

**Papers of Sir
Raymond
Edward
Priestley**

**Reference:
US38**

Papers of Sir Raymond Edward Priestley

US38 University of Birmingham Staff Papers: 1920-
Papers of Sir Raymond Edward Priestley 2007

Personal papers comprising bound compilations of papers, lectures and essays by Priestley, 1920-1960, including printed texts of various papers and speeches relating to university administration and autobiographical writings about childhood memories, First World War service, and particularly Antarctic expeditions; set of detailed personal diaries and travel journals 1938-1953 including photographs, press cuttings, correspondence and other items providing a full account of Priestley's activities as Vice-Chancellor of the University of Birmingham and as a member of the Asquith Commission on Higher Education in the Colonies which involved extended visits to Jamaica and Trinidad as well as to other countries in the late 1940s and early 1950s; microfilm copies of diaries and other records 1938-1954; and papers relating to Priestley's career in university administration at Cambridge and Birmingham 1920s-1930s and to other appointments. The collection also includes CD copies of audio recordings of Raymond Priestley 1960s-1970s; and miscellaneous papers which are mostly loosely connected with Priestley's interest in polar exploration

The diaries are a rich and important source of information for the researcher studying the management of the University of Birmingham in the period immediately before and during the Second World War; they contain detailed descriptions of the activities and personal views of Raymond Priestley as Vice-Chancellor, and can be used together with University committee minutes and other official records to provide a broader view of the institution's main functions and activities during this time, and to gain a deeper understanding of what the role of Vice-Chancellor entailed

The travel journals provide a valuable insight into the experiences of a white British

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traveller to Jamaica and Trinidad, containing descriptions of the landscape, local industry, elementary and higher education, and colonial social life there during the late 1940s and early 1950s, with occasional comment on contemporary political issues.

The collection as a whole contains a number of pieces of autobiographical writing and comment by Priestley on his experiences of Antarctic exploration in the period before the First World War, particularly as a member of Scott's 1910-1913 Antarctic expedition. These accounts are contained in both his diaries and in the bound compilations of papers.

Administrative history: Raymond Priestley was born on 20 July 1886 in Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire. He was the second son and the second of eight children of Joseph Edward Priestley and Henrietta Rice. His elder brother, Hubert, became a lecturer in Botany, and became Head of the Botany Department at Leeds University. His two younger brothers, Donald and Stanley, were both killed in the First World War. He had four younger sisters, Edith, Doris, Joyce, and Olive. His family were Methodists, and attended Tewkesbury Wesleyan chapel. Priestley's father was headmaster of Tewkesbury Grammar School, and Raymond Priestley was educated there and taught there for a year as a pupil teacher before going to University College, Bristol in 1905 to study geology, though he initially intended to study botany. He was captain of the hockey team and a member of the cricket XI.

In 1907 a chance contact led to him being invited to join Sir Ernest Shackleton's British Antarctic Expedition. During this expedition he worked with the geologists T. W. Edgeworth David and Douglas Mawson, though a knee injury meant that Priestley took part in less geological fieldwork than expected, and spent time caring for the expedition's ponies. He was part of the team that laid food and fuel depots for Shackleton's attempt to reach the South Pole

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in 1909. He contributed to the geological sections of Shackleton's book, 'The Heart of the Antarctic' (1909), when he returned to England, before travelling to Sydney, Australia later in 1909 to work with Edgeworth David on the first volume of the geological report, published in 1914. He was still in Sydney when he was recruited by Captain Robert Falcon Scott to join his Antarctic expedition in 1910. Priestley was a member of Victor Campbell's 'Northern Party' during the expedition, spending 1911 at Cape Adare and then travelling south for summer fieldwork. The six members of the group were due to be collected by the expedition's ship, Terra Nova, at the end of their work. The ship was prevented by pack-ice from returning, and the group realised that they would have to spend the winter where they were, and attempt to sledge back to Cape Evans in the spring. They survived by digging a 12 foot by 9 foot ice cave shelter in a snow-drift and supplemented their limited food rations with seal and penguin, reserving food for their journey back to Cape Evans. They began their journey at the end of September 1912, with two members of the group weak from the effects of enteritis, finding a depot of food and fuel on the way which had been left by the expedition's 'western party' the previous year. They reached the main expedition group at Cape Evans on 7 November 1912 to find that Scott and the Polar party had died months earlier. Priestley wrote a detailed account of the experiences of the 'Northern Party' in his book 'Antarctic Adventure' which was published in 1914.

Priestley returned to England in 1913 and attended Christ's College, Cambridge for a BA by Research, writing up the geological results of Scott's Antarctic expedition. Priestley's sister Doris married Griffith Taylor, another member of Scott's expedition, and his sister Edith married Charles Wright.

When the First World War broke out in 1914 Priestley served as adjutant at the Wireless Training Centre until 1917, and then with the

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46th divisional signal company in France. He took part in the capture of the Riqueval Bridge, part of the Hindenburg line, by the 137th Infantry Brigade, and was awarded the Military Cross. He married Phyllis Mary Boyle, from Dunedin, New Zealand, on 10 April 1915, and they had two daughters, Jocelyn, born in 1916, and Margaret, born in 1919. After the war he was seconded to the War Office to write the official history of the signal service 'The Work of the Royal Engineers, 1914-19; the Signal Service (1921), and 'Breaking the Hindenburg Line (1919).

He returned to Cambridge and completed sections of the British (Terra Nova) Antarctic Expedition, 1910-13: Glaciology, jointly with Charles S. Wright (1922). He wrote a thesis on this subject for his BA degree in 1920, and then studied agriculture, gaining a diploma in 1922. He was a lecturer in soil science at the Agricultural School in 1923, and became a Fellow of Clare College. Priestley then began a career in university administration at Cambridge. He was appointed Secretary of the Board of Research Studies as Assistant Registrar 1924-1927, First Assistant Registrar and Secretary to the General Board 1927-1934, and Secretary-General of the Faculties 1934-1935. He was appointed the first salaried Vice-Chancellor of Melbourne University in 1935, and returned to England in 1938 to become Vice-Chancellor of the University of Birmingham, holding this post until his retirement in 1953. In both these posts he promoted the development of student sport and students unions, and at Melbourne he campaigned for the expansion of research and disciplines taught, as well as for a new library. He was successful in efforts to provide accommodation for students, and Union House was opened in 1938. He resigned from his post at Melbourne in June 1938, frustrated by a lack of support from the Chancellor and some members of staff, as well as by lack of funding from the State government. When he arrived at Birmingham in October 1938 he immediately had to begin

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preparing the university for the outbreak of war in 1939, and was then prevented from implementing plans to move all university departments out of the city centre to the Edgbaston campus due to post-war building restrictions. However, thanks to public support the university doubled in size during his term of office, started new departments, and recruited staff to transform the institution into a centre of research.

From the mid 1940s onwards Priestley was able to develop his interest in the provision of education in what became Commonwealth countries. After broadcasting on the BBC's overseas service on higher education he was appointed to the Asquith Commission on Higher Education in the Colonies to determine the pattern of university education in these countries during the post-war surge towards independence, and visited Jamaica and Trinidad on a number of occasions, helping to found the University College of the West Indies, and serving as chairman of the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture in Trinidad from 1949 to 1953. He also visited Singapore and the Malay Peninsula in August 1946 on a government mission and was awarded an honorary doctorate by the University of Malaya.

He had lived at Viceroy Close, Edgbaston, and later in the war at Lawn House, Ampton Road, Edgbaston, but after his retirement in 1953 he went to live at Bredons Norton. His wife suffered from long-term ill health from the late 1940s, and did not go with him on his visits abroad, though sometimes he was accompanied by his daughter, Margaret. Priestley continued his public service in retirement, serving as chairman of the royal commission on the civil service from 1953 to 1955, and as president of the Royal Geographical Society from 1961 to 1963. Priestley had frequently given lectures on his Antarctic experiences to school children, undergraduates, servicemen, and to a number of other organisations. He had founded the Scott Polar Research Institute at the University of Cambridge in 1920, with

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Frank Debenham, and when he retired was able to take a more active part in polar research. From 1955 to 1958 he deputised as acting director at the London headquarters of the Falkland Islands dependencies survey for Vivian Fuchs. He visited the Antarctic again, with the Duke of Edinburgh to the Falkland Island dependencies in 1956, and to Victoria Land with the US Navy in 1959. He co-edited 'Antarctic Research' with R. J. Adie and G. de Q. Robin in 1964.

In his later years Priestley increasingly stayed at home in Bredons Norton where he spent time with his younger daughter, Margaret, and her family. His elder daughter, Jocelyn, had married Ian Bowman Fleming, an Australian engineer, and settled in Australia. Margaret married George Hubert in 1953. Raymond Priestley died in the Nuffield Nursing Home, Cheltenham, on 24 June 1974.

Sources: G. de Q. Robin, 'Priestley, Sir Raymond Edward (1886–1974)', rev. Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, Oxford University Press, 2004; online edn, Jan 2008 <http://www.oxforddnb.com/view/article/31566>, accessed 4 Dec 2014

Australian Dictionary of Biography
<http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/priestley-sir-raymond-edward-8116> Accessed 4 December 2014

For further reading about the University of Birmingham see: Eric Ives, Diane Drummond, Leonard Schwarz The First Civic University: Birmingham 1880-1980 An Introductory History (The University of Birmingham Press. 2000)

Arrangement: Papers have been arranged in six series, according to record type or subject:

US38/1: Publications, addresses and essays

US38/2: Diaries

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US38/3: Microfilm copies of diaries

US38/4: Papers relating to academic appointments and honorary posts

US38/5: Raymond Priestley sound recordings

US38/6: Miscellaneous papers

6 boxes

Access: Open

Access conditions: Open. Access to all registered researchers.

Copies: The collection includes microfilm copies of Priestley's diaries from 1938 to 1954, including copies of two volumes which are not part of the collection in their original format. See US38/3

Copyright: Permission to make any published use of any material from the collection must be sought in advance in writing from the Director of Special Collections. Identification of copyright holders of unpublished material is often difficult. Special Collections will assist where possible with identifying copyright owners, but responsibility for ensuring copyright clearance rests with the user of the material.

Language: English

Creator name: Priestley, Sir Raymond Edward, 1886-1974, geologist and academic administrator

Custodial history: Priestley's typescript diaries were presented to Special Collections by his grandson, John Hubert in 2007. Internal evidence suggests that Priestley intended them to be deposited with the archives of the University of Birmingham. His 1938-1939 diary contains a press cutting from the University of Birmingham Gazette dated 18 October 1968 consisting of an article about the development of a university archive collection which appeals for

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departments or members of staff to deposit material. Priestley has added a handwritten note reading 'these diaries should go when I die'. Microfilm copies of the diaries were already held by Special Collections, together with some miscellaneous papers

Related material: Official correspondence of Priestley, as Vice- Chancellor of the University of Birmingham, 1938-1953 is also held in the archives of the University of Birmingham at the Cadbury Research Library: Special Collections. The Cadbury Research Library also holds the archives of other former staff, officials, and students

US38/1

Publications, addresses and essays

1920-
1973

The majority of the papers in this section are arranged in two bound volumes compiled by Raymond Priestley. They largely consist of typed copies of lectures, essays, and other papers, some of which were later delivered as talks or broadcasts. The primary theme of the papers is Antarctic exploration, and many of them draw heavily on Priestley's experiences as a member of Shackleton's 1907-1909 Antarctic expedition, and especially on his experiences as a member of the 'Northern Party' during Scott's 1910-1913 Antarctic expedition. Other papers focus on other aspects of Priestley's life and career, and include discussion of Priestley's family and childhood memories, his First World War service, and his career in university administration. Most of the papers were first written or delivered between the 1920s and the 1950s, but several include later handwritten annotations, made by Priestley in the 1960s and 1970s, in his retirement.

Other papers comprise a printed copy of a paper on civic universities, given by Priestley in 1949, and a rough bound copy of a report of a committee of the West Midland Group on Post-War Reconstruction and Planning, of which Priestley was a member, published in 1955.

There are also some handwritten notes by

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Priestley, probably made in the 1940s as part of his work for a book review of manuals on Antarctic exploration and later discarded, but which were kept by secretarial staff at the University of Birmingham and later added to this collection

3 volumes and 2 files

Access: Open

US38/1/1

'Miscellanea: an 'omnium gatherum' of essays, broadcasts & just jottings'

1920-1973

Bound volume containing typescript copies of Priestley's lectures and essays primarily relating to polar exploration, and to his own role in Shackleton's 'Nimrod' expedition 1907-1909, and Scott's 1910-1913 Antarctic expedition. There are also essays on other aspects of Priestley's life and career, including university administration at Cambridge, and more introspective writings expressing his thoughts about human character, and how circumstances shaped the course of his life. Priestley has included a handwritten index at the front of the volume

Papers consist of copy of article dated 1945 entitled 'Scott's Norther Party: A Study of Contrast and Survival in the Antarctic'; copy of lecture entitled 'Antarctic Exploration Today and Yesterday' with list of illustrations, undated; copy of lecture on the polar explorer Lincoln Ellsworth, given to the Rotary Club, 18 December 1935; copy of paper entitled 'Living Off The Country in the Polar Regions' dated 10 July 1935; copy of paper entitled 'Personnel of Polar Exploration' dated July 1935; copy of lecture entitled 'Penguins' given during the Long Vacation 1920 at Cambridge University; copy of paper entitled 'The Professor' [about Edgeworth David, Professor of Geology at Sydney University] given at Cambridge, c.1923; address entitled 'Robert Falcon Scott' first delievered at Binton Church on Scott Memorial Sunday 1952; essay entitled 'Sing: Sing; Si-i-i-ng: Sing It After Me-e' written in 1961 about the role of hymns, songs, and verse in Priestley's life; copy of paper entitled

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'Cambridge University Administration and Development' March 1935; copy of essay entitled 'Happenstance at Turning Points' written in 1959 about the times in Priestley's life when chance events changed the course of his life and career; essay entitled 'English: Its Use, Abuse and Disuse by Me, My Family, My Friends, Americans, Compositors, and the 'World' at Large', 1960; copy of lyrics to 'Putty Marston's Most 'Shocking' Song of 'Runic' and 'Nimrod' Days' entitled 'Johnny Hall', written down by Priestley in 1965; typed extracts from fragments of the diary of Bernard Day, 1910-1911 held by the Polar Research Institute at Cambridge and copied by Priestley in October 1964; copy of essay entitled 'Field Geology in Antarctica and Elsewhere', undated; copy of broadcast entitled 'Myself and Life', probably written in 1944 or 1945 and focusing on the human qualities he valued most highly, drawn from his experiences in the Antarctic; profile of George Murray Levick.

Two printed articles by Priestley have been placed in an envelope affixed to the last page of the volume. These consist of an article published in 'The Outlook' in December 1926 entitled 'University Research: I - The Past and Present', and an article published in 'The Fortnightly Review' in February 1931 entitled 'The Spirit Of The Age In Science'. There are also some loose items consisting of typed notes on 'The Causes of the Scott Disaster' written by Priestley in about 1923; typed copy of a toast of the guests at the Antarctic Dining Club 20th Anniversary Dinner, 1950; handwritten copy of a speech given by Priestley at a Wireless Squad Dinner, May 1970; the last page of a typed speech on polar explorers given by Priestley in December 1956 on board the Royal Yacht Britannia; and a printed copy of the University of Cambridge Scott Polar Research Institute Forth-Seventh Annual Report 1972-1973

Many of the lectures and essays include handwritten annotations and notes made by

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Priestley in the 1960s and early 1970s, including some from April 1974, two months before his death

1 volume

Access: Open

US38/1/2

'Miscellaneous papers'

1920-
1960

Bound volume compiled by Priestley in the early 1960s containing typescript copies of his lectures and broadcasts on polar exploration, and of papers on other subjects. There is a handwritten index at the front of the volume, together with portrait photographs of Priestley, his elder brother, Joseph Hubert Priestley, and Priestley's childhood dog, Scamp.

Papers consist of copy of toast to guests at the Antarctic Club Dinner February 1958; printed copy of article entitled 'Scott's Northern Party: A Study of Contrast and Survival in the Antarctic', delivered as an inaugural address at the School of Medicine, University of Leeds, October 1945; lecture entitled 'Introductory Talk on Polar Exploration' given in May 1939; copy of broadcast entitled 'Contrast at the Poles', delivered in Australia April 1938; copy of broadcast entitled 'The British Quest of the South Pole' delivered as a sequel to 'Contrast at the Poles'; copy of a lecture entitled 'A Winter in a Snowdrift in Antarctica'; copy of lecture given at Cambridge in 1928 entitled 'Polar Transport: Pony and Mule Transport'; copy of lecture given at Cambridge in 1928 entitled 'Polar Transport: Dog Transport'; copy of lecture entitled 'Antarctic Exploration Today and Yesterday' given by Priestley in the 1950s; offprint of article on 'Sir Edgeworth David' by Priestley, reprinted from 'The Australian Quarterly' June 1958; copy of article entitled 'The Professor' [about Edgeworth David]; copy of lecture entitled 'Service Memories round and about the First World War' about Priestley's war service as a Signal Officer, dated January 1958 and including a photograph of Priestley and other members of the First

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Army Signals, taken at Valenciennes in January 1919; copy of short paper entitled 'War Reminiscences' dated 1959; copy of essay entitled 'Happenstance at Turning Points' which also appears in the volume described at US38/1/1; copy of essay entitled 'English: Its Use, Abuse and Disuse by Me, My Family, My Friends, Americans, Composers, and the 'World' at Large' which also appears in the volume described at US38/1/1; copy of essay entitled 'Myself and Life' focusing on the human qualities he valued most highly, drawn from his experiences in the Antarctic, which also appears in the volume described at US38/1/1; copy of lecture entitled 'Higher Education in the West Indies', written after Priestley's return from Jamaica and the British Honduras in 1953; printed copy of address given by Priestley on the occasion of the presentation of the first graduates of the University College of the West Indies in January 1953; copy of lecture entitled 'Australia Again and Again', dated August 1956 about Priestley's visits to the country from 1907 onwards and his time as Vice-Chancellor of Melbourne University in the 1930s; copy of profile of Ernest Harrison, University Registrar at Cambridge in the 1920s; copy of essay entitled 'Tewkesbury Memories as recalled in the Royal Yacht Britannia in 1957' on cricket and other sporting activities as a child and adolescent, and on gardening; copy of essay entitled 'Early Days' about Priestley's ancestors, his memories of his grandmother, and an anecdote about his father; copy of essay entitled 'Cricket at Tewkesbury 1895-1907' written in 1944; copy of the lyrics to the 'Sledging Song of Scott's Northern Party' by Raymond Priestley with notes, written down in December 1960 at the request of the staff of the Falkland Islands Dependencies Survey Office

Affixed to the last page of the volume are photographs showing Raymond Priestley and Phyllis on their wedding day in 1915, together with bridesmaids, and Priestley's

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best man

1 volume

Access: Open

US38/1/3 Notes on arctic manuals 1940s

Handwritten notes by Raymond Priestley written for book reviews of 'Arctic Manual volumes I and II' published by US Government Printing Office in 1940 and 'Technical Manual' and 'Arctic Manual' April 1942

1 file

Access: Open

US38/1/4 'The English Civic Universities' 1949

Printed copy of paper by Raymond Priestley, read to teaching officers of overseas universities in Cambridge in August 1949, containing details about his responsibilities and activities as Vice-Chancellor of the University of Birmingham and commenting on his experience of university life as a student and administrator at Cambridge

1 item

Access: Open

US38/1/5 Local Government and Central Control; A West Midland Group Study 1955

Rough bound copy of report of a committee of members of the West Midland Group on Post-War Reconstruction and Planning circulated to committee members before its publication by Routledge and Kegan Paul in 1956, with accompanying letter to Sir Raymond Priestley, from the group secretary, C. B. Parkes, 20 December 1955 asking whether he would like personal copies to be sent to anyone.

The book contains a Foreword signed by members of the committee, which was set up in 1948 to investigate the situation of local government in the West Midlands region,

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and its value and effectiveness following recent legislation. The Foreward states that the members of the committee, Wilfrid Martineau (chairman), Paul S. Cadbury, Herbert J. Manzoni, Raymond Priestley, and C. B. Parkes (secretary), take responsibility for the content of the book, which was largely written by Tom Burns in the form of a series of reports

A card giving details about a lecture given by Raymond Priestley at the George Watson Memorial Hall, Tewkesbury in January 1914 on 'Captain Scott's Antarctic Expedition' is inserted in the middle of the volume. It was presumably used by Priestley as a bookmark

1 volume

Access: Open

US38/2

Diaries

1938-
1954

Set of personal diaries of Raymond Priestley, kept on typescript pages and bound into hardback volumes with Priestley's bookplate on the inside cover. Pages have been numbered by Priestley, who also provided handwritten contents listings, described as indexes. Diary entries usually cover a week or two weeks and were written retrospectively to provide a summary. Some volumes also contain additional typescript or handwritten essays or copies of lectures, correspondence, and other ephemera, and most volumes include photographs and press cuttings relating to topics discussed by Priestley in the diary entries. The volumes in this sequence cover the period from October 1938, when Priestley took up his post as Vice-Chancellor of the University of Birmingham, to February 1953, when he returned from one of his frequent visits to Jamaica as a member of the Council of the University College of the West Indies. Priestley kept detailed diaries for much of his life; other volumes are held in archive repositories in other institutions.

Diaries covering the period October 1938 to the end of 1943 contain detailed entries

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which provide a full record of Priestley's activities. During 1944 and 1945 He spent time away from Birmingham, giving lecture tours to Allied troops stationed in Scotland and in Italy and Malta during the final phases of the Second World War, and undertaking his first visit to Jamaica and Trinidad as a member of the Asquith Commission on Higher Education in the Colonies. He recorded detailed accounts of his travels, but became less concerned with keeping a consistent record of his more routine activities in his weekly diary. He continued to make retrospective entries until May 1945, marking the end of the war in Europe, and also made entries in August 1945 after the end of the war with Japan. From October 1945 the diaries take the form of scrapbooks and travel journals, documenting Priestley's activities through the inclusion of press cuttings, correspondence, copies of lectures and essays, photographs, and ephemera, together with detailed accounts of his journeys abroad, mostly to Jamaica and Trinidad, but also to other Caribbean islands, and to Malaya, Singapore, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and Canada in the late 1940s and early 1950s. The majority of these visits were made in his role as a member of organisations concerned with the development of higher education in British colonies, which he continued after his retirement as Vice-Chancellor of the University of Birmingham in 1953. The diaries for these years also allow for the reconstruction of his activities in Birmingham as Vice-Chancellor, and of some aspects of his family and domestic life through the press cuttings and photographs

The weekly diary entries are primarily concerned with Priestley's university business, and with university administration in a broader sense, but also contain evidence of his other interests in polar research and in schools and adult education. They form a valuable record of the governance of the University of Birmingham, particularly for the years from 1938 to 1945, and provide evidence about the development

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of university policy during that period. Priestley regularly mentions the committee meetings he attended, and sometimes provides brief accounts of business discussed and details of conversations between members of academic staff. He often refers to his work with members of administrative staff at the University, and with members of the Guild of Students, and also writes about attending university receptions and social events. The entries contain information about Priestley's participation, as Vice-Chancellor, in civic business, including the management of hospital services in Birmingham, his interest in the management of local schools, and his involvement in planning for civic development for the post-war period. There are also details about his continued links with the Scott Polar Research Institute at Cambridge and his visits there, his attendance at meetings of the Committee of Vice-Chancellors, and his meetings with representatives from local industries to discuss higher education funding. Priestley records details of his visits to give lectures and speeches, mostly on the topic of Antarctic exploration, to a large number of local organisations, as well as to local schools and to troops stationed in the West Midlands area during the Second World War.

The entries for this period are an important source for the study of the impact of the Second World War on Birmingham and on the governance and operations of the University, seen from the perspective of Priestley as Vice-Chancellor. There are details about the establishment of a Joint Recruiting Board to channel students into military service, the formation of a Home Guard, and the implementation of fire watching and air raid precautions duties for staff and students at university properties at both Edmund Street and Edgbaston. Priestley discusses staff shortages, the involvement of academic staff in government research connected with the conflict, and the evacuation scheme to Canada organised for the families of academic staff. He also comments on the arrival of refugee students,

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the temporary accommodation provided for medical students from Kings College, London at Birmingham, the effects of food rationing, and the establishment of the University Overseas Club and other social activities for members of other universities from Britain and overseas, serving with Allied forces and stationed in Birmingham. The diary entries describe some of his personal experiences and feelings about the war, and include descriptions of air raids, his work to grow vegetables in his garden and on the allotment, his own involvement in fire watching duties, and his separation from his elder daughter, Jocelyn, who was living with her husband in Australia and was only able to maintain contact with her family in Birmingham through sporadic letters.

The diaries give a full account of Priestley's social and family life during this time, and include details about his visits to Birmingham theatres and attendance at other cultural activities in Birmingham, as well as regular excursions and holidays in the surrounding countryside, particularly to the Malvern hills and to Bredon, but also to other parts of Worcestershire and Herefordshire, as well as visits to see family and friends in Tewkesbury. Many entries include references to his wife, Phyllis, and his daughter, Margaret, who was studying in London during the early 1940s, but also spent time in Birmingham, and who was undertaking teaching practice in Birmingham during the latter part of the Second World War.

The travel diaries are rich in detail about Priestley's travels in Jamaica and Trinidad, and include incidental information about friends and colleagues he spent time with there, who were mostly connected with the University College of the West Indies. Photographs in both the Birmingham diaries and the travel diaries complement the entries, and include images of several of those mentioned in the diaries. Priestley often gives news about friends from his time at Cambridge University and the University of Melbourne, where he had been Vice-

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Chancellor in the mid 1930s, as well as news about his siblings, and about his friends from his Antarctic expeditions. Anecdotes and observations about peoples characters and actions are a feature of the diary entries, and Priestley sometimes includes stories about his own bad luck or minor misfortunes, written with an obvious sense of humour, as well as comments about members of University of Birmingham staff.

It is clear that Priestley continued to reflect on his diary entries in later years; there are handwritten annotations added, with dates in the 1960s and early 1970s. A reference in one of these annotations to his 1968 diary suggests that he continued to compile some form of record of his activities well into his eighties

14 volumes

Access: Open

US38/2/1

1938 Diary

1938-
1939

Raymond Priestley's diary covering the period from 1 October 1938 to 11 August 1939. Entries document the events of Priestley's first year as Vice-Chancellor.

The diary begins with daily entries for the first three days of October, and at first the focus is on his move to Birmingham and his new post as Vice Chancellor. He comments on being brought a gown made for Oliver Lodge and subsequently worn by Charles Grant Roberston who passed it on to him, and the need for it to be altered, and states that he intends to donate some of his books to the Guild of Undergraduates library. He also writes about his trips into the surrounding countryside with his daughter, Margaret, and wife, Phyllis, taking a tram to the Lickey Hills and walking, visiting friends on the slopes of Bredon Hill, taking drives to Malvern, and visits to friends in the surrounding countryside and in Tewkesbury. He also gives details about the activities of his daughter, Margaret, and her studies at Holloway, University of London. These

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themes are a recurring feature of the diary.

He records his discussion of some of the problems facing the university with the outgoing Vice Chancellor, Charles Grant Robertson, and also reflects on the apparent resolution of the Munich crisis on 1 October, commenting on public opinion 'there is quite a large section of the population that looks on recent arrangement with Germany as a climb down, if not a rout, but the predominant feeling is still relief that war has been avoided...estimates of the duration of peace vary from six months to "our time", the latter being the Prime Minister's view'. Business on his first day in post on 3 October includes authorisation of a scheme for first aid classes as part of air raid precautions, organised by Miss Milne, Senior Tutor of women students, and the replacement of a lecturer in French awaiting trial. A press cutting from The Birmingham Mail reporting on the sentencing of the lecturer for inciting another man to commit an act of gross indecency is inserted between pages 40 and 41 of the diary. He attended meetings of Faculties and Boards of Studies, had tea with the Guild Committee and met undergraduate students at the Guild on 8 October. He also attended his first meeting of the Social Studies Committee during the week ending 15 October where he saw Philip Sargent Florence, who he had met in Cambridge. He attended a meeting of the Association for Education in Citizenship to hear Anthony Eden speak, and chaired a meeting of the Midland branch of the Geologists Association at which Professor W. W. Watt gave a lecture, during the week ending 15 October. He was a guest at the Guild of Undergraduates Carnival Ball during the week ending 23 October which he provides a description of 'altogether it was a pleasant evening and had I am sure a valuable effect in cementing our relations with the students'. He also attended a dinner of the Association of Orthopaedists, and a meeting of the Universities Bureau in London, where he visited his daughter, Margaret, at Holloway.

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He records his concern about conditions at Chancellor's Hall, which he inspected during the week ending 28 October, commenting that it is 'very unsuitable for running as a hostel'. He mentions that he would like to provide an 'up-to-date hostel, well endowed, on the Edgbaston site; which he thinks would provide an environment for student activities for students from outside the Birmingham area, and resolve the financial problems apparently associated with Chancellor's Hall. He also discusses the resignations of the Pro-Chancellor [Walter Barrow] and Deputy Pro-Chancellor [Mr Lloyd], gives details of his attendance at the Carnival Revue, and gives an account of his meeting with the Prime Minister [Neville Chamberlain] to discuss how to use a donation from Sir Charles Hyde where he learnt that Lord Hirst had made a donation towards the expansion of the Science faculty. The following week he gives information about the dinner held for Lord Nuffield [another potential donor to the Science faculty] and gives a detailed account of his visit to Cambridge where he had a tour of the Polar Research Institute and spent time with former colleagues and friends. During the week ending 6 November he attended his first matriculation ceremonies at the Edmund Street and Edgbaston and reflects on possible changes to be made. He also mentions attending his first meeting with the Trustees of the Barber Institute, and attending a Staff Social Club dinner at the Edgbaston refectory. He also went to dinner with Professor Watson and his wife in Leamington, and comments that 'quite a number of the university staff live a comparatively long distance from Birmingham...living so far away must make one feel rather divorced from the university and rather remote from its interests'. He returns to the subject of halls of residence during the week ending 13 November when he records visiting University House for lunch, commenting that it 'gives the impression of being a well-run show and is much more after my own heart than Chancellor's Hall'. He goes on to describe the Baldwin Night dinner he attended at

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Chancellor's Hall which he enjoyed, apart from some of the stories told by the speakers, which were 'very near the knuckle...it is a pity that youth feels that it is necessary to be salacious in order to be witty'. He gives brief details of his attendance at a selection committee at the Universities Bureau in London to appoint to the Directorship of Extension at the University of Melbourne. He also mentions attending a Faculty of Law dinner at which the establishment of an Institute of Advanced Legal Studies and Research in London was discussed, visiting Sir George Kenrick and Mrs Beale 'the mother of the treasurer', and attending the 'Vice-Chancellor's party' at the Guild of Undergraduates 'which was really a meeting and conversazione of the East and West Friendship Society'. He comments on the relatively large number of international students at the university and goes on to give a brief account of his attendance at the university Armistice Day service.

A detailed account of negotiations surrounding the appointment of a new university treasurer is inserted before the entry for the week ending 20 November which includes a brief account of the Holdsworth Club dinner Priestley attended. He also mentions that he has been made a trustee of the Barber Institute, and that he has been studying the university's audited accounts. Engagements during the following week, ending 27 November, included attendance at a lecture by Julian Huxley at the Midland Institute, and dinner with university staff and officials including the Sargent Florences, the Beales, and Sir Gilbert Barling who was supportive of Priestley's plans for the development of student hostels. He mentions opposition to Mark Oliphant's proposal to put Niels Bohr forward for an honorary degree, and discussion at the Anatomy Selection Committee concerning the possible appointment of [Solly] Zuckerman who is 'outstanding on the research side', and

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comments on the organisation of his book collection and his involvement in university sports activities. During the week ending 6 December he gave a lecture on 'Antarctic Adventure with Scott and Shackleton' to the university in the debating hall at the Guild, and had a meeting with Dr Quayle, assistant to the High Commissioner to India, concerning an Indian student 'who had been in trouble with the police'. He gives a detailed account of his attendance at the annual dinner of the Society of Chartered Accountants and his visit to Middlesbrough to attend a meeting of the North East branch of the Guild of Graduates. He also mentions attending a Staff Social Club musical evening at the Guild

Notes on Priestley's reading of John Rymill's report on the British Graham Land expedition 1934-1937, published as 'Southern Lights' are inserted before the entry for the week ending 11 December which includes details of the Finance Committee's decision to authorise an application for funds for the extension of the Guild building, comment on the likelihood that the Industrial Hygiene department will have to be closed due to lack of funds, and information about Priestley's admission as a Barber trustee which will enable him to contribute towards the maintenance of the Guild of Undergraduates library. He also attended dinner at Elizabeth Cadbury's home before taking the chair at the George Cadbury memorial lecture at the Selly Oak Colleges. He gives his opinion on the content of the lecture, by Wilson Harris, nephew of Rendel Harris, and returns to discussion of the appointment of Solly Zuckerman to the chair of Anatomy in the Faculty of Medicine. During the week ending 18 December he presided at a meeting of the Joint Board of University and Training Colleges and had tea with research students of the university at the 'Research Tea Club', commenting that he offered to meet them periodically to discuss 'questions which affect [them] generally and particularly...I believe in the ventilation of grievances and...should like to meet all section of the university

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population in this way'. He also had dinner with members of staff and with members of the student Carnival Committee and Guild Executive to discuss the future of the event. Meetings of University House Committee and the Senate committee on Physical Training are also mentioned, and he gives a description of his first degree ceremony and his visit to Sheffield with Hanson to attend the opening of the 'Admiralty testing laboratory'. The entry ends with a description of Christmas festivities at the Guild of Graduates at Edmund Street, and details about holiday activities with his family, which are also the main topic of the following entry, for the week ending 25 December.

Entries for 1939 begin during the week ending 2 January. Priestley gives a detailed account of his holiday with the Trevors at Welcombe and his journey back to Birmingham. He also gives news of his daughter, Jocelyn, in Melbourne. During the week ending 7 January he attended a discussion at University House on the 'Economic Causes of War' and records the arguments of the speaker. He also gives details of his visit to the Children's Hospital and research unit with Parsons during which he agreed to become a member of the hospital General Purposes Committee. He visited Bredon with his family at the weekend and comments on the difficult driving conditions due to snowy weather. In the entry for the following week, ending 15 January, he returns to discussion of the debates on the 'Economic Causes of War' and gives details of his visit to London with Parsons to speak to members of the Medical Research Council about applications to the Rockefeller Foundation to help with the development of 'a research side to our medical school'. Negotiations to secure Solly Zuckerman for the Chair of Anatomy are continuing. He mentions having lunch with Edward Cadbury and visiting the Library of the Selly Oak College where he met the librarian and 'a refugee doctor, by name Gotschalk, who is working on the unique collection of Islamic manuscripts there'. He also gives a detailed

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account of his first meeting of the Fentham Trustees. He mentions giving a broadcast on the Midland Regional station during the week ending 21 January, giving a talk about his life, and particularly his time in Antarctica, and he also gives a brief account of the installation of the Duke of Devonshire as Chancellor at which Stanley Baldwin spoke. Other events recorded include the visit of members of the Medical Research Council and the Rockefeller Foundation to inspect the Medical School, his meeting with Radcliffe Brown who delivered his first Muirhead lecture, and his attendance at Bodkin's lecture on El Greco and at the Handsworth Technical College prize giving. Engagements during the following week, ending 31 January, included dinner with Sir Charles Grant Robertson, lunch with Mark Oliphant who had recently returned from the United States, and a meeting with Moberly and Beresford about the proposed Guild extension scheme which he believes they are supporting in order to get more staff amenities there 'I can see trouble with the lads if they go too far. After all the Union is primarily a student affair and it will not do to try and turn it into a Faculty Club'. He mentions attending a meeting of the Vice-Chancellors of the Universities of the Constituency in Liverpool, and completing work on his first Annual Report. A typescript of Priestley's toast at the Dinner of Midland Chemists on 4 February 1939 is inserted before the entry for the week ending 4 February in which he mentions the reception of his first Annual Report in the Birmingham press and gives a brief account of Julia Moscheles' lecture in the Geography department on Czechoslovakia at which he met Alderman William Cadbury who 'has been a patron of the Geography department and is greatly interested in maps of which he has given to the Birmingham Reference Library a fine collection that might very easily (and much better) have come to us had we possessed a decent Geography department'. He gives news about the improving health of Kinvig and goes on to give details of his attendance at the Birmingham Book Club

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dinner at which he spoke about Antarctic expeditions he had served on and bought some books at an auction, and of his attendance at the Birmingham Business Club where he spoke on 'The Causes of the Scott Disaster' and at which there were a number of Commerce students present, as well as Sandbach and Sargent Florence. He mentions meeting Knonvalov about the Russian department, visiting the medical school with the Pro-Chancellor to 'try to settle the fate of Industrial Medicine and Hygiene, and having dinner with the Guild Executive Council, staff members of the Union House Committee, and Burton at the Refectory to discuss the Union Extension Scheme. He records that the Guild of Undergraduates are to invite all staff to tea in the Union building to discuss the scheme, and that the University Grants Committee have promised a £10,000 grant on condition that there is greater emphasis on staff participation in the scheme. He also writes about visiting his dentist and attending a meeting of the Vice-Chancellors Committee in London on the 'Place of the Universities in War'. During the week ending 12 February he socialised with friends made during his service in the First World War, and from his early life in Tewkesbury, and presided at a school prize giving at Orme Girls School in Newcastle-under-Lyme, and a tea at Bournville Youth Club, where he also gave a lecture on the experiences of Scott's Northern Party. He also attended a rugby match at Twickenham and went to the Chancellor's Hall show.

The entry for the week ending 19 February records that the university has begun Air Warden courses and gives a description of the Workers Educational Association classes he visited with Studd, the WEA secretary. He also mentions attending an amateur performance of 'The Playboy of the Western World' at the Crescent Theatre in the company of Professor Bodkin and Ernest De Selincourt, and his interest in the Cotswold Research Survey 'which is sponsored by some of the historians and geographers of the university staff'. He records having tea

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with Russell, Bonsor and Radcliffe Brown at the Birmingham Library before the Muirhead lecture before having dinner as a guest of Guild Council at which he spoke about the Union Extension scheme, Carnival, and 'behaviour at degree conferrings'. He also went to a physical training demonstration before driving to Cheltenham in the evening to give a talk to pupils at Cheltenham Ladies College, and describes a road accident he was involved in, and the events. He gives news about his daughter, Margaret, who is studying at Royal Holloway, and mentions taking part in the annual inspection of the Edgbaston buildings with other members of University Council which included a visit to the demonstration mine which was to be part of 'our ARP preparations'. He gives a detailed account of the Wireless Training Centre reunion and dinner he attended in Worcester, and includes notes from his speech to the group there. During the following week, ending 25 February, Priestley mentions changes in university administration agreed at the meeting of the Court of Governors including the appointment of a new Pro-Chancellor, Deputy Pro-Chancellor, and Treasurer, and provides a description of the events surrounding this meeting which included speeches and a formal dinner. He also gives brief details of his inspection of the university on Founders Day involving looking at the Edmund Street building 'which would be a more depressing sight even than it is if its half-empty state did not remind us of the fact that we are hoping shortly to move out altogether'. He also attended a tea for university staff at the Guild building, and a dinner at the 'Graduates Club' where he sat with members of university staff, noting that 'staff do not patronise the graduates club very well'.

The entry for the week ending 1 March mentions Priestley's attendance at an Air Raid Warden lecture, and a Chamber of Commerce dinner. He also notes that he looked through rough plans prepared by Bonsor [university librarian] for a new library

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'but they will not do in their present form'. He gives a detailed account of the visit of George VI and Queen Elizabeth to the Medical School on 1 March, including information about the preparations and concerns about the seating plan for the Council House lunch which took place after the visit. During the days following the visit, 2-5 March, he records visiting the Birmingham branch of the British Industries Fair, having lunch at the Edmund Street refectory with school teachers and women students' tutors, and attending a 'Spec Club' meeting before travelling to London to attend a Vice-Chancellors meeting at which the proposed evacuation of London University was discussed, together with other emergency war measures. He also gives a detailed description of the Wireless Club dinner he attended while in London. The entry for the week ending 13 March mentions plans for the opening of the Barber Institute in June, which Queen Mary will attend, and mentions Priestley's commitments at a League of Nations Union meeting at Edgbaston College for Girls where the Duchess of Athol spoke 'on the situation in Spain' and at the Polar Research Institute in Cambridge. He also records his attendance at a lunch for candidates for the new Professor of German, and comments on attending air raid precautions classes as part of his preparations for a likely war. He attended a lecture by Peter Scott at the Midland Institute during the week ending 18 March and gives an account of the Huxley lecture given by Seward. He records details of a discussion with Peyton Rous and Solly Zuckerman about the university's appeal to the Rockefeller Foundation for funding for medical research, and of the discussion at Bishop Barnes' dinner about the international situation, at which most of the guests except Priestley were against conflict 'even in defence of one's ideals. What with Hitler's complete absorption of Czechoslovakia, and his economic threat to Rumania, this is becoming unpleasantly near a burning question'. The entry for the following week, ending 26 March, includes details of the

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meeting of the Theology Committee at Edgbaston which discussed a possible Professorship and B.D degree, Priestley's comment on a paper given by 'Schofield' at the Chamber of Commerce, and mentions other commitments including a lecture he gave at the Stourbridge Rotary Club on the experiences of Scott's Northern Party, a speech day at Tewskesbury Grammar School, and a dinner he and his wife hosted at the Edgbaston Refectory for university officers. He also records attending a lunch for candidates for the English Chair, speaking at the conference of Anglo-Egyptian students at which the Egyptian Consul-General also spoke, and speaking at the Workers Educational Association Annual Rally. A typescript copy of this speech is inserted after the entry.

During the week ending 1 April Priestley and his wife attended the house warming of [Victor] Hely-Hutchinson [Professor of Music] who had recently moved out of Birmingham to Hadzor, and he comments on the tendency for staff to live outside the city, apparently because housing costs are lower 'we hear a great deal about the university being out of touch with the city and not pulling its weight in city affairs, but domestic service and financial conditions of university officers do not make entertaining easy'. He also mentions increased spending on ARP shelters on the Edgbaston site and the appointment of ARP officers, and records having lunch with 'Eid', the chairman of the Egyptian Society and his hopes to arrange a dinner for all Egyptian students the following term. He returns to the topic of funding for research at the Medical School, and the completion of the appeal to the Rockefeller Foundation, and mentions the resignation of his secretary, Miss Thompson. Social engagements included a visit to the new YMCA headquarters at Bordesley Green, and attendance at the Mining students dinner. He gives details about his daughter, Margaret, and her journey to the Greek islands, commenting 'we have been a little doubtful about letting her go, but if we had

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waited on the international situation we should have done nothing for the last year for there has been crisis after crisis since Hitler went into Austria...we shall be bound to be rather on tenterhooks until she is back especially after Chamberlan's unequivocal declaration of British support for Poland in case of German invasion of that country'. A typescript copy of Priestley's address to the Community Theatre Festival is inserted after this entry. Activities during the following week, from 2 to 15 April, included a discussion with Tyndall about the Physics department, and work on the university national service register, and Priestley gives a brief account of the visit to Birmingham of Alan Bainbridge, son of the Registrar of Melbourne University, and his own visit to Chatham where he inspected the survey ship 'Scott' with other polar explorers. The entry for the week ending 25 April mentions decisions made by the University War Emergency Committee to use both the Edmund Street and Edgbaston sites in the event of hostilities and records Priestley's walks and drives in the Malvern Hills and the Cotswolds during the Easter vacation.

The entry for the following week, ending 30 April, mentions Priestley's meetings with Dr Anderson, Head of the Central Technical College, and with the head of Dudley Training College concerning the terms governing the affiliation of these institutions to the university. Priestley also gives an account of discussion of conscription at a meeting of the Vice-Chancellors' committee in London and mentions attending a dinner at the Royal College of Nursing and Matrons Association, and giving a speech at the Baptist Union of Great Britain and Ireland Annual Assembly. He gives a brief account of this event in the entry for the following week, ending 8 May, and goes on to discuss his attendance at the West Bromwich Rotary Club where he spoke on polar exploration, and a 'comparatively rare' visit to the Edgbaston site where he spoke to Professor Oliphant and met candidates for the post of Director of Physical Education, commenting

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that 'in Munrow of the Carnegie Institute at Leeds I think we have chosen a man who is likely to make a good job of the new development'. He also gives details of his meeting with Medley, chairman of the Barber Trust, about its management and income. Priestley's focus during the week ending 14 May is on the Faculty of Medicine, particularly its involvement in the new compulsory medical examination scheme for the university, and its relative lack of interest in 'general university affairs' which he thinks is partly due to many of its members serving as clinicians and surgeons who cannot attend Senate meetings. He also mentions having lunch with Nimmo and Orowan, a 'refugee research student' and attending the annual entertainment given by the 'two year students society "the Duannians"'. The entry for the week ending 20 May contains details about continued discussions by the Senate about the proposed 'Theological Studies scheme', and Priestley's attendance at the opening of the new Arbury Central School. During the following week, ending 29 May, he attended the official opening of the drama school at Edgbaston College for Girls, a lecture by Ian Hay at the Guild of Undergraduates building, and a reception for the Institute of Oil Engineers. He also inspected the Barber Institute and attended Barber Trust meetings, attended a Faculty of Science meeting to choose the shortlife for the Electrical Engineering chair, and visited Cambridge for a Graduate Science Club dinner and visit to the Polar Research Institute. Events recorded in the entry for the week ending 7 June include his visit to Durham for the Vice-Chancellors' meeting, staying with friends and family in Leeds on his way back to Birmingham, his attendance at a memorial service for Sir George Kenrick and interviews for the Electrical Engineering chair, and a meeting of the Faculty of Arts to discuss the establishment of the 'Theological Studies' scheme. During the week ending 12 June Priestley and his wife gave a dinner to senior university staff at the 'Blue Room' on the Edgbaston site and he mentions showing Munrow around the university buildings [for

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Physical Education]. He also visited Repton with his guests, the Darlings, and had tea with George Morley, former Secretary of the University. The next entry covers the period from 12 June to 23 June, and mentions Senate approval of the 'proposed theological studies scheme as modified by the Faculty of Arts', his visit to the psychological laboratories with an external examiner from Cambridge, his attendance at the Staff Social Club garden party, and his involvement in the appointment of Goodlet to the Electrical Engineering chair, Mary Bodkin as assistant to the Senior Woman Tutor, and Davis to the English chair. He also mentions meeting MacAlpine to discuss extra-mural studies and relations with the Workers Educational Association. The entry for the week ending 1 July mentions his meeting at the Union Club to discuss a possible university appeal and he comments on the uncertain international situation. He also comments on his dinner with the Guild Executive Council and his gift of books to the Union library, and gives brief details of the Guild of Undergraduates At Home which he and other members of Council attended. Other social activities included Paul Cadbury's garden party, and Priestley's dinner for Honorary Graduands, and he gives a brief account of the degree congregation ceremony.

Activities recorded during the week ending 8 July include Priestley's attendance at a cricket match at Lords, and the Clare Club dinner while in London, visits to Tewkesbury, and a dinner at Birmingham Council House to meet members of a municipal delegation from Copenhagen. Priestley comments that the 'Danes were refreshingly optimistic about the international situation, being convinced that no country in Europe was really in a warlike mood', but that he had a subsequent meeting with Professor Payne of Melbourne who had inspected British aircraft factories, and was convinced that 'war was bound to come'. He also attended a reception of the Institution of Civil Engineers where he spoke to a number of overseas visitors, and a lunch for visiting Egyptian students at the refectory.

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He decided not to attend the opening of the new Birmingham Airport but met the Duchess of Kent at a Lord Mayor's lunch before the ceremony. The entry for the period ending 19 July contains details about his travels to Streeton and Tewkesbury, and to Hayles Abbey and Chipping Camden. He also gives a brief account of the Pharmaceutical Society dinner he attended in Birmingham and mentions an informal meeting of university officers to discuss the possibility of attempting an appeal the whether to 'dissociate the sale of Edmund Street from the completion of the Edgbaston site buildings'. The entry for the period ending 24 July contains discussion of Priestley's planned camping holiday, his attendance at the Tewkesbury festival, his speech at the reception of the Educational Settlement conference, attended by George Cadbury, and his excursion to Rednal with his daughter, Margaret where they walked along the Birmingham and Gloucester canal. The entry for the week ending 31 July contains a brief account of the opening of the Barber Institute by Queen Mary, and records an accident in the new Physics laboratory during which Nimmo and three laboratory attendants were badly injured when transporting a new piece of equipment. He mentions attending the Edgbaston refectory to have lunch with 'another party of Egyptian students', his discussion with Zuckerman and others on the question of the Anatomy chair, and a meeting with Allardyce Nicoll of Yale, a possible candidate for the English chair. He describes his preparations for the family camping holiday in Cornwall, and comments 'bearing in mind the possibility of war in August I have suggested to Margaret that she should get an extra tin of petrol as a reserve to bring us back to Birmingham in case war breaks out while we are down there'. He wonders whether the situation might be slightly improved, and notes the opinion of 'General Robinson' who thinks the country is now too strong for Hitler to risk a war. The entry for the period ending 7 August contains details about Priestley's attendance at a [Workers Educational Association]

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summer school at the training college in Hereford where he gave a lecture on polar exploration and the family's return to Birmingham to pack for their holiday. The final entry in the volume is for the period from 8-11 August and discusses Priestley's activities watching cricket, and visiting friends in Banbury.

Insertions include press cuttings reporting on Priestley's arrival and first duties at Vice Chancellor, orders of service for University Services, presentations to Sir Charles Grant Robertson, the outgoing Vice Chancellor, news about Cambridge University and the appointment of geologists to academic posts, printed versions of Priestley's addresses to schools at prizegiving ceremonies in Birmingham and the wider West Midlands region, and press cuttings containing transcripts of speeches and addresses made at meetings of academic, educational, and business associations. There are also a large number of photographs of family members, and a press cutting with a photograph of Priestley's daughter, Jocelyn, who was studying at Melbourne Technical School. Other insertions consist of poems and songs, photographs of Priestley's flat at Viceroy Close, Bristol Road, Edgbaston, and a series of press cuttings reporting on the visit of George VI and Queen Elizabeth to open the medical school in March 1939

1 volume

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1939-1940 Diary

1939-
1940

Raymond Priestley's diary covering the period from 13 August 1939 to 1 May 1940.

The first section of the diary is taken up with a detailed account of the family's camping holiday on the Devon Cornwall border, beginning with a description of the car journey to Aller Park, Welcombe [home of the Trevor family], where they were to camp, not far from Marsland beach, as part of a larger group made up of friends or possibly family

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members. Priestley provides information about the campsite and records the holiday activities he and the group took part in, illustrated by a large number of black and white photographs inserted between the diary entries, which included walking, swimming, archery, golf, fencing, and trips into Bideford. He gives details about the local landscape and coastal scenery, particularly around Marsland, Welcombe, Morwenstowe and Hartland, and comments on the meals eaten in camp. He records his observations about the weather during the holiday. He makes occasional comments on the international situation, mentioning hearing 'night anti-aircraft practice' in the vicinity in his entry for 15 August, and the news of the German Soviet non-aggression pact in his entry for 24 August. From this point onwards, the group ensured they listened to the evening news on the wireless, and Priestley expresses his concerns about having enough petrol to return to Birmingham. He had to cut short his holiday to return to Birmingham for the preliminary meeting of the Joint Recruiting Board of the university and travelled by train on 28 August, leaving his wife and daughter at Aller Park. He mentions the possibility of Margaret transferring to Birmingham to complete her degree to enable her to take on some national service work. Typescript copies of Priestley's letters to his wife, Phyllis, written on 28 August and 31 August, describing preparations for war in Birmingham, are inserted in the diary at this point. He mentions discussions at the Joint Recruiting Board and financial arrangements he has made for their daughter, Jocelyn, who was still in Australia, for the duration of any conflict. A typescript copy of a letter to Jocelyn, written on 31 August, is also inserted in the diary, which explains her financial situation and mentions the evacuation of children from Birmingham and London. Further copies of letters to Phyllis, dated 1 September and 2 September, record details of ARP arrangements at Edgbaston and Edmund Street, the evacuation of children from Birmingham, his own efforts to comply with blackout restrictions at Viceroy

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Close, and the sight of barrage balloons in the skies.

He devotes an entire entry to the events of 3 September, commenting that 'today is a fateful day and worth some individual notice in a diary that has rather faded away since I came to Birmingham'. He mentions the Prime Minister's broadcast announcing that the country was at war, and the passing of the conscription bill, and gives details about his own preparations including working through the 'secret mobilisation pamphlet' and Joint Recruiting Board papers, as well as finishing comparisons of departmental expenditure. His entry for 4-5 September notes the difficulties in obtaining blackout materials to cover the large windows at Chancellor's Hall [where the Joint Recruiting Board was sitting] and the return of his wife and daughter from Cornwall. His entry for 6-9 September contains his observations on the progress of the war and he gives his view that Britain should refuse peace terms if Poland is conquered 'we cannot compromise with Hitler now and survive - and then we shall be for it. Extensive air action will then be certain and we should be making our plans accordingly'. He also gives information about his work with the Joint Recruiting Board and the involvement of the university in the war effort, recording that there is a barrage balloon unit on the athletic field, University House is housing medical staff and auxiliary nurses, and the Edmund Street basement has been converted into a public shelter. He also mentions that the university is to close at 3.30pm during the winter terms, in order to allow staff and students to get home before dark. He speculates as to whether he will be included on the night watch rota for Edmund Street or Edgbaston. Typescript copies of letters to 'Meriol' and 'Samuel' dated 12 September are inserted at this point in the diary. Both letters set out his opinions as to the progress and likely outcome of the conflict. His entry for 10-13 September includes an account of his trip to Malvern with his daughter, Margaret, where they went walking in the hills, and the recruitment of

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servicemen by the Joint Recruiting Board. He mentions the possibility of Birmingham being allowed to use special funds for general purposes for the duration of the war period, or to divert part of the income from Trust Funds. He also comments on the Queen Elizabeth Hospital's attempts to 'seize University House for billeting purposes', expressing the view of Miss Carpenter that 'the parents of many prospective students would only allow them to come if the university would undertake to have them under control in a hostel and one in which there were reasonably safe shelters. If University House were taken away then we might lose some 60 or 70 young women'. The following entry, for 14-21 September discusses the recruitment of people for national service. Priestley expresses his concern that recruits have mainly been 'university men' or 'holders of the OTC Certificate A', conceding that 'it is natural that these should be more adventurous than the normal youthful population' but worrying that 'there have been a disturbingly large proportion of undergraduates without marked personality and far too many who are entirely unconcerned with their country's position, looking at present problems exclusively from a selfish point of view'. He gives details about some of the other members of the Joint Recruitment Board, and goes on to discuss university affairs, commenting on the government's statement that men aged 20 would imminently be expected to serve in the armed forces and so should not be encouraged to return to university, but that younger students were likely to be allowed to complete at least one year's study. He notes that University House has been saved from the hospital authorities and that Chancellor's Hall may be used for this purpose instead, once the Reception Unit has vacated the premises. He also mentions that a limited programme of athletics will continue despite one field being taken over by the Balloon Barrage unit, and a pavilion being used for decontamination in connection with the city's air raid organisation. His entry for the period ending 2 October records that he has not

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heard from his daughter, Jocelyn, in Australia, since the war broke out, and goes on to discuss his work with the Joint Recruitment Board and his visit to London to discuss emergency war legislation with other Vice-Chancellors 'and the reservation of certain classes of undergraduates with a view to securing continuity of production of scientists in certain important subjects. He mentions reading the lesson at a National Prayer Day service at St Martins in Birmingham and his excursions to Malvern and Welland. The next entry is for 4-5 October, and Priestley remarks that the 'authorities have been surprisingly liberal' in exempting some promising students from national service, but that he is disappointed by the general reaction of Birmingham students and graduates to the current crisis. He mentions attending a meeting of the Guild House committee and protesting against their plan to continue dances until 2am. This entry is followed by a typescript copy of the text of Priestley's address to freshmen students.

The next entry, for 5-7 October, records information about events at the university at the start of term, and Priestley comments on the increased number of students due to the dispersal of London University students across the country and the news that engineers and Honours chemists and physicists would be allowed to complete their courses. He gives an account of his visit to the Cadbury factory at Bournville where he gave a talk on the Northern Party's 1912 winter, and his meeting with the Fentham Trustees, followed by a meeting with the Pro-Chancellor about the proposed Emergency Powers Bill, and a meeting with members of the Guild Executive Council. During the period ending 12 October Priestley gave a lantern lecture at Birmingham Central Mission and describes his experience travelling home in the blackout. He also mentions attending the King Edward's School committee to discuss the provision of education for children who have not been sent out of the city, and discussing the

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Anatomy Chair with Solly Zuckerman, before attending a speech at the students Union by Eleanor Rathbone. He gives an account of his journey to London and the discussions at the meeting of Vice-Chancellors he attended there. His entry for the period ending 22 October mentions that his daughter, Margaret, has returned to Holloway and the news of the sinking of the Royal Oak. He mentions the work of the Joint Recruiting Board and the matters discussed by the Military Education Committee and goes on to give an account of his visit to Cambridge which includes comments on the changes to train travel due to blackout restrictions. He also gives brief information about discussions at a meeting of the Universities Bureau that he attended on the recruitment of university personnel and mentions attending the 'Spec Club' at Byng Kenricks, noting with pleasure that many dinners and speeches have been cancelled due to the blackout, allowing him to spend more time at home. Other duties included meeting Professor Lo, Professor of Philosophy at Cheng Tu University who was visiting from China, and giving a lecture at Vicar Street Methodist Young Men's class at Dudley, followed by a visit to the Training College. The entry for the following week, ending 27 October, discusses the end of the work of the Joint Recruiting Board and Reception Unit, Priestley's request that the War Office make good losses due to their occupation of Chancellor's Hall, losses of merchant shipping, his lecture on the Antarctic in Nuneaton, and his attendance at a dinner held during the meeting of the Council of the National Union of Students. During the period ending 30 October he mentions giving a lecture at the Digbeth Institute and arranging with the Colonel of 'the local gunners' and the chaplain of the Searchlight Brigades to give some polar talks to their men, and attending interviews for law students competing for the Barber Prizes which 'helped me to get to know the faces and tastes of a few more students. From my point of view this is the value of this interviewing. Even if I cannot remember their

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faces they are likely to remember the old bald head'. The entry for 31 October-4 November contains comment on the progress of the war including Russo-Finnish negotiations and German attacks on shipping. He also gives brief details about the Barber Trustee meeting and his visit to London. He and his wife attended the final day of the students congress on 'The University in War', and he gives a brief account of the structure of the day. The entry for the week ending 11 November is largely devoted to Priestley's responsibilities relating to the university's response to the war, and contains information about further meetings of the Joint Recruiting Board, seeing 'chiefly Category C people and other university people wanting advice about Postponement Certificates', and meeting Birmingham City education officials together with the governors of the King Edward School to discuss 'the education of children of secondary school age who have returned from the evacuation scheme'. He reports that Miss Carpenter had her arm in a sling after falling off a chair adjusting blackout blinds at University House, and that he nearly fell into a pit outside the Union building in the blackout 'this is a peculiarly awkward time to have the local authorities digging up the street'. He also mentions that the statue of George I outside the Barber Institute has been enclosed in brick 'I fear I cannot look upon the £70 thus spent as anything else than wasted money for the chances of a hit are so small'. Other activities included having tea at the Engineering Society and listening to Coultas lecture on his experiences with the R.E in France, and giving his own lantern lecture in Shirley. He records that Solly Zuckerman is at last likely to take up his appointment in the Faculty of Medicine in January on a part time basis 'either until his present government research is finished or until the end of the war', and notes that there have been cases of theft from the Union building by graduate and undergraduate men. The week ending 18 November was taken up with committee meetings and Priestley describes his first night fire

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watching at Edmund Street. He remarks on the attitude of students at Chancellor's Hall towards wartime restrictions and the lack of toast at breakfast 'I cannot find that the committee of students has made the slightest gesture towards an offer to help either in service or in food production', and wonders whether to close the Hall altogether if attitudes do not change, since the university is losing money by keeping it open with fewer residents. He gives a brief account of his visit to Perry Park to talk to the AA battery stationed there, and mentions attending a meeting of the Spec Club. During the following week, ending 27 November, he attended a service at Birmingham cathedral, gave a lecture at the local Anti-Aircraft Brigade headquarters, and attended a talk by Professor Hancock. He also attended the Holdsworth Club annual meeting and visited friends and family in Tewkesbury and the surrounding area. He comments on the loss of merchant shipping and the apparent failure of the British navy to attack German naval bases and shipyards. He also mentions how much he appreciates the light of a full moon during the blackout, which makes it easier to attend evening engagements. The entry for the week ending 3 December mentions Priestley's meeting a group of Chancellor's Hall students and his refusal to allow women visitors to the men's rooms. He also records having a 'Russian supper' with the Peierls, together with George Thompson, Baykoff, and Pascal and his wife. He attended the Commerce conference where Samuel Wadham gave a lecture, and travelled with Samuel and Dorothy Wadham to Westmancote at the weekend. He comments on Russia's attack on Finland and gives brief details of a dinner he organised at the Union building attended by students, members of Guild Council, and 'members of staff who are particularly interested in students or whom I wish to interest in students'. He records his attendance at several other meetings and social engagements, and mentions writing his annual report. His entry for the week ending 17 December contains reflections on

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the state of university education and includes comment on the Emergency Powers Bill and his hope that there will not be any drastic cuts in government funding in the near future. He is pessimistic about the progress of the war and expresses his opposition to 'present racial theories' dominant in Germany. He records spending the night fire watching with Isaac Shapiro and presiding at the degree congregation. He also gives brief details of the Spec Club meeting held at the Union Club, and his lecture to Birmingham Community Club. The next entry, for 18-21 December, focuses on official and social engagements which included a lunch at the Queen's hotel for friends within and outside the university, and his Antarctic lecture for the Evacuated Childrens festivities fund. The next few pages contain photographs taken during his family's Christmas holiday in Devon, and his diary entries for 23-28 December and 29-31 December contain an account of the journey from Birmingham and of the events of Christmas day and Boxing day at Aller Park, including descriptions of the food eaten and the activities that the group participated in, which included archery, walking, and carol singing, and details of the return journey to Birmingham.

The first entry for 1940 is for the period 3-6 January. Priestley mentions visiting the News Theatre cinema to see some Disney cartoons in colour and a film of the scuttling of the 'Graf Spee'. He also describes experiencing a 'black out' while giving a lecture on his Antarctic to the Bournville day continuation school which has affected his confidence in public speaking. He mentions his inspection of the new gymnasium, the effect on the Joint Recruiting Board of the change in policy affecting Category C men, and the departure of [Leslie] Hore Belisha from the War Ministry. During the week ending 13 January he records meeting the committee on Soldiers Education and giving a lantern lecture for the 1/5th South Staffords. He also comments on the fighting between Russia and Finland. He mentions that Cox is to undertake 'secret work' for the government,

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and his discussion with Madder and Ibbs about the chances of getting Munrow back from the army. He gives a brief account of the special general meeting of the companies associated with the Barber Trust, and goes on to discuss rumours surrounding the resignation of Hore Belisha, and the introduction of rationing for bacon, ham, butter and sugar. He comments on being supplied with sample saccharine tablets by Haswell Wilson at the Medical Faculty and records details of his meeting with Eric Vincent and Mark Oliphant about student complaints about Chancellor's Hall. He also mentions going for a walk with Mrs Hancock [wife of Professor Hancock who was in West Africa on research leave]. A typed copy of Priestley's book review of 'Tracks in the Snow' by David Haig-Thomas, follows this entry. The entry for the week ending 22 January sets out Priestley's opinion on this book, and contains details about his meeting with the University Grants Committee and the local representatives of the Association of University Teachers. Priestley also mentions discussing the possibility of 'pressing for more non-professorial representation on Faculty of Science and Senate' but notes that this is unlikely to be popular with members of the Faculty. He also records the decision by the Chancellor's Hall committee to give representation to the student body. He gives a detailed account of the combined Arctic and Antarctic Club dinner at the Connaught Rooms, Great Queen Street, and of his subsequent visit to Cambridge. During the next few days, 23-27 January, Priestley writes about a lecture he gave to the 'Research Tea Club' on polar animal life, his dinner with the Graduates Club, his lecture to a company of the Worcesters in Pershore, and his attendance at the Mental Diseases Advisory Committee at the Medical School. After this meeting he was involved in deciding on action to be taken against some medical students who had carried out 'rags' against other students 'why these youngsters cannot control themselves in times like these I don't know...at the moment incidents like these leave a nasty taste when our men are

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being drowned right and left and these fellows are being reserved to become doctors after a six years course'. He describes the difficulties of travelling in the severe cold and deep snow the country is experiencing. The following entry, for 28 January to 1 February, begins 'we have really got it in the neck as regards weather this winter' and describes the effects of the prolonged cold temperatures on transport, on university buildings, many of which have leaking rooves now that the thaw has started, and on travelling in the blackout in icy conditions. Several pages of the diary containing entries for February are interspersed with photographs showing buildings and gardens in Birmingham covered in snow. He persuaded his wife not to accompany him to an evening lecture he gave at the Fircroft Settlement in Bournville because of the conditions 'I had a good deal of difficulty in finding my way and was floundering about in drifts and ruts'. Committee meetings, and evening engagements were cancelled, which allowed Priestley 'more time for reading by the fireside or electric heater, as the case may be'. He mentions sending copies of his Annual Report to academic colleagues both in Britain and Australia, and has written to the Vice-Chancellors of other universities asking for information about the representation of non-professorial staff on Faculties and Senate, and about the procedure governing salary increments, for comparison with Birmingham. The entry for the period 2-5 February contains an account of a weekend visit Priestley made to the home of Sir Martin Melvin, a friend of Thomas Bodkin [Director of the Barber Institute], at Billesley Manor. Priestley also mentions attending a private view of an exhibition staged by the Birmingham Society of Artists and a meeting of the Shakespeare reading club, from which he returned in the snow with the occasional help of his torch. The entry for 6-10 February mentions Mark Oliphant's lecture on 'Physics and Warfare' which 'made out a good case for his thesis that this is a physicists war', according to

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Priestley, and contains comment on the work of the Joint Recruiting Board, which 'has developed rather into a Board for keeping people out of the war'. There is some discussion on the number of staff 'among our junior men' who are conscientious objectors, and about the 'women's side of the new Physical Education scheme' and attempts by Education staff to 'do something more ambitious for their people, especially the two-year Training College'. Priestley also gives details of his visit to Aldershot to give a lecture to the Canadian Div'1 Signals where he was introduced to NCOs who has been wireless operators at Canadian Arctic stations. He also records details of his discussion about the recruitment of officers to the Signal Service and his visit to the War Office the following day to talk about this issue. He mentions attending a meeting of the Spec club back in Birmingham, and the Summer School Reunion tea. A typescript copy of Priestley's speech at the Association of University Teachers dinner on 14 February is inserted before the entry for 10-15 February, which contains an account of Priestley's visit to Bristol where the dinner was held, and where he had a tour of university buildings. During the period 16-21 February Priestley gave a dinner to the captains of the Athletic Clubs which was also attended by members of staff interested in athletics. He also records attending an Indian Association lunch at the Imperial Hotel, but cancelling his engagement to attend the National Youth Parliament at the Student's Union building. Other engagements included a lecture at Coventry Rotary Club, the school committee of King Edward's School, Kinvig's lecture on the geographical background of the war, and the Graduates Club dinner at the Grand Hotel. He notes that the discussion at this event was 'rather dominated by the Altmark incident' [skirmish between the British and German navies in Norwegian waters]. He then gives a detailed account of a typical night spent fire watching at Emund Street, the 'routine of the peace-war. If raids come things will be different'. A typescript copy of Priestley's speech

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seconding the resolution for the adoption of the university's annual reports follows this entry. The next entry, for 23-26 February, mentions the annual inspection of the Edgbaston buildings, and contains an account of Priestley's visit to the Council House to meet the Prime Minister [Neville Chamberlain] and to the Town Hall to hear Chamberlain give 'the final speech of the national campaign'. He comments on the progress of the war, and goes on to give details about family activities which included visits to Malvern and Belbroughton. The entry for 27 February to 2 March mentions a lunch given by the Faculty of Science to university benefactors Mr Owen and Dr Railing and a meeting at the Medical School to meet candidates for a job in 'Mental Disease Research' who were all refugees. He notes that 'an Austrian named Schutz' was recommended 'I should have liked to have appointed a Britisher, but it is quite impossible to get a young research worker in medicine for a junior post today'. He notes that he attended a Shakespeare reading club event and describes a typical meeting of this group, and gives an account of his visit to the Admiralty to discuss the question of Admiralty responsibility for accidents to people engaged in Admiralty research in university laboratories and his meeting with Board of Education authorities about the war emergency examination for men Training College candidates.

Events recorded during the period 3-7 March include Priestley's lecture of the Jewish Literary and Arts Society, a Faculty of Science meeting which discussed whether to allow Rollaston to leave the department of Metallurgy to undertake research work at a private firm for the duration of the war, a meeting with the local secretary of the Student Christian Movement to discuss organising lectures on sociological or theological subjects, and a meeting of University House Committee which reached a decision about student representation. Priestley also discusses his memoranda on representation of lecturers on Faculty and

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Senate, and procedure regarding salary increments 'we do not compare very favourably with other universities in either respect...the professors have a stranglehold on the whole show and they are not going to be easily persuaded to release their hold'. The following week's entry, for 7-13 March, contains information about the United Hospital Board meeting, the Library Committee meeting which was concerned with the 'staffing of the Library under war conditions', the Faculty of Medicine meeting, and the first meeting of the Physical Education Committee which included a tour of the gymnasium. Priestley also mentions attending the Birmingham University Dramatic Society play at the Union building, preparing a speech for the annual rally of the Workers Educational Association, and attending a meeting of Vice Chancellors in Sheffield. He mentions proposing the toast of the Royal Institute of British Architects at the Five Counties Architectural Association meeting, and notes that Goodlet, holder of the Chair of Electrical Engineering, has resigned after only one year in this post, because he is unable to get national service work as he was once a Russian subject. A typescript copy of Priestley's toast to the Royal Institute of British Architects is inserted in the diary after this entry. The entry for 14-16 March contains an account of Priestley's visit to Cambridge for a commemoration dinner, and details of a lecture on polar animal life he gave in Nuneaton and the Workers Educational Association annual rally. A copy of Priestley's address at this event is inserted after this entry. Engagements recorded during the period 17-22 March included a lecture at the Central Hall to the Methodists Mission, a talk at Carr's Lane to the nonconformist Ministers Fraternal, dinner at the Union to members of the university Auxiliary Fire Service and the Executive of the ARP organisation. He comments on his conversation with Cox about the university's participation in government work and a discussion at the Finance Committee on the 'Family Allowance question' which he expresses his feelings

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about 'I would welcome a reduction in my salary to help to bring it about. These men with two or three children and with salaries from £400 to £500 a year are in an almost impossible position, especially if their children are being educated under evacuation conditions'. He also gives an account of his visit to Leamington Spa to give a lecture to members of the local Workers Educational Association and remarks on the progress of the war, particularly the defeat of Finland and raids on Scapa Flow by the Germans and on Sylt by the R.A.F. The entry for 23-30 March mentions Priestley's lecture to the Workers Educational Association Easter school on Scott's expedition to the South Pole and describes his first experience of fire watching at Edgbaston, commenting on the number of experiments taking place in laboratories overnight. He also gives details of his social activities with his family during the Easter vacation which included walking in the Clent Hills, a picnic on Castlemorton Common, and a meeting of the Shakespeare Society. He also attended a First Aid class at Steelhouse Lane police station. Between 31 March and 4 April he gave a lecture to servicemen in Hereford which was not well received, attended his second First Aid class, and took his turn fire watching at Edmund Street. The entry for 4-12 April contains a detailed account of the Priestleys family holiday camping and caravanning in the New Forest, during which they listened to the wireless regularly 'for the war has started in earnest with invasions of Norway and Denmark by the Germans and our consequent counter-attacks all over the North Sea'. Several photographs of this holiday are included on subsequent pages of the diary. The entry for 15-20 April contains information about the Vice Chancellor's committee meeting in London and a meeting of the advisory committee on the proposed Theology Chair. Priestley announces in his entry for 21-27 April that the Finance Committee have accepted the recommendation of the sub-committee on Family Allowances that his scheme for the sub-professorial staff and weekly wages

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earnings should be approved. He also gives an account of the Senate committee meeting on procedure for salary increment determination and on representation of non-professorial staff. He mentions giving a talk at a meeting of the Association of Scientific Workers and notes that the firm of Brotherton and Company are offering postgraduate scholarships in the Department of Chemistry. Other engagements included attendance at the Musical Society concert at the Barber Institute at which Priestley made a grant from the 'Poor Students Fund' 'because one of the performers appeared so ill-nourished and I happened to come in late and sit next to Miss Milne [Senior Tutor for Women Students] so that I was able to get her history at first hand. It shows what a lottery all this assistance of students is'. He also discusses the news from the British Expeditionary Force in Norway, which is distracting him, and making it difficult to concentrate 'upon the relatively trivial decisions of every day life'. He returns to discussion of this feeling of preoccupation in his entry for 28 April to 1 May. He also notes hearing the news of the death of [Luisa]Tettrazini [Italian soprano singer] and reminisces about his life in London following his return from the Antarctic. Engagements recorded in this entry include his visit to London to see Moberly and Yeaxley about the Adult Education for Soldiers campaign, his lunch with staff from the Admiralty, and his attendance at the funeral of Sir Gilbert Barling [former Pro Chancellor of the university]. He remarks with satisfaction on the approval by Council of his Family Allowance scheme 'we are therefore the second British university institution to bring such a scheme into operation...this is quite a revolution in university policy and may have quite considerable consequences when it gets generally known. Our junior staff will at any rate feel that there are a few people about who have a real interest in improving their conditions of life'.

Insertions include family photographs, press cuttings and order of service for National Day of Prayer 1 October 1939, letter to Jocene

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Priestley, addressed as 'Spink' from Meriol, dated 19 September 1939, press cuttings on life at the university in wartime, photographs of members of the Joint Recruiting Board page 85, photograph of Priestley's daughter Margaret in a play at Holloway, and press cuttings and photographs of his daughter Jocelyn on her wedding day in Australia, a small number of political and other cartoons, and a letter from Sir Lennon Raws [Chairman of Imperial Chemical Industries Australia and New Zealand Ltd and Deputy Chancellor of Melbourne University] to Priestley, dated 6 April 1940, with envelope.

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US38/2/3

1940-1941 Diary

1940-
1941

Raymond Priestley's diary covering the period from 2 May 1940 to 27 April 1941. There are two handwritten index pages at the front of the volume.

The first entry, for the period from 2-11 May contains Priestley's comments on the progress of the war, the failure of the Norwegian campaign and the German invasion of Belgium, Holland and Luxembourg which 'brings the war much nearer to us all and has caused a refurbishing of the university's ARP plans, especially in regard to Edmund Street'. He gives details of some of the changes to these plans, and goes on to comment on the end of Neville Chamberlain's premiership and the appointment of Winston Churchill. He writes about his work on the new allotment with other members of staff, Hancock, Llewellyn Davies, Miss Milne and Miss Taylor. He has also continued to attend First Aid classes and attended the University Athletic Sports with his wife, who gave out the prizes 'there were more competitors than normal and it is clear that Munrow's presence is already making itself felt'. He gives a brief account of

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Mark Oliphant's lecture on the 'new cyclotron' and lists some of the groups he has recently given lectures to on polar exploration. He gives information about his meeting with secretaries of student societies, together with Baier of the German department, who are keen to make amalgamate and make subscription compulsory on all Arts students, and goes on to comment on his meeting with the Archdeacon of Aston to discuss 'moral aspects of student life', particularly his concern that 'a good deal of what the Americans call 'petting' and 'necking' is going on'. Priestley notes that this should be dealt with by the Guild, but that he will take steps to ensure that university premises outside the Guild are 'not allowed to lend themselves to undesirable activity'. He returns to his feelings of anxiety about the German advances through Belgium in his entry for 12-21 May, remarking that his job and his diary seem trivial in the circumstances and that it is difficult to reconcile himself to being in civilian clothes 'If I use my head I know that I am more use here, but unfortunately one is ruled by one's emotions normally and not by one's brain and it is very difficult to be happy except when forcing oneself to subordinate imagination to thought'. He mentions his work on the allotment and a lunch at the Edgbaston Refectory with Miss Hammond and Miss Philip to meet Miss Perry, the Physical Training Inspector from the Board of Education. He also attended a meeting of the 'Mental Diseases Committee' and discussed the continuation of the Bournville benefaction for the Town Planning lectures with Henry Cadbury at the Civil Engineering Department. He gives an account of his weekend in Cambridge where he spent time with friends as well as discussing war emergency measures with Saunders at the Registry. He returns to his feelings of concern about the attitude of undergraduates towards war service, remarking that his daughter, Margaret, is planning to spend a month on a 'student harvesting scheme' which he is trying to persuade Birmingham students to take part in 'their attitude towards life does not please

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me too much at the moment. I heard one lad - quite a decent one - tell Munrow who is organising the scheme that he might go in September but could not possibly go in August because it would interfere with his cycling holiday'; he also notes that he is to arrange a dinner with selected students and staff to discuss the Archdeacon of Aston's complaints about immoral behaviour in connection with the Union, and expresses his unhappiness about the way the Guild of Undergraduates is organised 'I dislike very much the way the Union has been allowed to be organised here without any staff contact to speak of and it makes it very difficult to do anything about matters of this kind. there is nothing that revolts me more about students than this open "petting" as the Americans call it, or "necking" as Lambourne called it to me the other day. I have wanted to kick them myself when I have met them walking about university corridors in the daytime with their arms round each other's waists and necks. They might at any rate restrain themselves until they are off the premises. Bah!'

He has been discussing the relationship between the Officers Training Corps and university personnel, and has been dealing with matters relating to the Theology Chair and the succession to the Spanish lectureship, as well as negotiating with 'certain professors who would like us to dismiss summarily all the aliens they themselves have been so busy adding to the staff', mentioning that 140 'aliens' on the university staff and student roll have been interned at Cambridge. His entry for 22-26 May gives details about the German advances in France and the effects of this crisis on morale in Britain, describing the organisation of the 'Local Emergency Volunteers' which has an Edgbaston 'band' commanded by Moss who 'is talking of organising a special company at Bournbrook to police the university grounds', and the organisation of staff into the university's ARP group and students into the Officers Training Corps; the Joint Recruiting Board continues to meet, and Priestley has had a meeting to

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discuss the possibility of the Signal School at Portsmouth coming to the university, depending on the course of the war; he returns to the subject of the wartime use of Chancellor's Hall, which he hopes will be 'taken off our hands' as he thinks its management and traditions are problematic. He returns to the issue of 'aliens' at the university, mentioning that Reagan, an American member of staff in the Anatomy department, had discussed the possibility of his leaving Europe after seeking advice from his consul, and that some professors have started an 'anti-Alien' drive which has gained momentum followed 'an indiscretion by Peierls' which has 'focussed attention on him and other naturalised Germans'. Priestley gives his view that he would prefer not to police Birmingham, but that the Finance Committee has passed a regulation at his suggestion excluding 'aliens' and naturalised Germans from any university laboratory where government work is being carried on. He has attended a meeting of the Association of University Teachers at which Byng Kenrick spoke, and he includes a typescript copy of his own speech in the diary. The next entry, for 27 May to 2 June, discusses the fate of the Allies armies in Flanders and northern France and the involvement of family members and the son of the Pro-Chancellor. He hopes that university examinations will be over before bombing raids on Britain begin on a large scale and expects that Hitler will concentrate on defeating France before attempting an invasion of Britain. He has attended a meeting of the Central Advisory Committee of the Regional Information organisation, and mentions that preparations are continuing for the possible further evacuation of government departments. He reports that the Chancellor is going to resign his Presidency of the National Union of Students because of their attitude to social problems and particularly to the war. The entry for 3-9 June mentions the German offensive in France, the loss of British Expeditionary Force equipment, and the arrival of wounded soldiers at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. He

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has been involved in a major discussion at the Faculty of Science meeting about his participation in appointments to professorships at which he was accused of favouring certain candidates for personal reasons. He expresses his continuing disappointment with the students' attitude to the national emergency and the support of a number of students for the Peace Pledge Union. He is also concerned that the government invitation to boys of 18 to volunteer for service in the Auxiliary Pioneer Corps will have a detrimental impact on student recruitment for the following year, and hopes that the Senate will approve the introduction of compulsory physical education for freshmen students. He has enrolled in the university unit of Local Defence Volunteers. His entry for 9-14 June records the fall of Paris, the retreat of French and British armies, and the entry of Italy into the war. He has received a cablegram from [Thomas] Griffith Taylor in Toronto offering hospitality to university children for the duration of the war and contemplates the large scale migration of non-combatants to the United States and Canada. He has given a lecture to the Boxfoldia Conference at the Botanic Gardens, and has been digging the allotment. The Joint Recruiting Board continued to meet and he records having discussions about whether to make participation in the Officers Training Corps an alternative to compulsory Physical Education, which has been passed by the Senate. He mentions that they have appointed Manson to the Spanish lectureship left vacant after Conroy's death. The entry is followed by a typescript list of books in the Local Defence Volunteers library, presumably donated by Priestley. He remarks at the beginning of his next entry, for 16-28 June, that he has neglected his diary during this period, due to the collapse of France and the country's acceptance of armistice terms, and his efforts to establish a scheme to arrange the evacuation of the children of university staff to Canada. He gives a detailed account of attempts to make arrangements for forty children including

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negotiations with Canadian officials and members of the Childrens Overseas Reception Board. He mentions the commencement of air raids on Britain and records that he and his wife, Phyllis, have moved their beds away from the windows to avoid splinters of glass if the windows break. There are rumours that the vacant flats in their complex are being made ready for the migration of Air Ministry personnel from London. Senate and Council have approved the introduction of compulsory physical education for first and second year students, and he has attended the Staff Social Garden Party. He gives news of preparations made by friends for the evacuation of their children to Canada, and gives details of his visit to Gloucester to see relatives.

The entry for 29 June to 8 July mentions naval operations to prevent the French fleet falling into German hands and the increased air raids over Britain. He notes that the first of the 'university women and children' have left for Toronto 'Mrs Shapiro, her child, and other expected in a week or two'. He refers to Mrs Shapiro being Jewish, and hopes that this will not 'disturb the hosts at the other end'. He has been on night watch duty at Edmund Street, and has been taking part in signalling training with the Local Defence Volunteers, run by Professor Hancock. He and his family, with the Hancocks, have been able to drive to Malvern, using a tin of petrol obtained during his holiday in Devon. He mentions that the watch on the [clock?] tower has been established, and that one of the laboratory attendants is awaiting trial for an offence under the Defence of the Realm Act 'I think his fault is damned foolishness rather than subversive activity, but I fear things may go hard with him'. The following entry, for 9-15 July, comments on the continuing loss of merchant shipping following the entry of Italy into the war and the defeat of France. He also remarks on the continuing action of the RAF against invading planes. He has been discussing the age of entry of students into the university after concerns were raised by the Association of Headmasters about the

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growing intake of boys under seventeen. He thinks this is due to the evacuation of King Edwards School which has increased pressure on the university to take students at a younger age. He has had a meeting with the Chief Constable to try to change a decision prohibiting Duncan Jones from joining the Local Defence Volunteers which was 'quite obviously based upon his previous left wing political activities, but, as he was personally responsible for defeating the extremists in the University Labour Club this year and aligning them with the nation in the war effort, it was particularly unfortunate that he should have been just now overtaken by nemesis'. He has attended a meeting of the Theological Chair committee, taken part in fire watching duty at Edmund Street, and been out to Bredon Hill. He gives details of arrangements discussed at the final parents meeting about the evacuation of children of university staff to Toronto and mentions the postponement of the government scheme to evacuate children to Canada. He has also been involved in discussions on Officers Training Corps policy and attended a meeting of the Military Education Committee, and refers to the decision of the War Office to allow Certificate B holders to go direct to Officers Training Corps units. He gives details of the Defence of the Realm Act offence for which the laboratory attendant spent a week in prison, recording that he had been making accurate maps of the balloon barrage system, and had to be reported to the police. He also mentions that Local Defence Volunteers had been signalling with naked lights from the [university clock] tower, which was reported to the police by concerned citizens and that the police 'are of the opinion that undue leniency has been shown' towards university staff. Workmen have been installing concrete and brick shelters in the grounds [of Viceroy Close] to house visitors. The entry for 16-21 July contains an account of the visit of Colonel Thurlow to the university to inspect the Edgbaston campus and Chancellor's Hall for its suitability as a site for 'six-month classes for candidates for commissions in technical

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arms of the army'. He also notes that the Admiralty have informed him that 250 Signal School personnel are coming to the university, as well as 200 medical students from Kings College London, who had been evacuated to Glasgow 'Birmingham has, through the march of events, become about the safest place in England - not from the point of view of air attack, but from invasion'. He has attended a meeting of the Barber trustees which appointed Sueter as Bodkin's new assistant and a ceremony at Edgbaston High School for Girls. The remainder of the children of university staff being evacuated to Canada have boarded the Duchess of Bedford at Liverpool, making a total of 32 children of their quota of 40. Other activities included taking part in Local Defence Volunteer duty and working on the allotment.

During the period 21-30 July Priestley attended the funeral of 'Uncle Sam' who was killed in a road traffic accident, and gave a lecture to wounded soldiers at Queen Elizabeth Hospital. He mentions that the university children being evacuated to Canada were held up at Liverpool harbour but have now safely arrived. He records the appointment of H. G. Wood as Professor of Theology, and comments on recent publicity in the local press concerning the Family Allowance scheme for university staff, and about compulsory Physical Education or Officers Training Corps service. He has received a message about a meeting of the Vice-Chancellor's Committee to discuss the possibility of compulsory military training at universities. The entry for 1-11 August gives brief details of the 'first air raid proper' in Birmingham when bombs dropped within Priestley's hearing, and mentions continuing discussions concerning the introduction of compulsory military training. He has also been discussing the status of Oliphant, Nimmo and Moon who are all 'now practically engaged full-time upon Admiralty work', and negotiating with the War Office over proposals to send candidates for commissions in R.A, R.E and R. Signals to the universities for six month courses 'as

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usual Oxford and Cambridge had had first pick and had chosen R.Signals and R.E respectively'. He has a tour round some Local Defence Volunteer or Home Guard units in Birmingham to see whether he might join Headquarters administrative staff, although he thinks he would prefer to remain with the university unit as sergeant instructor (signalling). He reports that some of the 200 medical students from Kings College London have arrived in Birmingham for vacation courses, and gives news of the children of university staff evacuated to Canada. He and his family have been able to drive out to the Clent Hills and to Belbroughton. The entry for 12-19 August contains an account of Priestley's experience of 'air warfare' over Birmingham and mentions his attendance at a conference at the War Office 'where it seemed settled that compulsory military service for undergraduates was going to be squashed by [Ernest] Bevin who is determined to have no discrimination between classes. More and more I realise how much more difficult it is to wage war in a democracy than in a totalitarian state'. He also attended a meeting at the Ministry of Information before going to Cambridge for the weekend where he and his family spent time with friends and relatives.

Most of the entry for 20-24 August is taken up with an account of the Priestley family's holiday at Bushley where he worked in the Baddeley's field with 'David' and helped with other agricultural work, and several members of the group went swimming in the Severn. He refers to the progress of the war and mentions the evacuation of British Somaliland and German shelling of the east coast and of convoys in the English Channel. He notes that the skies over Bushley are 'full of the roar of planes' and that he also experienced this in Cambridge 'it is a great contrast to Birmingham where, presumably because of the ubiquitous balloon barrage, one never sees or hears a plane in the daytime'. His daughter, Margaret, left for Westmancote from Bushley, and Priestley mentions his plan to travel there to celebrate

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her twenty first birthday but that he had to change his arrangements in order to attend the memorial service for Sir Oliver Lodge, who had died recently. He mentions witnessing gunfire during his night watch at Edmund Street which disrupted his sleep after a difficult day which had included a Faculty of Science meeting at which Moss had tried to get the Faculty to sack two lecturers on the report of a new professor. He gives an account of his patrol of the building with Barnes 'dressed in tin hat and service respirator' and the usual routine when the air raid warning is sounded. He gives details of a parade of Home Guard officers which marched past the Town Hall before hearing lectures on 'Tactic, Intelligence and Communications'. During the following week, 25-31 August, he records that there have been air raid warnings every night 'with a constant procession of enemy planes over us at intervals of ten minutes or so for several hours at least'. He describes the fires caused by bombing of a Kodak warehouse and mentions that an incendiary bomb dropped very near the university entrance at Great Charles Street 'if it had been a foot or two over towards Edmund Street we should inevitably have lost a good slice of that building for it is a regular firetrap with its masses of old dried-out wood'. He records that members of the university's Home Guard were on night watch from 'the top of the university tower' and that he expects the nightly air raids to continue until the RAF have achieved control of the air, remarking that Birmingham seems to be an easy place to find because of the large number of canals and rivers in the vicinity, and that local people must get used to sleeping in shelters and living with loss of sleep. He expresses his reluctance to go out to the theatre in the evenings because of the risk of being caught in an air raid and having to spend hours in a shelter 'already we have at Edmund Street had influxes of patrons of dances who have had to spend the best part of the night crowded together underground'. He has been to Bristol to help his Aunt Emily to clear his Uncle Sam's house, and has

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attended a meeting of the Adult Education for Soldiers Committee and a meeting of the Emergency Committee 'to deal with a difficult situation in Mechanical Engineering'. He has been able to go to Malvern with his daughter, Margaret, where he took a lot of photographs which are inserted in subsequent pages of the diary.

The entry for 1-2 September contains a detailed account of Priestley's participation in the 'night vigil of No 7 Section' [on the Edgbaston campus] for the first time, which includes a description of a British fighter plane passing close overhead while he was up the university tower. He notes that none of those on duty had very much sleep, and that 'it is now abundantly clear to me that very much is being asked of these lads who have this duty once a week at least'. In the following entry, for 3-9 September, he mentions the 'marked intensification' of air raids over the last few days. He records experiencing air raid warnings during his visit to London for the executive committee of the Central Council for Adult Education of Soldiers, and seeing bomb craters on his journey from London to Box Hill afterwards. He attended a meeting of the Chancellor's Hall committee on his return to Birmingham which resolved to keep the hall open for another year and to appoint a Deputy Warden, and then caught a train for Ashchurch where he and his daughter, Margaret, were 'wakened by the most terrific explosion' at 2am and the following morning found that bombs had been dropped on Bredon Hill. He gives an account of his weekend during which he hired a skiff and sculled to Tewkesbury and his visit to friends or relatives at Bushley. He mentions the start of concentrated air raids on London and gives his view that he expects more raids on Birmingham once the main attack on London lessens. Priestley discusses the objective and organisation of the university Home Guard unit in his entry for 10-14 September and expresses his fears that it will be impossible to continue current duties in addition to members' full time jobs when the

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university term starts again. He gives details of what is currently involved during night duties and the need to find additional recruits during term time. He comments on his proposal to evacuate as much as possible of the university library from Edmund Street to Edgbaston and the reaction of Bonser [the Librarian] who is not happy about the plan. He also discusses the numbers of candidates attending courses at the university for army courses, the extension of the compulsory Physical Education scheme, and Adult Education for Soldiers. He mentions that his daughter, Jocelyn, has got a job with the Australian Aircraft Commission. The entry for 14-18 September returns to the subject of the London blitz, and Priestley mentions that Mark Oliphant has recently returned from the city and found 'the experience...pretty terrifying'. He also mentions that a bomb has fallen at the corner of Ampton and Arthur Roads [in Edgbaston], and that the university has been asked to give exclusive use of the Mechanical Engineering workshops to Oliphant's team for six weeks [for war work]. He and his daughter, Margaret, have been able to go walking in the Lickey Hills, and he notes the presence of Australian soldiers in Birmingham, where a 'Soldiers Club' has opened in university premises on Easy Row. He has been distributing books from his Uncle Sam's library to the St Francis Hall library, the Guild library, the university library, and to Cashmore the city librarian. He expresses his concern that the move of the university library to Edgbaston is not proceeding as quickly as he would like, as he is worried about a major raid on Birmingham. He records that the Home Guard has been transferred from No 7 Factory Battalion to No 10 Mobile Battalion, and that they will have to concentrate on their observation work on the [clock] tower 'if we are to get through the winter without overstraining everyone'. The following entry, for 19-20 September, contains details about celebrations for Priestley's wife's birthday, and his trip to the Malvern Hills with his family. He mentions seeing a number of people of 'an unfamiliar

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type' on the hills, suggesting that they might have come to stay in Malvern to escape bombing raids. He describes seeing an adder, and observing bomb craters in the landscape from their vantage point at the top of the Worcestershire Beacon. He also notes that the parents of children sent to Canada as part of the university scheme have agreed to pay regular financial contributions of £50 a year to a central pool for the maintenance of each child. He gives an account of his preparations for the new university term in his entry for 22-25 September, describing his first meeting with the new Guild President, Checkland, who 'is saved from being a conscientious objector by the fact that he is a Canadian and not therefore liable for military service over here'. He also discusses changes to the organisation of the Home Guard and the possible eventual end of the university company as a separate entity due to the difficulty in carrying out duties during term time. He comments on disagreements about whether to continue the night watch from the [clock] tower if shelter cannot be provided, particularly as those taking part in the watch are 'professors of 50 and elderly technical assistants and rather weedy research students'. He mentions plans discussed by the Finance Committee to give courses to 'young refugees' in English and to welfare workers, and the dispute between non-professorial staff in the Applied Science departments and the Faculty of Science over criteria for salary increment and promotion. He gives details of air raid precautions taken at Chancellor's Hall for the R.E candidates, and notes the absence of the university Registrar, Cameron through illness. He interrupts his account as an air raid begins, and he describes experiencing low flying areoplanes overhead followed by bombs being dropped 'down the road towards Moseley' and the sound of burning wood.

The entry for 26 September to 6 October contains a description of bomb damage in London that Priestley saw on his walk from Euston to the Admiralty, and from there to Waterloo and Millbank 'the worst feature, I

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thought, was the queues of poor people waiting with their baggage outside shelters as early as half past two o'clock in the hope of getting good sleeping places. That sort of thing needs putting right if morale is to keep up'. He also mentions the death of Cameron, the university Registrar, the recruitment of candidates for the Officers Training Corps, and the inability of the university Home Guard to continue night watching during term conditions. In the next entry, for 7-11 October he gives the view that people are becoming 'better adjusted' to the continuing bombing of London and discusses the involvement of physical education staff Munrow and Madders in keeping watch on university buildings at Edgbaston from the Chemistry building. He discusses the intake of R.E. candidates and Moss's resentment at the selection by Cambridge of 'lads from the best-known schools' and his suspicion that those responsible for the selection favour Cambridge. He mentions that preparations for the British Council funded course for refugees are going well and Priestley has suggested 'a "patron" system by which one University lady or friend takes charge personally of each young woman, providing social contacts and giving help with the provision and upkeep of wardrobe, etc'. At the start of the entry for 13-19 October Priestley mentions recent casualties as a result of air raids or while taking part in military action, but devotes the majority of the entry to describing the effects of bombing raids on Birmingham, giving details of damage to various buildings, and recording an account of the effects of the raid on the university sites at both Edmund Street and Edgbaston 'a really exciting night which fully justified our A.R.P. arrangements and put the Home Guard idea beyond criticism even if they never do another hand's turn'. He thinks that for the first time the flats at Viceroy Close were a real target because of their similarity to barracks or factory buildings and describes the bomb crater made in the grounds. He records that fifty incendiary bombs were extinguished by the Home Guard at the Edgbaston site, with the help of

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men from the local pub. The next entry is entirely taken up with a detailed account of the raid of the night of 24 October which began while Priestley was giving a lecture to the Midland Association of Mountaineers at the Grand Hotel. He describes being caught in the middle of the raid and being struck by fragments of falling masonry before taking shelter in the Ear Nose and Throat Hospital and then the university buildings at Edmund Street where a large number of people were sheltering, including members of Workers Educational Association classes, 'refugees' Home Guard officers, and the Burton family. He describes how some of the group dealt with fires from incendiary bombs and gives a vivid description of his walk home through clouds of smoke, past bomb craters and shattered shop windows, and a cordoned off area along the Pershore Road due to a delayed action bomb. He briefly mentions other developments, including the arrival of Portway in connection with R.E classes for servicemen, and his visit to Bournbrook to see Sir Montagu Barlow who wants him to 'take the initiative in the formatoin of a regional committee to consider town and country planning after the war'.

The entry for 25-29 October also focuses heavily on the effects of air raids on the university and the city of Birmingham, and he mentions his prediction that the Edmund Street had 'rather less than a fifty-fifty change of survival through the winter' following a numbr of fires in the building which took a long time to put out. He comments on the permanent smell of fire, the 'purr of the pumps which never ceases day or night' and the sight of trams running backwards and people walking along the streets to work in the mornings. He attended a concert by Hely Hutchinson at the Midland Institute and mentions that two large high explosive bombs at the Edgbaston site failed to damage the university road but ruined the 'corporation road' [Pritchatts Road]. He then gives a detailed description of a raid which occurred while he was on warden duty at Viceroy Close during which the anatomy

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lecture theatre at Edmund Street was destroyed by an oil bomb, along with the administrative part of the geography department, Kinvig's apparatus, and part of the department's library. He helped to sweep rooms and comments that all services to that part of the building have been cut. He notes that the damage has prompted staff to make urgent efforts to safeguard the library, and Smalley Baker to agree that as many law books as possible should be removed. He is investigating whether it will be possible to transfer all teaching to Edgbaston. He mentions attending Professor Wood's inaugural lecture which Edward Cadbury is paying to have published before recording details of a bombing raid that damaged the homes of university staff [at Viceroy Close] and damaged parts of university buildings at Edgbaston, including the Guild. He notes the risk of fires in empty houses and shops getting out of control, which he thinks is more likely as more families migrate leave the city to escape the raids. The next entry, for 30 October-9 November, records that there have been fewer severe attacks, but that 'a good deal' of the centre of Birmingham has been ruined. His wife has been spending time at Westmancote and has taken a large part of his polar library to Bushley. He hopes to get more of his books away from Birmingham, and gives brief details about the improvements made to the shelter at Viceroy Close, which he still thinks will be damp and cold during the winter. He notes the increase in daylight raids over the country and the resulting changes to university precautions, and mentions that Kinvig has evacuated the geography department to Edgbaston from Edmund Street, Smalley Baker has transferred the most valuable part of the law library to vaults at Edgbaston, and the Edmund Street library basement has been fortified against water and fire damage. He goes on to record further information about the fire watching system at Edmund Street, Edgbaston and the Medical School, and mentions the serious illness and hospitalisation of Hatry, and the illnesses of Barnes and Grey. He comments on the lack

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of steel helmets for fire watchers and mentions that parents' permission is necessary if volunteer students are to be fire watchers. He also refers to the possibility of refugees acting as fire watchers in vacation time, working 'under the supervision of a British-born subject'. He writes that the Workers Educational Association classes have stopped due to frequent interruption by raids and the difficulties the students had in getting home, and that he has transferred from the university company of the Home Guard to headquarters and will spend one evening a week at the Central Report Centre of the Intelligence Section from 1 December.

He resumes his diary to discuss events from 9-18 November, commenting that it is difficult to keep a regular diary after his evening meal with regular air raids and fire watching duties to consider. He mentions that there have been 'incipient' fires in the Nuffield and new chemistry laboratory and comments on the severe bombing raid on Coventry [on 14 November], wondering why it is not possible to 'do more with interceptor planes'. He has had a further meeting with Sir Montagu Barlow and it has been decided that a 'Midland Region after-war Reconstruction committee' should be formed and Lord Dudley will convene the first meeting. He gives a brief account of his visit to Reading to stay with the Siblys where he had a meeting with Gibbins, the head of the Arts and Crafts department there, who is to produce more copies of [William] Lashly's diary, and his subsequent visits to Windsor and Holloway, where he spent time with his daughter, Margaret, and Box Hill to see 'Edith and Pat and Charles'. The beginning of his entry for 19-24 November mentions the large scale attack on Birmingham on 19 November and gives brief details of some of the damage done around Viceroy Close in Edgbaston and at Edmund Street. He comments on the lack of compassion shown by some citizens 'I saw half a dozen cars with one or at most two prosperous looking people in them which passed without the slightest notice a little old woman who was burdened with two heavy

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parcels and bedraggled with wet and trying to invoke a lift with wavings of her umbrella', and reflects on the reactions of different people to bombing raids, particularly those who have been at close proximity to bombs, and the effects on people's emotional health. He gives a brief account of his visit to Cambridge where he heard news of another severe raid on Birmingham which made the central block of flats at Viceroy Close uninhabitable and affected the water supply to the rest of the flats. He also describes the damage to accommodation at Edmund Street including the destruction of the 'old Midwifery Department', and his attempts to find a suitable shelter for himself and his wife at the Edgbaston site following the damage to their flat. The entry for 25 November-6 December records his efforts to prepare the Vice-Chancellor's room at Edgbaston to sleep in at night, and mentions moving his typewriter and several books there. He also gives details of the Christmas party he and his wife are planning, and mentions that most of the mess caused by recent incendiary bombs at Edmund Street. He notes that recent bombing raids have prompted the heads of university departments to organise departmental night watches and procure supplies. He has given a lecture on 'polar animal life' to the university biological society, and made a speech at Edgbaston High School for Girls. He has also visited Westmancote and Bushley where he attended the Old Theocsbrians Dinner and visited friends. He has had a meeting with [Herbert] Manzoni [City Surveyor for Birmingham] and the Cadburys about the 'proposed "Reconstruction Committee" for the Midlands' and has lectured at the Bournville Continuation School annual conference. He gives brief details about fortifications to rooms at Edmund Street against bomb damage to enable work to continue, and mentions the destruction of the great hall at Bristol University. His entry for 6-15 December includes a description of his surroundings in the Vice-Chancellor's room at Edgbaston. He gives details of plans by other staff to deputise for him while he is

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away on holiday, but mentions that he has decided not to go to Cornwall, as another member of staff, Burton, will be away at the same time, and is going to Scotland, meaning that neither of them would have been accessible in the event of an emergency. He discusses how the war has affected the university during the autumn term, mentioning the migration of university teaching to Edgbaston, the death of a number of students 'including one of the Polish refugees whose death occurred in the raid last Wednesday night' during which he and his wife spent the night in the shelter. He briefly describes this raid and the damage done to the surrounding area. He provides a list of his recent engagements which include attendance at meetings of university committees and at social events, and at events organised by other organisations including the YMCA and the Workers Educational Association. He comments on air raid precautions, or lack of them, at other universities including Bristol and Leeds, and comments on the difficulties the family is having in providing for guests due to food rationing. He mentions that his daughter, Margaret, has returned from Holloway and is fire watching at University House, and gives news of other family members in Australia. During the period 16-20 December Priestley visited Oxford for the Vice-Chancellors Conference and discussed the issue of fire watching and dealing with incendiaries with staff at Oxford colleges. He also mentions preparations for the university Christmas party. The following entry, for 21-24 December, contains a detailed description of the Christmas party which was held in the Great Hall at Edgbaston. He also mentions fire watching at Chancellor's Hall and Edmund Street, and visiting Belbroughton with his daughter Margaret, before the family drove to Westmancote for Christmas.

The entry for 25-29 December contains a brief account of activities at Westmancote which included a walk on Bredon Hill on Christmas Day, country drives, and reading of 'Town Planning books'. He continues his

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account of family holiday activities in Gloucestershire in his entry for 30 December-5 January which included a visit to the cinema in Cheltenham to see a film 'showing the brutalities of the Nazi regime' which Priestley found 'the more harrowing because it gave the impression all the time of under-statement rather than exaggeration'. He also mentions working on his Annual Report and the possibility of including photographs of 'university ruins', and refers to another student casualty 'one Iraqi student who was fiddling with an incendiary bomb and then practically committed suicide by throwing the remains into the fire in front of which he was sitting'. He gives details of his fire watching duties and comments on the relative lack of bombing raids in the last few weeks. He has been selected to be chairman of the Regional Information Committee, and mentions that he plans to give up his lease of 6 Viceroy Close in the summer and look for somewhere further out of Birmingham. The entry for 6-8 January contains detailed accounts of the first meeting of the 'West Midland Group for research into Reconstruction and Post-War planning' at Edmund Street, and his visit to Droitwich to lecture to the OCTU. He mentions the need to record and illustrate the sections of his annual report on 'War Damage' and 'War Defence' for the historical record, but that he can only refer generally to these sections in the published report. He notes that the university has permission from Western Command to take photographs of ruined buildings at Edmund Street. The next entry, for 9-19 January 1941, mentions German bombing raids on British ports, the return of his daughter to Holloway, his work on the annual report, and his visit to London to attend a conference of Joint Boards at the Board of Education and the Central Advisory Council for the Adult Education of Soldiers at the War Office. He was able to visit friends or relations at Box Hill and returned to Birmingham with a gift of vegetables. He discusses recent snowfall which has slowed transport and wonders whether it will 'help to outline all the features of the city and show

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the target up uncommonly well'. He records further disruption caused by the snow in his entry for 19-24 January and mentions a recent Senate meeting to discuss the appointment of the new Registrar, and the decision to move the Control Room from the basement of Civic House to the university at Edmund Street, together with the city Warden's post from the Midland Institute. The entry for 24-28 January states that eight photographs of war damage at Edmund Street are included in the diary, and the following pages contain copies of these photographs. Priestley also mentions the continuing snow and cold weather, the possibility that he and his wife will be able to find temporary accommodation at Lawn House, his efforts to transfer his personal possessions from Viceroy Close, and the effects of meat rationing. He mentions that there are seventy five recruits for the radio-communications class.

The entry for 29 January-4 February discusses responses to the publication of his annual report and the effect on university recruitment of proposals to call up nineteen year olds, and the RAF recruiting scheme which he thinks will strike 'right at the heart both of quality and quantity of the entry to the universities for next year' though he recognises the need to win the war he thinks that something needs to be done or 'we shall lose all the best of our raw material and the country will be crippled by a lack of scientists, engineers, doctors and other professional men in three or four years time'. He discusses the appointment of Grant as the new Registrar, matters considered by the meeting of Governors of King Edwards School, and the new establishment for the Senior Training Corps, and also provides an account of his visit with Home Guard section officers on a tactical exercise without troops in the Severn Stoke area. Events mentioned during the period 5-10 February include the Mining Society Conversazione, a meeting of the Physical Education committee to make an appointment to the new Assistant Lectureship for women at which Miss Potter

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was appointed, and a Student Christian Movement conference on the relationship between religion and education. Priestley also records brief details of a meeting with Kinvig, Macpherson and visitors James Wordie and Darby to discuss possible contributions to a series of geographical manuals produced by the Admiralty, the visit of 'three refugee students' to tea with him and his wife, and a meeting of the Faculty of Science which discussed salary increments for university lecturers. He briefly comments on the progress of the war and Italian reverses in Africa. He returns to this subject at the beginning of the next entry, for 11-17 February, and also mentions coverage of university policy and developments in the national press. He records giving a lecture on 'penguins' to the Biological Society and gives brief details about the second meeting of the Reconstruction Group before going on to discuss changes to notifications received in the Intelligence Control Room for the Home Guard at Edmund Street and his conversation with Smout about teaching in the Anatomy Department and the possible appointment of a Sub-Dean for the Medical School. He also mentions that Mrs Brake is to be promoted to Assistant Registrar and that the Kobers have visited for tea and have been having difficulties with their maintenance subsidy and have had to contact their benefactor with the help of Watson. He mentions attending a meeting of Ward representatives called by the Ministry of Information, and the Guild Social. He expresses regret that he is not able to entertain Guild Council but he thinks it is not possible to provide large meals due to the food shortages. He has attended meetings of the Childrens Hospital Board and the King Edwards School Committee, and mentions hearing that Peter Johnson [a friend or relative who stayed with the family at Marsland] has been reported missing. The entry for 18-24 February discusses the question of reserved status for university students, the attitudes of local people in Birmingham towards this, and the perceived attitudes of headmasters of Public Schools who seem unconcerned with what happens

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to their boys after the age of eighteen. He gives a brief account of his visit to Cambridge with his daughter, Margaret.

Priestley describes his new accommodation at Lawn House in his entry for 25 February-4 March and mentions the progress of the war, particularly Bulgaria's decision to join the Axis, and the 'virtual conquest' of Italian Somaliland. He gives brief details of his visit to Leeds to speak about family allowance to the Leeds branch of the Association of University Teachers where he also spoke about the University of Birmingham's experiences of bombing raids and fire watching, and mentions matters discussed at the monthly meeting of the Reconstruction Group. The entry for 5-10 March mentions arrangements for air raid shelter accommodation at Lawn House, and attempts by the residents to grow vegetables, particularly radishes, to provide 'relishes' to help with food restrictions. He refers to a meeting of the Joint Recruiting Board which he thinks will become busier with the announcement that nineteen year olds are to be called up, to his visit to Chaddesley Corbett to give a talk to a youth club, and to his visit to Woodbrooke College to give a lecture on the causes of the Scott Disaster [the failure of Robert Falcon Scott's Polar Expedition]. He mentions receiving a letter from the Pro-Chancellor, E. P. Beale, who is currently unwell, and the letter is inserted in the diary at this point. The entry for 11-15 March discusses attacks by British bombers on industrial targets in the Ruhr and gives details of fire watching arrangements for Ampton and Carpenter Roads. He also mentions his visit to Willersey to lecture for Walter Barrow, and to Monmouth for the prizegiving of the Five Ways school where he saw the accommodation for evacuated boys. He refers to a meeting of the Reconstruction Research Group which Sargent Florence is to join now that he has returned from America, and to work on the university staff allotment which Belgian refugees have been helping with. The following entry, for 15-24 March, comments on increased attacks on

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British shipping and ports, and his belief that America is 'nearer to active intervention'. He also mentions that Glasgow and Liverpool universities have suffered damage in recent bombing raids. He has lectured to the 'Nomads Society' at Chancellor's Hall, and to the anti-aircraft headquarters at Ribbesford Hall near Bewdley. He mentions that the Senate have settled the question of the reservation of teaching officers and university administrative officers. He has attended a reception at the Lord Mayor's Parlour to meet the Australian Prime Minister [Robert] Menzies and lectured to the Mathematical Society on 'Antarctic Ice Formations'. He gives news about his daughter, Margaret, who is to finish her Honours course at Holloway before volunteering for national service or going onto the 'Froebel course'. He attended the National Day of Prayer service at St Martins where he read the lesson, and the order of service is inserted in the diary at this point. The entry for 25-31 March comments on events in Yugoslavia [the coup d'etat by Serbian military officers and replacement of Prince Paul with King Peter II], Mediterranean naval battles with Italy, and the seizure of Italian, German and Danish merchant ships by the USA. He refers to the success of the first R.E course but notes that Thomas Bodkin was annoyed about damage done to the George I statue at the end of course demonstration 'I must...get Williams Freeman to talk to the incoming class for it would be unfortunate if that particular piece of work became the objective of a series of rags - as Eros did in London'. He has given a lecture to the Harborne Home Guard and has attended a conference of 'town planners on Reconstruction after the War' at Lady Margaret Hall in Oxford 'Stamp, Manzoni and Stapledon and a lad named Robbins (I think) read good papers but that was about the best of it and the discussions were appalling'. He has been discussing accommodation for a University Air Squadron and hopes to use the Mining Drawing Office and the old Home Guard hut. The entry for 1-8 April refers to the German invasion of Yugoslavia and Greece, and German and

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Italian advances in Libya. He has spoken to a conference of Anti-Aircraft officers, and attended meetings of the Reconstruction Research group, the United Hospital Board, and the Joint Recruiting Board as well as the Diocesan Council for Religious Education. He also attended a meeting of Vice-Chancellors in London where he spoke to Moberley about the need for the government to put aside some of the money raised from Excess Profits Tax to capital development for universities after the war. He gives details of decisions made at a meeting of the increment sub-committee of the Finance Committee, at which several members of staff were given increments, and explains that he was not able to travel to Cornwall to be with his wife because of the unresolved position concerning the formation of a University Air Squadron and the absence of his deputy, Burton. Priestley's entry for 9-10 April contains details of another major bombing raid on Birmingham during which a number of bombs fell on the Edgbaston site around the gymnasium, chemistry and biology buildings, and he expresses his concern about the Axis powers' advances in Yugoslavia and Greece. He also mentions a visit to Oxford for a meeting of an unidentified committee, possibly concerning scholarships for students in Australia. The next entry, for 11-17 April, contains details about further bombing raids on Birmingham and a brief account of Priestley's holiday in Bushley with the Morgans. The final entry in the volume, for 18-27 April, expresses anxiety about Allied reverses in Greece and Libya, continuing raids on Britain, particularly Merseyside, his trip to Shrewsbury and Church Stretton to lecture to soldiers, and the arrival of Grant as the new Registrar 'it is quite evident already that he is going to be a success' He will be pleasant to work with'.

Insertions include article by Priestley in 'The Cambridge Review' May 1940 entitled 'Birmingham University in War Time'; order of service for the National Day of Prayer service at Birmingham Cathedral, 26 May 1940; photographs of shelters being constructed at

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Viceroy Close; last letter from 'Uncle Sam' to Priestley, 19 July 1940; several photographs of the Priestley family with Coleman at Belbroughton and at other friends in the countryside at Bushley and Westmancote and swimming in the Severn, August 1940; a large number of photographs taken at Malvern with his daughter, Margaret, August 1940; photograph of Raymond Priestley in his Home Guard uniform with other members of the Home Guard; family photographs taken during the Christmas break at Westmancote and Bredon; newspaper article in the Evening Despatch 8 February 1941 consisting of a detailed report about the university gymnasium, with photographs; photographs of Viceroy Close in snow January 1941; photographs of Home Guard officers and of Priestley's friends David and Sheila Morgan.

1 volume

Access: Open

US38/2/4

1941-1942 Diary

1941-
1942

Raymond Priestley's diary covering the period from 28 April 1941 to 31 December 1942. There is a handwritten index at the front of the volume, and Priestley has noted other key dates on the inside front cover.

The first entry, for the period 28 April to 10 May, contains Priestley's comments on the progress of the war. He mentions a rebellion in Iraq and continued air attacks on Britain despite the intense efforts of Allied 'night fighters'. He discusses the growth of a number of crops on the allotment kept by university staff and mentions his visits to speak at the Petroleum Institute, to Cambridge where he dined with members of the Rockefeller Institute, and to London where he attended a meeting [of Vice Chancellors] to discuss insurance of university property under the War Damage act. The entry for 11-19 May contains a brief account of a night air raid during which he used the 'Barrow' shelter [at Lawn House] rather than the one at Viceroy Close, and

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mentions the flight of [Rudolf] Hess to Britain. He comments on discussion of the military training aspect of the physical education scheme at a meeting of the Faculty of Arts, his lecture to the History Students Fellowship, and his attendance at the University athletic sports event. He also records the news of the engagement of his daughter, Jocelyn. The letter from her fiancé, asking Priestley's permission to marry her, is inserted in the diary at this point. The entry for 20-26 May discusses the German air assault on Greece and levels of resentment among members of the Senate about Civil Defence being made compulsory for both staff and students. Priestley mentions attending the Duannians entertainment and the Holdsworth Club lunch before travelling to Cambridge to attend a meeting of the managing committee of the Polar Research Institute. The next entry, for 27 May to 5 June, contains a description of bomb damage to Chancellor's Hall and refers to plans to set up the compulsory Civil Defence scheme. Priestley also mentions attending a conference on the Home Guard Intelligence organisation. He goes on to discuss his difficulties in getting a new pair of trousers with his clothing coupons and the possibility that his daughter, Margaret, will take a 'Froebel course'. The following entry, for 5-14 June, discusses the work of the Joint Recruiting Board and the production of vegetables and fruit on the university staff allotment. He comments on the results of university examinations which he does not think have been badly affected by the war conditions, although 'Miss Hammond told me that rather more of the women than usual had actually been subnormal while the examinations were on'. He mentions attending a Musical Society concert and the Mining Society dance. Priestley comments on arrangements for fire watching during the summer vacation in his entry for 15-24 June and on the German invasion of Russia which he fears will result in defeat for Russia. He also mentions the first meeting of the Aviation Selection Board to choose candidates for the University Air Squadron

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and gives details of some of his social activities including walks on Kinver Edge and a visit to friends at Boxhill before attending a meeting at the Association for Regional Planning and Research with other members of the [West Midlands] Reconstruction group in London. The entry for 25 June to 1 July contains details of the reaction to Munrow's annual report, presented at the Physical Education committee meeting, and mentions the departure of Priestley's wife and daughter for the family holiday at Westmancote. He gives an account of his short holiday at Bredon in his entry for 2-6 July, and also gives details of the degree congregation at Edgbaston which he enjoyed 'it was delightful to see so many known faces among those taking degrees, both men and women, and it is a reflection of the conditions of the year which, what with ARP and the Joint Recruiting Board, have enabled me to get to know staff and students to an extent that would not have been possible under peacetime conditions'. The remainder of the entry contains an account of his activities during his short holiday at Westmancote. The entry for 7-14 July mentions Priestley's attendance at a meeting of the Reconstruction Research group at which Dudley Stamp spoke on Land Utilisation, meetings of the Joint Recruiting Board, Nuffield Hospital Regionalisation Board, and the Headmasters and Headmistresses Association conference, as well as Dame Elizabeth Cadbury's garden party. He then returned to Westmancote to continue his holiday.

Priestley comments on the progress of the Russo-German conflict in his entry for 15-20 July and expresses his disappointment that the Allies are not making larger scale army raids to divert German strength from the Eastern front. He mentions giving a lecture to members of the 'Bournville Continuation school', and attending the selection committee for the Zoology chair at which Lancelot Hogben was appointed. He discusses the action to be taken in response to a complaint about 'immorality on a large

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scale against one of the young girl Belgians' and comments 'I gather that the refugees generally have been a little exotic for the Settlement and perhaps it would be better if we found billets elsewhere for all the members of the next refugee class'. He gives a detailed account of his visit to the Senior Training Corps camp at Packington, and discusses his efforts to deal with a campaign by Boden, a lecturer in the Department of Mechanical Engineering, against the decision of the Faculty of Science to abolish workshop practice. He goes on to discuss the ongoing process to identify students not making satisfactory progress in their studies in order to complete papers for the Ministry of Labour, and mentions individual cases in the Medical School. He describes celebrations for his fifty-fifth birthday, which included tea with John Henry Lloyd who had 'bought a variety of cakes himself and I suspect that he is one of very few men in Birmingham who could have secured them'. During the week of 21-26 July he returned to the Senior Training Corps camp at Packington Old Hall with members of the Military Education Committee, gave a lecture on Antarctic exploration at Holly Lodge High School for Girls and returned to Tewkesbury for an Old Boys cricket match and to do some gardening at Bushley. He comments on the congoing air offensive, air and sea action in the Mediterranean, and Russian resistance to the German offensive. The entry for 27 July to 1 August contains brief news about Jocelyn's wedding and Margaret's degree results, his involvement as a member of the selection committee to appoint new headteachers of the King Edwards Schools, routine University business, and his visit to the opening performance of an open air theatre held in Cannon Hill Park 'Arms and the Man'. Priestley attended the [Workers Educational Association] Summer School at Hereford Training College from 2-6 August and spent time with Professor Hancock who was one of the lecturers at the Summer School. Priestley gives the names of the successful candidates for the posts of headteachers at the King Edwards Schools

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in his entry for 7-12 August and mentions his attendance at a meeting of the Joint Recruiting Board, remarking 'the work of that Board becomes more complicated every month and even those of use with most experience find that we are kept thinking hard in order to keep abreast of modern decisions of the Ministry and the Services'. He goes on to give an account of his journey to Cambridge to see his daughter, Margaret, and to spend time with friends, including the Lethbridge family, Mrs Scott, the Debenhams, 'Aunt Maud', and Mrs Currie. On his return to Birmingham he prepared for a meeting of the 'Reconstruction Research Group' meeting. His entry for the following week, 13-20 August, discusses the progress of the war on the Russian front before mentioning attending meetings of the Joint Recruiting Board and Committee A of the Reconstruction Research Group. He also mentions meetings with Ministry of Information officials and his attendance at Home Guard Intelligence lectures. Priestley records the recent meeting of Roosevelt and Churchill, the announcement of an eight-point peace programme and his concerns about the need to counter German advances via the Black Sea and Caucasus in his entry for 21-25 August. He mentions that he has had little University business to deal with, and expresses his unease that he lacks a 'direct connection with the war effort'. He mentions an outing to the Clent Hills for his daughter Margaret's birthday, and a dinner for those responsible for the 'Radiolocation' courses at the University. The following entry, for 26-31 August, discusses the recent lack of German air raids, the attempted assassination of Pierre Laval and the ongoing Battle of the Atlantic. Priestley gives details about his fire watching activities, particularly at the Control room at Edmund Street, and his meeting with Professor Mucklow to discuss recent difficulties with Boden concerning workshop practice and the situation in the Engineering department in general. He also mentions a walking trip to the Malvern hills and trips to the Alexandra Theatre to see 'Full House' and to Cannon

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Hill park to see 'Yellow Sands'. The entry for 1-5 September mentions the continued intense fighting along the Russian front before going on to discuss the fruit and vegetable harvest and his regular inspections of fire-fighting precautions at the University. He gives details about a recent meeting of the Reconstruction Research Group at which Sir Charles Innes from the Board of Trade spoke, and his attempts to entertain 'Gunn' at the Burlington Hotel after a theatre trip to the Alexandra 'they lived up to the reputation of Birmingham, however, by refusing to serve us unless we took a complete meal so we shook the dust of the place off our feet without satisfying appetite or thirst. Birmingham is far and away - peace or war - the worst place I have ever known both for evening entertainment of this sort and for absence of taxis. Otherwise there are worse places'. His entry for 6-9 September mentions the recent raid on Spitzbergen and the continued siege of Leningrad and Odessa. He mentions that Professor Hancock is to accept his 'war-historian' job and that a special meeting of the Faculty of Medicine has nominated Parsons to take Barnes' place as Dean. He also comments that there had been 'far more women applicants than places for them' for entrance to the medical school.

Priestley's next entry covers the period 10-30 September, and he writes that he has never left so long a gap in his diary since he started to write it when he left for Australia. He begins the entry by commenting on the continued German offensive in Russia and the consequent lack of air raids over Britain. He mentions driving back from Wellington 'under a full moon (or nearly full) and the drive was most pleasant, a thing I certainly should not have been able to say about a similar experience this time last year', though he expects occasional heavy raids in the future. He mentions listening to the eleven o'clock BBC European News Service for developments on the Russian front before going on to give an account of his visit to Walter Barrow's house in the Cotswolds

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before returning to Birmingham to host a visit by Moberly and Chesterman of the University Grants Committee, describing their inspection of academic departments at both Edgbaston and Edmund Street. He records his discussion with Wittgenstein about his intention to resign his post at Cambridge and to go into national service, mentioning that he had made an unsuccessful attempt to arrange for him to join the Friends Ambulance Unit. He gives a detailed account of his holiday at Westmancote and visiting the Wrights at Boxhill before attending a meeting of the Vice-Chancellors' Committee and Universities Bureau in London. He mentions attending the Freshers tea in Birmingham which included a 'long and involved, very theoretical rather metaphysical and scarcely understandable disquisition on university education by Sader the Indian President of the Guild'. The entry for 1-5 October contains details about Priestley's lectures for the Workers Educational Association at Wellington and at the Mining College at Cannock. He records the establishment of a Theology lectureship at the University, endowed by Edward Cadbury, and goes on to mention that Colonel Barnes has replaced Williams Freeman as commanding officer of the Senior Training Corps. The following entry, for 6-14 October, contains Priestley's reflections on the continuing campaign to release undergraduates for national service, which he supports, but writes that 'in the interest of the country, first class honour men should be made to continue their studies until the full Honours Degree has been attained'. He mentions that Hancock and Thorburn have both been released for national service, and comments on the continuing process of releasing students who are failing to make satisfactory academic progress, making them liable for national service. He mentions attending a meeting of the Reconstruction Research Group committee and meeting Gissain, the new Asutrainian medical superintendent of the Queen's Accident Hospital, at the Union Club. He also records that Mark Oliphant has returned, by bomber

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plane, from America, and that he has attended the University service at St Francis Hall and a meeting of the Canadian Parents Committee. He mentions giving lectures at Craven Arms and Nuneaton. The entry for 15-20 October mentions the continued lack of air raids, and Priestley records details of his visit to London to attend a meeting of Vice-Chancellors with officials of the Ministry of Labour and Board of Education at which he put forward his view that science and engineering students should be allowed to complete their degrees, remarking 'if Japan and America come in this is likely to be a much longer war than we have so far anticipated or admitted. In any case fully trained engineers and scientists will be urgently required for reconstruction after the war and we simply must spare for that purpose our men of outstanding promise'. He mentions his fire-watching duties and work on the staff allotment. Most of the entry for 21-26 October discusses Priestley's University and social activities, mentioning his farewell lunch for Williams Freeman at the Union Club, and a meeting of the Joint Recruiting Board which has to review the case of all science and applied science students in all subjects except engineering, physics, chemistry and metallurgy 'and only allow them to do a second year here if they are either first class honours men, agree to transfer to a scarcity subject, or to take radio courses in which case they will be withdrawn at the end of their second year for radiolocation work'. He also attended the lunch hour concert at the Barber Institute and met members of the Oxford University Air Squadron and members of the Military Education Committee. He took part in fire-watching duties, attended a meeting of the Refectories Committee, and discussed arrangements for the Harper Adams [training college] conference before presenting prizes and certificates at Wednesbury Commercial College. He comments on the progress of the war and expresses his view that the Libyan campaign should be expanded. The following entry, for 26-28 October, mentions his visit to Elmley Castle and his lecture at

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Ruabon where he was given a tour of the School and printing shop. He also mentions attending a lecture in Birmingham given by Dr Kuo on 'the psychology of the Chinese people with special reference to the war'. Priestley discusses the apparently recent introduction of air attacks on German railway lines, which he had suggested in conversation and which have now become a feature of the Allied air offensive. He goes on to give details of his visit to Leeds to lecture on Antarctic exploration and mentions attending a meeting of a committee to draw up regulations for the Edward Cadbury Lectureship and the Reconstruction Research Group. Priestley comments on his distress at hearing of losses of Allied aircraft in one night in his entry for 5-11 November particularly as 'we have come more and more to look to heavy bombers as likely to be one of the causes most likely to contribute decisively to the Nazi downfall'. He gives an account of the Lord Mayor's Installation which he attended. During the period 12-19 November he attended 'the Zionist campaign lunch' at the Botanic Gardens and a reception at the Medical School, organised by the new Dean [Leonard Parsons] before going to Cambridge and then Boxhill and London, where he attended a meeting of the Vice-Chancellor's Committee to discuss military registration negotiations. Priestley remarks on the start of a new Libyan offensive in his entry for 20-24 November before going on to give details of his discussion with Professor Mucklow about engineering education, his attendance at a lecture by Bernal organised by the Anglo-Soviet Relations Committee and the Association of Scientific Workers on 'Science in Soviet Russia', and an accident he suffered in the blackout when he bumped into a tree after leaving the Control Room at Edmund Street while on inspection duty. He ends this entry by commenting on the difficulties for him in having to travel between Edmund Street and Edgbaston on University business. He refers to the ongoing campaign in Libya at the beginning of his entry for 24-30 November and then records details of his

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meeting with Commanding Officers in relation to promoting the adult education of soldiers, his visit to Northfield Manor Farm to give a lecture on the Antarctic to members of the Friends Ambulance School, and his attendance at Edgbaston High School speech day. He mentions attending a meeting of the University Research Committee, 'one of the most difficult bodies to deal with in the university', and his weekend visit to Gloucester and Westmancote. The entry for 1-6 December mentions that ARP attendance has improved since payment has been introduced, and that conscientious objectors have been permitted to do additional ARP duty instead of military training which has resulted in them 'making money out of their scruples'. Priestley goes on to comment on setbacks in the Libyan campaign and to give his opinion that the Senior Training Corps should spend more time on practical work with 'modern weapons such as grenades, anti-tank weapons, cocktails etc'. He mentions giving a lecture to senior classes at George Dixon School, attending a meeting of the Reconstruction Research Group, and a meeting of the Principals and Deans Committee which discussed an offer from America 'of help in the way of professors and lecturers to replace some of our absentees', noting that Council agreed to ask for lecturers in History, Law, and Metallurgy. He gives details about his visit to Hereford to give a lecture at an RAF training school, and about complaints about students painting slogans for Carnival on shelters, hoardings and water tanks in Birmingham and the difficulties of disciplining them. The following entry, for 7 December, contains a description of his attendance at a 'Formal Dance' at the Guild of Students building. The entry for 8-16 December records social activities including lunch at the Council House with Norwegian delegates, a meeting with the Nuffield Regional Hospital Council, King Edward School prize-giving, a lunch by Music, Drama and Fine Art staff of the University to the Martineaus, and lunch with the Forward Branch of the British Legion. He comments on the Japanese

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offensive in the Far East and the recent attack on the United States in Hawaii, and gives details of his visit to Oxford with the Cadburys, Sargent Florence, and Manzoni to attend a conference on post-war reconstruction at the Nuffield College of Social Science. He mentions receiving a food parcel from Canada, and comments on the annual report by the Toronto committee on the evacuated mothers and children [of University staff]. The entry for 17-25 December includes an account of Christmas celebrations in Birmingham and Bushley, focusing on food supplies and the effects of rationing on the availability of chocolate, marmelade, butter, and other items. He reflects on the progress of the war over the previous year, commenting that the situation is difficult but that 'on the other hand, America is absolutely solid against the Axis powers now'. He mentions taking fire watch duty at the University and visiting London for a meeting of the Vice-Chancellors Committee to discuss the recruitment of women students. The entry for 26 December to 2 January 1942 is largely concerned with Japanese advances in the Far East, and Priestley mentions the capture of Hong Kong and the offensive in the Malay peninsula. He mentions Churchills' recent speech to the Canadian parliament in response to French generals prediction that Britain would be easily defeated, and gives details of his recent social activities which included a visit to the Repertory Theatre to see 'Cricket on the Hearth' and a visit to the Hope Street Schools Play Centre where his daughter, Margaret, had been teaching country dancing.

The first entry for 1942, covering 3-5 January, contains an account of a weekend conference at Harper Adams Agricultural College [in Shropshire] organised by the West Midland Group on Land Utilisation in connection with post-war Reconstruction schemes. The following entry, for 6-14 January, comments on continued Japanese advances in the Far East, and records details of Priestley's social and University activities

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including a meeting with 'Hills the donor of our chemistry laboratory', a visit to the pantomime, a trip to Bushley and Westmancote, and a trip to London to attend a meeting of the Royal Geographical Society on Regional Planning. Priestley expresses his anxiety about continued Japanese advances and the failure of the Libyan campaign to make progress in his entry for 15-23 January, and mentions the recent heavy snowfall in Birmingham. He records meeting Lancelot Hogben for lunch to discuss proposed changes to regulations for admission to the Medical School, and attending a dinner of the British Council for Refugees at the Midland Hotel. He also mentions acting as Chair at a meeting of the Anatomical and Anthropological Society and giving a lecture to the Natural History Society at Cambridge. The entry for 24-31 January focuses on Priestley's continued worries about the progress of the war, mentioning the situation on the Russian front, Japanese successes in the Far East, the ongoing Libyan campaign, and the importance of Churchill as a leader at this time. He refers to criticism of his annual report as Vice-Chancellor and whether disciplinary action should be taken against students at Chancellor's Hall who have been removing belisha beacons and lamp-tops and storing them in the hall grounds. He goes on to discuss a more serious matter involving members of the Guild of Students buying spiritis and wines on the black market which will need to result in action by the University, and expresses his concern that government departments might become involved. He writes 'I am rather sorry for the chief offender who has had a very unusual career as a student and has made his way in spite of considerable difficulties'. He mentions attending a meeting of the Vice-Chancellors Committee on Engineering Education in war time, state bursars, and the conscription of women students. He also mentions that a new caterer for the refectory at Edgbaston has been appointed, a Jewish French citizen who had been running a night club in Paris. The entry for 1-10 February records details of

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the deteriorating situation in the Far East, and disciplinary issues at the University including a case of 'not-so-dumb insolence of a student to a woman lecturer', vandalism at Chancellor's Hall involving the removal of belisha beacons and street lamps involving both government bursars and conscientious objectors, and the involvement of Guild of Students officers in making false returns to Revenue Authorities and purchasing black market spirits, which has resulted in reform of management of the Guild and the resignation of the Guild President, Sader. He also mentions meetings with Guy Motors Ltd and the headmaster of Malvern College, both to discuss the supply of boys to industry and the university, a meeting of the Staff Social Club, and his attendance as a delegate from the Vice-Chancellors Committee at a Physical Education conference. Priestley comments on the loss of Singapore to Japan and setbacks in Libya in his entry for 10-20 February, and remarks on the effect of continued bad news on his thoughts, and on other people's nerves and tempers. He gives details of his activities which included a visit to Harper Adams Agricultural College, meetings of the Joint Recruiting Board and the Faculty of Medicine, a Workers Educational Association Summer School Reunion and a Student-Staff Social event at the Guild of Students building. He also mentions attending an Indian Association lunch at which he heard 'audible subversive remarks by one or two of the guests about the relations between Britain and India. Priestley goes on to give details of his meeting in Bristol with Halliday, the Principal of Kings College, London about the behaviour of their medical students at the Guild of Students, and about their attitude towards certificates of satisfactory progress and military training. He mentions observing the serious air raid damage in Bristol. He refers to a difficult meeting of the Senate at which some 'more reactionary' members of staff wanted to remove individual students from the University in the aftermath of the Guild of Students' involvement in black market purchases of alcohol. During the

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period 21 February to 1 March Priestley records entertaining ARP and AFS workers of the University and their families at the Alexandra Theatre, meeting the new Guild President to discuss reform of the constitution, and attending the Mining Society dinner. He mentions that Mark Oliphant might be called to Australia to take charge of radiolocation there. The next entry, for 2-6 March, mentions the Japanese invasion of Java before going on to discuss the possible formation of a Girls Training Corps at the University. He also refers to giving a lecture to the Geography Society, attending a 'peculiarly unpleasant play 'The Women' performed by the Duannians, and attending the Holdsworth Club lunch. Priestley again expresses his anxiety about continued Allied setbacks on all fronts in the war, and comments on the apparent increase in student indiscipline which have recently included alleged offences by members of the Senior Training Corps, complaints from staff at a local munitions firm about students playing sports on Saturday afternoon instead of contributing to the war effort, and the suspension of medical students from lectures because they had left their fire watching posts to go to the Nurses ball. He refers to the establishment of a committee for training in part-time national service for women, and discussing Lancelot Hogben's proposals for the re-equipment and rebuilding of the Zoology Department after the war. He also mentions arrangements for replacing Mark Oliphant when he goes to Australia. The entry for 17-22 March contains details about memorials services for Professor Nash, and Sir William Bragg, and Priestley's attempt to attend a lecture on engineering education at the Institute of Electrical Engineers which he missed because he had the wrong train ticket. Priestley mentions the Japanese threat to India in his entry for 23-29 March before recording details about his attendance at a conference of headmasters and headmistresses. He also gives an account of his visit to Cambridge to attend a Town and Country Planning conference and to see friends, and comments on the visit of Harry

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Wimperis to the University. Priestley expresses his concerns about the situation in the Far East at the beginning of his entry for 30 March to 9 April, remarking 'we are not yet adjusted to the new Pacific situation and more than ever I wonder what the American fleet is doing to let Japan get away with things to this extent'. He also mentions his worries about an Axis spring offensive. He describes his activities during a weekend at Westmancote and Bushley and mentions his attendance at a Council Committee on Guild Discipline and preparations to host students attending the National Union of Students conference being held in Birmingham. The following entry, for 10-17 April, contains an account of his involvement in the National Union of Students conference, and his attendance at a Catholic University Federation lunch. He mentions attending a meeting of the West Midland Group [on post-war planning], the Principals and Deans Committee, and the Council Committee on Reconstruction, as well as his visit to London to attend a meeting of the Vice-Chancellors Committee. He comments on the progress of the war on the Eastern front and in Burma. During the period 18-28 April Priestley mentions the resumption of air raids on Britain, in response to British raids on the German cities of Lubeck and Rostock, recording reprisal raids on Bath and Norwich and commenting on the possibility that Oxford and Cambridge will be bombed. He mentions having lunch with Lancelot Hogben to discuss possible developments in biology teaching, and a meeting with Hogben and Sargent Florence to discuss a proposal for the development of social study and medicine. He also writes about Lady Cadman's visit to the Oil Engineering Department to hand over a bust of Lord Cadman to the Petroleum Institute, giving a lecture on Shackleton to the Five Ways Grammar School boys at Monmouth and hearing an air raid in progress, and attending a lecture by Manzoni on 'Modern Trends in Town Planning and Building' as part of a series on Reconstruction organised by the Extra-Mural Department at Edmund Street.

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The final section of this entry discusses the annual meeting of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, attended by Dame Elizabeth Cadbury as President, and mentions the concerns of Priestley's daughter, Jocelyn, about possible air raids on Melbourne.

Priestley addresses his neglect of the diary at the start of the entry for 29 April to 9 May, commenting that his personal life and feelings are becoming 'subordinated to the overwhelming drama of international struggle'. He refers to the ongoing naval and air battles in the Pacific and the Allied air offensive, and hopes that if the Germans 'are held fairly well in the East and we can hold Japan as well, the main back of the war might really be broken by the next winter'. He goes on to give details of his recent activities, including lecturing at Alcester Grammar School, and hosting a visit of the University Chancellor and a visit by Dr Wellington Koo, the Chinese Ambassador, sponsored by the League of Nations. He also attended a meeting of the Biochemistry Lectureship Selection Committee and an evening of entertainment organised by Polish refugees at the Guild of Students building. He mentions his appointment to the Council of the Royal Geographical Society and joining the education committee of the British Association Division for Social and International Relations of Science. He records details of a conversation with Halliday, Principal of Kings College [London] about the recent behaviour of the Kings College medical students and mentions that they are likely to return to London in the autumn 'I don't think any of us will be sorry to see the last of them for there are great possibilities of strife in the present situation, while two sets of standards as regards the relation between medical studies and national service are difficult to administer in the same place. The following entry, for 10-17 May, mentions Priestley's attendance at an ATS exhibition at Lewis's [department store] as an official visitor, at the Military Education Committee's inspection of the Senior Training Corps, and at a meeting with

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Engineering professors to discuss a proposed four-term year for final year students of engineering. He mentions a car journey with Paul Cadbury and others to look at the proposed 'green belt' for Birmingham, discussions about the [post-war] development of the Edgbaston site with Parkes, and the University Sports organised by the Athletic Club. Priestley refers to the intensification of the war in Russia at the start of his entry for 18-25 May before giving details of his recent social activities, fire watching duty or observation control watch at Edmund Street, and his visit to Cambridge for the weekend which included a meeting of the Polar Institute Managing Committee as well as visits to friends. The entry for 26-31 May mentions the Allied air offensive and Priestley expresses his desire to become more involved in the war effort. He comments on a meeting with Butler, Warden of Nuffield College, about possible lecturers to go to the United States of America, including Thomas Bodkin, J. G. Smith, and William Hancock, and mentions giving a lecture to the Jewish Refugee Society. Priestley mentions Allied bombing raids on Cologne and the Ruhr valley at the start of his entry for 1-6 June before going on to discuss developments in the Far East. He mentions attending a meeting of the Joint Recruiting Board and a visit from officers of the Home Guard Flying Wing, as well as a visit to London to attend a meeting of the education committee of the British Association Division for the Social and International Relations of Science at which Julian Huxley spoke. At the beginning of the entry for 7-13 June Priestley mentions Allied struggles in Libya and the recent agreement with Soviet Russia before going on to record details of his activities which included chairing a meeting at Carrs Lane church on 'Christianity and Life', giving a lecture at Birmingham Artists gallery to the Artists Club, visits to the Repertory and Alexandra theatres with friends, and University commitments including a meeting of the Discipline committee, fire watching duties, and a meeting of the Faculty of Medicine at which there were arguments about whether

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to appoint a full time medical officer for the University. He also mentions that a conference of Commanding Officers of Senior Training Corps of England is taking place in Birmingham. Priestley expresses his dismay at the news of the fall of Tobruk to the Axis powers in his entry for 14-21 June, and his anxiety about the loss of supply lines to Britain due to loss of shipping. He gives details of his work in the garden and allotment to grow fruit and vegetables and mentions attending an open air service in Victoria Square. Other activities included a meeting with Foxall, President of the Guild of Graduates, to discuss whether the organisation could put pressure on University Council to build additional student accommodation and reorganise the Appointments Board, attending a lecture on Universities in China, and attending an Anglo-French lunch organised by the British Council. Priestley returns to the subject of losses to merchant shipping in his entry for 22-28 June, and to the continued fighting in Libya. He mentions that there has been an air raid for the first time in a year and that planes had been brought down in the Bromsgrove area. Activities included attending a meeting of Vice-Chancellors of the Constituency which included discussion of the need for a post-war policy and for public works spending, before visiting Edith [his sister] at Box Hill to collect fruit and other supplies. He comments on the ability of his sister to obtain food at Box Hill and compares their situation to his in Birmingham where they are not viewed as favoured customers in shops 'compared with the older inhabitants and, in particular the elite of Edgbaston. Phyllis [his wife] gets comparatively cavalier treatment in the shops'. He also visited Oxford for a Nuffield College conference on education and attended a Ministry of Information lecture at the Chamber of Commerce in Birmingham at which Eleanor Rathbone was the speaker. The entry for 29 June to 7 July discusses the Axis summer offensive in Russia and Allied offensives to stop shipping losses. He mentions meeting members of the Girls

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Training Corps at Primrose Hill, and attending the University Degree Day dance in evening dress, which seemed inappropriate and 'out of tune with the fierce and critical fighting that is going on in Libya and elsewhere'. He also comments on a recent meeting of the Foreign Students Committee, the apparent success of the course, and the popularity of Polish students at Edmund Street. He records the decision to make Senior Training Corps service compulsory without age limit, and to make all medical students serve in the medical unit, and gives the names of some of those receiving Honorary Degrees, noting that he enjoyed the degree ceremony as the Chancellor gave out degrees and Priestley could observe proceedings, which included some mistakes. He mentions the first meeting of the joint committee of Senate and Council on university development, a meeting of the West Midlands reconstruction group, and that he and his wife took the President and the Vice-President of the Guild for dinner and then to the Royal Theatre to see 'Lovely to Look At'. He goes on to discuss his work in the garden and to give news of his daughters, Jocelyn and Margaret, and other members of the family.

Priestley's next entry covers the period 7-30 July and he comments on the delay in writing his diary, partly because he had to repair his typewriter. He comments on lack of progress in the war, particularly in Egypt, and the start of air raids over Birmingham again which meant he and his family had to use the air raid shelter for the first time in a year, describing damage at Five Ways and along Calthorpe Road, and mentioning that Sydney Vernon, a member of University Council, found his house completely destroyed by an oil bomb. He goes on to give an account of his fire watching duty at Edmund Street and describes further bomb damage to buildings and streets in Birmingham city centre and in Edgbaston. He gives details of his activities, including a lecture at Swanley 'at a school for the sons of deceased naval men', a visit to Boxhill to see his sister where he collected

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fruit for bottling and making jam, and a visit to the Civic House to meet the Turkish Ambassador. He comments on the unhappiness of laboratory attendants at the medical school at the promotion of a colleague, Pardoe, to a post of Artist, and mentions having lunch at the Council House to meet Lord Halifax before going to Westmancote for a holiday at Bredon, returning to Birmingham for a meeting of the Developments committee and for a meeting of the King Edwards School sites committee. The rest of the entry contains details of his holiday activities, a meeting of the regional committee of the Ministry of Information and attending a meeting in London associated with the British Association committee on university education. The entry for 31 July to 8 August mentions Priestley's discussion with Professor Valentine about his psychological work in connection with army training which he has presented as a report to the War Office, and contains a detailed account of Priestley's week in Hereford where he acted as Director of Studies at the Workers Educational Association Summer School. He mentions that Cyril Joad joined the school to give a talk on Socrates, and that he also heard Chuter Ede speak on 'Problems of Rural Education'. He reflects on the course of the war at the start of his entry for 9-15 August, mentioning German advances in Russia and the lack of progress of British forces in Egypt and commenting that 'unless we manage to cause things to take a decisive turn for the better in the next three months - and at the moment it is difficult to see prospect of this - we have to look forward I think to several more years'. He gives details about lectures he has agreed to give, on Reconstruction, and Education, and also a lecture in Oxford with Sydney Vernon about developments in social and industrial medicine. He describes damage to the homes of university staff in recent bombing raids, and also mentions recent drunken behaviour of Batho in a university selection committee meeting. He gives details of his recent fire watching duties at Edmund Street and Edgbaston, his work at the allotment,

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and his involvement with the West Midlands group on post-war reconstruction which an official from the Ministry of Works and Buildings attended. He records that his daughter, Margaret, has been teaching a class of 49 children at Selly Oak elementary school which she has found 'pretty trying physically and mentally'. He discusses the progress of the war in his entry for 16-25 August, commenting on his feeling of powerlessness at receiving letters from [Alexander] Bayhov pointing out the effect of the loss of Russian economic strength and resources and the danger of the country being overwhelmed. He describes efforts to improve air raid precautions to deal with explosive-incendiary and phosphorus bombs and his work to build up a supply of cut wood and bottled fruit and jam. He also mentions celebrations for the birthday of his daughter, Margaret, and the introduction of compulsory fire watching service for women students. He discusses recent bomb damage to Chancellor's Hall and the 'obsession' of the Warden that the building is being used as a target. The entry for 26 August to 3 September mentions German and Japanese advances before going on to give details of his gardening and fruit picking. He mentions that his daughter, Margaret, is still finding it difficult to maintain discipline with the large class of elementary school children she is teaching in Selly Oak, and gives brief details of his activities including talking to students on the science and engineering 'fourth term' course, visiting the cinema to see 'How Green was my Valley', meetings of the West Midlands post-war reconstruction group, a YMCA meeting, and dinner with Isaac Shapiro and 'Blatz', a child nursery school expert from Toronto. The start of the entry for 4-14 September mentions the Allied air offensive over Germany, an abortive raid on Tobruk, and Rommel's attempt to break through the lines at El Alamein. Priestley records cycling to Belbroughton to pick blackberries and mentions the recent good weather which has helped the wheat and oat harvest. He mentions that the fourth term in science and engineering for students on

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certain degrees is now over and that the University is quiet, apart from the presence of R[oyal] E[ngineer] cadets. Moss, one of the professors of engineering, is seriously ill in hospital. Priestley comments on writing a lecture for a conference at Oxford on Education for Industry, and on a meeting with Sir Farquhar Buzzard, Dr Welch and Hyde about 'possible help towards Industrial Medicine' at Birmingham in the provision of staff. He has attended a meeting of the Medical School Selection Committee, a reunion dinner for colleagues from the Wireless Training Centre, meetings of the Boxfoldia Trust, Higher Education sub-committee and the [Birmingham] City Reconstruction Committee as well as taking part in ARP duty. He also mentions attending the wedding reception of Checkland and Miss Anthony and attending an Anglo-Dutch reception [possibly organised by the British Council]. Priestley comments on recent developments on the various fronts in the war at the start of his entry for 16-21 September before going on to give details of visits by Crowther from the British Council and Catlin about a project for the Anglo-American Institute. He reports that Professor Moss is gravely ill, and mentions a recent lunch at the Council House for the opening of a Fuel Exhibition by Major Lloyd George. The entry for 22-30 September mentions the Russian counter-attack at Stalingrad, and Priestley expresses his frustration at the lack of Allied progress. He gives details of his lunch with Sir Harold Hartley and John Greenly in London, his attendance at a British Association meeting, and his difficulties getting to Box Hill after getting on the wrong train. He also records attending a meeting for chairmen of Joint Recruiting Boards at the Ministry of Labour and a meeting of Vice-Chancellors before travelling to Oxford for a conference [on post-war reconstruction?]. He also visited sea cadet headquarters at Wimbledon and an Army Physical Reconstruction Unit at Kingston. Priestley comments on his activities since the start of the university term in his entry for 1-7 October, remarking that 'the dominant note in

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university affairs is still "improvisation" and that does not afford a Vice-Chancellor a great deal of scope when Deans and officials are efficient, as ours are on the whole'. He mentions giving a lecture to the Survey Training Battalion at Ruabon, chairing a 'celebrity meeting' at the Chamber of Commerce rooms for the Ministry of Information, and having lunch with [Leonard] Parsons, Sir Cuthbert Wallace and Dr Rock Carling to discuss possible development in medical teaching. Other activities included attending the Freshers social event, lecturing for the Workers Educational Association at Chasetown, and attending a selection committee meeting for consideration of applications for the post of University Medical Officer. He comments on opposition to creating this post, and to support in the 'Lancet'. Priestley records attending the monthly meeting of the West Midlands Regional Reconstruction Group, discussing infringements by other universities of the fifty mile limit travel rule for athletic fixtures, listening to complaints by Mrs Barnes Pearson about Lancelot Hogben's attitude to 'education' biology, and attending a meeting of the Board of the Childrens Hospital. Priestley comments again on his sense of frustration about the continued 'deadlock' in the war at the start of his entry for 8-21 October, discussing events in the Pacific, the continuing battle of Stalingrad, the submarine war, and the Allied air offensive over Germany. He goes on to discuss university matters, including the recent death of Professor Moss, and his discussion with other university officials about how to deal with students who wanted to escape fire watching, Senior Training Corps, or physical education. His other activities including giving lectures for a Civil Defence group in Harborne, and the St Martins church youth club, his inspection of the Girls Training Corps, reading the lesson at the opening service at St Francis' Hall at the university, and attending a meeting of the Warwickshire Education Committee. He also travelled to West Bromwich to give a lecture to the St Andrews youth club, and comments 'getting

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about in the black-out makes these lectures something of an ordeal nowadays and they will become quite impossible without special transport once this region falls in line with some others and shuts the bus system down at 9pm'. He attended meetings of the City Reconstruction Committee, the Joint Recruiting Board, and the British Association Education Committee in London. He mentions distributing surplus fruit from his garden, and preparing a store for his bottled fruit. Priestley mentions the start of a British offensive in Egypt at the start of his entry for 22-31 October, and notes the continued stalemate at Stalingrad before commenting on the development of daylight bombing by Allied forces. He records details of his discussion with Nikolai Bachtin about the war, recording that 'he, like others of his persuasion, is obsessed with the idea that there is an influential section of the governing classes in England, both civil and military, who, consciously or subconsciously, would prefer an Axis victory, to the survival of a victorious Russia'. He mentions a lunch meeting with the Adjutant of the Senior Training Corps, a meeting of the Joint Recruiting Board to discuss the training of teachers, and a staff tea at which Sir Malcolm Robertson was a visitor. Other activities included giving a lecture on Scott's Antarctic expedition to the Anglo-Dutch Club, attending a staff-student social event at the Guild of Students building, and attending a memorial service for Professor Moss at St Francis Hall. He also travelled to London to attend a meeting of the Council of the Royal Geographical Society and a meeting of the Refugees Committee which allocated places for students including 'Communists from Czecho-Slovakia and aristocratic Conservatives from Poland'. He attended meetings at the Ministry of Labour, the War Office, and the Local Administration and Finance Committee of the West Midlands Regional Reconstruction Group, and discusses the likely impact on the Faculties of Arts, Law and Commerce at Birmingham of the continued selection of students for military service. The entry for 1-9 November

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mentions Allied successes in North Africa, Priestley's visit to London for a meeting of Vice-Chancellor to discuss the training of teachers, and his discussion with members of the Birmingham Fire Service about additional fire watching. He discusses the decision of the Birmingham Hospitals Council to support the university's request to establish a Chair of Social Medicine, his involvement in interviews with students studying pure and applied science about their academic progress, and his attendance at a conference in Worcester for post-war reconstruction. The entry for 11-23 November comments in detail on the progress of the war in North Africa, at Stalingrad, and in Allied air and sea campaigns before going on to discuss Priestley's University responsibilities, including Worsley's visit to inspect the Senior Training Corps and attend the Medical Education Committee meeting, and his praise for Birmingham in being 'more insistent of the fulfilment of the S[enior] T[raining] C[orps] bond by our students'. He mentions that a meeting of the Vice-Chancellors Committee discussed the Ministry of Labour's decision that students born in 1925 and hoping to study Arts, Law and Commerce courses should not have their entry to university deferred, and gives details of his attendance at a lunch at Birmingham Council House to meet Winant the American Ambassador and the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, at which both clergymen spoke about the need for social reform after the war. He also records his stay with the Sibbys in Reading where he was given 'dehydrated vegetables' and mentions comments by Lord Woolton that 'the poor were getting better food and the rich were getting food that was better for them' as a result of rationing and austerity measures. He discusses the possibility that Lancelot Hogben, Philip Sargant Florence, or Mark Oliphant might be asked to go to the United States of America in connection with the Rockefeller Trustees, continued tensions over the teaching of 'social medicine', and his meeting at Edgbaston to welcome the Soviet

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students with Mrs Pascal. He also visited Cambridge for a meeting of the Scott Polar Research Institute Committee and to stay with friends. The entry for 25 November to 8 December mentions recent developments in the war, including the sinking of the French fleet at Toulon, his efforts to secure a comprehensive review of post-war requirements for universities at the end of the war, attending the staff Social Club tea, and discussing possible developments in teaching and research in Coal Preservation and Utilisation with Mucklow, Ward, Grant, and Dr Sargent of the Ministry of Fuel and Power. He also mentions giving a lecture to the Workers Educational Association in Dudley, and chairing the Edgbaston High School speech day. The entry for 6-13 December largely records details of university activities, including a talk on Russian exploitation of the Arctic at the Anglo-Soviet Society meeting, a discussion about Scandinavia during and after the war at the New Commonwealth event, and the Birmingham University Dramatic Society performance of 'Jupiter Laughs'. During the period 14-19 December Priestley mentions that he and his family have been unwell with colds, though he has also been to meetings of the British Association Committee, the Vice-Chancellors Committee, and with members of the Rockefeller Foundation in London. The final entry in the diary, for 30-31 December 1942, contains reflections on the progress of the war in the Pacific, in Russia, and in North Africa, as well as giving details of Priestley's activities, including a lecture at Edgbaston High School for Girls, a dinner at the home of Stanley Barnes, a visit by the Student Christian Movement carol singers, and Christmas Eve with the Home Guard duty section. He mentions that the women at the Harding Library have had a new wireless set installed 'and were very pleased with it. It ought to be good for it cost me sixteen pounds'. He mentions that he has also provided a wireless set and ping pong table for those on duty at the gymnasium. He gives an account of his family's Christmas celebrations and comments on having to

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take part in fire-watching duty over the Christmas period, remarking that now that fire-watching is compulsory there are usually more than enough people on duty 'and what with Pool men and some of the less pleasant of our own students the place is becoming something of a slum'.

Insertions include photographs of Viceroy Close shelters in snow 1941; press cutting reporting on radio broadcasts by members of university staff H. G. Foster and T. A. Lumsden to their children evacuated to Canada, February 1941; menu for the Institute of Petroleum lunch, 1 May 1941; photographs of Priestley with friends at Lawn House, Ampton Road June 1941; letter from former colleague at University of Melbourne; photograph of refugee students at a garden party at Lawn House, Ampton Road, with a separate sheet of paper recording the names of those featured; photographs taken during family holiday at Westmancote in July 1941 including a photograph of members of the Five Ways school farm at Monmouth; photographs of attendees at the Workers Educational Association Summer School at Hereford Training College 1941; photographs of the Senior Training Corps camp; photograph of Margaret Priestley teaching country dancing at Hope Street Schools Play Centre; family photographs taken Easter and June 1942 at Lawn House; photograph taken at University of Birmingham Honorary Degrees ceremony 1942; photographs taken during family summer holiday at Bredon and Westmancote 1942; letter from A. G. L. McNaughton, First Canadian Army, recipient of an Honorary Degree, 1942; photographs of attendees at the Workers Educational Association Summer School at Hereford Training College 1942; copy of letter to Professor Smalley-Baker from former student wounded in Egypt which discusses action at El Alamein, August-September 1942; typescript pages consisting of overview of a lecture 'The British Polar Journey of 1911-1912 with special reference to the circumstances and causes of the Scott

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tragedy', October 1942 (pp186-189);

1 volume

Access: Open

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1943 Diary

1943

Raymond Priestley's diary covering the period from 1 January 1943 to 2 January 1944, together with essays and transcripts of broadcasts by Priestley on various subjects, including polar exploration and university administration, as well as personal reminiscences. The volume includes a handwritten index and a list of the other papers. These papers consist of a sample transcript of Priestley's broadcast to Australia, recorded 3 September 1943 entitled 'British Civic Universities in the Post-War World'; transcript of Priestley's speech to Edgbaston High School prizegiving; travel diary giving an account of Priestley's trip to Scotland for a lecture tour to naval forces at Scapa Flow in November and December 1943; an essay entitled 'Personnel of Polar Expeditions'; transcript of Priestley's report to the Court of Governors, February 1943; transcript of a broadcast to West Africa 6 January 1944 entitled 'University Finance'; reminiscences about Priestley's elder brother, Bert, after his death; a paper entitled 'British Universities and Total War'; reminiscences about Petty Officer H. Dickason, a fellow member of the Northern Party of Scott's last expedition; short essay entitled 'Early Days', focusing on Priestley's memories of his grandparents; essay entitled 'Cricket at Tewksbury 1895-1907'; a set of essays on Priestley's experiences during his Antarctic expedition with Shackleton, after this expedition, and in the aftermath of his time on Scott's expedition; a short essay on Priestley's time at Cambridge in the 1920s; and a detailed diary covering the period July to September 1918, when Priestley was a wireless operator in France and Belgium during the First World War.

The first diary entry covers the period 1-16 January 1943, and Priestley refers to his

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neglect of his weekly account, due to the illness of Miss Taylor, his secretary, and the time he has spent writing his Annual Report as Vice-Chancellor. He gives an overview of the content of this report and comments on recent events at the University including the sudden death of the Treasurer, the unpopularity of the Deputy Treasurer with senior members of academic staff, and tensions between the University Council and Senate. Priestley remarks that the Senate is 'about as unrepresentative of the university staff as it could be', with very little representation of non-professorial staff, and compares Birmingham unfavourably with the more democratic constitution at Cambridge. He goes on to comment on the progress of the war, including the Russian offensive at Stalingrad, and the apparent stalemate in North Africa, and mentions discussion of his memoranda on post-war university finances at the University Development Committee meeting. He comments on a meeting with Sir Farquhar Buzzard and members of the Faculty of Medicine to discuss the Social Medicine chair, which included an 'austerity lunch' at the Union Club. He gives brief details of his social activities and lectures, and mentions receiving a photograph of his grandson, Edward, from his daughter Jocelyn, from Australia. The entry for 17-28 January discusses Russian advances at Stalingrad, and the occupation of Tripoli by the Eighth Army. He also mentions a recent meeting of Roosevelt and Churchill in North Africa and a recent bombing attack on a Lewisham school which caused a number of fatal child casualties 'there has been a lot of criticism about warning, the Balloon Barrage, etc, but no one has said anything about the real culprits - the parents who have, in spite of Government advice, brought their children back into a danger area'. He mentions that his Annual Report has received a positive response in the 'Birmingham Post', that he had lunch at the Council House to meet the Ambassador to Russia, and that he attended a meeting of the Civic Welfare sub-committee of the City Reconstruction Committee. He also refers to a meeting with

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Sydney Vernon at the Union Club with 'J.T and J. L. Brockhouse' to discuss a scheme for 'scholarships for men, especially their own employees, who have spent a couple of years or more fulltime in industry', and his visit to London to attend a meeting of the British Association Committee, as well as attending other University committee meetings and a meeting of the Joint Recruiting Board, giving brief details about his gardening work, and his agreement to find some fruit bushes for the garden at University House. The entry for 29 January to 12 February mentions Churchill and Roosevelt's meeting at Casablanca, and Priestley expresses his unease about the leaders' frequent journeys 'it would be a tragedy of the first order for the United Nations if anything serious happened to one or both of them'. He remarks on the changes in war regulations, noting that signposts were back on the roads around Hednesford where he lectured at the RAF Training Centre. His official and social engagements included a meeting with Jefferson Lloyd, recently appointed medical officer to Guest, Keen and Nettlefolds, and the Guild of Undergraduates ball which he attended with his daughter, Margaret. He also mentions attending a West Midlands Regional Reconstruction Group meeting, a tea organised for the University Air Squadron to meet Group Captain Caley, and inspections of the Home Guard. He comments on his work in connection with the Canadian Migration Scheme [the evacuation of the children and other family members of University staff to Canada] and mentions the proposal that boys of sixteen and older who are not planning to attend a Canadian University should return to Britain in order to serve in the armed forces. He goes on to discuss tensions at Melbourne University following the resignation of Professor Laby. The start of the entry for 13-20 February discusses the progress of the war and in particular Russian and American offensives, and mentions Priestley's attendance at a meeting at the Central Hall to 'pay tribute to the Soviet Army on Red Army Day' at which Hugh Dalton spoke. He also mentions

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attending a conference with the Canadian Educational Adviser about a course for Canadian military personnel in April, and university engagements including a Senate meeting at which Munrow's proposal for a Physical Education degree were accepted, and the Court of Governors meeting at which post-war development was discussed. Priestley also mentions a legacy from Sir Charles Hyde for the extension of the Guild of Students building. He gives details of his visit to London for a meeting of the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and the British Association Committee for which he has completed a memorandum on University Finance. He comments on his fire watching duties and on conditions at Edmund Street 'the place gets more of a slum than ever. Fleas have appeared'. Priestley gives a summary of war developments at the start of his entry for 21 February to 4 March before giving details of his activities, including reading the lesson at St Francis Hall for the Student Day of Prayer, attending a YMCA War Service Committee and Birmingham Famine Relief Committee meeting, University committee meetings, attending a preview of the Bournville Village Trust film 'When We Build Again', followed by a dinner with Elizabeth Cadbury to meet Lady Helen Graham. He also attended a talk by Barry Jackson on the Repertory Theatre, and chaired the University Extension Lecture at which Paul Cadbury spoke about the future of housing in Birmingham and warned that there would be no university building for ten years after the war, even though Priestley reminded him that 'the University at Edmund Street must be one of the city's worst slums'. He also mentions a meeting with Mark Oliphant and Lancelot Hogben at which Oliphant, who had recently returned from Australia, provided more details about the repercussions of Professor Laby's resignation from his post at Melbourne University.

The entry for 5-16 March discusses the ongoing campaigns in Russia, North Africa, and the Pacific and gives brief details about

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Priestley's University engagements before going on to give an account of his visit to stay with the Archers at Westmancote which included walking at Bredon Hill, and a visit to Tewkesbury. The remainder of the entry contains details about Priestley's visit to London for meetings about university controls and finances with Ernest Simon. A. V. Hill, and Egerton, a British Association Committee meeting, a conference at the Ministry of Labour to discuss the new constitution of Joint Recruiting Boards. He also mentions discussing developments in Coal Utilisation at Birmingham, inspecting the fire watch at the Harding Library, attending the Engineers Ball with his daughter, Margaret, and his role on the Selection Committee for the Chair of Mining to look through the applications. The entry for 17-27 March contains Priestley's comments on a meeting of Senate which discussed attempts by the Arts Faculty to avoid the introduction of a four-term year, including his views about the 'arrogance' of some of the 'eminent scientists' on the committee who tend to assume 'infallibility' on subjects outside their area of knowledge 'to hear [Professor] Haworth lecturing members of the Council who have as good quality of brain and mind as himself, and twice the experience, makes me see red sometimes. However, he is a really good sort at bottom, though intellectually arrogant and a totalitarian, so one must not grumble'. He goes on to mention his meeting with Dr Kydd before the Civic Welfare Committee meeting at which they discussed whether the Selly Oak Colleges might house some of the University's Chinese postgraduate students. He also records attending a meeting of the West Midlands Regional Reconstruction Group, and the University Development committee, and working on his allotment before visiting the Fighter Training Department at Wellington where he had a tour of the training school and inspected a unit which maintains Lancaster bombers. He mentions recent discussions with Henry Thirkill, Marshall, and Stanford about a trip to Cambridge, his inspection of the Medical

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Section of the Senior Training Corps at Birmingham, and his discussions about entry to engineering courses at the University from industry. He also comments on seeing an 'exhibition of photographs of the war, some of which were rather horrible', and attending a performance of Chekov's 'Three Sisters' by Birmingham University Dramatic Society. At the start of the entry for 28 March to 11 April Priestley writes 'I fancy the time is coming when I shall pack up this diary. I have really had no excuse at all for neglecting it so long this time, but little happens within the orbit of my own life to incline me to write at any length. Yet it would perhaps be a pity to close it down until the whole story of the personal impact of the war on the family is told'. He goes on to discuss Allied offensives before giving a detailed account of his visit to Cambridge to view the library and academic departments in order to inform post-war development at Birmingham, and commenting on meetings of the Finance Committee and University Council when he returned to Birmingham 'feeling on both bodies is becoming quite enthusiastic for development'. He also gives details of the programme arranged for the course for Canadian military personnel which included lectures and social events and mentions attending a Senate Committee on Extramural work, and giving an evening tea to Central Room staff. He records details of recent domestic events, including his daughter's cycling trip to the Lickeys, and his work in the garden and allotment, and mentions meeting Admiral Vivian who was in Birmingham to inspect the Birmingham sea cadets. Priestley comments again his loss of instinct to write his diary at the start of the entry for 12 April to 5 May before giving his regular summary of the progress of the war. He mentions the recent death of Austin, Reader of Classical Archaeology at Birmingham and the pressure he was under from the Ministry of Labour when already ill, to teach mathematics in a secondary school, and gives details of a meeting of the Vice-Chancellors of the Universities of the Constituency to discuss post-war development and the need for

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increases in government grant. He gives details of his visit to Hereford for the Workers Educational Association Easter School, and his trip to Willersey and Gloucester, cycling to Monmouth and visiting Ross on Wye, Ledbury, and Goodrich Castle. He mentions the resumption of air raids on the Birmingham area and recent lectures he gave at Halesowen, Tamworth, and to nurses at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

The entry for 6-18 May discusses the Allied victory in North Africa and attacks on Italy, and British air raids on Germany. Priestley goes on to mention the growth of tomatoes, broccoli, and spinach in the gardens, and the cut to the chesse ration. He gives details about his recent activities including meetings of the Planning Committee of the West Midland Group, Joint Recruiting Board and Medical Faculty, a visit to the Alexandra Theatre, a meeting with Eric Vincent to discuss the production of a brochure for the University Development Appeal, and continued discussions with members of the Faculty of Science concerning the appointment of a new professor of Mining and schemes for the development of Engineering. He also mentions attending a conference in connection with Adult Education for women in the services, fire watching in the Control Room at Edmund Street, and attending University Sports day 'which was very well attended by everyone else except university staff who never pull their weight on these occasions. The same handful turn up to everything'. He went to Chancellor's Hall to appear in the photograph and to have tea there, after spending more time at the allotment where he discovered that his tools had been stolen 'this pilfering is universal and is depressing as well as irritating'. The entry for 19-25 May comments on the intensified bombing campaign over Germany, and goes on to discuss a case brought to the University Disciplinary Committee concerning 'common thieving...I am afraid there is yet another admitted case in the offing, and yet the epidemic of theft goes on practically unabated. There is

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something really sinister about the situation'. He mentions attending a Physical Education demonstration in the gymnasium for members of Senate and Council, a lunchtime concert given by the Musical Society, attending the Civic Welfare panel of the City Reconstruction Committee, and giving an evening lecture to members of the Norton Battery. He also went to an exhibition of Isotype drawings demonstrated by Professor Neurath, inspected an aircraft factory making Spitfires with a group of ARP Wardens and the Observer Corps, working in the garden and allotment, and attending various University meetings. The entry for 26 May to 5 June begins with a comment about the continued offensive in Italy before going on to mention that the publications sub-committee of the Development Committee has approved the plan for the format and illustrations of the Development Appeal pamphlet. He also mentions continuing discussions about the introduction of a Physical Education degree, the new National Certificate Scholarships, and his visit to the National Food Production Exhibition at New Street where he bought a 'Seedaset' kit to speed up production of small plants. He mentions having lunch with Checkland and his wife, attending the first meeting of the new Committee of the University Overseas Club, and a memorial service for Professor De Selincourt at St Francis Hall. Other activities included attending the centenary celebrations of the National Union of Sunday Schools in the Botanic Gardens, attending meetings of the Faculty of Science and of the sub-committee on the Social Medicine Chair and on the Consultants Register, and discussing 'war university life' with Redifer, an American visitor. He also comments on his attendance at a meeting of the Higher Education Committee at Warwick, his annual visit to the Arts and Crafts department and the possibility of combining the practical course at the Arts School with academic work at the university 'with the objective of a degree in the Fine Arts'. The entry for 6-14 June mentions the Allied occupation of Pantellaria and Lampedusa and the renewal

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of British air attacks on Germany before going on to record details of discussions at the Faculty of Science meeting about Mark Oliphant's memorandum and the acceptance of Scheme 1 of the four engineering proposals, despite opposition by Professor Haworth, and to mention that staff in the Department of English will edit the Development Appeal pamphlet. He gives details of his social activities, including attending 'The Bird in Hand', the first of the Plays in the Parks season, and visiting Leeds to stay with Joyce and Herbert, as well as his attendance at a meeting of the University House Committee and his visit to Cambridge where he stayed with Ann Priestley to see friends and to attend a meeting of the Polar Research Institute. Priestley mentions Birmingham's 'Wings for Victory' week at the start of his entry for 15-28 June and the view of the chief of Fighter Command that Germany can no longer make systematic heavy attacks on British industry. He discusses preparations for the July degree congregations which will be attended by R. G. Casey who is to receive an Honorary degree. He mentions visiting Warwick to sit on a committee for the award of County Scholarships, meeting Lord Moran to discuss the preparation of the Register of Consultants, and chairing a meeting of the Christian Social Council to discuss 'drunkenness among young people' which he thinks is less of a problem at the university than it had been. Social activities included having lunch with Wittgenstein who was staying in Birmingham with the Bachtins, and watching cricket against the Castle Bromwich Aerofactory team 'in front of a rather bored audience of American soldiers at their Litchfield depot'. He also mentions that employees from the Wickman factory are to be eligible for scholarships for National Certificate holders. The entry for 29 June to 5 July mentions Priestley's attendance at a Guild of Students tea party at Kunzles in Paradise Street, followed by a visit to the Alexandra Theatre for see 'In Good King Charles' Golden Days'. It also contains details of Priestley's other activities, including

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attending a meeting of the Refugee Course Committee, the King Edward School Board, the Birmingham University Dramatic Society play 'The Passing of the Third Floor Back', a meeting of the 'special committee on Women Students', and a meeting of the 'Mental Diseases Research Committee'. He also took part in fire watching and Home Guard duty at Edmund Street, and gives an account of the degree congregations, his work in the garden, and his visit to Gloucester to have lunch with Uncle Will and Aunt Em, returning for a meeting of the West Midlands Regional Reconstruction Group committee on Local Authority finances.

At the start of the entry for 6-14 July Priestley refers to the Allied capture of parts of Sicily, and the progress of the war generally before giving an account of his own activities which included discussions about possible developments that might arise out of the Birmingham International Centre and the University Overseas Club, a meeting of the City Reconstruction Committee, a visit to London where he visited Kew Gardens and saw an exhibition on Reconstruction of London at the National Gallery before attending a Royal Astronomical Club dinner. He also attended the Civil Defence Sports held on the University of Birmingham playing fields and mentions that he and his wife had a Canadian soldier to stay with them during his leave. He met the Archbishop of Canterbury at the Methodist conference, and again at a Rotary lunch. Priestley gives further details about Allied advances in Sicily in his entry for 15-27 July, and goes on to discuss production of the Development Appeal brochure for post-war construction at the University, his visit to London to attend a Hankey Committee meeting at the Privy Council offices to discuss education and demobilisation, together with other Vice-Chancellors, and a Vice-Chancellors Committee meeting on closer collaboration between universities and Service research organisations after the war. He gives brief details of his birthday celebrations on 20 July and mentions his visit to the Wolseley Motor

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Works to give a lecture, and his weekend in Stockport to discuss University post-war development with Ernest Simon. The next entry, for 28 July to 9 August, begins with a summary of Allied progress in Sicily and Russia. Priestley then lists recent activities including attending a meeting of the Committee on the Industrial Nursing Certificate course, a Symphony concert at the Town Hall, a meeting of the Development Committee and the Medical Faculty Development Committee, and a weekend at the Workers Educational Association Summer School at Hereford. The entry for 10-15 August contains further details about the Allied conquest of Sicily, Russia's progress towards Smolensk, and a bombing raid on Rome. Priestley mentions a meeting at Birmingham Council House of the Anglo-Soviet Committee 'I can think of nothing more important at the moment and in the immediate future than the fostering of good feeling between Russia and ourselves', and discusses a visit to Birmingham by an Australian friend, Michael Tymms, on leave from military service. He also comments on discussions at a dinner at the Liberal Club with Marshall, Gosling, Burbridge, Achurch and Grosvenor about a project for an International City Centre in Birmingham after the war 'Birmingham is a natural capital for an air-conscious England and we should be making preparations for this'. Priestley mentions that students studying on four-term courses are continuing work at Edgbaston, and that there has been activity at Edmund Street due to medical students from the General Hospital and dental students from the Dental Hospital who 'evidently prefer out lunch to those provided nearer their place of work'. He mentions plans to discuss future relations between Birmingham and Chinese visitors, and visiting Nicolson who lives on Edgbaston Park Road near King Edwards School [at Winterbourne], and who intends to leave the lease to the University free of legacy. He mentions that the University Development Appeal brochure should be sent out in September, and that work is about to start on an engineering pamphlet.

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He gives an account of his dinner at the Union Club to meet Peter Bennett and Oliver Simmonds on their return from a tour in the United States who spoke about the industrial and political situation there. He also spoke to Professor Smout about the development of Metallurgy at Birmingham. Priestley describes his cycling trip to Belbroughton with his daughter, Margaret, his work in the garden, and records the birth of a daughter to his own daughter, Jocelyn. Priestley comments on Allied progress in the war at the start of his entry for 23 August to 2 September, and expresses his unease at Churchill's frequent trips abroad 'it may be essential but it is dangerous, for he is as near irreplaceable as a man may be'. He gives an account of his holiday activities, including cycling to Bredon, walking in the area, and blackberry picking. He mentions attending the Town Planning Institute conference being held at the University, with delegates staying at University House, and attending social events at the University Overseas Club including an event to which Lord Dudley and Lord Malise Graham were among the guests. He also visited London to attend a meeting of the McNair Committee on the training of teachers, where he also went to Ernest Simon's home for dinner and to talk with Hubert Henderson, Carr Saunders, and Miss Hubback about 'Education for Citizenship'. He mentions that he has written a broadcast on Civic Universities, 'for Australian consumption'.

Priestley records that an armistice has been signed with Italy and gives other details of the progress of the war at the start of his entry for 3-9 September. He remarks 'we are well established in the toe of Italy and have now landed around Naples and have only the Germans to deal with'. He mentions attending a service at St Francis Hall for the national day of prayer, before going to BBC Headquarters to record his broadcast for 'Calling Australia'. He also attended a meeting of the Industrial Nursing Committee and visited the Beeches for the final session of Roy Pascal's German Summer School. He

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went to an event for City Council and officials at Universities Overseas Club which was attended by Tiptaft and Paul Cadbury, and cycled into the countryside with his daughter, Margaret, where they had lunch with 'Coleman' and collected plums and eggs to take home. He also went for lunch at the Queens Hotel with Martin Melvin where he met the Archbishops of Birmingham and Liverpool followed by a ceremony at the Council House, and a press evening at the University Overseas Club. He showed Walford Turner, a new member of University Council, the Edgbaston campus and invited some of the professors to meet him at lunch, before giving tea to the Committee on Adult Education, and attending a Famine Relief Committee meeting. He also attended an ARP committee meeting and a public meeting at which the President of the Board of Education spoke at the Central Hall on the White Paper. The start of the entry for 10-24 September discusses Russian advances and the continued Allied offensive in Italy before focusing on Priestley's recent activities including a meeting with Professor Lind from Princeton, a tour of the works at ICI Metals at Witton with Professor Smout to discuss closer contact with the University, and attendance at the R[oyal] E[ngineers] Cadets farewell dance at the Guild of Students with his daughter, Margaret. He met the new public relations officer of the Salvation Army in Birmingham and went to the Town Hall with his wife, Phyllis, to watch Lady Mountbatten receive the millionth 'Comfort' from the Lady Mayoress' Depot. He gave a lecture to the new Allied Soldiers Leave Course, attended a meeting of the City Reconstruction Committee, and visited London for a meeting of the Vice-Chancellors Committee which also met the President of the Board of Education. He gives a brief account of the formal opening of the Overseas Club by the Duchess of Kent and his lunch at Himley with the Dudleys which was also attended by the Duchess and Lord and Lady Herbert, as well as the Argentine Ambassador. He mentions hearing Rattray from Cambridge speak with pessimism about

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post-war commitments, and that he is to repeat his broadcast to Australia on the Home Service. The entry for 25 September to 5 October begins with references to the capture of Naples and the progress of the Russian offensive, before discussing events following the start of the new academic year, including his efforts to get the Finance Committee to agree to raise professorial salaries, the publication of the University Development Appeal brochure and its distribution, and the production of the 'special engineering pamphlet'. He comments on the reception of his broadcast to Australia on civic universities, mentions attending meetings of the West Midland Group for Regional Reconstruction, and a meeting of the Extra-Mural committee of the Senate to make arrangements to replace MacAlpine, and the staff housewarming party at the University Overseas Club. He attended a meeting of the Mining Selection Committee, the Anglo-Soviet Friendship Committee, and the Civic Society, and spent time with [George] Coleman at the weekend. He describes his cycling route from Edgbaston out to Rubery, and beyond to the farm. He mentions attending various events for Freshers at the University, commenting that 'I was able to tell them myself that they were the first batch of freshers I had seen since I came to Birmingham to whom I could say with conviction that I thought it very likely that, unless they left the university prematurely, they were unlikely to see active fighting'. He ends the entry by recording that their Australian friend, Michael Tymms, has been killed in an air accident. The next entry, for 6-16 October, mentions the resumption of the Russian offensive, and Allied advances in Italy before Priestley makes more general comments on the progress of the war and impatience at its 'cautious and slow prosecution'. He mentions attending St Martins church to see an exhibition illustrating the work of the church in war, discussing arrangements with Parkes and Best for the visit of the Interallied Planning Committee, and showing Stephen Duggan and Ferguson around the university building

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at Edgbaston 'it is the nearest thing to an American university campus that he [Duggan] will see ever here'. He attended a meeting of the Exemptions Committee at Edgbaston which considered a large number of requests for exemption from the Senior Training Corps, Physical Education, and fire watching 'they are chiefly proof that, on the Arts, Law and Commerce side, the only male survivors are the category IV men - totally unfit for army service'. He mentions seeing a performance of 'Blithe Spirit' at the Alexandra Theatre, and a matinee when 'notorious artistes gave their service voluntarily in support of the drive for the Merchant Navy Comforts Fund'. He went to London for the Council meeting of the Royal Geographical Society and a meeting of the Vice-Chancellors Committee. He also met R.E.M.E leaders and an event at the University Overseas Club for American officers.

The entry for 17-25 October mentions stalemate in Italy, the Russian offensive, and the progress of the war against Japan in the Pacific before going on to give details about Priestley's activities including attending a meeting of the new PhD Degree Committee, the Physical Education Committee, the Diocesan Council for Religious Education, and a Senate meeting which discussed aspects of University development and finance. He met Professor Smout and Lord Melchett at the Savoy Grill in London to discuss the assistance that ICI might be able to give to the Metallurgy Department, and met Paul Cadbury and Parkes to discuss the future constitution of committees and the future employment of staff of the West Midlands Group. He also gave a lecture at the Training College at Hereford and attended a British Council lunch for Dr Szathmary the Czechoslovak minister to Norway. He mentions some of his social activities and that he has received parcels of sugar, butter, and honey from Casey in Egypt, as well as a sack of onions from the Barrows. The next entry, for 26 October to 7 November, comments on the Allied air

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offensive and Priestley wonders whether the war might be over by November 1944. He mentions that the evacuated children of University staff are beginning to return from Canada, including Mrs Shapiro and her children, and Betty Rogers. He mentions some of the University and other committee meetings he has attended, and that he gave lunch to Mining Department staff, Colonel Wilterski and the Polish miners. He was also involved in the annual review of the science departments and attended a meeting of the Chancellors Hall Committee, noting the difficulties the hall was having in retaining cooks and other domestic staff due to war service or work in munitions factories. He gives an account of his experiences recording a broadcast for the Home Service on civic universities and discusses a meeting of the Disciplinary Committee to consider 'a rather nasty case of ragging in the Dental School. Normally the lads responsible would have been suspended, but suspension would have meant dereservation and as the country cannot get enough dentists we thought it better to give alternative penalties'. He gives more details about the possible collaboration with ICI Metals and the Metallurgy Department, recording that he visited the factory at Witton again to discuss the provision of studentships. Priestley discusses the effects of the onset of winter on the Italian campaign and the progress of the war in Russia at the start of his entry for 8-19 November. He comments on some of the letters he has received in response to his Home Service broadcast and goes on to give brief details about some of his recent activities, including giving dinner to the Executive Council of the Guild of Students followed by a talk on university development and athletics, his visit to Cambridge to see friends and to give a lecture at the Geography Club, a meeting of the Military Education Committee at Birmingham and a visit to Rudolf Peierls' department where he met research staff. He mentions that Peierls is about to go to Washington for the remainder of the war and that Mark Oliphant has already left. He attended a meeting in

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London with the President and Secretary of the Royal Society, Mr Attlee, Lord President of the Council, Professor Clay, and 'an American Professor called Turner' to discuss the Simon Memorandum, and stayed at Boxhill with his sister and family. He gave a talk on university development to a meeting of the Guild of Graduates and attended various sports events at the University, including a basketball competition at the gymnasium at which American, Canadian, RAF and local teams took part. He refers to disagreements between Oliver Thomson and Bachtin 'in which both were much to blame' and mentions attending a celebration of the 21st birthday of the BBC. He also attended a British Association Committee meeting and discusses a Senate meeting which agreed that non-professorial members could be elected to the Developments Committees. The High Commissioner for India visited Edgbaston and were given a tour of the Barber Institute and the Medical School.

Between 18 November and 12 December Priestley took part in a tour in Scotland, giving lectures to naval forces at Scapa Flow. The diary contains a separate, detailed account of this trip. He returns to his weekly diary entries in December, firstly covering the period 13-25 December. This entry contains an account of Christmas celebrations in Birmingham. He mentions that he has been invited to join the Asquith Commission on Higher Education in the Colonies and to go to the West Indies at the end of January for three months. Both Senate and the Finance Committee have approved his acceptance, but he mentions that some staff later expressed unease. He has written a broadcast to West Africa on 'University Finance', and has given lectures to youth clubs at Edmund Street and to a munition workers hostel for Mrs Martineau. He attended a dinner for members of the Chinese Mission, given by the Overseas Club, and met Dr Lammas, a Portuguese professor of Medicine at a dinner given by the Ministry of Supply. He mentions discussions at Lucas's about possible

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developments at the University which the firm might fund, particularly staff for Production Engineering, and buildings for engineering. He gives brief details about the progress of the war, including the Allied air offensive and the conference between Russia and America at Tehran. The final entry in the volume covers the period 26 December to 2 January 1944. Priestley gives an account of discussions at a Vice-Chancellors Committee meeting in Leeds, his trip to Bushley where he was given chickens, eggs, honey, and cream, and attending the New Years Dance at the Overseas Club with his daughter, Margaret.

Insertions include photographs of Priestley's family and friends in Birmingham; photograph of recipients of Honorary degrees in July 1943 including R. G. Casey; newspaper cuttings containing reports about the 1943 degree congregations; letters from John Winant and R. G. Casey following the presentation of Honorary Degrees 1943; photographs of tutors and staff at the Workers Educational Association Summer School in Hereford, including C. E. M. Joad, Roy Pascal, and I. A. Shapiro

1 volume

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1944-1945 Diary

1944-
1945

Raymond Priestley's diary covering the period from 3 January 1944 to 20 May 1945. There are no entries during the period between 16 February and 11 June 1944 when Priestley visited the West Indies in connection with his role on the Asquith Commission on Higher Education in the Colonies.

The first entry in the volume covers the period 3-10 January 1944. Priestley mentions recording his radio broadcast to West Africa on university finances as part of a series to encourage discussion in preparation for the visit to West Africa of the Commission on Higher Education in the

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Colonies there. He also mentions giving a lecture to the Youth Fellowship in Leek, where he heard about the death of Dickason [another member of Scott's Northern Party]. He spent time writing his Annual Report for University Council, and visited London for his first meeting of the Asquith Commission where he discovered that his visit to the West Indies [Trinidad and Barbados] would not begin until February. He gives an account of discussion at a Nuffield Conference in Oxford on the future of industrial and university research which he attended. The entry for 11-17 January mentions Priestley's visit to Rugby to meet the Chairman of Directors at British Thomson-Houston to discuss possible funding for Birmingham's post-war engineering courses, and Charles Wright's visit to Birmingham to meet Physics researchers, including Moon and Nimmo. He comments on the move of Mark Oliphant to the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, and goes on to give details of his visit to London to have a vaccination against yellow fever at the Wellcome Research Institution, to meet the secretary of the West Indian Committee, and to order 'tropical' clothing for his trip abroad. He chaired a meeting at the University Overseas Club at which Anderson spoke on 'the place of the Technical College in the educational system', and attended a meeting of the Geographical Committee on the Conurbation followed by a meeting at Edgbaston with Bennet, Oliver Lucas and Waring, together with University staff Haworth, Smith, Mucklow, Dannatt, Batho, Grant and Burton to discuss the Production Engineering scheme. Priestley mentions writing his Annual Report to University Council at the start of his entry for 18-31 January and comments on the continued Allied air offensive over Germany 'the destruction within Germany must be stupendous and, although one hates to see any symptom of gloating, there can be no question that the chance of another war will be considerably diminished by the fact that Germany has at last had brought home to her on her own ground the effect of war at its worst'. He gives brief details of his visit with

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Hobbis to see chain and anchor manufacturing in Cradley Heath, University committee meetings, his visit to London for another meeting of the Asquith Commission, and a meeting of a committee formed to prepare the regional register of hospital consultants. He also records a visit to Cambridge and his continued preparations for his trip to the West Indies [Trinidad and Barbados], and his dinner with members of the Guild of Students Council, University Council, and other staff at which he spoke about post-war development. Priestley discusses his reasons for having additional vaccinations for his forthcoming trip in his entry for 1-11 February, and the continuing uncertainties about the date of his departure for the West Indies. He also discusses donations to the University from Lucas and Walford Turner, and the circulation of University Development Appeal brochures, and mentions his involvement in meetings to discuss issues raised by the Education Bill

Diary entries resume in June 1944. The first entry covers the period 11-17 June and contains details about Priestley's arrival in Birmingham with lemons, oranges, chocolates, nuts and fabric, followed by an account of his return to University administration including the appointment of the new Director of Extra-Mural Studies and his concerns about the interview process and the behaviour of Lancelot Hogben towards the candidates. He comments on continuing discussions about industries funding engineering schemes at the University, and gives an account of his cycling trip to see George Coleman at Belbroughton. He mentions the Normandy landings and other Allied advances and repeats his prediction that the end of the war with Germany will come in November 1944. The next entry covers the period 18-19 June and contains an account of Priestley's weekend in London during which he experienced V1 or 'bumble bomb' raids, including descriptions of the damage he saw and the raids he witnessed 'the things make quite a characteristic bumbling noise which some people have

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compared to a motor bus...I was awakened by an explosion which must have been from one fairly near but was not worried. I feel already rather like I did in 1918 when shelling was taking place that was not obviously directed near me'. He mentions visiting the Universities Bureau and attending a meeting at the Royal Geographical Society. The entry for 20-25 June comments on the continued raids by 'pilotless planes' and their psychological effects, American advances against Japan in the Pacific, and Priestley's administrative and social activities which included tea at Kunzles with the student executive, a meeting of the Education Discussion Club, and a meeting of the Faculty of Medicine which attempted to pass a vote of censure on the selection committee for the Social Medicine chair. He also mentions his cycling trip to Belbroughton to help George Coleman with haymaking. The entry for 26 June to 1 July contains information about the visit to Birmingham of Springer, Sherlock, and Rowell [members of the Asquith Commission West Indies committee], who spent time with the President and Vice-President of the Guild of Students, had a tour of the University Overseas Club, dinner at the University Refectory with members of university staff with connections with Caribbean countries, and a meeting with Studd who spoke to them about Workers Education Association work. They met the Adviser to Overseas Students and two Caribbean medical students, and took part in fire watching and Home Guard duties with Priestley. He gives brief details about the Asquith Commission meeting he attended in London, and refers to the continued 'doodlebug' raids and their effects 'the trouble with the new type of assault on our nerves is that the alerts are so frequent and occupy so much of the day and night'. He mentions a visit by Professor Burstall and his son, and his discussions with University administrators about the overuse of paper supplies before going on to give brief details of the University presentation to Victor Hely-Hutchinson, the Birmingham University Dramatic Society's performance of 'Rookery

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Nook', and the Degree congregations. The entry ends with an account of the cricket match between the West Indies and Australia at Edgbaston. Priestley gives an overview of current military action and the continued V1 raids at the start of his entry for 2-17 July, noting that the Vice-Chancellors Committee meeting has been moved to Nottingham. He mentions a meeting to discuss the appointment of an architect for the University Development scheme, a meeting of members of the West Indies Higher Education Committee in Oxford to work on the Report, and comments on the work of the West African Commission on their report. He gives details of his visit to the Senior Training Corps camp at Leamington, his meetings in London, and his visit to Leeds where he saw family members including Bert [his brother?], and met Mouat Jones to discuss University finance, the West Indies, and West Africa. He mentions a meeting with Oldacre to 'minimise as far as possible the effect upon his family of a singularly unpleasant scrape he has got himself into', having lunch with James and General Beckett, who is 'in charge of Education at Western Command', and a disagreement with Lancelot Hogben about candidates for a University post [possibly that of Director of Extra Mural Studies]

The entry for 18-22 July begins with comment about the 20 July plot attempt to assassinate Hitler and its suppression. Priestley then gives details about his activities, including meetings with Major General Beckett, lunch with Chesters and Marshall to discuss student accommodation plans, and a meeting with Vernon to discuss Industrial Medicine. He attended a meeting of the Joint Recruiting Board and an Education Dinner Club to talk about 'Certificate Examinations in the light of the Norwood Report'. He also met Ifor Evans to discuss the entry of overseas students after the war. He mentions his birthday celebrations and his visit to Rugby to give a lecture to the British Thomson-Houston research staff at which the chair he was sitting on collapsed, and he got black paint

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on his hands from a newly painted desk. He remarks that the firm intends to provide funding for the University, and that the research staff have a high opinion of Robinson, the new Professor of Electrical Engineering. The entry for 22-28 July discusses the aftermath of the assassination attempt against Hitler, Russian advances, and rumours of German rocket attacks on Britain. He also mentions the resignation of the Japanese Cabinet after the American assault on Saipan before going on to give details of the success of the University Development Appeal in raising funds, his work on the allotment and visit to Belbroughton to see George Coleman, and his meeting in London with other University of Birmingham staff and the University Grant Committee to discuss requests for capital and recurrent grant. He also visited Rowell at the Colonial Office. He gives details of discussion at a meeting of the Principals and Deans Committee about salary increases and at a meeting of the Barber Trust about accommodation for the Music Department 'I have no intention of allowing Music to be sent down to Edmund Street, or, indeed, away from Edgbaston'. He mentions discussions with Professor Smout about the ICI gift, and a promise of help from Babcock and Wilcox by producing equipment. He chaired a meeting of the Joint Board of the Midland Training Colleges to discuss the McNair Report. The entry for 29-31 July contains an account of Priestley's weekend visit to Cambridge after attending the dinner of the Physiological and Biochemical Societies at Birmingham. In Cambridge he stayed with the Wordies and dined in Clare College. He mentions receiving parcels from British Guiana containing silk nightdresses and underwear as gifts for his family, and a parcel from Trinidad containing marmelade and nutmeg. He records the news from Cambridge including the death of Ralph Fowler and reflects on aspects of his time there as a university administrator. The next entry, covering the period 1-10 August, begins with a comment on American advances in France, and goes on to give

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details about Priestley's activities as a member of the West Midlands Regional Reconstruction Group, a meeting with the President of the Indian Trade Union Congress, meetings with industrial representatives from Nuffield, Austin and Brockhouse to select scholars under the National Certificate Scheme, and his trip to Hereford for the Workers Educational Association Summer School with Springer and Sherlock [members of the Asquith Commission West Indies committee] who both gave lectures or took part in discussion there. He mentions some of the events at the Summer School including a 'progressive education auction' to sell books, and a cricket match, and gives an account of a dinner at Queens Hotel on his return to Birmingham for Colonel Chitty, Major Jackson and Major Saville from the War Office and officers commanding Senior Training Corps from a number of universities. The entry for 11-18 August comments on decisive action in Normandy, and the American advance towards Paris. Priestley mentions his meeting with a possible successor to Colonel Johnson at the Senior Training Corps, and his visit to a cricket match at Edgbaston. He and his wife had a visit from Burns, Professor of Engineering at Queens, Belfast, and Priestley visited the University Overseas Club to welcome Canadian nurses attending a course, as well as meeting the Minister of Health who opened the new Outpatients Department at the Accident Hospital. He has written an article on 'British Universities in Total War' for the Ministry of Information which has allowed him to 'put together some thoughts on the general effects of the war on university personnel and also on outside opinion of the university'. He comments on Springer and Sherlock returning to the West Indies 'they have had enough of England under war conditions I fancy and are both feeling a bit run down', and on the completion of the Asquith Commission report. A parcel from Barbados containing silk stockings for his daughter, Margaret, has been lost in transit, and there have been raids on the pears in his garden. At the start of the entry

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for 19-23 August Priestley discusses his feelings about giving lectures at military training camps after hearing critical comments about attendance being compulsory. He was unable to cycle to see George Coleman because of the bad weather and has been fruitpicking and weeding in the garden. He attended lunch at the Conservative Club in Temple Row on the invitation of Walford Turner to meet Stedeford of Tube Investments to discuss the possible endowment of National Certificate Scholarships or donations to the engineering building fund. He took part in fire watching duty at Edmund Street and reflects on the achievements of a student, 'Ted' [Edward Thomas] Downes, who had recently graduated from Birmingham with a Music degree and was about to take up a scholarship at the Royal College of Music 'he was a difficult lad, quarrelled with his people, and slept at the university where, until I took him in hand, he was inclined to turn the place into a cross between a dive and a slum. I had several serious talks with him, stopped his French horn-playing at eleven o'clock at night and helped him considerably financially and persuaded Hely Hutchinson to give him a small scholarship...he has rewarded us well'. He gives an account of his recent visit to Cambridge where he gave a lecture, discussed teacher training and other subjects, and saw friends.

Priestley mentions the liberation of France at the start of his entry for 24 August to 9 September and speculates on a date for the end of the war and British policy towards Germany in the post-war period. He discusses University business, including work on the Development Appeal, a meeting with Clive Powell to discuss the University's plan for taking over more land near the Bournbrook site, including land from the Calthorpe and Pinsent estates, and difficulties in making appointments of new Professors of English and History. He discusses selection of a candidate to replace Colonel Johnson as commander of the Senior Training Corps and a meeting with

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'Scarf', the head of a fuel testing laboratory in Birmingham to discuss a closer working relationship with the University of Birmingham. He mentions writing an article on 'Redbrick University in Post-War Britain' for the medical prizegiving in October, and his visit to London to work on the Asquith Commission report of the West Indies committee, and to attend a meeting at the British Council to talk to 'White' and Ifor Evans about representatives and policy in the West Indies and about general relations with universities. He gives details of a debate at the Faculty of Science meeting in Birmingham about increments to salaries, and gives a brief account of a dinner organised by the West Midlands Regional Reconstruction Group for the Minister of Agriculture. He and his wife, Phyllis, spent the weekend with David and Effie Morgan, and went to a Home Guard shoot, and Priestley had a meeting with 'Cater' who is 'anxious to become Public Relations Officer of the University...I am inclined to think that he has the right qualities and might make a success of the publicity side of our appeal...as well of the routine publicity which the university much needs'. Other activities included a meeting of the Foyle Trust Higher Education Committee, another meeting of the Asquith Commission, a meeting of the Joint Recruiting Board, and an evening of entertainment for the German Summer School. He ends the entry with a description of his cycle ride to Belbroughton to see George Coleman and the food and drink he received there. The entry for 10-19 September begins with comment on the landing of Allied airborne troops in Holland. Priestley then goes on to give an account of his visit to Cambridge where he gave a lecture to the RAF and visited friends. He mentions the end of compulsory Home Guard activities and of the Air Raid Precautions function, and mentions the appointment of Betts as Professor of History. He had a meeting with Miss Heslop Davis to discuss lecturers organised by the English Speaking Union, and dinner with Bishop Barnes. He comments on the darker

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evenings since Double Summer Time ended, and the reduction of the Black-out to a 'dim-out'. He recommended a number of lecturers for British forces overseas, and had a discussion with Philip Sargant Florenve about coordinated social research in connection with the Rockefeller Foundation. He attended a lecture by Kenneth Wilson, a member of University Council, as Chairman of Commerce about export trade after the war, and comments on meetings with students seeking advice about careers after the war. Priestley expresses concern about the 'fate of the foremost detachment of the Anglo-American Airborne force dropped over Holland' at the start of his entry for 20-24 September, and comments on other developments in Europe and the Pacific. He discusses University business at the start of the new academic year, including involvement in a scheme offering six month courses for American servicemen once the active phase of the war in Europe is over, a meeting of the Emergency Committee to ratify new increments to salaries, a visit with Clive Powell to Harper Adams College and a conference of the Land Classification Committee. He also mentions attending the Red Cross parade and March Past in the University grounds on a cold and windy day, followed by tea 'I should have been much happier, however, if the tea had been given instead to some of the children who took part in the parade, many of them without overcoats at all. They must have been starved with the cold'. The entry for 25 September to 6 October contains information about donations to the University Developments Appeal, reactions to the Ministry of Labour's removal of the compulsory requirement of part-time National Service, the number of volunteers for the Senior Training Corps and University Air Squadron at Birmingham, and the appointment of Verner Rees as University architect. He mentions some of his lecture commitments, the illness of his brother, Bert, and his meeting at Leeds University about the development of Fuel Technology. He also comments on his speeches at Freshers

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conference events at the Medical School prizegiving, his attendance at a lecture by H. G. Wood at Carr's Lane on 'History and Religion', a meeting of the Education Discussion Club, visits from contacts of people Priestley met on his trip to the West Indies, and a meeting with Munrow to discuss Physical Education activities at the university including youth hostelling, seamanship, and rock climbing.

The entry for 7-21 October contains information about Priestley's official duties as Vice-Chancellor, both within and outside the university, including attendance at the opening of a youth hostel at Chaddesley Corbett by Chuter Ede, an Education Committee meeting at Warwick, a meeting of Guild Council and with Colonel Novis, the new commander of the Senior Training Corps, a conference of University representatives, Technical College Principals, and industrialists to discuss the National Scholarship scheme, meetings with other potential benefactors, and about the appointment of a new Professor of English, meetings in London of the Asquith Commission and with the Union of Educational Institutions, with other Vice-Chancellors to discuss Technical Education, and at the Ministry of Labour for a discussion of demobilisation as it will affect universities. Priestley records the death of his brother, Bert, at the start of his entry for 22 October to 1 November, commenting on his recent illness and his own feelings of loss. He goes on to comment about the lack of progress in the war in Europe, due to bad weather, and the progress of the war in the Pacific. He gives details of his lecture engagements and University activities including meetings to discuss Technical Education, and other activities connected with regional reconstruction after the war. He comments on the process of selecting a new Chancellor for the University, the beginning of V2 raids on Britain and their effects 'curiously enough, because they cannot be heard beforehand, they do not have the same effect upon morale even of the timid', and the funeral of

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his brother, Bert. At the start of the entry for 12-26 November Priestley states his intention to keep writing his diary as an intermittent record until the end of 1944, as he finds himself 'less and less inclined to keep it up as things become more normal'. He goes on to comment on the fighting in France and Italy, as well as Burma, the Philippines, and Hungary. He mentions visiting London on Vice-Chancellors business and for a Metallurgical Conference, and a visit to Warwick for his first Territorial Association meeting where he met a number of senior Home Guard officers. He also mentions having lunch with Lancelot Hogben to discuss the management of his department when he is occupied with War Office work, and Gunn is likely to be away in Africa 'helping with an anti-locust campaign', giving lectures, entertaining members of the Guild of Students Executive, and a dinner given by the British Council to meet the Greek Minister. The entry for 27 November to 11 December begins with Priestley's comment on his invitation from the Navy to go on a lecture tour of the Italian ports, and the withdrawal of Thomas Bodkin from a list of Committee for Encouragement of Music and the Arts lecturers. He goes on to mention the lack of progress in the war in Europe, and the continued V2 rocket attacks on London. He visited London with Walford Turner to meet Sir Harry Railing, Chairman of the General Electric Company about a possible donation to the University Development Appeal. He mentions the popularity of the Senior Training Corps at Birmingham, and his opposition to cutting staff which he spoke about at a meeting of the Finance Committee 'I am particularly anxious to drive home the fact that a university simply cannot be run like a business and that the size of our staff is due to the range of knowledge that we have to cover'. He attended a meeting of the Demobilisation Committee of the Vice-Chancellors in London, and a lunch of the West Midlands Regional Reconstruction Group. He also mentions a meeting of the Education Committee to prepare the

Papers of Sir Raymond Edward Priestley

response to the McNair Report, and a dinner given by the History Department to the Hancocks. He interviewed Cater for the post of University Press Agent in connection with the Development Appeal, and attended lunch at the Overseas Club in connection with a course for American and Canadian officers. He mentions the Education Discussion Club dinner at which a visitor gave a talk about nursery schools, and dinner of Guild Council which which 'the lads and lasses did things very well'. Priestley gave a talk about his work in the West Indies. He also attended meetings to discuss the future of the Dental School, University committee meetings to approve the election of the new Chancellor, and a meeting of the Faculty of Arts to approve the appointment of Allardyce Nicol as the new Professor of English. He went to a meeting of the Shakespeare Reading Society, gave lectures at Dudley Training College and in Coventry, attended University sporting and social events including a carol service at St Francis Hall, and discussed the establishment of a Physical Education degree at the meeting of the Physical Education Committee of the Senate. The entry for 12-27 December contains an overview of the current fighting in France and Luxembourg, and in Burma. He also comments on the continued V1 and V2 attacks on Britain, and concerns that 'the war is still to win' due to a new call-up of men for the armed forces. Priestley describes his Christmas celebrations and recounts the disappearance and discovery of his cat, Jane. University activities included attending a Ministry of Labour conference on Demobilisation, a meeting at the new offices of the University Grants Committee, and a lunch at the BBC in London with Elgar, Denis Morris, Francis and Peter Innes. He also attended a Royal Geographical Society meeting and Geography Club dinner in London, and in Birmingham was a guest at the AUT dinner, and went on a tour of the Chance works before visiting relatives in Gloucester. He comments on the appointment of McKeown to the Chair of Social Medicine, and mentions some of his

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social activities including Christmas parties and visits to local theatres.

At the start of the entry for 29 December 1944 to 16 January 1945 Priestley repeats that he is only continuing his diary until the end of the war 'for the routine matters of everyday life will hardly justify it in normal peacetime'. He mentions the American landing on Luzon and the opening of the Russian winter offensive before commenting on his own University activities, and on substantial sums of money received from industry for the University Developments Appeal. He comments on the lack of provision in the 1944 Education Act for Local Authorities to make grants to Universities, and gives brief details of his meetings in Oxford, including the Vice-Chancellors Committee meeting and Nuffield Conference on Adult Education. The entry for 17-30 January discusses the Russian offensive into East Prussia and across Poland into Brandenburg and Silesia, American fighting in the Philippines, and the recent severe weather in Birmingham, with snow and freezing temperatures. Priestley had been working on his Annual Report to University Council, and mentions his meeting at the University Grants Committee to discuss the clause in the new Education Act concerning Local Authority grants. He also attended his first meeting with the Colonial Advisory Education Committee, gave lectures at Shirley and Smethwick, and attended a meeting of Coventry City Council to celebrate the six hundredth anniversary of the granting of the Charter to the town. He mentions discussions with the Ministry of Education and King Edwards School about the use of their temporary huts by the University, attending meetings of the Shakespeare Reading Society, the City Reconstruction Committee, and the Civic Society, and the possibility that he will be appointed Deputy Lieutenant of the County of Warwick. He comments on the passing of resolutions on the election of non-professorial members of staff to University Senate, and a meeting in London as part of a

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deputation from the universities to the Chancellor of the Exchequer. He attended the Annual Dinner of the Industrial Medical Officers Association, a lecture given by a representative of the Greek Ministry of Information, and had lunch with Joseph Lucas and Sons to discuss the Production Engineering scheme the firm is funding. He spoke at a reception to American Officers at the Overseas Club, and met Professor Pearn to discuss taking a small number of Burmese students after 1947. The entry for 31 January to 10 February comments on Allied military progress before mentioning domestic concerns including his recent ill health and the end of the cold spell of weather. He gives details of his recent activities including his first meeting with the West Indies sub-committee of the Colonial Advisory Education Committee in London, giving a talk to the Arts Council on the West Indies, and his visit to Cambridge to meet Engledow to discuss the agricultural section of the Asquith Commission Report, and to attend a meeting at the Polar Research Institute. He discusses matters connected with the University Overseas Club, including police concerns about behaviour at dances there, and a meeting with Burbridge about the need to close the Club at the end of the academic year 'when the war will surely be over'. He remarks on efforts by the Club to 'tighten up the screws about the admission of feminine and other visitors by transient members. It is as usual the Americans, particularly the officers, that are causing the trouble. They will not play the games according to the rules. What with their hip pocket flasks with Scotch in them and their light-o-loves, some of them are a menace'. He had had meetings with University staff including Mucklow, Bannister, and Nuttall, and spoke to a committee representing the Gas Industry about closer relations with the University. The entry for 10-28 February mentions the conference at Yalta concerning the future of the United Nations, the ongoing Russian offensive, and American attacks on Japan. Priestley comments on University activities including government funding for capital

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development, and the appointment of Anthony Eden as Chancellor at the Court of Governors meeting, and gives details of his recent engagements including meetings of the West Midland Regional Reconstruction Group, meetings in connection with the revival of the University Appointments Board after the war to help graduates beginning their careers, lectures at the Alice Ottley School in Worcester, Studley College, and to the Wayfarers Club in Birmingham, a cycle trip to Belbroughton with his daughter, Margaret, and a Guild Council meeting at which Victor Gollancz spoke about 'the future of the Jews in Europe'. Priestley states at the beginning of his entry for 1-14 March that it will be his last until he returns from his six week lecture tour to the Navy in the Mediterranean. He comments on Allied advances into Germany, and the capture of Mandalay and Iwojima from Japan, the intensification of the V2 rocket attacks on London, and rumours about the use of new weapons. He gives details of his preparations for his Mediterranean tour, including his proposed itinerary in Italy and Malta, and goes on to give his opinion about a performance of 'King Lear' by the Birmingham University Dramatic Society 'it was one of the finest examples of undergraduate teamwork I have ever seen, and [Norman] Painting, who is chiefly responsible, is very much to be congratulated. His own performance of King Lear was outstanding...I should expect he may have a future before him on the stage. I must give him some more help from the Poor Students Fund for he has earned a little leisure from financial care. He is the son of a signalman on the Midland Railway and reached us via a small post in a library'. He mentions his articles on university reform, and a recent meeting of University Council at which gifts to the University from the Banks, the Cadburys, and the Foyle Trust were announced. He attended a meeting of the Warwickshire Higher Education Committee, the Board of Industrial Fermentation, and the Board of the Faculty of Medicine as well as a lunch for members of the Anglo-French

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Society and a meeting with Lucas Engineering to discuss the Engineering Production scheme.

Priestley's lecture tour in Italy, Malta, and Sicily is documented in the diary volume in the form of transcripts of the letters he sent to his wife, Phyllis, from 19 March to 27 April, travel diary notes covering the period 15 April to 1 May, and a copy of a letter from Priestley to Commander G. Clark of the Admiralty Education Department, containing Priestley's report on the tour. The letters contain information about Priestley's journeys and transport difficulties, accommodation of varying standards, his diet, interaction with Naval Officers and the reactions of sailors and soldiers at different ports to his lectures, descriptions of local scenery and facilities, and his meetings with local officials, including staff at the University of Malta. There is also an itinerary listing the places Priestley visited and the dates he was there.

Regular diary entries resume on 8 May with a long entry containing a detailed summary of his trip to Italy and Malta, comments on the end of the war in Europe and V.E Day celebrations, and details of his return to University administrative business. He reflects on the impact of the death of President Roosevelt, which he thinks 'has removed the political personality with most potentiality for good in what is going to be a very difficult postwar world'. His summary of his lecture tour remarks on discrimination he experienced as a civilian lecturer when attempting to use military amenities, though he acknowledges that the influence of Naval Officers helped him to gain access. The next entry covers the period 8-20 May, and Priestley again expresses his intention to end his diary. He mentions recent visits to London for a University Grants Committee meeting about medical developments, for a sub-committee of the Vice-Chancellors Committee to discuss the admission of students from the recently occupied countries, and for Colonial Office business. He also visited Manchester for the

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installation of Lord Woolton as Chancellor which meant that he missed a meeting of Senate which discussed increases to professorial salaries. He mentions sending his report on his Navy lecture tour to Commander Clark, and writing to some of the officers he met on his trip, and gives details of his activities during the V.E. Day holiday when the University was closed, including a cycle trip to Belbroughton, reading the lesson at a memorial service, and watching a parade with the lord Mayor. The final diary entry in the volume is for 20 August 1945. Priestley comments on V.J. Day and the use of the atomic bomb on Japan 'in which scientists of this university, notably Peierls, Oliphant and Haworth, in that order of importance I should imagine, have played a part that has recently been nationally acknowledged, as has also Oliphant's Radar work', and remarks on the positive publicity the University has been given in the press as a result of the research being recognised. He comments on the invention of the 'magnetron bulb' at Birmingham, and reflects on the effect of the discovery of the practical use of controlled nuclear fission 'standing just outside a world war as we do we are at the moment inclined to be pessimistic. That is quite natural for we only beat the Germans to it by a few months, while I should have been almost equally anxious had our Russian allies been the Power to develop the bomb, for they are still inclined to play power politics hard'. He mentions the election of a majority Labour Government which he thinks will stay in power for five years, and the high level of debate on the Kings Speech 'it was very reassuring for a rather shocked America and a rather startled world. There is no doubt we live in very stirring times with great potentiality both for evil and for good'. He discusses University business, including the increase of the general grant, the possibility that student numbers will increase for the new academic year as demobilisation continues, and the temporary pause in donations to the Appeal fund from industry due to the 'shock of prospective nationalisation of banks, coal and transport'.

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His wife and daughter have gone to Anglesey on holiday, Priestley has been appointed a member of the committee to oversee the reconstruction of the University of Hong Kong, and the West Indian report and Asquith Commission report have both been published. He has been made a member of a committee of Appeal against decisions of the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Labour refusing maintenance grants for returning soldiers wishing to take up university education, and has been giving lectures and taking part in a meeting of the Loveday Committee on Higher Education in Agriculture at Harper Adams College in Shropshire.

Insertions include article on 'University Reform' written for 'Nature'; transcript of lecture 'Scott's Northern Party: A Study of Contrast and Survival in the Antarctic'; transcript of speech to freshers at the Guild of Students at the start of the 1944-1945 academic year; transcript of address at the opening of the Student Christian Movement Mission to the University in October 1944; transcript of address at Edgbaston High School Speech Day; transcript of address at Hanley Castle Grammar School prizegiving; photographs of tutors and students at Workers Educational Association Summer School at Hereford, including Hugh Springer and Philip Sherlock of Asquith Commission West Indies Committee; photographs taken during lecture tour in Malta, with souvenir drawings and illustrations; press cuttings and part of a letter from Victor Hely Hutchinson about his new job as BBC Musical Director and his resignation as Professor of Music; press cuttings on funding for engineering; copy of a letter to 'Maureen'; press cuttings reporting on the election of Anthony Eden as University Chancellor; press cuttings on proposed new buildings for the University of Birmingham, including architects drawings and details of donations received for the Developments Appeal; copy of order of service for Thanksgiving ceremony at the Hall of Memory; press cuttings reporting on the contributions of researchers at the

Papers of Sir Raymond Edward Priestley

University of Birmingham to the development of radar during the Second World War.

1 volume

Access: Open

US38/2/7

Home Record

1945-
1947

Record of Raymond Priestley's activities from October 1945 to March 1947 in the form of a scrapbook containing press cuttings, photographs, transcripts of speeches, lectures and broadcasts, correspondence, and ephemera. There is a handwritten index at the front of the volume

The volume contains programme for University Service 7 October 1945; press cuttings on the Royal Commission report on social and economic conditions in the West Indies; newspaper articles reporting Mark Oliphant's views on the importance of encouraging British industry and scientific research 1945; press cuttings and copy of report by Raymond Priestley on the implications of the invention and use of the atomic bomb; press cuttings reporting the installation of Anthony Eden as Chancellor of the University of Birmingham November 1945; press cutting reporting that American G.I students at Birmingham are boycotting the dances at the Guild of Students because "purity patrols" continually search corridors and common rooms for "necking parties", November 1945; transcript of Priestley's address to the British Association Conference December 1945; copy of agenda of meeting of the University Overseas Club to mark the end of the partnership between the Guild of Undergraduates and the British Council, December 1945; transcript of Priestley's address at Edgbaston High School speech day 1945; photograph of Harry Pagett as Master of Mason's Lodge; photograph of HMS Scott; press cutting on the announcement of the establishment of a Chair of Industrial Metallurgy at the University of Birmingham January 1946; press cutting reporting the establishment of a fund by the Rockefeller Foundation to be

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administered by the University of Birmingham to help young British writers February 1946; transcript of Priestley's broadcast to Africa 'A Rhodesian University: the pros and cons' January 1946; press cuttings reporting on the University of Birmingham's financial needs 1946; transcript of Priestley's report to the University Court of Governors February 1946; copy of letter from Raymond Priestley to his son-in-law, Ian Fleming, giving news about Jocelyn, Priestley's daughter, and Gillian, Priestley's grand-daughter, who were visiting Birmingham from Australia, February 1946; press cuttings of articles reporting on the need for more students studying applied sciences 1946; press cutting reporting the proposed establishment of a University of the West Indies, 1946; photograph of Priestley and other University staff; airmail letter to Priestley from 'Peter' sent from Sydney, Australia; family photographs of Priestley with his daughters, Margaret and Jocelyn, and his grand-daughter Gillian, and with Bertram Thomas, Charles Wright, and John King Davies; letter to Priestley from Alan Reece, Falkland Islands Dependency Survey, March 1946; typed extract of letter from J. W. H. Lugg commenting on Priestley's achievements at the University of Melbourne; newspaper article on the responsibility of the University Grants Committee by Ernest Simon, chairman of Council of Manchester University August 1946; newspaper report about cricket matches at Edgbaston July 1946; photographs of members attending the first meeting of the Inter-University Council for Higher Education in the Colonies 1946; press cuttings reporting on the introduction of Physical Education as one of the subjects for an Arts degree at Birmingham; letter to Priestley from Leonard Parsons discussing his knighthood, July 1946; press cutting reporting the appointment of Charles Wright as the first Director of the Royal Navy's new scientific service; photographs showing 'foreign students' at 13 Ampton Road, the Priestleys' home, including Maureen de Verteuil and Margery Graham; press cuttings of letters to newspapers discussing the

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Barlow Report, and letter from Thomas Bodkin on the statue of George I outside the Barber Institute 1946; typed account of Priestley's visit to London to see Lloyd, Paskin and Morgan about a trip to Malaya, August 1946; copy of Vice-Chancellors welcome to new students, taken from 'Guild News' 1946; family photographs taken during a holiday in Wales July 1947, including Priestley's daughters Margaret and Jocelyn, and grand-daughter Gillian, and his sister Edith and other family members; photographs taken in March 1947 showing Ampton Road in the snow, with Phyllis Priestley and Gillian; transcript of Priestley's address about the English Speaking Union; transcript of Priestley's address welcoming the first Edward Cadbury lecturer October 1946; transcript of Priestleys' speech at the Birmingham and Edgbaston Debating Society Dinner, October 1946; transcript of address at Carr's Lane Church 'Introduction to "Christianity and Life"', September 1946; press cuttings reporting on student numbers for the 1946-1947 academic year; press cutting reporting on the retirement of the Pro-Chancellor E. P. Beale 1946; press cutting reporting on the work of the newly formed Chemical Engineering Department; press cutting on the shortage of accommodation for University of Birmingham students 1946; press cutting reporting on University of Birmingham Carnival 1946; press cutting reporting on the work of the University Overseas Centre in Easy Row 1946; press cutting reporting on the appointment of Sydney Vernon as Pro Chancellor of the University of Birmingham; transcript of Priestley's address at a meeting with the Midland Gas and Allied Industries November 1946; transcript of Priestley's address at the unveiling of portrait of E. P. Beale Pro Chancellor November 1946; press cutting reporting on report of Parliamentary and Scientific Committee on university expansion; press cuttings reporting on United States Antarctic expedition led by Admiral Byrd; press cutting reporting on resignation of Guild Council December 1946; press cutting reporting on student strike at Leicester

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University College December 1946; press cutting reporting on appointment of Anthony Lewis as Professor of Music at University of Birmingham December 1946; letter to Priestley from Arthur Creech Jones, Colonial Office, concerning his recent visit to Malaya October 1946; letter to Priestley from J. Wordie, Falkland Islands January 1947; press cutting reporting on University of Birmingham development plans February 1947; press cutting reporting on strikes and labour disturbances in Trinidad February 1947; press cuttings reporting on work to establish University of the West Indies and the Inter-University Council for Higher Education in the Colonies January 1947; press cutting reporting on visit to Jamaica of Provisional Council for the establishment of University of the West Indies January 1947; press cutting reporting on Birmingham Pharmaceutical Association centenary celebrations February 1947; press cutting reporting on future of Edmund Street premises February 1947; photograph of Cicely Killick; letter to Priestley from 'Jim', University of St Andrews [possibly in connection with visit to the West Indies] February 1947; press cutting reporting on the establishment of University of Malaya; press cuttings reporting on Vice-Chancellor's speech at the annual meeting of the University Court of Governors 1947 about university growth and the need for new buildings February 1947; press cutting reporting on Lord Mayor of Birmingham's address to university students March 1947; press cutting reporting on the award of an honorary degree to Raymond Priestley by the University of St Andrews, March 1947

Loose insertions at the front of the volume consist of a copy of a pamphlet by Jonathan Wilkinson about the British Graham Land Expedition, 1934-1937 with a letter from Wilkinson to Raymond Priestley dated May 1969 and a leaflet publicising 'Antarctic Research: A Review of British Scientific Achievement in Antarctica' edited by Raymond Priestley, Raymond J. Adie, and G

Papers of Sir Raymond Edward Priestley

de Q. Robin, 1964

1 volume

Access: Open

US38/2/8

Record 1947-1949

1947-
1949

Record of Raymond Priestley's activities from June 1947 to August 1949 in the form of a scrapbook containing press cuttings, photographs, correspondence, transcripts of speeches, lectures and broadcasts, and ephemera, as well as travel diaries recording Priestley's visits to Jamaica and Trinidad in 1947-1948 and 1949, South Africa in 1949, and Canada in 1949. There is a handwritten index at the front of the volume

The volume contains photograph of members of West Indies University College Provisional Council 1947; photograph of Priestley and other University of Birmingham officials; press cuttings reporting on Priestley's visit to Malaya October 1916; transcript of Priestley's speech at Chartered Institute of Secretaries Dinner June 1947; transcript of Priestley's address 'The University in 1947-1948'; family photographs of Priestley and his wife, Phyllis at Ampton Road, Edgbaston 1947, together with his daughter Jocelyn and grand-daughter Gillian and baby grandson Martin, friends Maureen, Judy and Pip, relatives Edith and Doris, Charles Wright; letter to Priestley from Sydney Vernon following Priestley's operation, October 1947; press cutting reporting Priestley's honorary degree from the University of St Andrews; press cuttings reporting on the need for new buildings on the University of Birmingham's Edgbaston campus 1947; press cuttings reporting on the work of the West Midlands Regional Reconstruction Group; press cutting reporting on the University of Birmingham Medical Society Dinner, attended by Anthony Eden May 1947; press cutting reporting on Priestley's address to the North Staffordshire branch of the Geographical Association on his Antarctic expeditions; press cutting reporting Priestley's appointment as a

Papers of Sir Raymond Edward Priestley

member of the Academic Committee of the governing body of the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture, Trinidad; letter to Priestley from Bernard Ward, his surgeon for a prostate operation November 1947; press cuttings reporting on Warwickshire cricket matches 1947; press cutting reporting on honorary degrees awarded at University of Birmingham July 1947; travel diary for Priestley's trip to Jamaica December 1947 to January 1948, stopping at Bermuda, and the Bahamas, and returning via Portugal; transcript of Priestley's address to the University of Birmingham Court of Governors February 1948; letter to Priestley signed by members of the teaching, secretarial and maintenance staff of the Physical Education Department, University of Birmingham congratulating him on his knighthood and thanking him for his support of the department January 1949; photographs of Priestley's daughter Jocelyn and grandchildren Gillian and Martin taken in Melbourne 1948; press cutting reporting on inquiry into contentious content in University of Birmingham Carnival magazine, following criticism by Birmingham Christian Social Council; order of service for Memorial Service for Sir Charles Grant Robertson, March 1948; press cutting reporting on establishment of university college at Stoke-on-Trent March 1948; press cutting reporting death of Oliver Lucas and donation by Lucas Engineering to fund a Professorship and Department of Engineering Production, March 1948; press cuttings reporting on Priestley's statements about the future of university funding 1948; transcript of Priestley's address to Workers Educational Association rally April 1948; press cuttings reporting on proposals to exempt the President of the Guild of Students from academic work during year of office 1948; letter to Priestley from Ronald Adam, British Council June 1948; photograph of members of British Council at Shakespeare Conference Stratford-upon-Avon 1948; handwritten notes made at conference universities at Oxford 1948; transcript of Priestley's address to Universities congress

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July 1948; order of service for University Service 1948; press cutting reporting on dinner held as part of the Guild of Students Carnival week 1948; press cutting reporting on the appointment of L. G. H. Huxley, Reader in Electro-Magnetism, Department of Electrical Engineering at University of Birmingham, to Chair of Physics at Adelaide University; newspaper article on plans for the new Library and Arts buildings at University of Birmingham's Edgbaston campus October 1948; newspaper article giving overview of the life of Sir Charles Grant Robertson; press cutting reporting on the work of the West Midlands Regional Reconstruction Group; newspaper article on British administration in the Falkland Islands and the work of the Falklands Dependencies survey October 1948; press cutting reporting details of Priestley's speech to Freshers at the University of Birmingham October 1948; press cutting reporting on shortage of accommodation for students at the University of Birmingham following intake of 900 students 1948; travel diary providing account of Priestley's trip to Jamaica and Trinidad December 1948 to January 1949 as a member of the Provisional Council of the University College of the West Indies, including details of discussions in London about the proposed new University, Priestley's social activities with his daughter, Margaret, who was living in London, his sea voyage to Jamaica including photographs taken on board his ship the SS Bayano, Christmas celebrations at sea, Priestley's arrival and activities in Jamaica including descriptions of the local landscape and references to social activities with his hosts, photographs of the University College of the West Indies and surrounding area, Priestley's journey to Trinidad via St Kitts and Antigua, photographs taken in Trinidad, descriptions of Priestley's activities in Trinidad and time spent with his hosts Maureen de Verteuil and her family, sightseeing, return to Jamaica for Provisional Council meetings, tour of university site, arrangements for installation of Chancellor, visits to local industries, markets, descriptions of food eaten, lectures

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he gave, his return home by plane, via the Bahamas and Montreal where he stayed with Cyril James of McGill University, took part in a tour of the university and attended social engagements, and his return flight via Newfoundland to Prestwick; press cuttings about Jamaican constitution and William Alexander Bustamante; press cuttings reporting Raymond Priestley's knighthood in the 1949 New Year Honours; press cuttings announcing appointment of Princess Alice of Athlone as first Chancellor of the University College of the West Indies and grant of Royal Charter 1949; press cutting reporting speech by Anthony Eden to students at University of British Columbia 1949; press cutting reporting on establishment of University of Birmingham student loan fund for students in financial need; transcript of Priestley's speech at dinner for University of Birmingham Senate members February 1949 focusing on the Nimrod expedition with Shackleton 1907-1909 and his time on the Scott Polar Expedition 1910-1913; travel diary giving an account of Priestley's trip to South Africa in March 1949 including details of his meeting with Thomas Bodkin, Director of the Barber Institute, about his future plans, his flight to Johannesburg via Tripoli, Khartoum, and Nairobi, meetings and tours at the University of Witwatersrand and other sites in the city, sightseeing activities with his hosts the Aitken family, including a visit to the zoo and excursions into the surrounding countryside, photographs of the University of Witwatersrand and the zoological gardens and park, including photographs showing people Priestley met during his trip, Priestley's comments on his observations of the impact of the apartheid system, his trip to Maritzburg and Durban, the inauguration ceremony of the University of Natal where Priestley was awarded an honorary degree, sightseeing in the area around Durban including description and photographs of visits to 'native reserves' where Zulu groups were living and meetings with Zulu officials, journey to Cape Town by plane, social engagements with Priestley's host family, the Davies and activities at the University of

Papers of Sir Raymond Edward Priestley

Cape Town, return to Johannesburg and participation in degree congregation, Priestley's lectures in Durban and Pretoria, visit to Roodepoort deep mine to see 'tribal dancing', his return journey via Victoria Falls, Kampala, Khartoum and Luxor; press cutting reporting criticism of co-operative societies by Professor Sargent Florence for their attitude towards university graduates April 1949; photographs of University of Birmingham sports day May 1949 showing university playing fields; travel diary providing account of Priestleys' trip to Canada in June 1949 from Shannon airport to Halifax, Newfoundland and his activities and sightseeing there and at Dalhousie University, his stay at Deep Cove and his attendance at the Executive Committee meeting of the Universities Association, photographs and Deep Cove, discussions with colleagues and attendance at degree congregation at which Priestley was awarded an honorary degree, his journey by train to Montreal and social engagements at McGill University and the University of Montreal, train journey to Toronto and shopping there, and return journey from Montreal to Newfoundland, and then to Shannon; newspaper article on the history of the University of Birmingham, student life, and its role training students to work in industry June 1949; press cutting reporting appointment of Professor Humphrey Humphreys as Vice-Principal August 1949

Insertions at the front of the volume consist of papers relating to Priestley's award of the Belgian Order of the Crown or Ordre de la Couronne in November 1948. Insertions at the rear of the volume consist of menus for a dinner in honour of Raymond Priestley upon his investiture as Knight Bachelor, March 1949, signed by members of University of Birmingham Senate and Council

1 volume

Access: Open

US38/2/9

Record 1949-1951 volume 1

1949-
1950

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Papers of Sir Raymond Edward Priestley

Record of Raymond Priestley's activities from summer 1949 to May 1950 in the form of a scrapbook containing press cuttings, photographs, correspondence, transcripts of speeches, lectures and broadcasts, and ephemera, as well as travel diaries recording Priestley's visits to Trinidad and Jamaica January to March 1950

There is a handwritten index at the front of the volume

The volume contains photographs of Priestley and his family in the Lake District summer 1949; photograph of David and Griffith Taylor, Toronto 1949; press cutting reporting on University of Birmingham Faculty of Medicine prizegiving October 1949; newspaper article by Professor Valentine, editor of British Journal of Educational Psychology on cricket; press cutting reporting on opening of new headquarters of Birmingham University Air Squadron October 1949; press cutting reporting on Anglo Norwegian Swedish expedition to Antarctica; copy of letter from Priestley to [Sir Hector James Wright] Hetherington [Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals]; letter to Priestley from 'James', University of St Andrews December 1949; press cutting announcing Priestley's appointment as chairman of the governing body of the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture; photograph of Taylor James; photographs of Priestley's daughter, Margaret and cat Mickie; transcript of Priestley's speech at BBC luncheon December 1949; transcript of Priestley's speech to Midland Council of Industrial Productivity January 1950; transcript of Priestley's speech at Antarctic Club dinner January 1950; travel diary providing account of Priestley's trip to Trinidad and Jamaica January to March 1950 with his daughter, Margaret who accompanied him in Jamaica including details of their sea voyage on the Cavina and photographs taken on board, social engagements with other passengers travelling to Jamaica including Princess Alice of Athlone, arrival at Kingston, Jamaica

Papers of Sir Raymond Edward Priestley

including photographs, social engagements in Jamaica organised by the University College of the West Indies, comment on political developments in Jamaica, photographs of the Moodys, Priestley's hosts in Jamaica and of local landscapes, installation of Princess Alice of Athlone as Chancellor of the University College of the West Indies including photographs and description of the ceremony, ceremonies to lay foundation stones of library, hall of residence, and hospital, Priestley's participation in University College Council meetings including photographs, photographs of Caymanas clinic, Parkville farm, attendance at University service at Spanish Town in the cathedral, photographs of visit to Newcastle and Flamsteed trail, photographs of Hermitage dam and Monymusk, photographs of swimming at Morant bay, photographs of University College site, journey to Trinidad, photographs of Priestley's daughter Margaret, and their hosts, the de Verteuil family, photographs of the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture, Priestley's participation in discussions about the administration and management of the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture, visits to sugar plantations, cacao propagating unit and photographs of cacao at San Juan, Priestley's conversations with host families and others he met during his visit, his return journey by plane via Jamaica, the Bahamas, Bermuda, and Lisbon, Portugal; menu for dinner at King's House Jamaica in honour of the visit of Her Royal Highness Princess Alice and the Right Honourable The Earl of Athlone, February 1950; press cuttings reporting on aspects of Jamaican politics including the election of William Alexander Bustamante; press cuttings reporting on the opening of the University College of the West Indies and the installation of Princess Alice of Athlone as Chancellor February 1950; newspaper articles about the expansion of the University of Birmingham in engineering production 1950; press cutting reporting on Priestley's speech at the annual dinner of the Midland section of the Junior Institution of

Papers of Sir Raymond Edward Priestley

Engineers and reminiscences by R. D. Gifford, a student at the University in 1910; newspaper articles reporting on allegations made by Lord Vansittart of communist infiltration at the University of Birmingham which influenced academic appointments March 1950; newspaper article on the content of Priestley's Annual Report as Vice-Chancellor 1950; press cuttings reporting the death of Norman Haworth, Professor of Chemistry; copy of order of service for Memorial Service for Walter Norman Haworth, March 1950; photograph of honorary graduates taken at University of Birmingham Jubilee degree congregation 1950; transcript of Priestley's address to Birmingham Junior Chamber of Commerce March 1950; transcript of Priestley's eulogy for Robert Falcon Scott at memorial service at Binton Parish Church, April 1950; transcript of Priestley's address at Society of Chemical Industry Dinner, April 1950; newspaper articles published to mark the Golden Jubilee of the University of Birmingham focusing on the achievements of Oliver Lodge and Sir Charles Grant Robertson as the first two Principals and Joseph Chamberlain as the first Chancellor; transcript of Priestley's reply to toast to the University at Jubilee Dinner May 1950; press cutting reporting Priestley's remarks on delays to building work at the University of Birmingham April 1950; press cutting reporting on Priestley's address at a conference on Anglo-American relations April 1950; newspaper articles on University of Birmingham Jubilee celebrations May 1950 including ceremony to award honorary degrees and formal dinner May 1950; loose photographs of the University of Birmingham Jubilee degree ceremony and formal dinner; family photographs showing Priestley's wife Phyllis, and daughter Margaret in Birmingham summer 1950; photographs of Ironbridge and at site of Wroxeter, with Margaret Priestley, Ian and Griffith Taylor, and Ian Fleming [Priestley's son-in-law] May 1950

Insertions at the front of the volume consist

Papers of Sir Raymond Edward Priestley

of letter to Priestley from Stanley Barnes, and from Apsley Cherry Garrard commenting on Priestley's book 'Antarctic Adventure' 1949

1 volume

Access: Open

US38/2/10

Record 1949-1951 volume 2

1950-
1951

Record of Raymond Priestley's activities from June 1950 to January 1951 in the form of a scrapbook containing press cuttings, photographs, correspondence, transcripts of speeches, lectures and broadcasts, and ephemera, as well as travel diaries recording Priestley's visits to Singapore, Australia, and New Zealand in 1950 and Jamaica and Trinidad in 1951. The diary also contains a small amount of earlier material towards the rear of the volume, consisting of transcript of Priestley's toast of Erdington Debating Society January 1940; family photographs taken in Malvern 1940-1941, air raid shelters at Viceroy Close 1940-1941 and photographs of bomb damage to University of Birmingham buildings at Edmund Street 1940; press cuttings relating to Priestley's speeches and broadcasts 1945-1946, and to the establishment of the University of the West Indies and the work of the Provisional Council 1947.

There is a handwritten index at the front of the volume for items dated 1950 to 1951.

The volume contains transcript of Priestley's speech to the Holdsworth Club June 1950; photograph of Priestley and his daughter Margaret on their way to watch cricket at Lords summer 1950; transcript of Priestley's speech to Institution of Mechanical Engineers June 1950; transcript of citation for Sir Raymond Priestley, University of Malaya July 1950; transcript of Priestley's reply to toast of guests at the dinner of the University of Malaya on the occasion of its first conferring of degrees July 1950 Singapore; transcript of Priestley's Sydney University Appeal broadcast July 1950; travel diary providing account of Priestley's trip to

Papers of Sir Raymond Edward Priestley

Singapore, Australia, and New Zealand July-August 1950 including details about the University of Birmingham degree congregation which he attended before his departure and comment on the speeches of university staff, his journey to Singapore via Rome, Cairo, Karachi, and Calcutta [Kolkata] by plane, his stay with the Allens in Singapore and tour of the Medical College, Raffles College, Priestley's broadcast at Cathay House and a lecture on Antarctic exploration, a conference at Raffles College with the Directors of Education of Singapore and the Malay Federation, the graduation ceremony at Raffles College, official and social engagements in Singapore, his journey to Melbourne via Darwin and Sydney, social activities with his daughter, Jocelyn, and grandchildren, Gillian and Martin, official engagements at the University of Melbourne and tours of the city, Priestley's Sydney Appeal Fund broadcast and lectures, sightseeing activities with his family and looking after his grandchildren, social activities with friends from his own time in Melbourne in the 1930s, memories of Nikolai Bachtin on hearing of his death in a letter received on 18 July 1950, meetings at the Commonwealth Oil Refining offices, visit to the Silvan Dam, meeting of the Antarctic Planning Committee, Priestley's journey to Canberra by plane for meetings and receptions at the University College, and his journey to Sydney, University appointments and sightseeing in Sydney including comment on the poor standard of driving in Australia, social activities and shopping in Sydney, journey to New Zealand by plane, arrival in Auckland, meetings at the Geological Department of the University, Skillman's Factory, and official receptions, Priestley's gastrointestinal illness during his trip, sightseeing in the Wairakei Valley, meetings of the Association of Universities of the British Commonwealth conference on university finance, technological education, the 1948 Oxford resolution, sightseeing in the Waiora Valley with a Maori guide, sightseeing in Rotorua, University appointments in Auckland, journey to

Papers of Sir Raymond Edward Priestley

Dunedin, meetings and social engagements at the University of Otago, journey to Christchurch and description of landscape and sightseeing, visits to agricultural colleges and to new college site at Christchurch, train and sea journey to Wellington, visit to University, Victoria College and Parliament House in Wellington, Priestley's lecture on Antarctic exploration in Wellington, sightseeing in the Akatarawa valley, social engagements with the Governor General, visit to Massey College, graduation ceremony at Victoria College, Wellington, flight to Fiji, Honolulu and San Francisco, tour of University of British Columbia site in Vancouver, flights to Winnipeg, Toronto and Montreal, and then to Prestwick; press cuttings reporting Priestley's opinions about a film based on Scott's Polar Expedition; press cuttings on the meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science in Birmingham 1950; photographs of Priestley and other delegates at the conference; newspaper articles reporting on speeches by Priestley and others at the conference; newspaper article by Mark Oliphant on leaving the University of Birmingham for Australia; photograph of Priestley at Otago monument to Scott's Southern Party; order of service for church service held during the meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science at St Martins, Birmingham September 1950; photographs of family friends including the Aitkens from Johannesburg summer 1950; photographs of Priestley's daughter Margaret during a family holiday at Welcombe; transcript of Priestley's address at the Dropforgers Annual Dinner October 1950; transcript of Priestley's welcome to new University of Birmingham students at the Freshmen's Conference 1950; transcript of Priestley's address at Glasgow Graduates Dinner 1950; transcript of Priestley's address to Association of Building Trades Employers Annual Dinner November 1950; transcript of Priestley's speech at the presentation of his portrait at the University of Birmingham, December 1950; transcript of Priestley's toast to the Institute of Chartered

Papers of Sir Raymond Edward Priestley

Accountants in England and Wales, December 1948; travel diary providing account of Priestley's visit to Jamaica and Trinidad in January 1951 including details of his activities in London before his departure, his flight to Jamaica via Bermuda and the Bahamas, meetings relating to University College of the West Indies affairs, flight to Trinidad, tours and sightseeing in Trinidad including visits to sugar plantations, flight to Jamaica via Barbados, Antigua, San Juan, and Haiti, tour of university buildings in Jamaica, attendance at University College of the West Indies Council meetings, sightseeing in the mountains around Kingston, and his return journey by sea in rough weather; photographs of friends and colleagues in Trinidad, photographs of University College of the West Indies buildings; press cutting reporting the appointment of Professor A. P. Thomson as Dean of the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Birmingham; press cutting reporting on University of Birmingham geological expedition to West Spitzbergen; press cuttings reporting on Priestley's Annual Report to University Council as Vice-Chancellor 1951; photographs of Priestley, his daughter Margaret and friends in the gardens of Ampton Road, Edgbaston winter 1950

1 volume

Access: Open

US38/2/11

Record 1951-1952

1951-
1952

Record of Raymond Priestley's activities from February 1951 to August 1952 in the form of a scrapbook containing press cuttings, photographs, correspondence, transcripts of speeches, lectures and broadcasts, and ephemera. The diary also contains a small amount of material dating from 1953 towards the rear of the volume, consisting of transcript of Priestley's lectures entitled 'Contrast at the Poles' 1938, 'The British Quest of the South Pole' 1938; transcript of broadcast 'A Winter in a Snowdrift in Antarctica' 1938; transcript of talk entitled

Papers of Sir Raymond Edward Priestley

'Scotland', undated; transcript of 'Talk to Students' [presumably at University of Melbourne] 1937; transcript of alternative drafts for talk to the 'M.U.R' at the shrine at the ANZAC ceremony, May 1937; copy of article by Raymond Priestley on Arctic Discovery in 'The Listener' June 1939; and typed copy of Priestley's review of 'In the Antarctic' by Frank Debenham

There is a handwritten index at the front of the volume

The volume contains transcript of Priestley's address to University of Birmingham Court of Governors February 1951; portrait photographs of Priestley taken for Birmingham Post 1951; transcript of Priestley's address at Student Christian Movement lunch May 1951; newspaper article by Raymond Priestley on silver jubilee of the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture in Trinidad; press cuttings reporting Priestley's intention to retire as Vice-Chancellor of the University of Birmingham in 1952; photograph of cottage at Bredons Norton; transcript of Priestley's speech at Workers Educational Association rally for Ernest Studd's retirement April 1951; transcript of Priestley's speech at presentation of cup to University Air Squadron; letters from Sydney Vernon, Pro-Chancellor of the University of Birmingham to Priestley concerning his retirement, May 1951; photograph of Anthony Eden as Chancellor of the University of Birmingham on the opening of the new wing of the Guild of Students building June 1951; letter from Anthony Eden, Chancellor of the University of Birmingham, to Priestley concerning his retirement as Vice-Chancellor, June 1951; transcript of Priestley's address at St Martin's Garden Party at Manor Farm, Northfield, June 1951; transcript of Priestley's speech at event connected with publication of new edition of Chambers Encyclopaedia March 1951; transcript of Priestley's speech at reunion dinner of First World War wireless operators April 1951 which includes comment on his own experiences;

Papers of Sir Raymond Edward Priestley

photographs taken summer 1951 showing Gordon, Edna and Michael Neish, Margaret Priestley, Maureen De Verteuil, Phyllis Priestley, David Moyon, Pam Towse; menu for Guild of Students dinner 1951; photograph of delegates at Foyle conference 1951; transcript of Priestley's speech at the opening of Guild of Students building extension June 1951; press cuttings reporting on South African cricket tour August 1951; transcript of Priestley's address as chairman of Colonial Office conference on Extra-Mural Education in the Colonies, held at Cambridge August 1951; photograph taken at presentation to Ernest Studd on his retirement August 1951; photographs taken at University of Birmingham Coniston camp July 1951; photographs taken at Workers Educational Association summer school at Hereford 1951; photographs taken at Westmancote summer 1951; transcript of Priestley's speech at the opening of the Shakespeare Conference August 1951; transcript of Priestley's welcome speech to new University of Birmingham students at the Freshmen's Conference October 1951; press cuttings reporting on aspects of Australian university politics 1951; press cuttings reporting on Raymond Priestly's Annual Report to University of Birmingham Council February 1952; press cutting reporting on Humphrey Humphreys work as University of Birmingham Vice-Principal; newspaper article on the work of University of Birmingham Health Service; press cuttings reporting on the retirement of Thomas Bodkin, Director of the Barber Institute; press cuttings reporting on the appearance of Lancelot Hogben in court on the charge of drink driving 1952; press cutting on the award of CBE to Professor Philip Sargant Florence March 1952; press cutting reporting the death of Edmund Phipson Beale February 1952; press cutting reporting Priestley's speech at the annual luncheon of the British Plastics Federation April 1952; press cutting giving details of presentation fund established for Priestley's retirement; handwritten notes compiled for Priestley's speech to University Air Squadron dinner; photographs of

Papers of Sir Raymond Edward Priestley

Priestley's home at Bredons Norton June 1952; transcript of Priestley's speech at the presentation on his retirement from the University of Birmingham July 1952; transcript of Priestley's speech to new graduates at degree congregation July 1952; press cutting reporting on conference held by University of Birmingham, Federation of British Industries (Midland Region) and Birmingham Chamber of Commerce April 1952 on 'The University Graduate in Industry'; press cuttings in the need for householders to offer lodgings to University of Birmingham students May 1952, including letter to 'Birmingham Post' from Humphrey Humphreys, Vice-Principal, and Edith Teverson, Lodgings Warden; press cuttings reporting details of retirement presentations to Raymond Priestley July 1952; letter to Raymond Priestley from John Harris, thanking him and his family for their hospitality, June 1952; photograph possibly of Wilfrid Russell Grimwade, Miegunyah, Toorak, Melbourne; press cutting reporting the making of a reconstruction film of Scott's last expedition; press cutting reporting on University of Birmingham degree congregation July 1952; press cutting reporting appointment of Rev. G. W. H. Lampe as Professor of Theology and Dr. F. K. Bannister as Professor of Thermodynamics, Department of Mechanical Engineering, University of Birmingham 1952; press cutting reporting on the acquisition of Manor House, Northfield by the University of Birmingham July 1952; press cutting reporting the appointment of Humphrey Humphreys as Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the University of Birmingham for one year, July 1952; photographs of Gillian and Martin Fleming, Priestley's grandchildren, 1953; copy of letter to The Editor, Otago Daily Times, Dunedin, from Noel E. Odell, University of Otago, Dunedin, August 1950 commenting on Raymond Priestley's lecture and his research in Antarctica; letter from Helen Thomson, Dunedin, to Priestley's sister Mrs Russell, on hearing of the supposed death of Priestley August 1953; press cutting reporting Priestley's speech

Papers of Sir Raymond Edward Priestley

about the lack of students from public schools studying engineering at the University of Birmingham; colour negatives containing images of 'native dancing' in Johannesburg, taken by Aitken, Priestley's host there; printed copy of Dalhousie University congregation hymn; photograph of procession at the inauguration of the University of Natal 1949?; photographs of Gillian Fleming, Priestley's granddaughter, on a pony; transcript of speech at County Club dinner, 1952; photographs of Ian and Maureen de Vertueil, Philip Sherlock, Margaret Priestley, Anne Priestley, and Richard Donald; photographs of Charles Wright Junior with Raymond and Margaret Priestley; photograph of Ian Fleming, husband of Jocelyn Priestley; letter to Priestley and his wife, Phyllis, from his granddaughter, Gillian Fleming, 1953; magazine article consisting of profile of Ian Fleming, husband of Priestley's daughter, Jocelyn, and his work in aircraft design; press cuttings reporting on events at Warwickshire County Cricket Club attended by Raymond Priestley, with programme for Warwickshire County Cricket Club President's Annual General Meeting Invitation Dinner, March 1952; press cutting reporting visit to Birmingham of Nana Kwasi Afrani III, Chief of the Ashanti, who attended meetings at the Cadbury Bournville works and at the University of Birmingham, 1952; copy of articles in 'Guild News' on the achievements of the Athletic Union at the University of Birmingham and the retirement of Raymond Priestley as Vice-Chancellor; press cutting reporting on the opening of Raymond Priestley House, for elderly residents, in Erdington 1952; Christmas card to Raymond Priestley and his family from Rudolf Peirels and his family, 1952; photograph of Margaret Priestley and Doris [Raymond Priestley's sister]; photograph of Martin and Tom Fleming, Priestley's grandsons; press cutting reporting the appointment of Robert Aitken as Vice-Chancellor of the University of Birmingham; printed extracts from annual report of Humphrey Humphreys, Vice-Chancellor at

Papers of Sir Raymond Edward Priestley

the University of Birmingham 1952-1953

1 volume

Access: Open

US38/2/12

Malayan Union Voyage and West Indies
Voyage diary

1946-
1947

Travel diary kept by Raymond Priestley to record accounts of his trip to Malaya in August and September 1946 on the invitation of the Colonial Office as a member of the Asquith Commission on Higher Education in the Colonies to discuss the development of university education, and to Jamaica in December 1946 and January 1947. Photographs, press cuttings, correspondence, and ephemera relating to his visits are pasted into the volume.

There is a handwritten index at the front of the volume

The first section of the volume contains the Malaya travel diary, giving details of Priestley's preparations for his journey including receiving vaccinations, flight to Marseilles and overnight stay there, journey to Augusta in Sicily, to Cairo, Basra, Bahrein, Karachi, Calcutta, and Rangoon, before arriving in Singapore including comment on accommodation, food, local topography and his fellow travellers; description of Priestley's activities in Singapore including meetings with the Governor and other officials, receptions and social engagements; notes on discussions with the Governor, Sir Franklin Gimson, on the possibility of Chinese residents in Singapore taking British citizenship, the site for the new University College, entrance to the Medical College 1946-1947, migration to American universities, and a conference at Kuala Lumpur on the development of university education in Malaya; account of discussions with Neilson, Director of Education for Singapore, and others, about higher education; sightseeing on Singapore Island; comment on the plants and flowers growing in Singapore, the cost of living in Singapore

Papers of Sir Raymond Edward Priestley

and Hong Kong, Malay religious education; description of tour of the Medical College and detailed report on the work of individual academic departments; observations of the long-term effects of the Japanese occupation during the Second World War and experiences of internment; sightseeing at the Singapore Reservoir; discussion of local industry in Singapore; tour of Raffles College; meetings at the Garden Club with the President of the Chinese Chamber of Commerce, a Chinese newspaper proprietor, and others; discussions about development work in Hong Kong; visit to the Forest Reserve on Bukit Timah and to Raffles Museum; discussions with Malcolm Macdonald about the proposed university; journey to Changi and his activities there including discussions at the Government Bungalow, comment on relations between Europeans and local residents, and discussion about school education in Malaya; visits to rice fields and to the Anglo-Chinese Mission school; description of a Chinese Victory Night lantern parade; journey to Kuala Lumpur; meeting with the Director of Agriculture and visit to the Forestry Research Institute; copy of letter from J. P. Hannah, The Perak River Hydro-Electric Power Company Limited, Ipoh, Malaya, to Sir Edward Gent [Governor of the Malayan Union], concerning the possible entry of Chong Kwok Ying to the University of Birmingham to study engineering, September 1946; visit to the Technical College at Kuala Lumpur; tour of the Rubber Research Institute; meeting with Director and Chief Inspector of the Mines Department to discuss higher education for mining engineers; discussion with the Governor about the political situation in the Malay Union; journey to Ipoh and tour of the Institute of Tropical Medical Research there; tour of the Sultan Idris Training College for Malay teachers of vernacular schools; description of use of land for mining and rubber industries, details of agriculture and botany; visit to Trolak Forest Reserve; journey to Penang via Kuala Lumpur; meeting with the Sultan of Perak and visit to Malay College; visit to Penang

Papers of Sir Raymond Edward Priestley

Free School and other schools in Penang; return journey to Singapore, visit to the Botanic Gardens and shopping trips; meeting with Mrs Peet, Assistant Editor of the 'Straits Settlement Times' to discuss University affairs; meetings with the College Councils and Governor's Advisory Council; social engagements in Singapore, including Victory Day celebrations, tea with the Medical College Alumni Society, a 'Chinese dinner party'; Priestley's radio broadcast at Cathay House; and his return flight via Rangoon, Calcutta, Karachi, Bahrein, Cairo, Augusta and Toulon. There is also a transcript of Priestley's broadcast on higher education in the Malay Union, press cuttings reporting Priestley's activities during the trip, and photographs of major buildings in Kuala Lumpur

The second section of the volume contains Priestley's diary describing his visit to Jamaica, giving details of preparations for his trip including meetings with University of Birmingham staff before his departure, his stay in London with his daughter, Margaret, his sea voyage to Jamaica including photographs taken on board showing his fellow passengers including Irvine, one of his travelling companions, and details about conversations with other passengers, arrival in Jamaica and social engagements with the Governor [Sir John Huggins] and his wife; a New Year's Eve dinner at the Manor House Hotel; meetings with Taylor, Sherlock, and other members of the Asquith Commission on Higher Education in the Colonies; visit to the sites of University College of the West Indies buildings; meeting with Professor C. Staley, Physical Education, University of Illinois; photographs of Kingston and Kings House, Jamaica; tour of the West Indian Sugar Company estate at Monymusk, the Innswood Estate, Lioneltown government settlement, and Morelands Farm including photographs taken on the trip; meeeting with Mr Lewin, Primary School teacher at Hayes; visit to Porus, Spaulding, Sanguinneti, Cave Valley, Browns Town, Shaw Park, Roaring River Falls, Rio Corre and Spanish Town;

Papers of Sir Raymond Edward Priestley

photographs of Mona Reservoir site; meetings of the Provisional Council of the University College of the West Indies; press cuttings of articles in Jamaican newspapers reporting on discussions about the proposed University College of the West Indies during Priestley's trip; description of Civic Welcome at the Ward Theatre; social engagements with the Moodys, at the Jamaica Club, and at a cocktail party held by Philip Sherlock; Provisional Council tour of the new University College site; sightseeing in the mountains around Kingston; journey to Trinidad by plane, including photographs, social engagements with his hosts, the De Verteuls; meeting with the Director of Education, visit to Queens Royal College and St Marys College; discussion about provision for nursing training; visit to the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture for a conference on agricultural education; cocktail party at Gerald White's where Priestley met the Headmaster of the Teachers' Training College and of the Bishop's College for Girls; meeting with the Colonial Secretary Sir Errol dos Santos; tour of the Caribbean Medical Centre; reception at the Town Hall, Port of Spain, and public meeting at the Teachers Training College; photographs of the north coast of Trinidad; return journey to Kingston; discussion with Dr Clearkin and Hackett the possibility of establishing a Research Institute of Tropical Medicine or Hygiene, the development of training in agriculture in Trinidad and Jamaica cocktail parties given by Miss Lissa, and by Sturdie; visit to the Easters home at Gordonstown ; visit to Castleton Gardens; bathing in the Constant Spring; visit to a Government Small Farmers Training Headquarters, to a hydro-electric station, a Nestles Milk Condensing station, a Chinese restaurant in Spanish Town, and a Government Farm near Freetown; trip to Annotto Bay, Port Antonio, and the Rio Grande, with photographs; meeting at the Jamaica Institute; discussions about the Charter and Statutes of the University College of the West Indies and about the written Report to the Universities Council and education and history in Jamaica; social

Papers of Sir Raymond Edward Priestley

engagements with the Moodys and Sherlocks; a meeting with Edith Clark, 'an expert in Social Welfare'; visit to Monymusk to see cutting sugar cane at the harvest stations; return journey via Bermuda, and the Azores, including photographs taken from the plane; press cuttings from Jamaican newspaper reporting on the political situation in January 1947 and on the development of higher education in Jamaica

1 volume

Access: Open

US38/2/13

West Indies visit diary

1951-
1952

Travel diary kept by Raymond Priestley to record account of his visit to Jamaica, Trinidad, and Tobago, December 1951 to April 1952. Photographs relating to his visits are pasted into the volume, and there is a handwritten index at the front.

The diary describes preparations for his trip, his journey to Bristol by train and his sea voyage to Jamaica, including comment about conditions on board, the effects of the weather on the voyage, and conversations with his fellow passengers, with photographs taken on board ship; his arrival in Jamaica and social activities with his hosts, the Taylors, including photographs of Mrs Taylor and of the University College of the West Indies buildings; meetings with University College staff about the general financial situation of the institution, the appointment of staff, and the development of the agricultural faculty; social engagements with the Moodys and Philip Sherlock; meeting with Professor Harper and the Matron of the hospital at Spanish Town; photographs of buildings in Spanish Town; discussion with Pifer about the Jamaican economy; meetings with academic staff about the possibility of establishing an archaeological service in British Honduras to preserve Mayan relics; meeting of the Advisory Council of the Institute of Social and Economic Research about land use and settlement surveys, and meeting with Kirkwood about graduate

Papers of Sir Raymond Edward Priestley

course in the principles of chemical engineering; University College of the West Indies Council and other committee meetings to discuss management of the institution, including the Salaries Committee, and Board of Extra-Mural Studies meeting; cocktail party organised by the Taylors; Priestley's walks around the University College site and the surrounding area; tour of the hospital site; discussion about the 1951 hurricane with Vernon and his family; trip to the Hermitage Dam; inspection of college buildings for physiology and chemistry; visit to sugar estate at Monymusk with photographs; meeting with Director of Research of the Sugar Manufacturers Association; meeting with the Archbishop of the West Indies, the Bishop of Jamaica, and the Bishop of Trinidad about the College Chapel and other new college buildings; picnic with Ludlow Moody on the north coast near Ocho Rios, with photographs and description of the local landscape; the opening of the annual Art Exhibition at the Jamaica Institute; drive to Falmouth; discussion about the work of the Jamaica Library Service; tour of library, reading room, and Baptist Church at Falmouth; Priestley's lecture at the Arcadian cinema at Falmouth; return journey to Spanish Town; weekend stay with Marion and Vernon Neish on Jack's Hill with photographs; visit to the Banana Research Station with photographs and attendance at meeting of the Banana Research Committee; comment on the death of George VI and the cancellation of social engagements; discussion about the establishment of a Faculty of Agriculture at the University College of the West Indies; visit to Government Agricultural stations at Caenwalk and Grange River with photographs; discussions about 'chemical technology' scheme; visit to Robert Kirkwood's [chairman of the Sugar Manufacturers Association] house at Craigton, with photographs; journey to Trinidad by plane and Priestley's stay with the Page family; inspection of sugar research laboratories with Wiggins; photographs of Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture

Papers of Sir Raymond Edward Priestley

buildings; inspection of the library and discussion about funding for the sugar research scheme; visit to 'Peasant Investigation scheme'; Central Administrative Committee meeting; visits to Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture farms and to River Estate to see cocoa experiments, with photographs; discussion about prejudice against 'coloured' children attending College Schools and efforts to change this; memorial service [for George VI?] at the Anglican Cathedral, visit to soil science laboratories, meeting of the Academic Board to discuss the regional research scheme; flight to Tobago and drive with Ian de Vertueil to a dam on the East Hillsborough River; visit to Scarborough; photographs of Maureen De Vertueil and her family; visit to Mount Irvine Bay to swim and watching the drawing of sea nets near Plymouth; photographs of Tobago landscape and Administrative House; visit to King George's Fort and Pigeon Point to swim and to the Old Fort; return flight to Trinidad; visit with the Neishes to the police quarters estate; visit to bauxite plant and to the Diego Martin valley; return flight to Jamaica; shopping in Kingston and arrangements for voyage home; visit with Moody to the Caymanas estate on the Spanish Town road to see the factory, rum and alcohol distilling and the field work, with photographs; arrival of Princess Alice and the Earl of Athlone in Jamaica and lunch at King's House with the Governor and Lady Foot, Princess Alice and Miss Abel-Smith; tea and sherry party at the University College of the West Indies; visit with Moody to his farm at Longville, with photographs; drive to Newcastle and Greenwich with Ludlow Moody, with photographs; lunch with Cyril James and his family and comments on seeing a procession of [William Alexander] Bustamente's supporters in Kingston; visit with Gloria Cumper to Knox College and Spaldings to give lectures; tour of the University College of the West Indies with Professor Leach of Harvard; drive to Yallahs on the south coast of the island; picnic at Roaring River beach; lecture to the Philosophical Society on the University College of the West Indies

Papers of Sir Raymond Edward Priestley

campus; Commemoration at Irvine Hall with Princess Alice followed by cricket match between University College of the West Indies and all Jamaica and tea with Fay Moyston and two friends, Mrs Sawby and 'Derek Walcott a lad from St Lucia with something of a reputation as a poet'; dinner at Stony Hills with the Hannas and discussion about the activities of Atlee's government 'backing up my view that much taht they had done was to th egood, if they had not tried to go too far too fast'; photographs of Ludlow Moody and the Sherlocks, and Montego Bay; drive to Montego Bay, Lucea Bay, and Negril Point; photographs of Cockpit Country; visit to the School of Arts and Crafts; journey by train to Williamsfield, Priestly's first experience of travelling on the Jamaican railway system, with photographs of the trains; visit to bauxite plant and Kendal; discussion with Millott about developing a Marine Biology Station; return sea voyage via Dominica including photographs of fellow passengers and the coast at Dominica; signed menu for dinner on the SS Cavina 23 March 1952; photographs of hurricane damage to University College of the West Indies buildings

The last few pages of the diary contain photographs of Priestley's home in Birmingham, at 13 Ampton Road, and of his daughter, Margaret, as well as a photograph showing Humphrey Humphreys, who succeeded Priestley as Vice-Chancellor for the 1952-1953 academic session, with the President and Vice-President of the Guild of Students, and cuttings from the University of Birmingham Gazette giving details of tributes to Raymond Priestley by members of University of Birmingham Council and others on his retirement as Vice-Chancellor

There is a loose insert at the front of the volume consisting of a letter from L. T. Deakins, General Secretary of Warwickshire County Cricket Club, inviting Raymond Priestley to attend the Annual General Meeting of the Club and informing him that

Papers of Sir Raymond Edward Priestley

he has been re-elected Vice-President, April 1965

1 volume

Access: Open

US38/2/14

West Indies journey

1952-
1953

Travel diary kept by Raymond Priestley to record account of his visit to Jamaica and British Honduras December 1952 to February 1953. Photographs, correspondence, press cuttings and ephemera are pasted into the volume, and there is a handwritten index at the front. A photograph of Priestley with Maureen De Verteuil and Gordon and Edna Neish is pasted on the page facing the index

The volume also contains a small amount of material with a later date. This consists of a press cutting pasted into the inside front cover of the volume reporting the appointment of Ludlow Moody as Custos Rotulorum for the Parish of Kingston, Jamaica, January 1961; a loose insert at the front of the volume consisting of a letter from C. F. V. Smout, retired Professor of Medicine at the University of Birmingham to Raymond Priestley concerning the 1969 Medical Graduates Newsletter, December 1968; and a letter pasted onto the last pages of the volume to Raymond Priestley from his nephew, Charles, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Santiago, Chile, concerning agriculture in Trinidad and British Honduras, April 1963

The diary describes Priestley's journey from Ashchurch to Bristol where he embarked on the SS M/V Ariguani; his sea voyage and conversations with his fellow passengers; arrival in Jamaica; map of British Honduras; letter to Priestley from Victor Campbell, Newfoundland, December 1952; cocktail party at Irvine Hall and tour of the University College buildings; shopping in Spanish Town and a tour of the library; photographs of University College of the West Indies buildings; Christmas celebrations in

Papers of Sir Raymond Edward Priestley

Kingston; visit to Longville Park Farm with Ludlow Moody and Miss Jones, with photographs; Christmas dinner at the hospital; visit to the Jamaica Institute library and the Arts and Crafts school; comment on anti-European feeling in Jamaica on noticing the words 'Mau Mau' chalked on the wall of Higgs and Hill headquarters 'what a legacy of hate the white races have piled up in the last few centuries. Now we are reaping the whirlwind and yet there are still many who still persist in the old attitudes'; studying in the University College of the West Indies library; New Year celebrations and a visit to the north coast of the island to Ocho Rios and the Roaring River beach, with photographs, returning to Moneague through Golden Grove; inspection of Calabar College; meeting with Huggins at the Social and Economics Research Institute to discuss its financial position, and subsequent conversation about prominent St Lucians including O' Reilly, Garnet Gordon, Arthur Lewis, and Derek Walcott; social engagements with Vernon Neish and Mr and Mrs Aitken; drive to Tremayne via Port Morant and Cedar Valley, with photographs; inspection of college buildings at the University College of the West Indies; visit to Port Royal with photographs; drinks party with senior staff of the hospital and University College; dinner with the Bishop of Jamaica and discussion about the College Chapel; trip to Whitehouse on the south coast via Knox College and Munrow; tour to Montego Bay, Port Maria, Highgate, the Wagwater Valley, and back to Stony Hills; cocktail party at the Sherlocks; visit to Monymusk to see the sugarcane factory, with photographs; visits to St Francis School, All Saints School, Calabar College, and a school organised by Father Cheney at Above Rocks; meeting of University Council and degree ceremony followed by Grave's cocktail party, with copy of programme for the presentation of graduates, 13 January 1953, press cutting containing a profile of Kathleen Grave, the wife of the Principal of University College of the West Indies, Priestley's handwritten notes for a speech in connection the event at

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the University College of the West Indies, and printed copy of Address given by Sir Raymond Priestley on the occasion of the presentation of the first graduates of the University College of the West Indies, 13 January 1953; photographs of University College of the West Indies degree ceremony 1953; University College committee meetings; the opening of the Hospital at which [Sir Hugh] Foote, Christian, Grave, Gordon, and [William Alexander] Bustamente spoke; meeting of the Advisory Council of the Social and Economic Research Institute to discuss possible research on the impact of bauxite companies in Jamaica; Priestley's lectures on Antarctic exploration to University College students, to school students, and at the Jamaica Institute; discussion of Catholic hostility to the University College in British Honduras; Government reception where Priestley saw 'Churchill come out on the balcony and give the v-sign', and Churchill's visit to the University College where he met members of the College Council and Hospital Board, with photographs; photographs of the Byams at Longville Park Farm; meeting with Corporal Bernard, instructor at the Police Training school, who spoke about the 'Ras Tafari settlement at Pinnacle and the police campaign against the cultivation and smoking of Ganja. Moody said a successful crop may bring in a thousand pounds an acre. It is grown in secret groves in the hills, often on Crown lands'; reception at the Bishop's house to meet the Archbishop of the West Indies; discussion with the Director of Agriculture about a four year course at the University College of the West Indies; tour of alumina works with Mr Bullock, a former Birmingham civil engineering student; discussion about the awarding of degrees of the University of London under the 'special relationship' with British colonies; journey to Belize; Governors Reception in British Honduras and meetings with Goodban, the Director of Agriculture; tour of the country and discussion of local geology, landscape and agricultural cultivation, with photographs; visits to schools in British Honduras; meeting with the American Consul, Father McCormick

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the Catholic padre, and Dr Becke; tour of coconut and pineapple growing areas and maize fields; tour past mangrove swamps and mahogany logging camps to Cayo, to Maya ruins at Xunatenich, to Benque Viejo, and to the Government Central Farm, with photographs; trip along the coast by plane, with aerial photographs taken during the flight; drive to San Pedro Colombia and the Maya Reserve, with photographs, and return to Punta Gorda; photographs of Charles Wright's residence at Punta Gorda, and photographs taken of the coast of British Honduras; tensions with Commander Proud concerning Priestley's possible broadcast on the University College of the West Indies; visit to Wild Cane Quay and meeting with Isaac Cabral for a tour of the island; visit to Lagoon Cay, with photographs including images of the pelicans there; return to Punta Gorda by plane, and from there to Belize; social engagements at Government House and the Belize Club; final impressions of British Honduras; tour of the Technical High School, and Wesley College; return to Jamaica by plane; lecture at Jamaica College; visit to Monymusk to inspect the factory, with photographs; visit to Cockpit Canal, to inspect bush clearance work, and to see Overhead Irrigation at Ladell; Priestley's skin rash, possibly an allergic reaction; reception at Government House with Sir Robert Urquhart, Ambassador to Venezuela and Lady Urquhart, Sir George Seal and Lady Seal, marine captain Hughes, and Captain Godfrey, American Naval Intelligence; visit to Longville Park Farm with Ludlow Moody; drive to the north coast via Moneague to Roaring River beach, with photographs, returning via Annotto Bay and the Wagwater Valley, stopping at Castleton Gardens; return sea voyage via Port Bowden, and Port Antonio, with details about Priestley's fellow passengers

The last few pages of the volume contain a letter to Raymond Priestley from Charles Morris, University of Leeds, concerning his visit to Jamaica and the kindness of his host, Ludlow Moody, January 1953; passenger list

Papers of Sir Raymond Edward Priestley

for Priestley's return journey from Jamaica to Avonmouth Docks, Bristol, February 1953; photographs of Bredons Norton and of Priestley's daughter Margaret, on her horse Cherry Pie; press cuttings reporting on the opening of Raymond Priestley House in Erdington

1 volume

Access: Open

US38/3 Microfilm copies of Raymond Priestley's diaries 1977

Copies of a number of Raymond Priestley's personal and travel diaries filmed by Caledonian Reprographics Ltd. The majority of the microfilm copies are of original volumes which now form part of the Raymond Priestley papers held by the Cadbury Research Library: Special Collections and described at US38/2. There is no microfilm copy the volume entitled 'Record 1947-1949'.

The microfilm set also contains copies of two volumes which are not held as part of the collection. These consist of a volume containing typed copies of memoranda written by Priestley as Vice-Chancellor of the University of Birmingham, between 1938 and 1943, and a travel diary containing accounts of Priestley's visits to Jamaica in 1953-1954 and 1954-1955, together with press cuttings and family photographs

12 items

Access: Open

US38/3/1 Microfilm copy of Raymond Priestley's 1938 diary 1977

Original volume described at US38/2/1

1 item

Access: Open

US38/3/2 Microfilm copy of Raymond Priestley's 1939- 1977

Papers of Sir Raymond Edward Priestley

- 1940 diary
Original volume described at US38/2/2
1 item
Access: Open
- US38/3/3 Microfilm copy of Raymond Priestley's 1940-1941 diary 1977
Original volume described at US38/2/3
1 item
Access: Open
- US38/3/4 Microfilm copy of Raymond Priestley's 1941-1942 diary 1977
Original volume described at US38/2/4
1 item
Access: Open
- US38/3/5 Microfilm copy of Raymond Priestley's 1943 diary 1977
Original volume described at US38/2/5
1 item
Access: Open
- US38/3/6 Microfilm copy of Raymond Priestley's 1944-1945 diary 1977
Original volume described at US38/2/6
1 item
Access: Open
- US38/3/7 Microfilm copy of Raymond Priestley's Home Record 1945-1947 1977
Original volume described at US38/2/7
1 item
Access: Open

Papers of Sir Raymond Edward Priestley

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|-----------|---|------|
| US38/3/8 | Microfilm copy of Raymond Priestley's Record 1949-1951 volume 1

Original volume described at US38/2/9

1 item

Access: Open | 1977 |
| US38/3/9 | Microfilm copy of Raymond Priestley's Record 1949-1951 volume 2

Original volume described at US38/2/10

1 item

Access: Open | 1977 |
| US38/3/10 | Microfilm copy of Raymond Priestley's Record 1951-1952

Original volume described at US38/2/11

1 item

Access: Open | 1977 |
| US38/3/11 | Microfilm copy of Raymond Priestley's 'Birmingham Memo 1938-1943'

Copy of volume containing typed memoranda submitted by Raymond Priestley as Vice-Chancellor of the University of Birmingham to university committees on various issues relating to the activities and planned development of the institution. Most reports appear to date from the period 1938 to 1940, though there are also a small number dating from 1941 and 1943

1 item

Access: Open | 1977 |
| US38/3/12 | Microfilm copy of Raymond Priestley's Personal Diary West Indies visit 1953-1954 and 1954-1955

Copy of volume containing travel diary for Priestley's visits to Jamaica on business associated with his membership of the Council of the University College of the West | 1977 |

Papers of Sir Raymond Edward Priestley

Indies in 1953-1954 and 1954-1955. The volume also contains press cuttings and family photographs taken at Priestley's home in retirement, Inshallah, Bredon's Norton, and wedding invitation to the marriage of his daughter, Margaret, to George Hubert in December 1953

1 item

Access: Open

US38/4

Papers relating to academic appointments and honorary posts

1922-1960s

This section primarily comprises records of Cambridge University which refer to Raymond Priestley's positions there as an administrator in the 1920s and 1930s, but also contains press cuttings reporting his appointment as Vice-Chancellor of the University of Birmingham in 1938 and university and civic events he attended during his first year in office, a copy of the honorary degree certificate awarded to Priestley by the University College of the West Indies 1950s or 1960s, and commission of appointment as Deputy Lieutenant of the County of Warwick 1945

4 files

Access: Open

US38/4/1

Academic and administrative appointments at Cambridge

1922-1934

File consists of:

/1: copy of 'Lady Clare' magazine Michaelmas Term 1922 including an article on the election of Raymond Priestley to a Fellowship of the college at Cambridge, with a brief biography and a reproduction of a portrait photograph of Priestley in army uniform

/2: printed report of the Council of the Senate on the stipend of an Assistant Registrar, May 1929 concerning Raymond Priestley's stipend as Assistant Registrar and

Papers of Sir Raymond Edward Priestley

Secretary of the Board of Research Studies
at Cambridge

/3: printed notice issued at Magdalene
College Lodge, April 1931 announcing the
re-appointment of Raymond Priestley of
Clare College as Assistant Registry from
30 September 1931

/4: printed copy of Amended Report of the
Council of the Senate on the Secretaryship
of the General Board June 1933 confirming
the appointment of Raymond Priestley of
Clare College as Secretary General of the
Faculties

/5: printed minutes of meeting to discuss
Report of Council of the Senate on the
Secretaryship of the General Board
concerning Raymond Priestley's
responsibilities in this post, May 1933

/6: extract from unidentified printed report,
Cambridge University, which mentions the
appointment of Raymond Priestley as Vice-
Chancellor of the University of Melbourne,
1934

1 file

Access: Open

US38/4/2

Appointment as Vice Chancellor at
Birmingham

1937-
1955

Press cuttings relating to Raymond
Priestley's appointment as Vice-Chancellor of
the University of Birmingham, 'Bristol
Evening Post' and 'The Birmingham Post'
1937; press cuttings largely from 'The
Birmingham Post' reporting on receptions
held at the University of Birmingham to
welcome Priestley in 1938, and on his first
report as Vice-Chancellor in 1939, as well as
his attendance at a church service in October
1939 as part of the national day of prayer
after the outbreak of the Second World War;
and press cuttings from 'The Tewkesbury
Register and Gazette' March 1939 on
Priestley's speech at Tewkesbury Grammar
School prizegiving, and from 'The Listener'

Papers of Sir Raymond Edward Priestley

February 1939 on Priestley's memories of Professor Edgeworth David

Some of the press cuttings are attached to a letter to Raymond Priestley from H. Trevor Wollston, Editor of 'Civil Service Opinion', returning those he had borrowed, November 1955

1 file

Access: Open

US38/4/3 Appointment as Deputy Lieutenant of the County of Warwick 1945

Commission of appointment of Raymond Priestley, signed by Willoughby de Broke, 21 March 1945, with accompanying letter to Priestley from L Edgar Stephens, Clerk to the Lieutenancy of the County of Warwick, confirming the appointment and advising him that, due to clothing rationing, he will be permitted to perform his official duties in service uniform or civilian clothing, 28 March 1945

1 file

Access: Open

US38/4/4 Award of honorary degree, University College of the West Indies 1950s-1960s

Printed copy of oration to Raymond Priestley on the conferment of the degree of Doctor of Science. honoris causa, summarising his research in Antarctic geology, his career in university administration, and his contribution to the establishment and development of the University College of the West Indies

1 item

Access: Open

US38/5 Raymond Priestley sound recordings 2007

CD copies of recordings made by Raymond Priestley in the 1960s and 1970s, consisting of a copy of a BBC Midland Home Service interview with him in 1963, a recording of a

Papers of Sir Raymond Edward Priestley

lecture about his experiences of Antarctic exploration with Shackleton, and Scott, and recordings of Priestley singing some of the sailing and sledging songs he and his companions sang during their time in the Antarctic. The copies were made before deposit with Special Collections, probably from original recordings on earlier or obsolete formats

2 items

Access: Open

US38/5/1

'That Reminds Me'

2007

CD copy of broadcast by Raymond Priestley for BBC Home Service c.1963 which was part of a series of interviews with 'Midlands celebrities' about their lives devised around the selection of gramophone records. Priestley talks about his childhood in Tewkesbury, his time as a student at University College, Bristol, his experiences in the Antarctic with Shackleton 1907-1909, and Scott 1910-1913, his service in the First World War, his time at Cambridge as a student and then university administrator in the 1920s and 1930s, his time as Vice-Chancellor of Melbourne University 1935-1938 and as Vice-Chancellor of the University of Birmingham 1938-1953, and his work towards the development of higher education in the West Indies and Malaya. He also mentions his position as chairman of the Royal Commission on Civil Service in 1953, his role on the Falkland Island Dependencies Scientific Bureau from 1955, and his return visits to the Antarctic in 1956-1957 and in 1958-1959

Recording time: 29.30 minutes

1 item

Access: Open

US38/5/2

Recordings of Raymond Priestley lecture and singing Antarctic songs 2007

CD copy of recording of lecture by Raymond

Papers of Sir Raymond Edward Priestley

Priestley to 'A.E.Y.N.T', introduced by Sir Vivian Fuchs. Priestley talks about his experiences in the Antarctic with Shackleton 1907-1909, but the major theme of the lecture is on his experiences as a member of the 'Northern Party' of Scott's British Antarctic Expedition 1910-1913

Recording time: 48 minutes

The CD also contains a recording of a commercial performance of a sea song sung by male voice with piano accompaniment, likely to be one of those sung by members of Scott's Antarctic Expedition. There are also recordings of Raymond Priestley singing Antarctic songs, unaccompanied, made the year before he died. He can be heard singing three songs. One appears to tell the story of Scott's expedition. Another describes a blizzard and other Antarctic weather conditions. The third song is an adaptation of the 1908 popular song 'I Hear You Calling Me' which was devised by members of the 'Northern Party'

Recording time: 10.21 minutes

1 item

Access: Open

US38/6

Miscellaneous papers

1920s-
1930s

Papers consist of poster for a lecture given by Priestley on Antarctic exploration in 1933; photograph of ship used for Byrd's Antarctic expedition; undated cartoon of Priestley; and sheet maps of areas of South Worcestershire between Pershore and Bredon, presumably used by Priestley

5 items

Access: Open

US38/6/1

Ordnance Survey sheet maps of Worcestershire

1924

Six inch to one mile Worcestershire sheet map XLVIII N.E and XLVIII N.W showing the

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settlements of Birlingham, Little Comberton, Great Comberton, Defford, Baughton, and Eckington

1 file

Access: Open

Physical description: Stored on Run74, large sequence

US38/6/2

Promotional poster advertising a lecture on Antarctic exploration by Raymond Priestley

1933

Poster illustrated with a drawing by M. W. Angel of a polar bear and aspects of Antarctic landscape, giving details of a lecture by Raymond Priestley illustrated with lantern slides given on 12 January 1933 at the 'Camp Cinema', organised by Group Captain V. O. Rees. The wording of the poster suggests that the lecture was given at a military camp, to servicemen, though 'ladies' were also invited to attend

1 item

Access: Open

Physical description: Stored on Run74, large sequence

US38/6/3

Photograph

c.1930s

Reproduction of black and white photograph showing the 'City of New York', the ship used for Richard E. Bryd's first Antarctic expedition, inscribed to Raymond Priestley 'with the best wishes of the geologist-photographer Laurence M. Gould'

1 item

Access: Open

Physical description: Stored on Run74, large sequence

US38/6/4

Cartoon

c.1920s-
c.1930s

Reproduction of cartoon showing Raymond Priestley's head, with a figure of a man

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standing adjacent to the image, raising his hat to Priestley. There is a handwritten inscription which appears to comment on Priestley's baldness as if it were a geological feature, and which also mentions Cambridge

1 item

Access: Open

Physical description: Stored on Run74, large sequence