

A Papal Legation to Scotland

The Account of Marco Grimani, 1543–1544

Transcribed and edited by Mgr. Charles
Burns

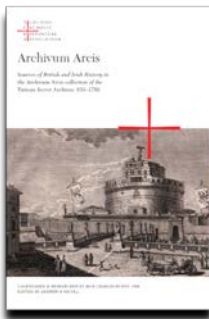
ISBN 978-0-9575756-1-5, Published by
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“Politics are often compared to a game of chess, in which carefully studied moves are suddenly arrested by the removal of a single piece, even of a simple pawn, from the board, and fresh tactics are called into play. On the political stage, too, cleverly made policies must be abandoned at the unforeseen exit of a leading actor.”

With the death of James V of Scotland in 1542, a dire sequence of events altered the course of Scottish history. A disastrous, brief military campaign against his uncle Henry VIII of England, ended abruptly with the total rout of his army and a complete loss of prestige. The nation was confronted with two constitutional problems of paramount importance. Who should take the infant Mary Queen of Scots into ward and govern the country during her minority? And for whom should she be destined for marriage? Paris and Rome negotiated a joint policy that would safeguard the accepted balance of political power, in which Scotland was allied with France, and forestall any designs that might bring the nation into the Lutheran camp. To implement this in practice, the pope appointed as his legate with plenipotentiary powers to the Scottish court the patriarch of Aquileia, Marco Grimani. This is the account of his legation to Scotland in 1543–1544.

Monsignor Charles Burns, a Canon of St Peter’s Basilica and priest of the diocese of Paisley in Scotland, served as Archivist to the Vatican Secret Archives for 35 years. He has been intimately connected to the archival sources of British and Irish history in the Vatican for much of his life holding a doctorate in Church history from the Pontifical Gregorian University and diploma from the Vatican School of Palaeography. He currently serves as Ecclesiastical Advisor to the British Embassy to the Holy See and holds the Order of the British Empire for services to the United Kingdom.



Archivum Arcis: Sources of British and Irish History in the Archivum Arcis collection of the Vatican Secret Archives, 855–1789

Calendared and researched by Mgr. Charles Burns

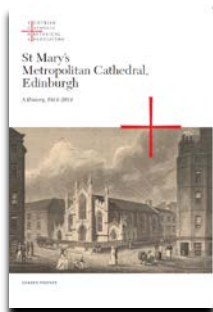
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The Archivum Arcis collection of the Vatican Secret Archives contains the records of papal privileges, title-deeds to possession of lands and the like. Imperial and royal charters, many with gold seals affixed, acts of homage to the popes, documents emanating from the general councils, being among the more spectacular items in a collection that embraced wide horizons of history. This calendar records over 500 documents relating to the history of the British Isles found in the collection.



St Mary's Metropolitan Cathedral, Edinburgh A history, 1814-2014

By Darren Tierney

ISBN 978-0-9575756-4-6. Published by the SCHA, Edinburgh, 2018

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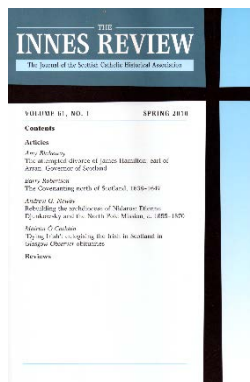
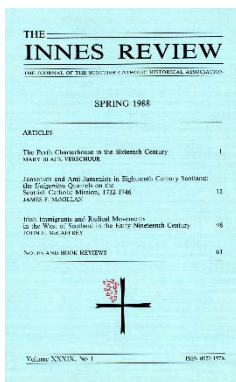
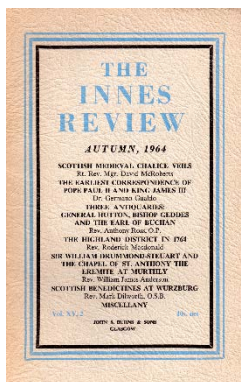
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“Built in 1814, and originally hidden by its surroundings, the Chapel of St Mary in Broughton Street has grown continually over two centuries and represents a significant element of the Catholic presence in the City of Edinburgh and Scotland.”

Buildings are only part of a story though – they form the shell within which the people and community can exist and grow. This work details the history of the mother parish of the Archdiocese of St Andrews and Edinburgh, exploring the historical background to the foundation of the chapel and its early years and development. Protagonists such as Bishops Gillis and Strain are key to the further revival of the faith during the 19th century, and the foundations are set for our understanding of how the Church and community developed and grew throughout the twentieth century – before entering its third century, less hidden and much more visible.

Darren Tierney is a former trustee of the Scottish Catholic Historical Association. He has published a number of works on the history of the Catholic Church in Scotland. His PhD explored the financial development of the Catholic Church in Scotland between 1772 and the late-nineteenth century. His primary research interest is the modern Catholic Church and community in Scotland.

The Innes Review



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