

# English Convents in Exile, 1600–1800

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Between 1600 and 1800 around four thousand Catholic women left England for a life of exile in the convents of France, Flanders, Portugal and America. These closed communities offered religious contemplation and safety, but also provided an environment of concentrated female intellectualism. The nuns' writings from this time form a unique resource, documenting daily domestic and devotional pursuits, as well as issues of wider interest, such as record keeping, finance, national identity, transatlantic connections and the nature of exile.

The majority of the documents in this six-volume collection are extremely rare and previously unpublished. Each volume is given over to a particular theme: history, spirituality, life writing, management and the outside world. Documents have been chosen to cover a range of monastic orders and are contextualized by headnotes, endnotes and volume introductions as well as by a full, overarching general introduction. The collection brings to light over a hundred testimonies previously unavailable to scholars and will be a key resource for those researching social and religious history or women's intellectual history of this period.



Catherine Gascoigne, 1623 (professed) – 1676, Abbess Cambrai  
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- Results from the AHRC funded project 'Who Were the Nuns?' at Queen Mary, University of London
- Most texts are newly transcribed from manuscript sources
- The texts were not intended for publication, providing a uniquely private perspective
- Full editorial apparatus
- Consolidated index in the final volume

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(Caroline Bowden)

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(Laurence Lux-Sterritt)

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(Katrien Daemen-de Gelder)

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(James E Kelly)

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(Carmen M Mangion)

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### **Convents Represented**

**Augustinians:** Bruges, Louvain, Paris

**Benedictines:** Boulogne, Brussels, Cambrai, Dunkirk, Ghent, Paris, Pontoise, Ypres

**Bridgettines:** Lisbon

**Carmelites:** Antwerp, Hoogstraten, Lierre, Port Tobacco (Maryland)

**Conceptionists:** Paris

**Dominicans:** Brussels

**Poor Clares:** Aire, Gravelines, Rouen, St Omer

**Sepulchrines:** Liège

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