



# **Catalogue of Lisbon College Conversion Literature**

**Date range of material: 1777-1853**

Ushaw College Library  
November 2016

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## Preface

### Creation of catalogue

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## Introduction

Lisbon College Conversion Literature

*Reference code:* GB-0298-LC/A5

1777-1853

*Extent:* 2 files

*Repository:* Ushaw

*Creator:* Lisbon College

*Language of material:* English

### Contents

Descriptions of conversions of Catholics, probably used by Lisbon College for educational purposes.

### About the creator

The English College of SS. Peter and Paul at Lisbon (or, as it is more commonly known, Lisbon College) was founded by Pedro Coutinho in 1624 as a college for English students training for the priesthood and mission work in England. As a pontifical college it was awarded the same privileges and rights as other colleges centrally controlled by Rome, such as the English College in Rome, whose aim was the maintenance of the Catholic faith in England, Scotland and Ireland. The driving force behind the college in its early years was William Newman. Although he was never to become president, Newman founded the college from property entrusted by the estate of the late Nicholas Ashton, a Catholic chaplain in Lisbon. Initial progress was slow until the arrival of a group of English students and teachers from the English College at Douai in 1628. The first president, albeit briefly, was Archdeacon Joseph Haynes who died the following year. The reputation of the college as a centre of academic excellence and its relevance as an English institution in Lisbon attracted patronage from varied sources during the seventeenth century, including Pedro da Costa and Maria de Oliveira Leitoa who transferred important funds to the College in exchange for daily masses for their special intention. In 1679, Pope Innocent XI granted the College the privilege of being considered as a High Altar of Christ on the Cross. In spite of its wealthy benefactors and papal patronage, the college faced a number of challenges in the following centuries. In 1755, Lisbon was shaken by a terrible earthquake in which 20,000 people died and 60,000 houses and 60 palaces and convents were destroyed. The college suffered badly both in terms of the physical devastation of its buildings and the mental well-being of many of its students and superiors who, like most of the population of Lisbon, chose to live under tents in the gardens of the college rather than risk being inside in fear of another quake. The college suffered another setback when it was occupied by French forces during Napoleon's invasion of Portugal in 1807 and, just days before the second French invasion, the president decided to close the college down, with all students being sent to an Anglo-Portuguese school in England until the war ended in 1814. The college was finally closed in 1973. Since the passing of the Roman Catholic Relief Act in Britain in 1829, the college's *raison d'être* had ceased to exist although its high reputation as a teaching and training establishment enabled it to survive for another 144 years.

### Accession details

Lisbon College closed in 1973 and this collection, along with the rest of the Lisbon Archive and Library, was transferred to Ushaw College by Mgr James Sullivan in the following year.

## Arrangement

The papers follow the original arrangement of the collection which is broadly chronological.

## Conditions of access

Open for consultation.

## Copyright and copying

Permission to make any published use of material from the collection must be sought in advance from the Lisbonian Society and, where appropriate, from the copyright owner. The Library will assist where possible with identifying copyright owners, but responsibility for ensuring copyright clearance rests with the user of the material

## Finding aids

Calendared card catalogue

## Form of citation

The form of citation should use the code GB-0298-LC/A5, or the collection name Lisbon College Conversion Literature, followed by the *reference number*

To order items in the searchroom, use the collection reference code(s), derived by removing the repository code (GB-0298-), followed by the reference number. Citing the section of the finding aid is useful.

LC/A5/1 [?1777]

Fragments of a spiritual autobiography relating mystical experiences

Fascicles 8, 9, 10 & 13

*Language:* English

4 items

LC/A5/2 [early 19th century]

Biographical account of the life of Catherine Mary Selway (1730 - 1807)

Written by her director

Catherine Mary Selway was a convert who came to Lisbon in 1777 and is buried in the college

Two additional copies

*Language:* English

17f

LC/A5/3 [early 19th century]

Draft or copy of a letter from a Catholic parent to a non-Catholic child

For the instruction of converts

*Language:* English

2f

LC/A5/4 [1810]

Extract of a letter written by a convert in answer to various letters and pamphlets sent by him for the purpose of reclaiming him from popery

*Language:* English

16f

LC/A5/5 1825

Narrative account of the conversion of Richard Harris, including correspondence between Harris and E. Winstanley, as well as extracts from Harris's diary

*Language:* English

7 letters/2 items

LC/A5/6 [1830]

Notes by William Poynter on his *Christianity: or the evidence and character of the Christian religion*

For the instruction of converts

*Language:* English

1f

LC/A5/7 [1830]

Letter by a convert to the Catholic religion at Lisbon - Joseph Whitwell - to his brother in England

With two additional copies

*Language:* English

10f

LC/A5/8 27 November 1853

Narrative by "Henrietta" of her conversion to Catholicity by means of her Protestant bible and prayer book

Written with a view to publication to encourage other potential converts. She was instructed by Ilsley and baptised by Winstanley

64f