

JESUS COLLEGE OXFORD

JC:PI78 JOURNAL OF ALBERT FREDERICK POLLARD (MATR. 1887), 1886-8

Albert Frederick Pollard (1869-1948) was born at Ryde, Isle of Wight, and educated successively at Portsmouth Grammar School and at Felsted School. He came up to Jesus College in 1887 to read Literae Humaniores, but after sitting Mods in 1889, changed to Modern History, getting a First in his Finals in 1891.

From 1893-1901 Pollard served as Assistant Editor of the *Dictionary of National Biography*, and then in 1903-31 he was Professor of Constitutional History at the University of London. While there, he also founded the Historical Association in 1906 and the Institute of Historical Research in 1920. He was elected to a Fellowship of All Souls in 1908. His main area of academic research was the sixteenth century, and especially the reign of Henry VIII.

Pollard was elected an Honorary Fellow of Jesus College in 1930. More on his life and career may be found in his entry in the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*.

Most of Pollard's personal papers are now preserved at the Bodleian Library, the Senate House at the University of London, and University College London. This journal with its enclosed letters is the only personal document of his at Jesus College. However, there is nothing in the book to explain how and when it was given to the College. **JC:PI78/C1/3** below suggests that the journal came into the hands of Pollard's daughter Margaret at some point.

Catalogued in December 2018.

JC:PI78/J1 – JOURNAL OF ALBERT FREDERICK POLLARD

JC:PI78/J1/1

18 Feb 1886-26 Jan 1888

Notebook containing the journal of Albert Frederick Pollard. This was begun when Pollard was still a pupil at Felsted School, and was kept until his second term at Jesus College. As often happens, the diary is first kept very thoroughly and in detail until the summer, and then rather less frequently. Pollard also ceases to keep the journal during the school holidays.

Most of the Felsted part of the diary records Pollard's daily round, and the books which he is currently reading, either for work or pleasure, but there are occasional meditations by Pollard on his spiritual progress, or exhortations against laziness. From the autumn of 1886 Pollard records his unsuccessful attempts to obtain a scholarship at Oxford. He was finally elected to an Exhibition at Jesus College in the spring of 1887.

Pollard made only a few entries in his journal after coming up to Jesus College, and most of the notebook is unused. The extant entries discuss his work, Principal Harper, his attempts to get a scholarship and his rowing activities.

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All these items were found in **JC:PI78/JI/1** above.

JC:PI78/CI/1**31 Oct 1884**

Letter (2 sheets) to Pollard from Alfred Jerrard, Headmaster of Portsmouth Grammar School, 1879-93 (address, The Grammar School, Portsmouth). Pollard has just moved to Felsted, and Jerrard writes to encourage him in his study of Classics, and to set a good example in his behaviour.

JC:PI78/CI/2**2 Nov (year not given)**

Letter to Pollard from William Adams, Warden of All Souls College 1933-45 (address, the Warden's Lodgings, All Souls College). Adams reports to Pollard that the College wishes to elect him to a distinguished Senior Fellowship at All Souls College, and asks if he would accept this offer.

JC:PI78/CI/3**6 Aug 1948**

Letter (2 sheets) to Margaret Butler (Pollard's daughter) from Lillian Penson, Professor of Modern History at Bedford College, London, 1930-62, and Vice-Chancellor of the University of London 1948-51 (address, The Millshed, Turville Valley, Nr. Henley-on-Thames). Penson sends her condolences to Butler on the death of her father, and praises him as a teacher.