

JESUS COLLEGE OXFORD

JC:F12 PAPERS OF PERCY WILLIAM DODD (FELLOW 1919-31)

Percy William Dodd (1889-1931) came up to Jesus College in 1907 to read Classics. He was awarded a First in Honour Moderations in 1909 and a Second in his Finals in 1911. In that year he was appointed a Lecturer in Classics at the University of Leeds, where he developed an interest in the archaeology of Roman Britain. During the First World War he served in France with the 2/6th Battalion, The West Yorkshire Regiment. He was invalided home in 1917, and his health was permanently impaired.

In 1919 Dodd returned to Jesus College as Philosophy Fellow. In addition to his teaching duties, he took on many other responsibilities: he lectured in Philosophy to undergraduates reading both Classics and PPE, and was an Examiner for Classics in 1926 and 1927, and within the College, he was appointed Senior Tutor in 1926. During the 1920s, however, Dodd suffered increasingly from heart trouble, and in 1930 he was granted a year's leave of absence on health grounds. He moved to Bangor to live with his brother, and died there in May the following year. He left a benefaction to the College which was (and is) used to award grants to students for non-academic travel during vacations. For more on Dodd's life, see the obituary by Goronwy Edwards in *Jesus College Magazine* Vol. IV, No. 37 (June 1931), pp. 90-2.

Dodd's short life, and his administrative duties, meant that he had no time to publish anything major, and the substance of his philosophical work is to be found in these papers which were gathered up after his death and presented to the College library. The date of their transfer is unknown; some at least were inspected in 1934 by Thomas Knox (Fellow 1933-6), who gave advice on which of Dodd's manuscripts might be typed up for the use of undergraduates in the Meyricke Library (see **JC:F12/MS3/I** below). Several documents, however, show signs of water damage, which suggests that some years passed between Dodd's death and their arrival in the College library, during which time the papers were not being well looked after.

Most of these papers are undated, but several are dated to the 1920s. Presumably the rest all date from the same period, and therefore they all relate to Dodd's teaching and study while he was a Fellow of Jesus College. Some of them are evidently notes for undergraduate lectures delivered by Dodd, but others seem more like notes written for his private use. It is not always possible to distinguish the two. All the papers are written by Dodd himself with one significant exception, namely some typescript lecture notes by the philosopher John Cook Wilson (1849-1915). No documents explain why these came into Dodd's hands.

Dodd's papers were transferred from the Fellows' Library to the archives at an unknown date, except for **JC:F12/MS3/I-5**, **JC:F12/MS4/4-6** and **JC:F12/MS5/I**, which were transferred from there in September 2018 as part of Accession No. 507.

Catalogued in March 2021.

JC:F12/MSI – FOLDERS OF PAPERS BY DODD

The documents in this series were found bound up in folio- or large quarto-sized binders or loose-leaf notebook folders, as created by Dodd himself. The notes which they contain are very informal in manner, too rough to be drafts of a book or an article. It is unclear whether these were notes for lectures delivered by Dodd, or notes written for his private use; the latter seems more likely.

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- JC:F12/MS1/1** **Aug-Nov 1923, Aug 1924 and undated**
 Miscellaneous epistemological notes [in 8vo loose-leaf notebook folder]. They are especially sketchy and informal, and, more than any other folders, represent Dodd's personal notes, written to help him think through the works he is reading. Some of these are dated to August-November 1923 and August 1924. [formerly Jesus College MS 250]
- JC:F12/MS1/2** **Undated (1920s?)**
 Folder containing an essay on Ethics, containing a critique of T.H. Green, *Prolegomena to Ethics*. [formerly Jesus College MS 257]
- JC:F12/MS1/3** **Undated (1920s?)**
 Folder containing notes on a Psychology of Ethics. [formerly Jesus College MS 253]
- JC:F12/MS1/4** **Undated (1920s?)**
 Folder containing notes on Kant's *Critique of Pure Reason*. [formerly Jesus College MS 255]
- JC:F12/MS1/5** **Undated and 1929**
 A folder of miscellaneous notes on the following subjects: Plato; Plato's *Republic* (dated 1929); Hobbes [*Leviathan*]; Utilitarian Theories of Government; Rousseau and the General Will; Godwin and Philosophic Anarchism; Locke and the Compact; Abstract Points of View in Politics; Political Theory, its subject-matter and method; Democratic Government as a modern ideal (dated 1929); other notes on democracy; Liberty and Equality; Rights; Definition of the State; Punishment, and punishment by the state (with reference to Rousseau, Bosanquet et al.). Some of these papers, at least, appear to be a series of lecture notes. [formerly Jesus College MS 252]
- JC:F12/MS1/6** **March-Aug 1929 and undated**
 A collection of notes on epistemological and other problems raised by F. H. Bradley, Bernard Bosanquet, G. E. Moore, John Cook Wilson and others. One set of notes is dated March-August 1929 [formerly Jesus College MS 251]
- JC:F12/MS1/7** **Undated (1920s?)**
 Notes titled "Logic of the Inductive Sciences", written on pages numbered 1-2, 12-13, 21-36, 54, 92, 92A and 92B); also the beginning of a paper on the Laws of Thought. [formerly Jesus College MS 254]
- JC:F12/MS1/8** **Undated (1920s?)**
 Notes on Hypothetical Reasoning [pages numbered 204-242]. [formerly Jesus College MS 256]

JC:F12/MS2 – MANUSCRIPTS OF INDIVIDUAL WORKS

Unlike the papers in **JC:F12/MS1**, these papers consist of notes relating to individual works, essays, or lectures.

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JC:FI2 PAPERS OF PERCY WILLIAM DODD (FELLOW 1919-31)

JC:FI2/MS2/1 **Undated (1920s?)**

Notes, not quite complete, titled “The Meaning of Good” and “The Attempt to Define Right & Good”. [formerly Jesus College MS 300]

JC:FI2/MS2/2 **Undated (1920s?)**

Notes on [H.A.] Pritchard, ‘Does Moral Philosophy rest on a Mistake?’. This is an article published by Pritchard in *Mind*, Vol. 21 no. 81 (January 1912). [formerly Jesus College MS 298]

JC:FI2/MS2/3 **Undated (1920s?)**

Notes titled ‘Will & Practical Reason – some outlines’ [formerly Jesus College MS 301]

JC:FI2/MS2/4 **September 1928**

Notes on “Motive. Some considerations”, dated September 1928. Dodd latter jotted on the top of these notes “Embodied in Lectures”. [formerly Jesus College MS 302]

JC:FI2/MS2/5 **September 1928**

Notes titled “Summary Notes on Green’s Prolegomena (with a special view to the rel[atitiv]y of practical thinking and will)”, dated September 1928. [formerly Jesus College MS 297]

JC:FI2/MS2/6 **1928-30**

‘The Absolute End & the Autonomous Self’, and other notes on Aristotle, Hume, the self, etc. One set of notes is dated to September 1928, and another set marked “Not delivered 1930”. [formerly Jesus College MS 303]

JC:FI2/MS2/7 **October-November 1930**

Notes for lectures on various aspects of Hume’s philosophy, dated October-November 1930. [formerly Jesus College MS 296]

JC:FI2/MS2/8 **November 1930**

Notes, evidently a continuation from **JC:FI2/MS2/7**, titled “‘Standards a natural growth’ – Why is Hume wrong?”, and dated November 1930. [formerly Jesus College MS 299]

JC:FI2/MS3 - MANUSCRIPTS EXAMINED BY T. M. KNOX IN 1934

As explained in **JC:FI2/MS3/1**, these papers were evidently given to T. M. Knox (Fellow 1933-6) in 1934 for him to decide what could be done with them. It is not clear whether Knox saw any more of Dodd’s papers than these, and so this collection has been kept together as it was found. The typescripts which were created as a result are to be found at **JC:FI2/MS4/3-4** below. [these papers formerly Jesus College MS 160]

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JC:FI2 PAPERS OF PERCY WILLIAM DODD (FELLOW 1919-31)

JC:FI2/MS3/1

17 Mar 1934

Note by T. M. Knox on Dodd's papers. He had been asked to examine a portion of Dodd's papers and in this note he advises which of them might be in a finished enough state for them be typed up for greater accessibility.

JC:FI2/MS3/2

1929-30

Papers titled by Knox "Studies in Plato", namely "Socrates in the *Memorabilia*" (of Xenophon; undated), "Summary of the Burnet-Taylor account of Socrates" (dated July 1929), and "Plato's Portrait of Socrates" (with a note "C. A. Sussex Branch, Feb 1930"). Knox thought that these papers were complete enough to be typed up.

JC:FI2/MS3/3

Undated (1920s?)

Notes for a course of lectures on "Will and Practical Reason." Knox thought that these notes were too sketchy to be typed up for undergraduate use.

JC:FI2/MS3/4

1929

Papers titled by Knox "Logical Studies", namely "The nature and the test of truth" (undated), MS and typescript versions, "Bosanquet and Cook Wilson – a comparison of the two conceptions of the subject and method of Logic" (undated), "Description, Explanation & Knowledge (dated Aug 1929), "The Idea of Ground in Logic (dated Nov 1929), and "Some problems of Inference in the light of the General Idea of Ground (dated Dec 1929). Knox recommended that only the first, fourth, and fifth of these papers be typed.

JC:FI2/MS3/5

Undated (1920s)

Unfinished paper titled "Aesthetic Experience." Knox thought that this paper should be typed.

JC:FI2/MS4 - TYPESCRIPTS OF SELECTED ESSAYS AND LECTURES BY DODD

JC:FI2/MS4/1-2

Undated (1920s?)

Two versions of typescript titled "The Nature and Test of Truth". Unlike the typescripts below, these were typed up in Dodd's lifetime, because **JC:FI2/MS4/1** bears a few corrections in Dodd's own hand, which are duly corrected in **JC:FI2/MS4/2**. The MS version of this essay is to be found at **JC:FI2/MS3/4** above. [formerly Jesus College MSS 294-295]

JC:FI2/MS4/3

Undated (c. 1934/5)

Volume titled *Philosophical Essays*. This contains the typescripts of seven essays by Dodd which were selected for typing up by T. M. Knox in 1934. The original MS, together with Knox's reasons for having them typed, are in **JC:FI2/MS3/1-5** above. A note on the title page says that they were typed up after Dodd's death without revision. The essays are as follows:

I. Studies in Plato:

- (a) Socrates in the *Memorabilia* (of Xenophon).
- (b) Summary of the Burnet-Taylor account of Socrates.

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- (c) Plato's portrait of Socrates.
- 2. Logical Studies:
 - (a) The nature and the test of truth.
 - (b) The idea of ground in logic.
 - (c) Some problems of inference in the light of the general idea of ground.
- 3. Aesthetic Experience). [formerly Jesus College MS 191]

JC:F12/MS4/4

Undated (c. 1934/5)

A second copy of a typescript version of Dodd's *Philosophical Essays*, as selected for typing up by T. M. Knox. [formerly Jesus College MS 191]

JC:F12/MS4/5-6

July 1935

Two volumes of a typescript version of lecture notes by Dodd on Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics*. The lectures do, however, regularly allude to the *Eudemian Ethics*. Later readers have annotated both volumes in pencil. [formerly Jesus College MSS 189-190]

JC:F12/MS4/7

July 1935

A second copy, unbound and incomplete, of the first volume of the typescript of Dodd's lectures on Aristotle's *Ethics*. [formerly Jesus College MS 213]

JC:F12/MS5 – TYPESCRIPT LECTURES GIVEN BY JOHN COOK WILSON

JC:F12/MS5/1

Undated

Typescript of lectures on Plato *Republic* V-VIII given by John Cook Wilson (1849-1915). A note with them by David Rees suggests that the typescript was made after Cook Wilson's death in 1915, and observes that it came with to the College with Dodd's "ms remains". [formerly Jesus College MS 212]