

Resources for researching 1500-1800

This guide is intended as a rough overview of the material within the British Jesuit Archives that might be useful for those researching the 16th to 18th century. It is by no means an exhaustive list, but rather serves as a guide highlighting some useful collections.

There may be other resources in the Archives which contain information about this time. If you discover other useful sources during your research in the Archives, please notify a member of staff so that this list can be updated for the benefit of other researchers.

If you are new to studying this period or Jesuits in this period it is suggested that you read the secondary literature first and follow up references noted in this.

It should also be noted that Scotland was an independent mission and in no way a part of the English Province. There is some material relating to the Jesuits in Scotland for the 16th to 18th century. To discover more it would be worth reading the section on Scotland in Francis Edwards SJ, *The Jesuits in England*, 1985.

A word of caution: as some of the material is fragile the Archives may provide access to copies rather than the original documents. Should you feel it is essential to have access to the original manuscript (rather than a copy), then we would request that you outline your reasons for this in a letter or email to the Archivist, Rebecca Somerset. Mrs Somerset will then review this request on a case-by-case basis.

Knowledge of palaeography and Latin (and occasionally other languages) will be necessary for accessing some of this material. In some cases, transcripts, and even translations, have been made, but again a note of caution that there is no guarantee that the transcripts are accurate, and the translations correct.

ANGLIA VOLUMES

The Anglia series of seven volumes used to be kept at Stonyhurst College until their transfer to the Archives in around 2001. They had originally been in Liège and former Province Archivist Fr Thomas McCoog SJ suggests there are two possibilities for how they came to be created: in the early 1700s there was a proposal to write a history of the Province (mentioned in McCoog's introduction to his volumes on the Elizabethan Jesuits) or that they were among

1534
Foundation of the Society of Jesus
1580
Arrival of Campion & Persons in England
1623
Provincial status
1633
First Mission to Maryland
1773
Suppression of the Society
1794
Move to Stonyhurst
1803
Restoration of English Province

the documents conserved by John Thorpe SJ at the Suppression of the Society in 1773 as he forwarded many documents to Liège. They contain manuscripts that have an important bearing on the early history of the Jesuit mission in England. They are principally in Latin, Italian and Spanish. An overview of the volumes is given here:

Anglia I	Collected Manuscripts, 1554-1594.
Anglia II	Collected Manuscripts, 1595-1600.
Anglia III	Collected Manuscripts, 1600-1613.
Anglia IV	Collected Manuscripts, 1613-1641.
Anglia V	Collected Manuscripts, 1641-1694.
Anglia VI	Collected Manuscripts, 1136-1697.
Anglia VII	Collected Manuscripts, many undated.

Stonyhurst College exchanged Anglia VIII and Anglia IX with the Archdiocese of Westminster for Grene, Collectanea B (see below). The Archives has reproductions of Anglia VIII and IX.

Each volume has at least one manuscript contents list inserted at the front, which you can browse during your visit. Alternatively, as these have been scanned they can be requested from the Archives prior to a visit. The Archives also has a draft guide to publications of Anglia I-IV that can be requested. The list was compiled by Fr McCoog SJ and is a 'work in progress'.

COLLECTANEA VOLUMES

As with the Anglia volumes, the Collectanea volumes used to be kept at Stonyhurst College. They are the result of the work done by Christopher Grene SJ (1629-1697) to collect evidence to justify the canonization of English martyrs. There were eleven volumes and an overview is given here (those in italics are not held in the Archives):

Collectanea A: we know of it from references in other codices. The edition apparently was broken up and certain items are among the Anglia manuscripts.

Collectanea B: a number of papers, letters, etc. of the Persecution, bound up together and signed B.

Collectanea C: broken up at the Suppression but re-assembled at Stonyhurst in the 19th century and include Tesimond and Gerard's accounts of the Gunpowder Plot.

Collectanea D: lost or not identified.

Collectanea E: Oscott College, perhaps part of Dr John Kirk's legacy. Kirk was the last student admitted to the English College, Rome, before the Suppression.

Collectanea F: English College, Rome.

Collectanea G: may have been broken up and lost; seems to have contained many documents in Spanish. Some documents are among the Anglia papers.

Collectanea M: only one part of three remains.

Collectanea N: two parts. One document that was originally in N can now be found in the Belgian archives.

Collectanea P: two parts – Grene called them “my Persons” and “my Garnet.” Transcripts and summaries of letters by each.



BOUND VOLUMES

From 1623, when the then English Province of the Society of Jesus was formally created, England and Wales were divided for provincial administrative purposes into 12 “Colleges” and “Residences”; here taken in the sense of a group or assembly, indicating an area of operation, rather than a building as such. Collegia were territorial districts intended to facilitate the operation and governance of the new province, to provide the bases for the development of Jesuit collegia in the fullest sense. According to the Jesuit *Constitutions*, a college denotes a church, with outreach into the community, and a school for boys, with the combined missionary and educational enterprise under the care and guidance of a rector. The status of new Jesuit territorial districts was determined according to the individual strength of their finances: those districts with robust financial endowments were designated as ‘colleges’, governed by a rector, while less financially secure districts were given the status of ‘residences’, governed by a superior.

Within the Archives there are bound volumes of manuscripts collected together for each College or Residence. The extent varies for each. The volumes are being calendared and full descriptions along with a copy of the calendar is being made available online at [CalmView : Collection Browser \(catholic-heritage.net\)](https://calmview.catholic-heritage.net)

TRANSCRIPTS

There is also a selection of typed transcripts of original documents, dating from the mid-16th to early 17th century.

A particularly large collection of transcripts was completed by Ms Penelope Renold, an independent scholar who worked with Leo Hicks SJ and Basil FitzGibbon SJ. The transcripts are of documents held in other Archives, but they may help to quickly identify key material before checking against the original. Renold's transcripts are contained within 10 boxes and there appear to be contents lists within each file. There are transcripts in various languages.

MICROFILM

There is also a collection of microfilm for Archives held elsewhere but of interest in the study of Jesuits and British Catholics of this time.

ANTIQUARIAN BOOKS & PAMPHLETS



The Archives holds a collection of c. 3,000 antiquarian books, divided into pre- and post-1700. The collection includes historical series, bibles, works of theology and philosophy, Jesuit annual letters, and works by Jesuits including St Ignatius Loyola, St Francis Xavier, St Edmund Campion, and Robert Persons. There are also works on recusant subjects written by non-Jesuits, which form part of the polemical, religious debates of the

late 16th and early 17th centuries. The books offer a glimpse of former Jesuit Libraries, and many carry marks of former owners, either individual Jesuits, or from residences, colleges, schools and other Jesuit institutions, as well as non-Jesuit communities. Many of the books are first or very early editions. The collection is currently being catalogued and will be searchable online once this is completed. If you are interested in any items contact the Archives and a staff member will advise whether we are able to help.



RELICS

The Archives contain a rather remarkable collection of relics, especially for the English and Welsh martyrs of the 16th and 17th centuries. Work to list these is ongoing and will also be made available online in due course.

A small selection of relics is on display in the virtual exhibition *How Bleedeth Burning Love* which can be viewed at www.jesuitcollections.org.uk

MARTYRS CAUSE PAPERS

There is substantial material in the Archives relating to martyrs in general, not just to Jesuits, though heavily weighted towards the martyrs of the 16th and 17th centuries.

The Archives contains material relating to the Cause of the 40 English and Welsh martyrs. The papers are currently being catalogued and the catalogue will be made available online in due course. A rough outline of the contents is:

- Biographical details on the martyrs, collated from various sources (Within the boxes devoted to the individual martyrs, there generally is little but photocopies of material relevant to that martyr.)
- General papers relating to the martyrs' process and the canonization ceremony, e.g. instructions for the preparation of documentation, arrangements for the ceremony, invitations, attendees etc
- Documentation relating to cures

It may well be possible to identify additional documentation filed amongst the personal papers of individual Jesuits who played a prominent role in promoting the Cause, such as Fr John Morris SJ.

REFERENCE LIBRARY

Among the reference library the following might be of particular use when studying 16th to 19th Centuries:

- **Foley's Records**
Br Henry Foley SJ (1811-1891) was an English Jesuit Roman Catholic church historian. *Foley's Records of the English Province of the Society of Jesus: historic facts illustrative of the labours and sufferings of its members in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries* – published in the late nineteenth century – is comprised of seven volumes and covers the early history of the mission and of the Jesuit priests who served it. It is a compilation of

research that is invaluable to historical research, which has now been digitised by various organisations including the Hathi Trust Digital Library:

<https://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/001940962>. An overview of the volumes is given here:

- Volume 1: First Series
- Volume 2: Second, Third and Fourth Series: II. The College of St Aloysius, or the Lancashire District III. The College of St Chad, or the Staffordshire District IV. The College of the Holy Apostles, or the Suffolk District. The College of St Dominic, or the Lincolnshire District
- Volume 3: Vol III: Fifth, Sixth, Seventh and Eight Series
- Volume 4: Vol IV: Ninth, Tenth and Eleventh Series
- Volume 5: Vol V
- Volume 6: Vol VI (Supplemental volume): The diary of the English College, Rome, from 1579 to 1773, with biographical and historical notes; The Pilgrim-book of the ancient English hospice attached to the College from 1580 to 1656, with historical notes; Addenda to previous volume
- Volume 7: Vol VII Part the First: General Statistics of the Province; and Collectanea, giving biographical notices of its members and of many Irish and Scotch Jesuits, Vol VII Part the Second: Collectanea Completed; with appendices. Catalogues of assumed and of real names; Annual letters; Biographies and Miscellanea
- *Monumenta Historica Societatis Iesu* and *Monumenta Anglia*
These are collections of volumes on edited documents on the origin and early years of the Society of Jesus. There are currently three volumes covering England (*Monumenta Anglia*) 1541-1662. These are also available digitally:
<http://www.sjweb.info/arsi/en/publications/ihsi/monumenta/>
- Set of English Recusant Literature reprint
- History publications, for example:
 - Fr Thomas McCoog SJ doctoral thesis, *The Society of Jesus in England, 1623-1688: An Institutional Study*, PhD Dissertation, 1984 (f BY 38 M)
 - Francis Edwards SJ, *The Jesuits in England*, 1985, (BY 38 E)
- Journals, for example:
 - Catholic Record Society's *Recusant History*
 - The Archives also subscribes to regional journals with a recusant history interest.