

He was a strange combination. Dr. Wilson told me that when Griffiths was a student at ~~MC~~ University of California, Prof. Boddy of the Pacific School of Religion had written an article in the newspaper which denied the authenticity of the Book of Daniel. Griffiths had challenged him to a debate. He had agreed to debate, and then he found out that Griffiths was studying R. D. Wilson's books and his arguments on all that, and he decided that -- perhaps Griffiths had some reputation as a debater, I don't know-- but he was just a student at the U. of Calif.

But according to what Dr. Wilson told me, Boddy ~~to~~ felt that he would not appear to great advantage debating ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ Griffiths, and he backed out of the debate on some excuse or other, and then he said that so hurt Boddy's standing that in order to recoup it he decided to conduct an excavation in Palestine.

Before I heard that, I myself had ~~xxxxxxx~~ been in Palestine in 1929-- maybe it was after, anyway -- here I went on horseback trip for 3 wks. with Dr. Albright and others, and we passed the place where Boddy was digging and Boddy didn't know much about excavation, but he got permission to excavate from the British Govt., and then he got an experience as an archaeologist there to direct it. So I think the excavating was pretty well handled.

But he picked a place which was right next to the main road, so that everybody who went down-- all the tourists who went down that main road would see the people digging up there on the side of the hill. Most of them would come up there, and they had a little excavation headquarters, and Dr. Boddy would sit there and give you a cup of tea and have you write your name in their visitor's book, etc. We went up and greeted him there.

I don't know how much it recouped his reputation, but that fits with what Dr. Wilson said about Griffiths. Well, Griffiths came to Princeton Seminary He was there a year or so before I came, so when I entered Princeton the eating club I became a member of Griffiths was a member of. I had already known his brother in Calif. so I was rather interested in meeting him. As I said he was a genius. He could word things tremendously.

Maybe you've seen the pamphlet "The Case for Compromise." It was very cleverly worded. He wasn't much of a student. Unless he applied himself he could do excellent work, but he did not apply himself a great deal. He had enough of a brain that Dr. Machen had very very high regard for him. In fact they said that during the year there and at Princeton, that Dr. Machen would ask him what to wear for each occasion. All that sort of thing. I don't know whether that's true; that's what I was told.

Griffiths was put into the Independent Board Office. He took that over. I don't remember how it came about, but anyway he was asked to teach Church History. We taught Ch. Hist. on a rotation basis, like I did for years. It was 2 hrs. a week for 2 yrs. We started with the second year, so that the students who had already had the first year could get it.