

JESUS COLLEGE OXFORD

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publish several important articles, and in 1988 he brought together three of these, as well as several previously unpublished pieces, into a collection titled *Festinat Senex: Or An Old Man in a Hurry*.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/XI/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/MS1 - GRIFFITH'S SPEECHES AS PUBLIC ORATOR

JC:F5/MS1/1	1980
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.	

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JC:F5/MS4 – PAPERS ON THE *JESUS COLLEGE RECORD*

JC:F5/MS4/1

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/P1 - PHOTOGRAPHS

JC:F5/P1/1-5

1969

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/X1 – BRASS PLAQUE

JC:F5/X1/1

1971

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/L1 – ENTRY VISA

JC:F5/L1/1

11 Jul 1947

Entry visa for John Griffith into Greece.