

Jock Scott 1891-1967

John Edward Scott was a student at Emmanuel College Cambridge between 1910 and 1914, and from 1919 a don at Gonville & Caius College, Cambridge. He and WH Powell, a tennis blue, won the first 'Cyriax Cup', the Club Doubles Championship for Rugby Fives, in 1926. They were representing their College.

'Bill' Bailey of the Alleyn Old Boys remembered partnering Scott (playing for Cambridge University) in 1930. 'In the Cyriax final of 1930 my partner, Jock Scott, the Cambridge don, and I were winning when he went lame, so I went on to play virtually a single, to a losing end.' 'In a previous round we had conceded only one point (*against the Old Roffensians, the Old Boys of King's School, Rochester*), but our opponents didn't require us to journey to the Medway.'

Scott partnered Dr Cyriax himself in a pair described as 'The Veterans' in the 1932 Amateur Doubles. They beat KC Gandar Dower and JF Burnet 4-15, 15-10, 15-1 in the first round. Gandar Dower was the Amateur Singles Champion that year, so this was no mean victory. The second round saw them put up a good fight against Alleyn Old Boys 'A' (VGW Lewis & HK Prout) but lose 15-7, 15-8, 15-11. Three games were played and the points were added up at the end to decide the winners.

Emmanuel College has provided us with a lot of information about JE Scott. He was born in 1891 in Perth, Australia, where his father was working as a medical doctor. He was sent to prep school at Epsom at the age of 9 and then on to Clifton College in 1904. He left Clifton in 1910 with a scholarship to Emmanuel College to read Classics, with Archaeology in Part 2. He was a multiple winner in the annual Greek Verse Composition, and acted the part of Oedipus in the College Greek Play in 1912.

Leaving Cambridge in 1914, Scott immediately joined the Munster Fusiliers, saw active service in the 1st World War, was wounded and won the Military Cross. He had already been elected a Fellow of Gonville & Caius College. When the War was over, he took up the Fellowship in 1919 and remained as College lecturer in Classics until 1930, acting as tutor from 1923 to 1926. He has now been listed by Emmanuel College as a winner of the first Cyriax Cup competition in 1926, representing Gonville & Caius.

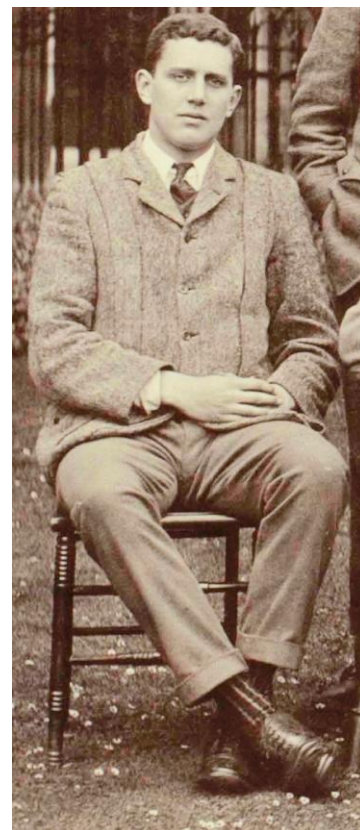
The Centenary Edition of the Clifton College Register (1962) records him as living in South Africa's Cape Province in a house called 'La Gratitude'.

DB

01/06/2026

Scott was President of the Cambridge University Rugby Fives Club from 1927 to 1929.

See the next 2 pages for further details of his academic, sporting and military achievements, in a tribute by Lord McNair on Scott's death in 1967.



J.E. Scott

John Edward Scott, M.C., M.A., sometime Scholar of Emmanuel College and later Fellow, Tutor, and Lecturer of Gonville and Caius College, died at Eastbourne on 13 January 1967, aged seventy-five years, after long ill-health both in South Africa and in England. Born on 25 March 1891, a son of Edward Scott, M.D., of Stoke Bishop, Bristol, he received his school education at Epsom College (1900-3) and at Clifton College, Bristol (1904-10). He entered Emmanuel in October 1910 as a Scholar in Classics, and read for the Classical Tripos under the supervision of Peter Giles (Master 1911 to 1935), L.H.G. Greenwood, and F.H. Marshall. He was richly gifted in mind and body. As a personality he was in the forefront of an Emmanuel generation which was not without several who later rose to distinction. A man of great charm, he was much loved.

His features, his stature, and his command of Greek marked him out for the part of Oedipus in the Oedipus Tyrannus, produced by J.T. (later Sir John) Sheppard in the Michaelmas Term, 1912, the last Greek play to be produced in Cambridge before the War of 1914-18. In 1919, The Cambridge Review, when recording Scott's election to a Fellowship at Caius early in that year, added "We have not forgotten his noble Oedipus". Meantime, Scott had developed into something better than an average college Rugby footballer. In October 1912 he played in the Seniors' Match and in the Lent Term 1913 he played twice in the University pack. In the following Michaelmas Term his play in the Seniors' Match made him a steady choice for a sequence of university games, and, as the term was nearing its end, his selection for the Oxford Match seemed secure. But against the Old Merchant Taylors on 22 November 1913, he took the field when quite unfit, was carried off in a fainting condition, and so lost an almost certain Blue.

By that time he had graduated by a performance of exceptional merit in the Classical Tripos, Part I, of 1913. He was one of seven candidates placed in Class I, division 1, five from Trinity, one from King's, one from Emmanuel. During the period 1882 to 1920 when Class I of this Tripos was divided into three divisions, only five Emmanuel men attained the rare and coveted "One, one": R.W. Davies (1898), F.H. Marshall (1899), A.B. Adams (1908), G.E.K. (later Professor) Braunholtz (1909), J.E. Scott (1912). In a fourth year of residence he took the Classical Tripos, Part II (Archaeology), and was placed in Class II.

It was natural for him to be swept into the War of 1914-18. Commissioned early on, he served in France, with his close friend and Emmanuel contemporary J.H.B. (later Sir Barclay) Nihill, in the 8th (Service) Battalion of the Royal Munster Fusiliers. In June 1916 he was slightly wounded when Captain and Adjutant, and, a year later, he was awarded a Military Cross for gallantry when in command of two companies in an attack on an enemy position. Later, he was transferred to England and posted to the staff of an Officer Cadet Battalion.

After the Armistice, the Master and Fellows of Caius were not slow in choosing him for their staff, and on 21 February 1919 elected him into a Fellowship, with which were associated a Tutorship and a Lectureship in Classics. He remained a Fellow for some twelve years, holding those two important offices for the greater part of that period.

April, 1967.