JC:F5 PAPERS OF JOHN GODFREY GRIFFITH (F. 1938-80)

John Godfrey Griffith (1913-91) read Classics at New College, getting a First in his Finals in 1936. From 1938 until his retirement in 1980, he was Classics Fellow at Jesus College, where he became a well-known and popular figure, not just among his own pupils. In addition to his College work, from 1973-80 Griffith was also Public Orator.

Like many classicists of his generation, Griffith published little, preferring to devote his energies to teaching. He did, however, publish several important articles, and in 1988 he brought together three of these, as well as several previously unpublished pieces, into a collection titled Festinat Senex: Or An Old Man in a Hurry.

For more on Griffith's life, see further the address given at Griffith's funeral by John Walsh printed in JCR 1992, pp. 34-9.

These papers found their way into the archives at various times. The complete set of his speeches as public orator (JC:F5/MS1) were evidently given by him to the Library in 1980, on his retirement, and JC:F5/MS2/1-3 bear notes which show that they were also presented there by Griffith at various times. JC:F5/X1/1-2 given in 2013 and assigned the Accession No. 210 in 2016, while JC:F5/MS3/1-2 were transferred from the Library in September 2018 as Accession No. 493. The other items were found in the archives in 2016.

Catalogued in February 2021.

JC:F5/MSI - GRIFFITH'S SPEECHES AS PUBLIC ORATOR

IC:F5/MS1/I

Typewritten note by Griffith, explaining the contents of this series.

JC:F5/MS1/2 1980

Index of recipients of honorary degrees for whom Griffith delivered an oration.

JC:F5/MS1/3-4 15 Dec 1973

Text and paraphrase of speech delivered for Julia de Lacy Mann, Hon. D. Litt.

JC:F5/MS1/5 2 Mar 1974

Text of speech delivered for Lucy Faithfull, Hon. MA.

JC:F5/MS1/6 2 Mar 1974

Text of speech delivered for Edward Albert East, Hon. MA.

JC:F5/MS1/7-8 2 May 1974

Text and paraphrase of speech delivered for Francis William Steer, Hon. MA.

JC:F5/MS1/9 2 May 1974

Text of speech delivered for Frank Eyre, Hon. MA.

JC:F5 PAPERS OF JOHN GODFREY GRIFFITH (F. 1938-80)

JC:F5/MS1/10 6 Jun 1974

Printed programme for "Musaraum Restitutio", an event arranged to celebrate the installation of new statues of Melpomene and Euterpe on top of the Clarendon Building. Griffith contributed a poem, "Melpomene and Euterpe".

JC:F5/MS1/11-12 26 Jun 1974

Programme and booklet of texts and paraphrases of addresses for Encaenia. The honorands this year were Viscount Amory and Lord Hailsham (DCL), Sir John Betjeman, Alexander Gershenkron, Francois Goguel and Dame Flora Robson (D.Litt.), and Edoardo Amaldi, Sir John Eccles, and Sir George Porter (D.Sc.).

JC:F5/MS1/13-14 14 Dec 1974

Text and paraphrase of speech delivered for Raymond Buxton Cole, Hon. MA.

JC:F5/MS1/15-16 I May 1975

Text and paraphrase of speech delivered for Martin Lothar Mruck, Hon. MA.

JC:F5/MS1/17 7 Jun 1975

Text of speech delivered for Colin Henderson Roberts, Hon. D. Litt.

JC:F5/MS1/18-19 25 Jun 1975

Programme and booklet of texts and paraphrases of addresses for Encaenia. The honorands this year were Arnold Cantwell Smith (DCL), Henry Cartier-Besson and Sir Osbert Lancaster (D.Litt.), John Enders and Sir Nevill Mott (D.Sc.), and Janet Baker and Paul Tortelier (D. Mus.).

JC:F5/MS1/20-21 17 Jan 1976

Text and paraphrase of speech delivered for Douglas Bower Cook, Hon. MA.

JC:F5/MS1/22-23 17 Jan 1976

Text and paraphrase of speech delivered for John Standbury Dewe Thornton, Hon. MA.

JC:F5/MS1/24-26 28 Feb 1976

Texts and paraphrases of speeches delivered for Edward McCabe and Peggy Joan Turner, both Hon. MA.

JC:F5/MS1/27-28 23 Jun 1976

Programme and booklet of texts and paraphrases of addresses for Encaenia. The honorands this year were Alice Murray and Francois-Xavier Ortoli (DCL), Sir Harold Bailey, James Meade and Sir Ellis Waterhouse (D.Litt.), Anatole Abragam (matr. 1948; Hon. F. 1976) and John Cornforth (D.Sc.), and Sir Frederick Ashton (D.Mus.).

JC:F5/MS1/29-30 10 Jul 1976

Text and paraphrase of speech delivered for Duncan Guthrie, Hon. MA.

JC:F5 PAPERS OF JOHN GODFREY GRIFFITH (F. 1938-80)

JC:F5/MS1/31-32 31 Jul 1976

Text and paraphrase of speech delivered for Albert Sydney Hornby, Hon. MA.

JC:F5/MS1/33-34 15 Jan 1977

Text and paraphrase of speech delivered for Percival Arthur Trotman, Hon. MA.

JC:F5/MS1/35-36 5 Mar 1977

Text and paraphrase of speech delivered for F. W. Wilson, Hon. MA.

JC:F5/MS1/37-38 4 Jun 1977

Text and paraphrase of speech delivered for William Ronald Skinner, Hon. MA.

JC:F5/MS1/39-40 22 Jun 1977

Programme and booklet of texts and paraphrases of addresses for Encaenia. The honorands this year were Lord Diplock and Thomas Watson (DCL), James Byam Shaw and Sir Alec Guinness (D. Litt.), Hannes Alfven and Sir Alan Hodgkin (D.Sc.), and Rosalyn Tureck (D.Mus.).

JC:F5/MS1/41 I Jul 1977

Photocopy of page from the Oxford University Gazette recording the presentation of an address to Queen Elizabeth II on the occasion of her Silver Jubilee.

JC:F5/MS1/42 9 Jul 1977

Text of speech delivered for Walter Geoffrey Harris, Hon. MA.

JC:F5/MS1/43 30 Jul 1977

Text of speech delivered for Kenneth Douglas Thompson, Hon. MA.

JC:F5/MS1/44 12 Nov 1977

Text of speech delivered for John Richard Frederic Turner, Hon. MA.

JC:F5/MS1/45 14 Jan 1978

Text of speech delivered for Gerald Victor Trodd, Hon. MA.

JC:F5/MS1/46 4 Mar 1978

Text of speech delivered for Arthur William Dent, Hon. MA.

JC:F5/MS1/47-48 3 Jun 1978

Text and paraphrase of speech delivered for Stephen Hawking, Hon. D.Sc.

JC:F5/MS1/49-50 21 Jun 1978

Programme and booklet of texts and paraphrases of addresses for Encaenia. The honorands this year were Lord Charteris, Viscount Harcourt, and Lord Keaton (DCL), Satyajit Ray (D.Litt.), Claude Shannon and Janos Szentagothai (D.Sc.), and Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau and Herbert von Karajan (D.Mus.).

JC:F5 PAPERS OF JOHN GODFREY GRIFFITH (F. 1938-80)

JC:F5/MS1/51 29 Jun 1978

Booklet containing texts and paraphrases of speeches delivered for the conferment of Hon MA's on the following members of Oxford University Press: Michael Akinleye, Raymond Brammah, Harold Dejager, and George Webster.

JC:F5/MS1/52 15 Jul 1978

Booklet containing texts of speeches delivered for Ernest James Jenkinson and Harold Sinfoil Lock, both Hon. MA's.

JC:F5/MS1/53 29 Jul 1978

Text of speech delivered for Leslie Frank Nipress, Hon. MA.

JC:F5/MS1/54 11 Nov 1978

Text and paraphrase of speech delivered for James Henry David Kent, Hon. MA.

JC:F5/MS1/55 10 Mar 1979

Text and paraphrase of speech delivered for Jack Taylor Cox, Hon. MA.

JC:F5/MS1/56 II May 1979

Programme, including text and paraphrase of address, for the conferment of Hon. DCL on Helmut Schmidt.

JC:F5/MS1/57 26 May 1979

Text and paraphrase of speech delivered for Sir Adrian Boult, Hon. D. Litt.

JC:F5/MS1/58 16 Jun 1979

Text and paraphrase of speech delivered for Albi Rosenthal, Hon. MA.

JC:F5/MS1/59-60 27 Jun 1979

Programme and booklet of texts and paraphrases of addresses delivered for Encaenia. The honorands this year were Gunther Bornkamm (DCL), Kingman Brewster and Sir Basil Blackwell (DCL), Hanna Holborn Gray and Graham Greene (D.Litt.), and Sir Alan Cottrell and John Young (D.Sc.).

JC:F5/MS1/61 26 Jan 1980

Text and paraphrase of speech delivered for Joan Crowfoot Payne, Hon. MA.

JC:F5/MS1/62 8 Mar 1980

Text and paraphrase of speech delivered for Ernest Taylor, Hon. MA.

JC:F5/MS1/63 24 May 1980

Text and paraphrase of speech delivered for Christopher Francis, Hon. MA.

JC:F5/MS1/64-65 25 Jun 1980

Programme and booklet of texts and paraphrases of addresses delivered for Encaenia. The honorands this year were Robert Runcie (DD), Sir Hugh Springer (DCL), Anthony Powell, Jacqueline de Romilly, and Stephen Wentworth Roskill

JC:F5 PAPERS OF JOHN GODFREY GRIFFITH (F. 1938-80)

(D.Litt.), Henri Cartan and Stephen Kuffler (D.Sc.), and Mstislav Rostropovich (D.Mus.).

JC:F5/MS1/66-68 1975-1979

Texts of the Creweian Orations for 1975, 1977 and 1979.

JC:F5/MS2 - OTHER SPEECHES AND LETTERS BY GRIFFITH

JC:F5/MS2/I

30 Jul 1966 & 15 Nov 1973

Texts of speeches delivered for Don Salvador de Madariaga, Hon. DCL, and Ernest Mayr, Hon. D.Sc, both of which were delivered by Griffith deputising for the Public Orator. A note by Griffith, dated 15 Nov 1973, explains that Armitage Bryan-Brown, then then Public Orator, had written Mayr's speech almost completely, but that he himself had to write the speech for Madariaga from scratch.

JC:F5/MS2/2

Booklet containing copies of Griffith's speeches for Anatole Abragham (matr. 1948; Hon. F. 1976), Rosalind Tureck, Lord Kearton, and Claude Shannon, candidates for honorary degrees; with the text of *Melpomene and Euterpe*, commemorative ode read on the replacement of the two missing Muses on the Sheldonian Theatre in 1974, and a description of this event.

JC:F5/MS2/3

Copy of *Too Close to the Bone?* This is an anthology of letters by Griffith written between 1988 and 1990, on issues of public concern, and rejected by editors of national newspapers.

JC:F5/MS3 – GRIFFITH'S UNDERGRADUATE LECTURE NOTES

JC:F5/MS3/1 1935-6

Exercise book, bound up with "J.G.C.A. Prcpte [i.e. Principate] and Flavians" on the spine. These are evidently notes taken by Griffith, when an undergraduate at New College, from lectures on this subject given by John George Clark Anderson, Camden Professor of Roman History 1927-36.

JC:F5/MS3/2 n.d. (probably 1935-6)

Exercise book, bound up just like **JC:F5/MS3/I** above, with "H.M.L. T. Ann." on the spine. This are evidently also notes taken by Griffith when an undergraduate at New College, from lectures on the *Annals* of Tacitus, and also "Minor Documents of the Roman Empire", given by Hugh Last, Fellow of St. John's College 1919-36 (and Anderson's successor as Camden Professor).

JC:F5

PAPERS OF JOHN GODFREY GRIFFITH (F. 1938-80)

JC:F5/MS4 - PAPERS ON THE JESUS COLLEGE RECORD

JC:F5/MS4/I 1989-1990

Folder of papers relating to the preparation of the 1989 and 1990 issues of the Jesus College Record, which John Griffith edited. They include what appears to be a postcard of a photograph of the freshmen of 1923 (no names given), and the original of the photograph of Sir John Habakkuk at the opening of the Habakkuk Room, reproduced in the 1989 Record. They also include letters to Griffith on the subject of College athletics, following an article by him on the subject in the 1989 Record, from James Duncan (matr. 1939), Donald Godden (matr. 1936), David Hoad (matr. 1951), and William "Reg" Jones (matr. 1933).

JC:F5/PI - PHOTOGRAPHS

JC:F5/P1/I-5

Two colour slides, with two photographic prints (each measuring 220 by 155 mm including mount), of the west range of Second Quad. These photographs show this part of the College when ground has been cleared for the Old Members' Building. The photographs come with a note which shows that they were taken by John Griffith.

JC:F5/XI - BRASS PLAQUE

JC:F5/X1/1

Brass Plaque once placed on a display case from the Fellows Library to record that it was given by John Griffith in 1971.

JC:F5/X1/2 6 Mar 2013

Letter from the Property Director to Chris Jeens, archivist, enclosing the plaque, and reporting that the display case is now to be sold.

JC:F5/LI - ENTRY VISA

JC:F5/L1/1 11 Jul 1947

Entry visa for John Griffith into Greece.