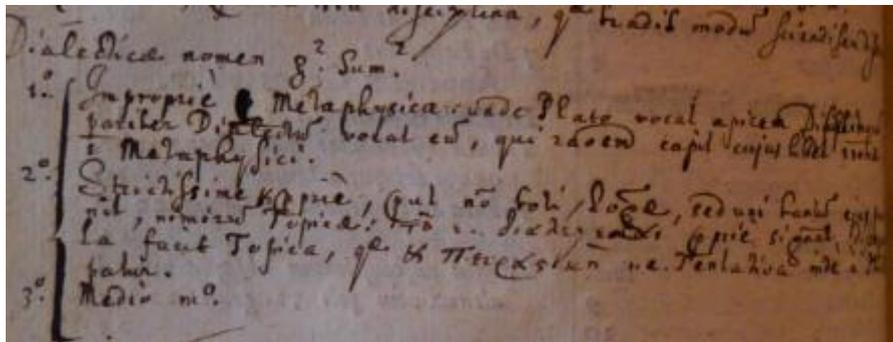
L.10.23 front endleaf verso



M.4.1 Gall front endleaf



B.10.17 flyleaf verso



K.9.22, n.p.

### Bibliography

Benefactors' Book (Jesus College Oxford Archives RE.BE.2)

Dixon, Philip, 'Edwards, Jonathan (1638/9–1712)', *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, Oxford University Press, 2004

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.17-18

Jesus College Fellows' Library Benefactors' Book

Jesus College Fellows' Library, *Libri Art: & Theol: Edwards*

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