

JESUS COLLEGE OXFORD

JC:P208 PAPERS ON ROBERT CLIVE (“CLIVE OF INDIA”) ASSEMBLED BY SIR GEORGE FORREST, c. 1916-18

Sir George William David Stark Forrest (1845-1926) was born in India. Having been educated at St. John’s College, Cambridge, he returned to India to work variously as a teacher and civil servant. In later life he devoted himself to researching and writing aspects of the history of India. He eventually retired to Oxford.

Forrest’s books include *The Life of Lord Clive* (2 vols, 1918), a biography of Robert Clive, 1st Baron Clive of Plassey (1725-74), who played a major role, both as a soldier and administrator, in the expansion of British interests in India in the middle of the 18th century. This small collection of papers, comprising what appears to be a draft or early copy of a petition from Clive from the late 1740s, and several pictures, appear to relate to Forrest’s work on Clive, as made clear in a letter from Forrest at **JC:P208/CI/1**.

However, although these papers do emanate from Sir George Forrest, they give no indication of why or when they came to Jesus College. Clive never attended university, and Forrest went to Cambridge. Nevertheless, they were at some point given to Jesus College, and spent time in the College Library, where the letter and pictures were catalogued as MS 329 and the petition as MS 330. They were then transferred to the archives in in September 2018 as part of Accession No. 507.

Catalogued in November 2019.

JC:P208/LI - PETITION

JC:P208/LI/1

n.d. (c. 1749?)

Petition submitted by Robert Clive, asking that he be transferred from the military service of the East India Company. Clive had returned to civilian employment by 1749, and the petition presumably dates from this time. This document appears to be a contemporary copy of his memorial if not the original.

JC:P208/LI/2

n.d. (before 1918?)

Typescript transcription of **JC:P208/LI/1** above. The appearance of the typescript suggests that it was prepared as part of Sir George Forrest’s biography of Clive.

JC:P208/CI - CORRESPONDENCE

JC:P208/CI/1

10 Jan 1916

Letter from Sir George Forrest (address, Iffley Turn, Iffley, Oxford) to “Mr. Fish” [sic]. Forrest sends Fish a print of Admiral Watson, a View of Madras (possibly **JC:P208/PI/8** below?) and a print of la Bourdennais (**JC:P208/PI/7** below). He also mentions other people whose portraits ought to appear in his book, and discusses arrangements for tracking down other images to be reproduced.

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JC:P208/P I – ENGRAVINGS AND REPRODUCTIONS OF ENGRAVINGS

- JC:P208/P1/1** **n.d. (c. 1916-18?)**
 Photograph of engraving of Styche Hall, Moreton Say, Shropshire, the birthplace of Robert Clive.
- JC:P208/P1/2** **30 Jun 1786**
 Engraving of Robert Clive, based on the portrait by Thomas Gainsborough.
- JC:P208/P1/3** **1830**
 A second engraving of Robert Clive, based on the portrait by Thomas Gainsborough.
- JC:P208/P1/4** **n.d. (c. 1916-18?)**
 Reproduction of engraving of Robert Clive, based on a portrait by Nathaniel Dance, now held at Powis Castle.
- JC:P208/P1/5** **n.d. (c. 1916-18?)**
 Photograph of a portrait of Margaret Clive (née Maskelyne), wife of Robert Clive, as a young woman. The image appears to be a copy of a portrait of Lady Clive by Nathaniel Dance.
- JC:P208/P1/6** **n.d. (c. 1916-18?)**
 Photograph of an engraving of Margaret Clive (née Maskelyne), wife of Robert Clive, in later life. The engraving appears to be based on a miniature of her attributed to George Engleheart, now held at Powis Castle.
- JC:P208/P1/7** **1789**
 Coloured engraving of Bertrand-François Mahé de la Bourdonnais (1699-1753). In 1746, de la Bourdonnais, was in command of the French naval forces which helped capture Madras from the British. Clive was one of the Britons stationed in Madras, and was taken prisoner after the battle. However, Clive won considerable renown by managing to escape with a few of his comrades.
- JC:P208/P1/8** **1754**
 Engraving of a view of “Fort St. George in the East Indies”. This was built in Madras (now Chennai).
- JC:P208/P1/9** **n.d.**
 Engraving of a view of Calcutta.
- JC:P208/P1/10** **n.d. (before 1763?)**
 Engraving titled “A North East View of Walcot Hall”. Walcot Hall, Shropshire, was bought by Robert Clive in 1763, and rebuilt by him. To judge from modern photographs of Walcot Hall, this engraving shows the house before Clive’s alterations to the fabric.

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JC:P208/P1/11-12

n.d. (1918?)

Reproductions of engravings of Major-General Stringer Lawrence and of a view of Calcutta (the same view seen in **JC:P209/P1/9**). The similarity in design between those two reproductions suggest that these are illustrations from Forrest’s published biography of Clive.