NEWSLETTER 2013

MAJOR ACCESSIONS TO REPOSITORIES IN 2012 RELATING TO ROMAN CATHOLICISM

Local

Cheshire Archives and Local Studies
Cheshire Record Office
Duke Street
Chester
CH1 1RL

St Mary's Roman Catholic Primary School, Congleton: minutes and log book 1926–1993 (SL 217)

East Sussex Record Office
The Maltings
Castle Precincts
Lewes
East Sussex
BN7 1YT

Our Lady of Ransom Catholic Church, Eastbourne: records incl. minutes of the Guild of the Blessed Sacrament 1889–1964 (ACC 11339)

Glamorgan Archives (formerly Glamorgan Record Office)
Clos Parc Morgannwg
Leckwith
Cardiff
Glamorgan
CF11 8AW

St Mary's Roman Catholic School, Merthyr Tydfil: admission registers 1906–1945 (D715/1–2)

Gloucestershire Archives
Clarence Row
Alvin Street
Gloucester
GL1 3DW

St Benedict's Catholic College, Cheltenham: admission registers, financial papers, plans and corresp. 1962–2007 (S78/31)
St Peter's Roman Catholic Primary School, Gloucester: log books, registers of first confessions, communions and confirmations, and punishment book 1910–2010 (S154/38)

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Lancashire Archives
Record Office
Bow Lane
Preston
Lancashire
PR1 2RE

St Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, Wesham: minutes and registers 1866–1999 (RCWH)
St Patrick Roman Catholic Church, Bolton: registers 1894–1967 (RCBP)

Moray Council Local Heritage Centre
Old East End School
Institution Road
Elgin
Moray
IV30 1RP

St Thomas RC Primary School, Keith: records incl log book 1970–1998 (995)

Orkney Archive
The Orkney Library and Archive
44 Junction Road
Kirkwall
Orkney
KW15 1AG

Italian Chapel Preservation Committee, Holm: minutes and corresp 1985–2005

Tyne and Wear Archives
Blandford House
Blandford Square
Newcastle Upon Tyne
NE1 4JA

St Francis Roman Catholic Church, Walkergate: marriage registers 1974–1985 (C.NC112)

Wigan Archives Service
Leigh Town Hall
Civic Square
Leigh
Wigan
WN7 1DY

St Thomas More Roman Catholic High School, Wigan: records 1900–1999 (Acc. 2012/10)

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Wolverhampton Archives and Local Studies
Molineux Hotel Building
Whitmore Hill
Wolverhampton
Staffordshire
WV1 1SF

Holy Rosary Roman Catholic Primary School: summary attendance registers 1934–1969 (D-EDS-55)

Special

Birmingham Archdiocesan Archives
Cathedral House
St Chad's Queensway
Birmingham
Warwickshire
B4 6EU

St Peter Roman Catholic parish, Cobridge: registers, minutes, accounts and records incl. papers rel. to St Peter's Roman Catholic Primary School (1903–2001) 1797–2002 (P265)

Westminster Diocesan Archives
16a Abingdon Road
Kensington
London
W8 6AF

Graham Douglas Leonard, Bishop of London, later Roman Catholic priest: incl. personal and official corresp, articles, lectures, sermons, diaries, audio tapes and photographs c1950-2010 (2012/1)
Oxford and Cambridge Catholic Education Board: minutes, corresp, reports and accounts incl. corresp of Ronald Knox when Roman Catholic chaplain at Oxford University 1895–1971 (OCCEB)

CATHOLIC RECORD SOCIETY CONFERENCE 2013
by SIMON JOHNSON

The fifty-sixth Annual Conference of the Catholic Record Society met this year at Downing College, Cambridge. The decision to move the conference to Cambridge was made at the AGM of the fifty-fifth Annual Conference held at Liverpool Hope University. There were over sixty-five registered delegates – the largest number since 2008. The conference began in the afternoon of Monday 29 July and ended with an excursion to Braddocks Hall, Wimbish Essex, on Wednesday 31 July. Though the length of the proceedings was shortened the conference organisers

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fitted into the programme six full papers as well as two sessions of Short Communications and Work in Progress. The decision to keep the excursion was made by the organisers and remains a popular part of the conference.

Dr Stefano Cracolici opened the conference with his paper, *The Hidden Gem: Roman Catholic Art at Ushaw College*. Cracolici is Reader in the School of Modern Languages and Cultures at the University of Durham. In his paper he gave a masterly overview of the art collections held at Ushaw College, Durham and encouraged the audience to see art as an instrument in the heritage of faith. Cracolici detailed the work of the nineteenth century German sculptor, Karl Hoffman and the influence of late medieval and *Quattrocento* art; citing the statue of the Madonna and that of St Joseph as typical of this influence. The statue of the Madonna at the entrance to the neo-Gothic chapel of St Cuthbert represents that classic generous structure, accentuated gestural language and idealized facial expressions of his sculpture. That of St Joseph, a very graceful and devotional statue in marble, also by Hoffman was indicative of this influence. A gift of Canon Henry Bennett this sculpture represented the piety and formal simplicity of 'Nazarene' painting. Cracolici's lavishly illustrated paper concluded with a call to the Catholic community to work for the preservation of the rich cultural heritage that Ushaw represented.

Dr Alana Harris presented the first paper on the morning of day two. Entitled, *A Fresh Stripping of the Altars? Liturgical Language and the Legacy of the Reformation, 1964 – 84*. Harris is the Darby Fellow in History at Lincoln College, Oxford. Harris presented her work from the trans-Atlantic research project on, 'The Lived History of Vatican II', a collaborative project with the University of Notre Dame and the Cushwa Centre for the Study of American Catholicism. Harris presented five themes in her presentation detailing her research: the 'Mobilization of Reformation History' used to integrate and interrogate the reforms of Vatican II. Common subject matters were used to examine the context of the Church and the hermeneutic of (dis)continuity such as events (the Council of Trent), personalities (Cranmer, Shakespeare) and historical construction (the Penal Laws and the Age of Martyrdom). Harris then moved on to what she termed, 'A Rhetoric of the Reformation' employed by both the proponents and opponents of the vernacular. The final sections of the paper were devoted to liturgy and conciliarism. Harris explored the debates on the liturgical movement and the theology of conciliarism – both interpreted from below and at the 'lived level.' Harris concluded by an exploration of the links between the reform of the liturgy and Catholic identity including ecumenism, 'the sixties' and decolonization.

Dr Timothy Hopkinson-Ball gave the second paper entitled, *The Relics of the English Martyrs: Downside, Dom Bede Camm and the 'Descriptive Catalogue' of 1901*. Hopkinson-Ball is an independent

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scholar who has published on Frederick Bligh Bond, architect, illustrator and archaeologist: he has recently been working on the Camm MS and the English Martyrs Collection at Downside Abbey Archives and Library. Hopkinson-Ball provided a detailed examination of the relic collections 'of Camm' including the important collection at the Abbey of St Thomas of Canterbury at Erdington, Birmingham. Here existed one of the finest collections outside of Downside and Stonyhurst including relics of St Candida and St Thomas, martyred archbishop of Canterbury. It is at Erdington, under Abbot Ansgar Hoeckelmann that Camm trained as apprentice custodian of relics. Hopkinson-Ball then examined the large collection of relics at Downside that include those of St John Roberts, St Thomas of Hereford and the martyred archbishop of Armagh, St Oliver Plunkett. The compilation of *Forgotten Shrines* was examined and Hopkinson-Ball explained its impact and its utility in the process of canonization of the Reformation martyrs of England and Wales.

Dr Abigail Shinn gave the third paper of the day entitled, *Narrative Topographies and the Geographies of Conversion*. Shinn, from the Centre for Renaissance and Early Modern Studies at the University of York, explored the stories of early modern men and women and their conversion stories. The conversion narrative, with its classical provenance took on a new importance in the Europe of Reformation and Counter Reformation. The cultural odyssey of conversion narratives from Augustine's *Confessions* to Newman's *Apologia* played a crucial role in the process of legitimising conversion. Examining Serenus Cressy, Augustine Baker and the geographical specificity of conversion in early modern Europe, Shinn demonstrated how conversion and its translation into narrative could be a powerful tool of propaganda in the battle for souls.

Miss Hannah Thomas presented the final paper of the second day: *The Society of Jesus in Wales c. 1600–1679: Rediscovering the Cwm Jesuit Library at Hereford Cathedral*. Thomas has been engaged in the major AHRC project, in collaboration with Swansea University and Hereford Cathedral under the supervision of Professor Maurice Whitehead. Thomas examined the seventeenth century College of St Francis Xavier which included the areas of South Wales and Herefordshire. Thomas presented a comprehensive overview of the chronological development of the College, detailed the provenance of the Library and provided an examination of Bishop Herbert Croft and the *Narrative of the Discovery of a College of Jesuits*. Thomas examined the collection and presented her findings on the connections of the Library with local, national and European Catholic families.

The third and final day's proceedings were opened by Miss Liesbeth Corens of Jesus, Cambridge. Corens, a PhD student presented, *'Tene Veritatem': Fostering English Catholicism in the Southern Netherlands*. Corens introduced her paper by examining the 'local Catholicism' and

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the absence of strict geographical boundaries for its constituents. Coren's impressive research paper focused on three themes: Space, Time and Memory. Examining the English foundations of Gravelines, Antwerp, St Omers, Douai, Brussels and Liège, Corens mapped out the cultural connections between the communities and the rich pan-European networks that linked them to the Mission. Corens focused on *The Life of St Thomas of Hereford* as indicative of the exile experience of the Catholic Diaspora.

Dr Svorad Zavarský from the Institute of Slavistics, Bratislava concluded the conference's proceedings with his, *From Quinquaginta Rationes to Fifty Reasons: An Apology of Catholicism written by a Jesuit from Slovakia.* Zavarský provided a comprehensive analysis of the life and work of Fr Martinus Szent-Ivany SJ, his *Opuscula polemica* and the Austrian Province of the Jesuits. In this scholarly masterpiece Zavarský examined the *Fifty Reasons* in light of the pan-European literary narrative and provided fresh research into the Catholic Diaspora and its over looked Eastern European dimension.

Seven delegates provided Short Communications or provided details of their work in progress. The CRS chairman, Michael Hodgetts led the annual excursion to Braddocks Hall in Wimbish, Essex. The priest-hole is the only surviving example of work done by Nicholas Owen.

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Annual Conference 2014

The conference will be held from **28 to 30 July 2014** at Downing College Cambridge, CB2 1DQ. The conference will follow the customary format of lectures, members' contributions and an excursion. The AGM of the CRS will also be held during the conference. The full programme and booking forms will be distributed as loose inserts with the May 2014 issue of this journal.

Offers of short communications (15 minutes) should be made to the ***Conference Director***: Dr. Simon Johnson, Downside Abbey, Stratton on the Fosse, Bath BA3 4RH [Tel: 01761 235 313]. *E-mail*: sjohnson@downside.co.uk

Administrative enquiries should be addressed to the ***Conference Secretary***: Dr. James Kelly, School of History, Queen Mary University of London, Mile End Road, E1 4NS. E-mail: j.e.kelly@qmul.ac.uk

www.catholicrecordsociety.co.uk/conference_2014

Catholic Record Society Awards

In pursuance of its charitable aims, the CRS offers the following awards. There are no requirements of eligibility on grounds of age, nationality, gender or religion, nor are applicants required to be members of the Society and there is no bar on applicants applying for support from other sources in respect of the same project. An application form can be downloaded from the web-site www.catholicrecordsociety.co.uk. Four copies of the form, accompanied by two references in sealed envelopes from knowledgeable and appropriate persons, should be submitted to the Chairman by 1 July. Awards cannot be made retrospectively. Each application will be treated on its merits by the Awards Committee of the CRS whose decision is final. The result will be communicated as soon as possible. The assistance of the fund must be acknowledged in the published work and a copy of the publication must be presented to the Society.

The David Rogers Research Fund

This fund was established in 1997 from a bequest of Dr. David Rogers, a distinguished recusant historian and one-time Chairman of the Society. The Fund seeks to encourage new writing on Reformation and post-Reformation British Catholic history by helping to defray the cost of necessary travel to libraries and archives at home and/or abroad and the extra subsistence costs involved. The principal condition for an award is that the research should lead to written publication in a reputable historical forum, hence 'scholarly tourism' or personal genealogical research will not qualify.

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The Michael Williams Research Fund

This fund was established in 2007 from a donation given by the Reverend Monsignor Michael E. Williams, DD. Its purpose is to encourage the study of the historical connections between Roman Catholicism in England and Wales with the situation in other countries in Europe in the post-Reformation era. The fund will help to defray the travel and basic subsistence costs of research on relevant material in English and European archives and libraries. The research should be intended to lead to publication as a book, a contribution to a book, an article in a learned journal, or as a full-length paper accepted for presentation at a national or international ecclesiastical history conference. The fund will consider applications for subsidies towards such publication.

Annual Conference Student Bursaries

Additionally, the Society offers up to five bursaries to postgraduate students researching the post-Reformation Catholic history of the British Isles to contribute to the cost of attending the CRS Annual Conference held in July. The value of a bursary will be equivalent to half the cost of attending the conference (*excluding* travel costs). Applications are invited from full-or part-time students registered for higher degrees in any recognised institution in Britain or overseas. Applicants do not have to be members of the CRS. Recipients of bursaries are expected to deliver a Short Communication on the subject under study. The purpose of a Short Communication is to place before the conference a piece of research which may not justify expansion to a full-scale paper. It is a form which lends itself to readjustments of earlier assessments, or the presentation of a new and significant piece of evidence. A Short Communication must be limited to 3,000 words and take no longer than 15 minutes to deliver. Applications in the form of a letter, giving a brief *resumé* of the topic and the name of the applicant's academic supervisor, should be sent to the Chairman by 1 March. The result will be communicated as soon as possible.

The Andrew C. Duncan Catholic History Trust

This is an independent charity which shares the objectives of the CRS and with which it has close administrative links. It provides bursaries for students, normally registered in foreign universities, wishing to come to England for a short time to study recusant history. Full details will be found on the CRS web-site.

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Catalogue

The *Catalogue* of CRS publications is available for consultation on the Internet at:

www.catholicrecordsociety.co.uk

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