Archives for the Benedictine nuns in exile

Archdiocesan Archives of Mechelen, Belgium (mostly for the Brussels convent)
Kloosters, Engelse Benedictinessen. 15 large Mss boxes
Language: English, French and Latin, Dutch, Spanish & Italian.

Archdiocesan Archives of Westminster, England
Box YYG complements what can be found at the Mechelen archive on the Brussels dispute. Box C.17, a copy of Edward Dicconson’s ‘Account of the English Mission’ and ‘Collections out of English Historians’; writings about the English Acts of Parliament and penal laws; discussions on transubstantiation, Holy Communion, or Jansenism. Copies of letters on topical points of controversy; documents of spiritual guidance, on the distribution of time or how to take the Spiritual Exercises.
Language: Latin and English.

Archives Départementales du Nord, Lille, France (for the Cambrai convent)
Boxes 20H–1 to 20H–59: Mss of a spiritual nature
Language: English, French or Latin.

Archives Départementales du Val d’Oise, Cergy, France (for the Pontoise convent)
Series 68H–12 large boxes: Mss illustrating pragmatic aspects of daily life in the cloister, account books, dowry payments, annual pensions, property deeds etc. Also inventories.
Language: Mostly French

Bibliothèque Mazarine, Paris, France (for the Paris convent)
Ms 1753: Cérémonial des religieuses bénédictines anglaises, approuvé de l'autorité de monseigneur l'archevêque de Paris
Ms 1755: Quadrilogus, or a collection of four treatises concerning the live and writings of the venerable father fa. Augustin Baker, preist of the holy order of S. Benedict, congregat. Angl
Ms 322: Constitutions pour l'observance de la règle du glorieux père et patriarche saint Benoist, dans le monastère des religieuses bénédictines anglaises du titre de Nostre-Dame de Bonne-Esparéance, sous la supériorité de Monseiguer l'éminentissime cardinal de Retz, archevesque de Paris, et ses succeurs
Ms 1269: Various collections of divers authors, about the contemplation, the preparation of a perfect union, the discretion of spirits, etc. ; partly penned and partly translated by father Augustin Baker, monke of the English congregation
Ms 4058: A catalogue of the manuscript bookes belonging to the library of the english Benedictine nunnes of our b. Lady of good hope, in Paris

Diocesan Archives of Ghent, Belgium (for the Ghent convent)
Mss B2773:
Language: Latin, English.

Douai Abbey, Upper Woolhampton, England
70 boxes relating to all the Benedictine convents, esp. Ghent, Boulogne (Pontoise) and Dunkirk, with some documents concerning the Brussels convent.
- chronicles such as ‘The foundation of Bullogne’, written by Lucy Knatchbull
- house histories (Dom Marus Estiennot’s ‘Histoire des monastères des DD. Bénédictines anglaises’)
- biographies of exemplary nuns (Tobie Matthew’s ‘Life of Lucy Knatchbull’),
- documents on house management (such as Anne Neville’s ‘Instructions to Superiors’),
- guide books (such as the ceremonials of the Pontoise and Dunkirk communities) and spiritual notes.

Language: English, French, Latin

**Downside Abbey, Stratton on the Fosse, England (mostly Brussels and Cambrai)**

Mss documenting the spiritual life of the Cambrai community, in-octavo volumes by Augustine Baker, More Gertrude and Margaret Gascoigne. Barbara Constable, ‘Gemitus Peccatorum or the Complaints of Sinners’, ‘Considerations for Preests’, ‘Considerations and Reflexions upon the Rule of the most glorious father St Benedict’, and ‘Advices for Confessors and Spiritual Directors’.

Haslemere collection: necrologies of the Brussels nuns, as well as fragments of correspondence about the daily running of the Brussels house.

Language: English, French, Latin

**St Mary’s Abbey, Colwich, England**

This collection is one of the few to keep several examples of personal notes or ‘collections’. In those little manuscript books, nuns transcribed their favourite passages from sacred texts or sermons, they compiled anthologies, they added pious images as illustrations, and they wrote down their own thoughts and prayers. The archive also holds a record of Prioress Justina Gascoigne’s addresses to chapter, as well as more official documents such as the house constitutions. Works of memory have been preserved, in the form of obituaries and house chronicles.

Language: English, French.