



BRITISH JESUIT ARCHIVES

ABSI

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HEAD ARCHIVIST

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OBLIGATIONS AND CONDITIONS FOR ACCESS AND CONSULTATION

By prior appointment only.

HISTORY OF THE INSTITUTION

The purpose of the British Jesuit Archives is to collect, preserve and make available records concerning the Jesuits in Britain. The first Jesuits arrived in England in 1580. In 1623, an English Province of the Society of Jesus was established. Later it was renamed the British Province and included England, Scotland and Wales as well as South Africa (until 2016) and Guyana (until 2023).

FONDS DESCRIPTION

The Archives primarily holds records relating to the Jesuits in Britain. The collection contains papers relating to the administration of the British Province by the Provincial Curia as well as personal papers and correspondence of dead members of the Province. It includes records of Jesuit communities, of Province works, and material relating to the overseas missionary work of the Province including South Africa and Guyana.

It also has a few deposited collections such as The Cause of the English and Welsh Martyrs; records relating to the Jesuit Chaplains at New Hall, Chelmsford donated by the Canonesses of the Holy Sepulchre, and the Plater College (formerly Catholic Workers' College) archives.

In addition, the Archives includes a collection of antiquarian books consisting of works by members of the Province and those defined as being important for the post-Reformation history of Catholicism in Britain and/or the history and spirituality of the Society.

In some cases small archival collections are held locally by Jesuit parishes and communities while further, significant collections are held at Stonyhurst College, Lancashire and at Campion Hall, Oxford.

GUIDES AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Historically the collection is searchable through a card index system. Scans of relevant index terms can be shared with researchers upon request.

Cataloguing to current archival standards is ongoing and as open catalogues are completed these are shared online. Visit the website <https://www.jesuitarchives.co.uk/collections> for an overview of the collection and for a link to the online catalogue as well as some subject guides.