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THE ARCHIVES OF THE
ENGLISH BENEDICTINE CONGREGATION
KEPT AT ST GREGORY'S, DOWNSIDE

by
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DOM PHILIP JEBB

THE Archives at Downside are much the most extensive of those preserved in the houses of the English Benedictine Congregation; A principal reason for this was the passing of certain decrees of the Constitutions directing that various records should be housed at Downside, irrespective of who was President of the Congregation, so there has been a tendency for a great many papers which are concerned with the Congregation at large, rather than with St Gregory's in particular, to be collected there. There are obvious advantages in having some sort of central deposit for official papers of the Congregation, and while it must always be remembered that there is a great deal of official material concerning the Congregation (especially Presidential correspondence) to be found in other houses, it has been thought to be most logical to arrange the existing Archives at Downside under a general scheme embracing the whole Congregation, the papers directly concerning St Gregory's forming a subsidiary (though obviously very large and complex) section within that whole.

In 1971, the Archives were moved from a variety of cupboards and other scattered and inadequate storage places up and down the monastery to their permanent resting-place in the New Library. It has therefore only been possible in the past few years to attempt to put all the papers into a rational order and to make them in any realistic way available for researchers.

In 1972, when the present writer was appointed Archivist to St Gregory's and to the Congregation there was still no complete list of the items in the collection and not even any attempt to order them into a clear series of categories. Such an arrangement has now been completed, and what follows is the classification scheme of main and subsidiary headings under which the documents are stored. But since these papers may prove of interest to others than those people immediately concerned with the history of Downside or of the E.B.C., a short explanation of the organization and history

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of these two institutions has been added, so as to give some indication of what kinds of material might be expected to be found under any particular heading. Later, as they become available, fuller lists will be published of the items to be found under each heading.

GENERAL AND SUBSIDIARY CATEGORIES OF THE ARCHIVES OF THE ENGLISH BENEDICTINE CONGREGATION KEPT AT DOWNSIDE

I. GENERAL

- A. *Histories* (MSS or annotated copies of printed works)
- B. *E.B.C. Lists* (Congregational lists, Necrologies, etc.)

II. CONSTITUTIONAL

- A. *General Chapters* (Minutes, Acts, Definitions, etc.)
- B. *Constitutions & Declarations*

III. OFFICIALS

- A. *President* (Letters, Acts of Visitation, Decisions of the Regimen, etc.)
- B. *Procurator in Curia* (Letters, official documents from Rome, the House in Trastevere, etc.)
- C. *Assessor in Rebus Judiciariis*
- D. *Inspector Rei Familiaris*
- E. *Magister Scholarum*

IV. THE MISSION

- A. *The North Province* (York)
 - (i) Provincials & other Officials
 - (ii) Chapters & other meetings
 - (iii) Matriculations, lists, etc.
 - (iv) Financial & Legal
 - (v) Miscellaneous
- B. *The South Province* (Canterbury)
 - (i) Provincials & other Officials
 - (ii) Chapters & other meetings
 - (iii) Matriculations, lists, etc.
 - (iv) Financial & Legal
 - (v) Miscellaneous
- C. *Individual Parishes*

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V. EXTERNAL RELATIONS

VI. OTHER BENEDICTINE MATTERS

- A. *The Abbot Primate*
- B. *Collegio Sant'Anselmo*
- C. *Others*

VII. INDIVIDUAL HOUSES

- A. *St Gregory's*
 - 1. At Douai
 - 2. At Acton Burnell
 - 3. At Downside
 - a. The Abbot's Papers (Not yet properly analysed)
 - b. The Monastery
 - (i) Annals, Fasti, Lists, Chapter & Council Minutes
 - (ii) The Church
 - α Ceremonial
 - β Guides
 - γ Building & Furnishing
 - (iii) The Library
 - (iv) Studies
 - (v) Guests
 - (vi) Monastic Controversy
 - (vii) Meteorological Records
 - (viii) Miscellaneous
 - c. The Bursar's Office
 - (i) Financial
 - (ii) Legal
 - (iii) Works Department
 - α Letter Books
 - β Week-by-Week Books
 - γ Building
 - δ The different Shops
 - (iv) The Housekeeper
 - (v) The Gardens
 - (vi) The Farm
 - (vii) The Tailor
 - (viii) The other Shops
 - α The Laundry
 - β The Butcher
 - γ The Vestments
 - δ The Water Works

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- ε The Gas Works
 - ς The Electricity Works
- (ix) Miscellaneous
- d. The School
 - (i) The Head Master's Files (Not yet analysed)
 - (ii) Prospectuses, School Rules, Albums, etc.
 - (iii) Lists
 - (iv) Work Syllabi
 - (v) Inspections by the Ministry of Education
 - (vi) Activities
 - α Societies
 - β Programmes (Plays, Prize Day, etc.)
 - γ Libraries & Museums
 - δ Magazines & Boys' Literary Work
 - ε Boys' Diaries & Letters
 - ς Games
 - η Miscellaneous
 - (vii) The Infirmary
 - (viii) Appeals, Circulars, etc.
 - (ix) Miscellaneous
 - (x) St Gregory's Society (The Old Boys)
- e. Dependent Houses
 - (i) Benet House, Cambridge
 - (ii) Ealing (after 1946 cf VII.G)
 - (iii) Gorey
 - (iv) Portsmouth, USA (after 1949 cf VIII.L)
 - (v) Worth (after 1957 cf VII.K)
- f. Personal Papers of individual Monks of St Gregory's
- g. Relations with the Holy See
- h. Relations with Diocesan Bishops
 - (i) The Western District & Clifton
 - (ii) Others
- j. Pictorial Records
 - (i) Albums
 - (ii) Groups
 - (iii) Individuals
 - (iv) Buildings
 - (v) Miscellaneous
 - (vi) Maps & Plans

B. *St Lawrence's* (Dieulouard & Ampleforth)

C. *St Edmund's* (Paris, Douai & Woolhampton)

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- D. *SS. Aidan & Denis* (Lamspring & Broadway)
- E. *St Benedict's* (Fort Augustus)
- F. *St Michael's* (Belmont)
- G. *St Benedict's* (Ealing)
- H. *St Mary's* (Buckfast)
- J. *St Anselm's* (Washington, USA)
- K. *Our Lady, Help of Christians* (Worth & Apurimac Valley, Peru)
- L. *St Gregory's* (Portsmouth, USA)
- M. *SS. Mary & Louis* (Missouri, USA)
- N. *The Nuns*

VIII. ARTIFICIAL COLLECTIONS

- A. Dom Norbert Birt's Collection
- B. Photocopies & Transcriptions of material in other libraries
- C. Current Material being collected for the E.B.C. Historical Commission

IX. PERSONAL PAPERS OF INDIVIDUALS NOT DIRECTLY CONNECTED WITH THE E.B.C.

X. ALL OTHER PAPERS NOT IDENTIFIABLE, OR NOT CONNECTED WITH THE E.B.C.

A DESCRIPTION OF THE VARIOUS SECTIONS

I. GENERAL

A. *Histories*

The E.B.C. was formally reinstated by Pope Paul V in 1619, but the Houses of St Gregory's at Douai and of St Lawrence's at Dieulouard were already in existence by 1607 and 1608 respectively.

In this section are to be found MS. copies of the history of the E.B.C. by Dom Peter Allanson down to 1850 in three large volumes, his *Records* (giving documentary evidence for the *History* in five volumes), and his two volumes of *Biographies of English Benedictines*. There are also the MS. *Chronological Notes* published by Dom Bennet Weldon in 1709,* and *Congregational Annals 1850-1900* by both Dom Basil Whelan and Dom Justin McCann, Dom Hugh Connolly's annotated copy of his own *Dates and Documents for the Early History of Our House* (i.e. St Gregory's), covering the years 1599-1610, published in 1930, and Dom Maurus Lunn's *Origins of the E.B.C. 1588-1647* (a Cambridge Ph.D. thesis in typescript, completed in 1970).

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B. E.B.C. Lists

Once every four years at the time of General Chapter the E.B.C. has issued lists of its existing members and of those who have died since the previous list, also of Professions, Ordinations, changes of office and address. There are copies in Allanson (cf I. A above) going back to the beginnings of the Congregation. We have the originals (though not the complete series) from the middle of the eighteenth century.

This section also includes Necrology Notes and lists by Abbot Snow, Dom Norbert Birt's *Obit Book of the E.B.C.* down to 1912, with the very full corrections and additions made by Dom Hugh Connolly, and Dom Basil Whelan's *Series of Lists relating to the E.B.C. since 1606*, published in 1933. There are copies of this last annotated with corrections and additions.

II. CONSTITUTIONAL

A. General Chapters

The General Chapter is the legislative body of the E.B.C. which meets every four years. Its membership has varied over the years, but it now consists of the President, the superiors of the different houses, various other officers of the Congregation and an elected delegate from each of the abbeys. Its regular business is to elect a President and other officials for the following 'Quadriennium', to settle the Constitutions and the interpretation of them by making new ones or issuing 'Declarations' valid for the next Quadriennium, to approve the accounts of the different houses and the Acts of Visitation by the President, to settle disputes and to attend to petitions. It meets in the different houses of the E.B.C. in turn and two copies of the Acts are made by the Secretary: one to be kept at St Gregory's, the other to be sent round the other houses for each to make their own copy. This original is then usually kept by the President. Copies of the Acts, etc., kept at Downside, date from 1621 and are complete.

B. Constitutions and Declarations

The Constitutions are the fixed laws of the Congregation dealing with its overall government and administration and with the internal government of the individual houses and parishes. They are voted by General Chapter and approved by the Holy See. The Declarations are issued by General Chapter to amplify or interpret the Constitutions and are valid only until the next General Chapter. Those kept at Downside date from 1617.

Under this section are also to be found papers and pamphlets concerned with the great Constitutional controversy in the Congregation 1880-1900 when such papers cannot be assigned to some particular person or office (e.g.: the President or the personal papers of, for example, Dom Edmund Ford or Dom Cuthbert Butler). This controversy was engendered by a movement, largely inspired by members of the Community at Downside,

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in favour of self-government in the houses of the Congregation, instead of centralized control by General Chapter. This movement successfully culminated in the Bull *Diu quidem* of Pope Leo XIII in 1899, which raised the existing priories to the rank of Abbey and gave them the right to elect their own superiors. It was during this controversy that in 1890 the parishes run by the monks of the E.B.C. were put under the direct control of the individual monasteries, and the old Provincial system (cf IV) was abolished.

III. OFFICIALS

A. *The President*

The President is elected for four years at the end of General Chapter from among the ruling superiors. His main duties are to summon and preside over General Chapter, to visit each of the monasteries during the Quadriennium to see that they are in a good state and that the Constitutions are being kept, to be a court of appeal from the local superiors, to be the interpreter of the Constitutions until the next General Chapter, to provide chaplains for the nuns. He has two Assistants from among the ruling Abbots of the Congregation, and these constitute the Regimen, and before making any important decision outside the time of General Chapter the President must consult them.

In this section there are kept at Downside collections of letters, etc., going back to 1799, from the following Presidents: Brewer, Birdsall, Barber, Molyneux, Burchall, O'Gorman, O'Neill, Gasquet and Cuthbert Butler.

There are box files with the following titles: Ampleforth (1 file), Belmont (8 files), Douai (2), Downside (2), Fort Augustus (3), SS Adrian & Denis (1), Stanbrook (3), Nuns (1), Provinces (2), Appeals, Regimen etc. (1), General Chapter Papers 1901-13 (1), Sundry, Australia & Mauritius (1), Visitations (1), Studies (1), English Martyrs (1), Roman Documents (1), Procurator in Curia (7), Officials other than Procurator (1), S. Anselmo (2).

B. *The Procurator in Curia*

The Procurator in Curia is the E.B.C. agent in Rome, charged with conducting all business with the Vatican, etc. The E.B.C. has had such an agent from its beginnings, though he has not always been a member of the Congregation.

Material under this heading includes letters 1861-1921, Rescripts 1901-14, 11 boxes from the files of Abbot Aidan Williams (1954-65).

C & D. *The Assessor and the Inspector*

The Assessor in *Rebus Judiciariis* and the Inspector *Rei Familiaris* are elected at General Chapter, and are there to help and advise the President, the former in legal matters (civil and canonical), the latter in financial, including the temporal affairs of the different houses of the E.B.C. Because

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these offices are largely advisory, nearly all material referring to them is to be found under the heading of the President. These two officials are not the same people as the two Assistant Abbots who make up the Regimen.

E. *The Magister Scholarum*

The *Magister Scholarum* is also elected at General Chapter and his duty is to organize the studies of the Junior monks in the E.B.C. and to see that they come up to a sufficient standard. He therefore has delegated authority over those in charge of studies in the different houses, and conducts official correspondence in this capacity. There is a certain amount of this kept at Downside, but surprisingly little, considering the importance attached to such matters.

IV. THE MISSION

In the E.B.C. 'The Mission' refers to priestly work in England, and has always, from the beginning of the seventeenth century, been a major undertaking of the Congregation. From 1620 to 1890, for the purposes of the Mission, England was divided into a North Province of York and a South Province of Canterbury, each governed by a Provincial elected at General Chapter. The Provincial was responsible for all the monks working in his Province, who while on the Mission were no longer under the immediate jurisdiction of the superiors of their own monasteries. In 1890, the Provincial system was abolished, and the various parishes then run by the Benedictines were allotted among the various monasteries which thenceforward became responsible for running them. The last two Provincials in 1890 were both monks of St Gregory's, which probably explains why there are so many papers and books from both Provinces at Downside.

The Provinces had an organization similar to that of the whole Congregation, with Chapter and Council meetings, a Procurator and other Officials.

From the North Province there are twenty-seven Account books and ledgers of the seventeenth, eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, a Record Book, 1640-1882, Matriculation Books (i.e.: registers of all changes of post or work of the members of the Province) 1850-87, Books of Acts 1705-1883 (incomplete), *Catalogus Benefactorum* 1661-1766 and *Extracta e Libro Prov. Eb.* 1665-1753.

From the South Province there are seventy-six account books and ledgers of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, copies of Acts and Financial Statements 1697-1878 (incomplete), Chapter Books 1681-1846 and a Council Book 1884-90.

Material emanating from, or directly concerned with, individual parishes has been collected and arranged alphabetically by the place names of the parishes rather than under the two Provinces, since a lot of the material and some of the parishes date from after the Provincial

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system, and cannot always be fitted into it. Anyone researching into the history of a parish run by the E.B.C. would need to consult the Provincial's papers, and the papers of the superior of the monastery now responsible for it as well as the private papers of the individual parish priests.

Material from the following parishes is to be found under this section: Acton Burnell, Bath, Beccles, Blackmore Park, Bonham, Bungay, Chilcompton, Clydach, Coventry, Dulwich, Ealing, Easingwell, Egremont, Liverpool (St Anne's and St Mary's), Great and Little Malvern, Maesteg, Midsomer Norton, Petersfield, Redditch, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warrington.

V. EXTERNAL RELATIONS

This is not a large section, as nearly all such papers are to be found under the heading of the President (cf III.A) or some other official, but included here are various printed pieces concerned with monasteries in England applying at various times to join the E.B.C.

VI. OTHER BENEDICTINE MATTERS

A. *The Abbot Primate*

In 1893, Pope Leo XIII appointed Dom Hildebrand de Hemptinne as the first Abbot Primate of the Benedictines. He was to be superior of the Collegio Sant'Anselmo in Rome and to be head of the 'Confederation' of Benedictine Congregations. The Primate has no direct jurisdiction or authority over Benedictines outside Sant'Anselmo, but he presides over the Congresses of all the Benedictine Abbots of the world who usually meet every eight years in Rome. He is also important as being the person permanently resident in Rome to whom officials of the Vatican, etc., turn when they are considering Benedictine affairs, and, as a result of this, he is often appealed to by Benedictines living far from Rome for advice or judgement.

Papers in this section date back to Abbot de Hemptinne, but reference should also be made to the President of the E.B.C. and to the individual Abbots of Downside.

VII. INDIVIDUAL HOUSES

A. *St Gregory's*

The community was at Douai in Flanders from 1607 to 1795, when they were driven out by the French Revolution. They came first to Acton Burnell in Shropshire, the home of Sir Edward Smythe, an Old Boy of the School, where they remained until the move to Downside in 1814.

From Douai and Acton Burnell very few books or papers remain at Downside: about a dozen cash books, the earliest dating from 1666, and the Profession Book, dating from 1607 (cf under 3.b.i. below).

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The subsidiary headings under St Gregory's at Downside would in most cases appear to be self-explanatory, and, apart from the Abbot and the Bursar, the collections are not large. But the following notes might be useful.

3.a. *The Abbot*

Under this heading come the papers of all the superiors of the House, both Priors and Abbots: St Gregory's became an Abbey in 1899. The papers make a large collection of over thirty filing drawers as well as boxes and book shelves, and they cover a wide range of correspondence and accounts and other MS. and printed matter which has passed through the hands of the superiors. It ranges from the mid-seventeenth century to the present day, and is at present in the care of the Abbot's Secretary. Material prior to 1900 is in process of being moved to the Archives.

3.b.i. *Annals, Fasti, Chapter and Council Minutes.*

Official Annals of day-to-day events do not appear to have been kept, and the most reliable source for such information was (from 1880-1954) the 'Odds and Ends' in the *Downside Review*, and a lot can also be found in the *Raven*, the official School magazine. The Guest Master's book (cf b.v. below) sometimes takes on some of the character of a Community diary, and there is a Diary of the Monastery and College of St Gregory's from 1878 to 1890.

The Fasti Book allots a page to each member of the Community, and in it are recorded all the important events of his life from his birth to his death, with the monastic ceremonies of clothing, profession and ordination and all offices and achievements. This goes back to 1793. The *Liber Graduum* contains the vows of each member of the Community written out (in most cases) in his own hand. This would appear to be the only book at Downside that goes back to the origins at Douai in 1607, though there are plenty of books from Douai now in the municipal libraries of Douai, Nancy and Arras.

The Conventual Chapter, consisting of all the professed monks of the House, meets at least once a year to examine the accounts, to elect various minor officials and to discuss any important business which the Abbot brings forward, particularly the spending of large sums of money. The Abbot's Council is a smaller group, half of whom are elected by the Community at the Chapter and half appointed by the Abbot. They meet several times a year and must be consulted before any major appointment by the Abbot and other important matters. The minutes of both these groups give fairly detailed accounts of all their discussions, except those concerning personalities. The Council Minutes go back to 1818, the Chapter Minutes to 1899 when the Community, on being made an Abbey, started to have official Chapters.

3.b.ii. Papers under *Church Ceremonial* consist of the detailed notes of the Master of Ceremonies dating back to about 1930.

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3.b.iii. *Library papers* consist of the registers of books borrowed between 1885 and 1966, lists of books presented during the nineteenth century, and a detailed account, with photographs and plans, of the building of the present Library.

3.b.iv. *Studies*

During their time of training as novices and juniors the young monks are put through a course in Monastic and general Church History, Philosophy, Dogmatic, Pastoral and Moral Theology, Scripture and Canon Law, as well as, in the majority of cases, studying some secular subject for a university degree. Under this section are kept MS. notebooks, when they cannot be assigned to a particular person, and syllabi and courses arranged by the Masters of Studies, etc. Considering how much time and energy is spent on all of this, it is surprising how small and uninformative this section is. Reference should also be made to private papers of individual monks for notebooks, etc.

3.b.v. *Guests*

It is part of the duties of the Guestmaster to keep an accurate list of the guests who stay in the monastery, with a note on how long they stay. This is usually done by getting the guests to sign a register. These registers are pretty complete back to 1821.

3.b.vi. *Monastic Controversy*

While Dom Cuthbert Butler was Abbot from 1906 to 1922 he was involved in a long controversy with members of his own Community and with the Congregation at large on the desirability of having monks living permanently away from their monasteries and working on parishes. This controversy took the form, in part, of circular letters and pamphlets. Several collections have been made of these, and, where they are not clearly part of the personal papers of the main parties to the debate, they are kept in this section.

3.b.vii. *Meteorological Records*

Downside is an official observation post for the Meteorological Office, and records of rainfall, temperature and barometric pressure, etc., go back to 1880.

3.c. *The Bursar's Office*

The Bursar is in charge (under the Abbot) of all the temporal affairs (financial and legal) of the place. That is to say that all money, in or out, should pass through his office. Also the day-to-day running of the whole place (apart from the academic side of the School) is in his hands, or in those of his deputies who are immediately responsible to him. These main officials (who in nearly every case are not monks) have their own offices.

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The Clerk of the Works is responsible for new buildings and the maintenance of all the existing fabric. The different 'shops' under his charge deal with carpentry, stone, paint, plumbing, etc.

The Housekeeper is responsible for the catering, the cleaning indoors, the laundering and mending of clothes, the supply and repair of household furniture.

The Head Gardener is responsible for a large market garden employing half a dozen men, and also for the good order of the woods and grounds around the School and Monastery. The Playing Fields are in the charge of the Groundsman, who is responsible to the Games Master.

The Bailiff runs the Monastery farm of about 300 acres.

The Tailor supplies all clothes and shoes for the Monastery and School and is responsible for the dry cleaning and repairing of suits, etc. He employs a staff of about half a dozen.

Besides these larger departments, the Butcher and the Laundry are responsible to the Housekeeper, and the Vestment Department is very small.

Up to the 1950's Downside supplied water from Gurney Slade for its own consumption and for the locality, and also made its own gas and electricity. These were therefore quite large concerns, keeping appropriate records of production etc., Now these commodities are supplied by the public companies and the maintenance of the fittings, piping, wiring, etc., comes under the Clerk of the Works.

Apart from the Clerk of the Works none of these departments has much concern for preserving records for long, so that the existing papers are not extensive, but fairly detailed records of building and structural repairs go back to the mid-nineteenth century.

The papers from the Bursar's office proper are very extensive and cannot be arranged in their final order until the move into new premises, which is planned for September 1975.

3.d. *The School*

The School goes back to the beginnings of St Gregory's history at Douai, but no archive material exclusively concerned with the School (apart from entries in some account books) appears to survive from the time in France, though research into this period should always include reference to the Birt Collection (cf VIII A) and the Abbot's files (cf VII.3.a. above).

The Head Master as a title was first used by Dom Leander Ramsay at the beginning of this century; before that time the monk in charge of the School was called the First Prefect. In the Head Master's offices are kept files on individual boys and many other School affairs which are very full from 1900 onwards. There is also housed there a great deal of other material connected with the School which does not come under the charge of the monastic Archivist. What does come under the subheadings of the monastic Archives does not amount to a great deal of material (two or three boxes each at the most) and in most cases the earliest pieces date from the mid-nineteenth century.

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3.d.x. *St Gregory's Society* was founded for the Old Boys of the School in the late nineteenth century and has regular meetings in London and at Downside each year, but under this heading in the Archives are put together all the official circulars and printed material addressed to the Old Boys going back to 1840, as well as the card index giving biographical details of all who have passed through the School since the beginnings at Douai. But information on Old Boys should also be looked for among the personal papers of Edmund Bishop, Dom Norbert Birt, the Birt Collection, Dom Lucius Graham, Dom Vincent Cavanagh, all of whom did important work on this subject. Reference should also be made to the Pictorial Records (cf VII. A.3.j.).

3.e. *Dependent Houses*

At the time of writing (1975) the only dependencies of St Gregory's are Benet House, Cambridge, and Mount St Benedict's, Gorey. Benet House was started in 1896 as a residence for Downside monks attending the University. Mount St Benedict's, Gorey, in Co. Wicklow, Ireland, was founded in 1907 as a school under Dom Francis Sweetman. The school was closed for political reasons in 1925, but the farm is still run by a Downside monk. Ealing was started as a parish by Downside in 1897, gaining its independence in 1946. Portsmouth, USA, was founded in 1919, and made independent in 1949, having been taken over by Fort Augustus in 1926. Worth was founded in 1933, was closed down between 1939 and 1945, with the Prep School evacuated to Downside, and gained its independence in 1957. There is very little material relating to any of these Houses in the Archives, as the great majority of it is still in the Abbot's files.

3.f. *The Personal Papers of Individual Monks* of St Gregory's make up a large collection, though, as might be expected, it varies a great deal in the importance and extent of the papers connected with each monk. The larger individual collections have not yet been properly sorted or catalogued, so that all that will be given here will be the names of the monks and the briefest possible indication of what is involved. If a name and date only are given, it indicates a single item of no obvious historical importance other than its personal connection (e.g., certificates, diplomas, presentations, a pamphlet or a notebook). The collection is arranged in order of each monk's death, and this is the date given after each name. Apart from the results of strictly impersonal historical research, or where the person has explicitly made the papers available, there is normally a restriction of access to the personal papers of an individual for 50 years after his death. Papers deposited by monks who are still alive are arranged in order of their arrival in the Archives.

- ✓ Augustine Constable (12.xi.1712): 3 vols.
- ✓ Gregory Greenwood (3.viii.1744): 30 MS. vols of spiritual treatises.
- ✓ Anselm Mannock (30.xi.1764): 25 MS. vols of spiritual treatises.
- Cuthbert Simpson (1.xi.1785).

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William Allam (5.ix.1812).

Peter Kendal (26.iii.1814): His Catechism (?in his own hand).

✓ Anselm Lorymer (2.ii.1832): 3 vols.

Robert Alexius Pope (or Hoole) (3.vii.1841): 2 vols.

Ambrose Feraud (18.ii.1847): 4 notebooks.

Ambrose Duck (18.ix.1848): Catalogue of his books.

Maurus Hodgson (5.xii.1862).

Austin Rolling (28.ix.1864).

✓ Abraham Abram (17.xii.1867): 3 vols.

Paulinus Heptonstall (7.vi.1869): 3 vols.

✓ Placid Morris, Bishop of Mauritius (18.ii.1872): 3 files.

? Ephrem Pratt (18.v.1875): Sermon notes.

Bede Polding, Archbishop of Sydney (16.iii.1877): Rule for Nuns.

Gregory Gregory, Abbot of St Mary's, Sydney (19.vii.1877): 1 file.

Vincent Dowding (24.x.1877): Diary and a/cs of Clayton Green.

✓ Oswald Davis (25.ix.1880): Letter book as Procurator and Sub-Prior, 1861-69.

Norbert Sweeney (16.iv.1883): 1 file.

✓ Bede Vaughan, Archbishop of Sydney (9.viii.1883): Correspondence with Ephrem Guy.

✓ Bernard Ullathorne, Bishop of Birmingham (21.iii.1889): 1 file.

Jerome Vaughan (9.ix.1896): 1 box.

Benedict Tidmarsh (19.xii.1902): 1 box of letters and a/cs and 11 diaries.

✓ Alphonsus Morrall (19.ii.1911): 2 shelves of antiquarian and genealogical notes, and a contemporary account (including diaries) of the great constitutional controversy, 1880-1900.

Dunstan Breen (5.xii.1911): 1 file.

Gilbert Dolan (10.iii.1914): 10 boxes and files of historical and Gregorian interest. He did a lot of research work for Cardinal Gasquet.

Norbert Birt (7.v.1914): 1 file (for 'the Birt Collection' of section VIII).

Leo Almond (13.iii.1926): Paintings, drawings and engravings.

Wilfrid Corney (4.viii.1926): Diaries and notes on Downside a/cs.

✓ Leander Ramsay, 3rd Abbot of Downside, Head Master and patristic scholar (14.iii.1929): a large collection still unsorted.

Aidan Gasquet, Cardinal, Vatican Librarian, President of the E.B.C.,

✓ Prior of Downside (5.v.1929): a large collection still unsorted, including a great deal of historical research.

✓ Clement Fowler, Prior of Downside (26.vii.1929): 4 vols.

✓ Edmund Ford, first Abbot of Downside and a protagonist in the great constitutional controversy 1880-1900 (30.x.1930): a large collection still unsorted.

✓ John Chapman, 4th Abbot of Downside, biblical scholar, spiritual writer and painter (7.xi.1933): A considerable collection, still unsorted.

Odo Langdale (17.i.1934): 8 boxes of family history, etc.

✓ Cuthbert Butler, President of the E.B.C., 2nd Abbot of Downside (1.iv.1934), patristic and monastic and spiritual studies: a large collection not properly sorted.

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- Sylvester Hurlston-Jones (9.i.1934): 1 box of paintings.
- ✓ Benedict Kuypers (3.ix.1935): Editor of the *Book of Cerne*, 1 box.
- ✓ Peter Worsley-Worswick (7.vi.1936): 12 boxes of sermon notes.
- ✓ Roger Hudleston (5.viii.1936): Editor of spiritual texts and of Chapman's *Spiritual Letters*, etc. 3 files, 2 boxes.
- ✓ Bede Camm (8.ix.1942): Authority on the English Martyrs. A considerable collection not yet sorted.
- ✓ Cyprian Alston (11.i.1945): MS. Autobiography. Notes on Cathedral Choirs.
- ✓ Hugh Connolly (16.iii.1948): Biblical, patristic, Syriac and E.B.C. History; a considerable collection not yet sorted.
- Placid Turner (16.xi.1949): 1 box of monastic controversy with Abbot Cuthbert Butler (1921).
- Edmund Kendal (17.vi.1921).
- Anselm Rutherford (25.vi.1952): 1 file of sermon notes.
- ✓ Ethelbert Horne (3.xi.1952): F.S.A., photographer and archaeologist of Somerset and out-of-the-way interests; a considerable collection not yet properly sorted.
- Lucius Graham (5.iv.1953): History of Downside and Old Boys; a considerable collection not yet properly sorted.
- ✓ Stephen Rawlinson (7.ix.1953): a Senior Military Chaplain in France 1914-18; a considerable collection completely unsorted.
- Edward Green (12.vii.1957): 1 file of personal and family papers.
- Raymund Webster (12.ix.1957): Downside Librarian and authority on early printed books; draft of a book on monastic history and personal papers and letters.
- Alphege Shebbeare (19.i.1958): Musician. 1 box of personal papers.
- Paul Brookfield (24.iii.1959): about a shelf of Brookfield and Thackeray family papers.
- Cyril Rylance (25.xi.1959).
- Urban Butler (6.xi.1961): 4 boxes of correspondence.
- Julian Stonor (11.ii.1963): Personal and family papers.
- ✓ Oswald Sumner (25.iii.1964): a psychologist. 7 boxes of personal and professional papers.
- Robert Turnbull (17.ix.1964): 1 box of personal and family papers.
- Ralph Russell (3.viii.1970): 1 box of letters from notable public figures invited to talk to the School.
- Augustine James (21.xi.1970): Autobiography, diaries and photographs.
- ✓ Christopher Butler, Auxiliary Bishop of Westminster, Abbot President of the E.B.C., Abbot and Head Master of Downside: some early note books on scripture and his complete collection of personal and printed papers connected with Vatican II: 4 shelves.
- Gregory Murray: 9 boxes and 4 files of papers on music.
- Vincent Cavanagh (5.iv.1975): 1 box on the Old Boys killed 1939-45; a packet of sermon notes.
- Duns'an Pontifex (28.v.1974): 1 box of personal papers, a history of Stratton-on-the-Fosse.

ARCHIVES OF ENGLISH BENEDICTINE CONGREGATION

3.g. *Relations with the Holy See*

This is a comparatively small, though important, collection, made up of over 100 original papal documents dating back to the early seventeenth century and now entitled *Downside Bullarium* and for that reason it is kept in this section, but, in fact, many of the earlier documents refer to the E.B.C. as a whole rather than to St Gregory's in particular, e.g. the original of the Bull *Plantata*. Other material of this nature should be looked for in the Presidents' and Abbots' files.

3.h. *Relations with Diocesan Bishops*

Until the restoration of the Hierarchy in 1850 Downside (now in the Diocese of Clifton) was under the Vicar Apostolic of the Western District. This is not a large collection as nearly all official correspondence of this nature is kept in the Abbot's files, but there is included here pastoral and other circular letters and a certain amount of material connected with Bishop Baines and his quarrel with Downside in the early nineteenth century.

3.j. *Pictorial Records*

This is quite a large collection of very varied material not yet properly sorted, and with many individuals not identified. There is a fairly extensive collection of nineteenth-century Old Boys' photographic portraits in a series of albums. For albums belonging to individual monks and paintings by them see 3.g. above.

OTHER HOUSES OF THE E.B.C.

Apart from the Presidential Archives, what pertains directly to the other Houses of the E.B.C. is not in most cases very important, but under this heading come books, etc., which belonged to individual members of the different communities. The following seem worthy of mention in this summary:

✓ VII.B. *St Lawrence's*: a very important MS. collection of the works of Dom Augustine Baker, the seventeenth-century mystic. But all research into his writings should also include reference to the MS. collection at Ampleforth, and to the work done on Baker by Dom Justin McCann and Dom Placid Spearritt, both of that House.

VII.C. *St Edmund's*: transcriptions of Bishop Walmesley's correspondence and a MS. history of St Edmund's written by one of its monks about 1742.

VII.D. *SS. Aidan & Denis*: about 15 volumes from Lamspring, including the Cartulary with copies of documents concerning the original nunnery there dating back to the eighth century; a MS. history by Dom John Townson, 1692; the *Liber Professionum* 1649-1802; the *Liber Conciliorum*,

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1715-1802; Students' a/c book and Novices' Clothings, 1671-1802; Dom Birdsall's diary, 1779-1832; a MS. account of the contest between the Abbot and the President, 1801-02; and 5 MS. volumes of the works of Dom Francis Bruning (died 1747).

VII.E. *St Benedict's, Fort Augustus*: Council notes, 1878-82; 'Regulations and Practices Observed Sept. 30th 1879'.

VII.F. *St Michael's, Belmont*: this was the common Novitiate for the E.B.C. from 1859-1920. Papers include *Index Analyticus Studiorum*, 1863-83; 3 packets of pamphlets, etc., including 'The Belmont Narration' 1910-26, 2 typescript histories of Belmont Cathedral Priory and Abbey and a collection of photographs.

VIII. ARTIFICIAL COLLECTIONS

A. Dom Norbert Birt was a monastic historian who among other things wrote *A History of Downside School* (1902), and *The Obit Book of the E.B.C.* (1913), which gives biographical details of every member of the Congregation who died before 1912. He also gathered together and put into strict chronological order a great mass of original and copied papers, MSS. and printed, dating from the twelfth to the nineteenth centuries (the majority are from 1699 to 1869) and provided a summary of each piece. This collection amounts to about 8,000 separate items and is stored in 70 box files. Some account of their contents is to be found in a series of eleven articles in the *Downside Review*, vols 2-7. They are an important source for almost all aspects of E.B.C. history for the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, and are now in the process of being properly indexed. This collection goes under Dom Norbert's name, but is considered separately from his personal papers.

B. The Archives contain a great many *transcriptions and photocopies of material from other libraries* which are still in the process of being properly catalogued. Much of it is to be found in the personal collections of the following: Edmund Bishop, Cardinal Gasquet, J. B. L. Tolhurst, W. H. J. Weale, Dom Gilbert Dolan, Dom Alphonsus Morrall, Dom Bede Camm, Dom Hugh Connolly, Dom Cuthbert Butler, Dom John Chapman, Dom Leander Ramsay, Dom Edmund Ford, Dom Lucius Graham, Dom Ethelbert Horne, Francis Joseph Baigent, Daniel Parsons, Charles Gatty, W. E. Campbell, William Bliss.

There are important quantities of transcripts, etc., from the following institutions: The British Museum; The Public Record Office; The Vatican Library and Archives; Propaganda Archives; the Departmental Archives at Nancy and Arras; St Alban's College, Valladolid; The Archives of the Abbey of Silos, and of Salamanca; the State Papers of Simancas; The Bibliotheca Nacional, Madrid; the Biblioteca Ambrosiana, Milan.

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IX. PERSONAL PAPERS OF INDIVIDUALS NOT DIRECTLY CONNECTED WITH THE E.B.C.

As might be expected this is a very diverse collection, and ranges from single notebooks belonging to people who appear to have no connection with Downside or the E.B.C., to hundreds of items belonging to scholars like Edmund Bishop or J. B. L. Tolhurst who bequeathed all their books and papers to the monastery. A lot of work still needs to be done on this section, both on the papers themselves and on the biographical details of the people concerned. Rather than hold up this article still further it has been thought preferable to publish now simply an alphabetical list of those people from whom the Archives have at least a box of papers:

✓ Lord Acton, Francis Joseph Baigent, Edmund Bishop, William Bliss, ✓ Prince Charles de Broglie, Cyril Francis Burnand, W. E. Campbell, Abbot Casaretto, Archibald Cochrane, Lord Dundonald, Charles T. Gatty, A. H. N. Green-Armytage, Baron von Hügel, Canon Johnson, G. Johnson, Ambrose Phillips de Lisle, Daniel and Gertrude Parsons, Dean Armitage Robinson, Richard Simpson, Ethelred Taunton, Alexandre de Themines Bishop of Blois, J. B. L. Tolhurst, W. H. J. Weale.

SECTION X.

Section X is very small and does not contain anything of much significance. It should perhaps be noted that the monastery's collection of medieval MSS. is catalogued and housed in the Library, and not in the Archives.

Finally it must be emphasized that the Downside Archives are a private collection, and that access to them is entirely at the discretion of the Abbot. Personal papers are not normally available until 50 years after the person's death, though an exception is sometimes made in the case of strictly scholarly material deposited in the Archives which does not deal with living people.

Anyone wishing to consult the Archives should in the first instance communicate with the Archivist in writing.

Downside Abbey Archives

MAY 1985

Dom Bede Camm's Papers

I Biographical Note

Reginald Camm was born at Sunbury Park, Middlesex, on 26 December, 1864. He was educated at Westminster School and Keble College, Oxford, where he graduated with second class honours in the Divinity Schools in 1887. He studied for the Anglican ministry at Cuddesdon, was ordained priest by Bishop Thorold of Rochester in 1888, and served as curate at the church of St Agnes, Kennington, until 1890. In that year he was received into the Catholic Church at Maredsous Abbey in Belgium. He was clothed with the Benedictine habit taking Bede as his religious name in 1890 and was professed on 8 December, 1891. He made his solemn vows on 25 December, 1894. As a monk he pursued further theological studies at St Anselmo in Rome and was ordained priest in the Lateran Basilica by Cardinal Parocchi on 9 March, 1895. He resided at Erdington Abbey, Birmingham, from 1895-1912.

In 1913 he prepared the Anglican monks of Caldey and nuns of St Bride's, Milford Haven, for their reception into the Catholic Church. In June 1913 he was appointed Novice Master at Caldey by the Holy See. On 21 September 1913 he was affiliated to Downside and renewed his profession before Abbot Cuthbert Butler. In 1913-1914 he toured England lecturing and preaching to raise funds for Caldey and for the Tyburn Convent in London.

With the advent of war he became a military chaplain. He went to Glasgow as a chaplain to a hospital for the wounded in August

1915 and to Egypt in December 1915. He remained there until he was demobilised in the spring of 1919.

In the Michaelmas Term of 1919 he went to Cambridge as Master of Benet House. He held this office until ill-health forced his retirement in June 1931. In 1919 he had proceeded to the degree of Master of Arts at Cambridge, and in 1922 he was elected F.S.A. He returned to Downside in 1931 and spent his final months at a nursing home in Clifton. He died at Clifton on 8 September 1942 and was buried at Downside.

Dom Bede was a popular and learned writer on the English Martyrs and monastic history. He was also an expert on Rood-screens and relics of the saints. He was a prolific author of devotional, historical and antiquarian works. His principal writings were: A Benedictine Martyr in England (1897), In the Brave Days of Old (1900), A Day in the Cloister (1900), Blessed Sebastian Newdigate (1900), Lives of the English Martyrs (Vol. I 1904, Vol. II 1905), Tyburn Conferences (1906), Rood-Screens and Rood-Lofts (with F. Bligh Bond, 1909), Birthday Book of the English Martyrs (1909), Heroes of the Faith (1909), William Cardinal Allen (1909), Forgotten Shrines (1910), Pilgrim Paths in Latin Lands (1923), and Good Fruit of Tyburn Tree (1929). He was editor of the 'St Nicholas Series' from 1908-1909. Dom Bede's portrait, in pencil, by Aidan Savage, is at Benet House, Cambridge.

II The Papers

Camm's many activities are represented in his collection which includes much historical material as well as personal correspondence. For the sake of convenience I have divided the collection, which is kept in cupboards on Floor B of the Monastery Library, into two main areas - personal and historical.

A Personal

General Correspondence. Seven boxes. Boxes 1 - 6 have correspondents filed alphabetically (A-B, C, D-E, F, G, H). Box 7 has files from I-M and many unsorted correspondents. Most date from c. 1910-1925. There are virtually no copies of Camm's own letters. His correspondents included R.H. Benson, Cardinals Gasquet and Raphael Merry del Val (in connection with a controversy between Camm and Father Vincent McNabb, O.P.), Fathers C.C. Martindale, S.J., and J.H. Pollen, S.J. There is a preponderance of clerical and academic correspondents but the collection also includes letters from soldiers who had been ministered to by Camm during the Great War.

Large box containing commonplace books, notebooks, etc., dating from his Cuddesdon days. The notebooks include 3 volumes of MS notes on the Rule of St Benedict.

1 box containing diaries, 1886-1918 (incomplete)

1 box containing a file on Caldey and a file on St Bride's, Milford Haven. MS and printed material.

1 box containing newspaper cuttings.

2 albums and a small box of photographs - personal and historical.

(In the Librarian's Room at the monastery library there is a collection of many volumes of postcards mounted in albums by Camm and mainly topographical in interest).

Three envelopes. One contains Camm's MS memoir of Thomas Wilkinson Bishop of Hexham and Newcastle, and letters from the bishop. The second has MS memoirs of Dom Wilfrid Wallace of Erdington also by Camm. The third contains a small bundle of letters from Aymer Vallance, the antiquarian writer.

B Historical

4 boxes of files on the English Martyrs arranged in alphabetical order (Cardinal Allen - John Duckett, Queen Elizabeth - Napier, Padley - Purshall, Rambler - Wright). (Accession Numbers, 2008-2010).

\ 6 small boxes of material on Martyrs (mainly English):-

1. Letters from J.H.Pollen, S.J. MS Hymns to Thomas of Canterbury.
2. Harrington, Relics, Sawston.
3. Oliver Plunkett. John Roberts.
4. Various Papers and Notes.
5. Benedictine Martyrs. Challoner MSS at Oscott (transcripts).
6. Index to 'Footprints of English Martyrs (MS).

1 box Papers concerned with the English Martyrs (mainly transcripts of MSS) (Accession Number 1906)

1 volume MS transcript of 'A true reporte of the death & martyrdome of M. Campion Jesuite ... 1581 (B.M. Cat. 1370 a. 38).

Annotated Copy of Camm's Birthday Book (1909). Title page and dedication page illustrated by Rev. Mother Marie de St Pierre, Superioress of Tyburn Convent and Foundress of the Congregation of the Religious Adorers of the Sacred Heart (Accession Number 1349).

Bound volume of photographs, correspondence and offprints by Camm and others on Devonshire Screens and Rood-lofts.

Portfolio of original drawings of Trawsfynnidd, the birthplace of John Roberts, by W. Aloysius Johnson (1926).

2 small boxes of miscellaneous material. I MSS II Mainly printed (includes file on Medieval embroidery).

D. Aidan Bellenger

18 March 85

Downside Abbey Archives

Dom Ethelbert Horne's Papers

I Biographical Note

Percy Horne was born at Egham, Surrey, on 10th November, 1858. He was educated at Reading School and was a convert to Catholicism. He was clothed as a novice for Downside at Belmont on 28th November, 1880, taking Ethelbert as his religious name. He was professed on 15th December, 1881 and made his solemn vows on 25th January, 1885. He was ordained priest at Downside on 13th January, 1889. He worked in the school for a short time, but his principal apostolate was in the village; he was Parish Priest of Stratton-on-the-Fosse from 1891 to 1940. He served as Claustal Prior of Downside from 1929 - 1933 and was made Cathedral Prior of Norwich in 1934. In 1939, he became titular Abbot of Glastonbury. He died on 3rd November, 1952, the feast of St Vigor, patron Saint of Stratton, and is buried in the monastic cemetery at Downside.

Abbot Horne's reputation as an archaeologist and an antiquary was considerable. He joined the Somerset Archaeological Society in 1886 and was its president from July 1940 to July 1942. He served as a Vice-President from 1942-1952. In 1924, he was elected F.S.A., and served on the Council of the Society of Antiquaries in 1930. As an archaeologist, he was particularly concerned with excavations at Glastonbury Abbey during the 1920's. As an antiquary, he is best known for his work on scratch dials on which he published a major study - one of many books on folklore, antiquity and local history which he published. (For further biographical information see Fasti Gregoriani (MS Downside Abbey); Proceedings of the Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society 97 (1952), pp.193-194, and The Antiquaries Journal 33 (1953), p.273. There is a portrait in oils of D.Ethelbert by Aidan Savage in the Downside Archives Room.)

II The Papers

Dom Ethelbert's papers, kept in two cupboards on Floor A of the Downside Abbey Library, reflect his wide interests. They include substantial documentation on the half century of his incumbency at Stratton where the church with its roodscreen and 'liturgical' ostrich eggs formed the centre of a whole range of church-based activities. They also include information on the controversies surrounding the excavations at Glastonbury and an interesting collection of letters from the scholarly Dean Armitage Robinson of Wells. What follows is a summary list under subject headings:

(A) ANTIQUARIAN AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTERESTS

1 Box of drawings, plans, etc. (Antiquarian, archaeological, genealogical).

1 Box of annotated copies of his published works on Scratch Dials, Low Side Windows and Holy Wells. This box also contains MS of his work on Somerset Dovecotes, and reviews of his writings on Scratch Dials. Many of these volumes include photographs by Dom Ethelbert.

2 Boxes of MS writings. One (mainly antiquarian) includes subjects as diverse as 'The Vested Crucifix', 'The Crown of Thorns' and 'Altar Stones'. The other has the texts of his W.E.A. Lectures (mainly on Local History and Folklore) and his Catechism of Christian Doctrine.

3 Boxes on the Glastonbury Abbey excavations. Two contain correspondence, reports, newspaper cuttings, etc., principally for the period 1926-1951. The controversy surrounding the 'psychic archaeology' of F. Bligh Bond is well documented.

2 Boxes of notes, photographs, authentications, correspondence, etc. on Relics of the Saints.

1 Folder (illustrated) on St Thomas of Hereford whose head is enshrined at Downside.

1 Box of notes, correspondence, etc. on the Martyrs and Relics (taken from Spolia of Dom Julian Stonor).

An envelope of photographs and correspondence on medieval embroidered vestments at Downside, and similar examples elsewhere. (Accession Number 1963)

Box of MS Drawings, etc. of Keynsham Roman Villa by Dr Arthur Bullied.

(B) MONASTIC PAPERS

2 Boxes. One contains mainly MS items including Horne's Notes on the Reform of the E.B.C. Constitutions (1947) and notes on Archbishop Ullathorne on the Monastic Life (taken in 1886). The other (3094) contains mainly printed 'Pamphlets, Notices, Decrees, etc' (C.1900).

(C) PARISH PAPERS

4 Boxes of letters, cuttings, bills, notices, etc. covering every aspect of parish life. They include Horne's MS memoirs of his work as a Parish Priest. Subscription Book for D.Ethelbert's Golden Jubilee Fund (1939).

(D) PERSONAL PAPERS AND INDIVIDUAL CORRESPONDENTS

1 Box of Family and Personal Papers.

1 Box of Appointment Diaries.

1 Box containing bundle of letters from J.A.Robinson, Dean of Wells, to D.Ethelbert.

2 Boxes concerning Cardinal Gasquet. One contains letters from and about the Cardinal including several from Shane Leslie, the Cardinal's biographer. The other contains MS hymns in wrapper addressed to the Cardinal.

1 Box containing Journal (MS) of Aidan Savage, Painter, 1916-1931.

(E) OTHER ITEMS

2 Boxes of Miscellaneous Material including one with papers collected principally by F.J.Baigent, the Winchester antiquary, including numerous newspaper cuttings.

1 Box of Printed Downside School Examination results, c.1890-1900.

D. Aidan Bellenger

25. i. 1985



Albot Thorne by Aider Savage

PETRE, Rt Revd and Rt Hon'bl Monsignor Lord (1847-1893)

Downside Abbey Archives

Mgr Lord Petre Correspondence

I Biographical Note

William Joseph Petre was the eldest son of the 12th Lord Petre of Thorndon Park, Essex. He was educated at Stonyhurst (1857-1860) and Downside (1860-1865) and, after 'a rather circuitous course of studies' (Foster, p. 8) mainly at Belmont and St Beuno's was ordained in London as a secular priest in 1874. He lived at Downside from September 1874 until the spring of 1877. He founded the Petre Library (in 1876), the Abingdon Debating Society and generally encouraged extra-curricular activities. He commissioned the Petre Cloister - to the designs of Dunn and Hansom - and planned and paid for the Petre Swimming Pool, 'the sea of Petre'.

Mgr Lord Petre was original in his ideas on education and wrote widely on the subject. His short-lived school at Woburn Park, Surrey, was an attempt (between the years 1877 and 1884) to put his ideas into practice.

He became the 13th Lord Petre on his father's death in 1884 and was appointed a Domestic Prelate in 1880. (For further biographical information see G.B. Cox, 'In Memoriam: The Right Honourable and Right Reverend Monsignor Lord Petre', Downside Review 12 (1893), 89-107; S. Foster, 'Monsignor Lord Petre and Downside', South Western Catholic History 2 (1984), 8-11; and V.A. McClelland, 'The Liberal Training of England's Catholic Youth: William Joseph Petre (1847-1893) and Educational Reform', Victorian Studies (1972).

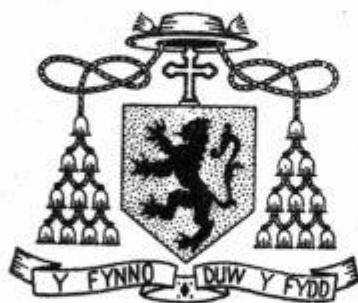
II Correspondence

There is one box of Petre material which was transferred from the abbot's archives to the main archives in February 1985. The principal contents are:

1. Theses Theological auctore R.D.G. Petre habitae in Monasterio S. Gregorii de Downside 1875 and 1876. (In Latin 2Opp.)
 - a) De Statu naturae innocentis
 - b) De peccato originali
2. Analytical outline of Lectures on the Culture of the Intellect and the Art of Intellectual Life. (In English, 4 lectures, 49pp.)
3. Order of Work (Timetable) Woburn School 1881-2 ;
some prospectuses and circulars of Woburn School.
4. Miscellaneous Letters
5. Letter Petre to Prior of Downside 16 July 1875.
6. Envelope containing small bundle of letters of Petre to Prior (? Bernard Murphy)
7. Several loose letters between the same, one marked 're destruction of Thorndon by fire'.
8. Small bundle of letters from Petre to D. Placid de Paiva 1872-1873.
9. Print of Woburn Park.
10. Photocopy of S. Foster's article, 'Mgr Lord Petre and Downside' (1984)

- JUN 1985

DAVID MATHEW



('Let my faith be in God')

I BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

David Mathew (1902-1975) had a distinguished career both as a churchman and as an historian. He was the son of Frank Mathew (1865-1924), a minor novelist and man of letters, and his wife Agnes, daughter of James Tisdall Woodroffe. He was born in Lyme Regis and educated at Osborne, Dartmouth (he was a midshipman on active duty in 1918-1919) and Balliol College, Oxford, where he became a research student. He did his ecclesiastical studies at the Beda College, Rome, and was ordained on 25 May 1929. He served in Cardiff from 1933-1934, and was chaplain to the Catholic students of London University from 1934-1944. He was appointed Auxiliary Bishop of Westminster by Cardinal Arthur Hinsley, and consecrated Bishop of Aeliae in 1938. He served as auxiliary until 1946. He was especially concerned with education and youth work.

He was regarded by many as the natural successor to Cardinal Hinsley at Westminster, but this was not to be. In 1946, with the title of Archbishop of Apamea, he was appointed Apostolic Delegate to British East and West Africa; he remained in this job until 1954. The last part of his active ministry as a bishop was spent as Bishop to the Forces (1954-1963), after which he devoted himself to writing. Stonor Park, near Oxford, where he acted as chaplain, was his principal base in his declining years.

His output as an author was considerable, and although he followed his father's example by writing novels, his reputation rests on his historical works which included subjects as diverse as English

Catholicism, the Royal Navy, Ethiopia and the courtiers of Henry VIII. His chief area of interest was the Stuart period, and it was the social structure of Caroline England which provided the material for his Ford's Lectures at Oxford in 1945-1946. In all his work, pastoral and historical, he benefitted from the close friendship of his brother, Father Gervase Mathew, O.P. (1905-1976), who lectured on Byzantine history at Oxford.

II THE PAPERS

Although many of his family were at school at Downside (there are ten Mathews in the 1972 List of Boys at St. Gregory's 1614-1972) the Archbishop and his brother were not. Nevertheless he had many personal contacts in the community: his work during the Second World War on ecclesiastical exemptions from military service brought him into contact with Abbot Trafford and among his friends in the community were Abbot (afterwards Bishop) Christopher Butler and Dom Ralph Russell. He presented his library (which included many books held jointly with Father Gervase Mathew) shortly before his death, and the collection of papers came with his books. Archbishop Mathew was buried, to the east of the sacristy of the abbey church at Downside, shortly after his death in 1975. His papers have been sorted into boxes in the following order:

1. Correspondence. Three boxes of personal and official letters covering the period 1939-1958 in chronological order. They form an interesting collection of several hundred items showing, in particular, the work of a bishop in wartime - the bulk of the correspondence dates from his years as Auxiliary Bishop of Westminster. His correspondents included Cardinals Hinsley, Griffin and Godfrey; Archbishop William Temple; Bishop George Bell; Brendan Bracken; Hugh Trevor Roper (later Lord Dacre); A.L. Rowse, and Sir Keith Feiling. Among several letters connected with Father Gervase Mathew is one from Grahame Greene to the Dominican: The Power and the Glory is dedicated to the Archbishop's brother.
2. Press cuttings - mainly book reviews.
3. Personal Papers - including autographed letters of Cardinals Newman and Manning.

4. Financial Affairs.
5. Printed Material. A large collection of circulars and leaflets mainly concerned with youth work and refugee relief in the wartime period.
6. 'Leakage'. A collection of letters and printed material relating to efforts made - in 1939 - to prevent lapsation among the young.
7. Ephemera.
8. Two albums of photographs (from the Archbishop's tour of duty in Africa) and a box of assorted photographs.
9. MSS and proofs of a limited number of the books and articles written by David Mathew and his father.
10. Notes by D. Mathew on Roman Lectures of Dom Placid Turner on Moral Theology (Accession Number 1921)
11. MS Essay. Froissart as an authority for English History by D. Mathew (Ac. No. 1922)
12. MS Record of Correspondence 'semi-official' August 1946 to July 1950 (Ac. No. 1923)
13. MS (17th Century) Minutes of King Charles II's dealings with Parliament. Addresses and Debates, 27 November 1673 to 4 May 1678 (Ac. No. 1924)

Dominic Aidan Bellenger

1 February 1984

Revised 1 February 1985