



# Catalogue of the Old Chapter Papers

Date range of material: 1622-1798

Ushaw College Library  
September 2023

## Contents

Preface .....	iii
Introduction .....	1
Catalogue of material:	
Old Chapter Papers.....	2

## Preface

### **Creation of catalogue**

Catalogued by Jonathan Bush

### **Contact details**

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## Introduction

*Collection title:* Old Chapter Papers

*Reference code:* GB-0298-UC/P44

*Dates of creation:* 1622-1798

*Extent:* 1 file

*Repository:* Ushaw College Library

*Creator:* William Bishop

*Language of material:* English and Latin

### Contents

Papers relating to the Chapter founded by Bishop William Bishop. The papers include notes on the history and authority of the Chapter, minutes of General Chapter meetings, extracts of orders and correspondence.

Typed transcripts are included with most of the original documents

### About the creator

The Old Chapter was established in 1623 by the first Vicar-Apostolic, Dr William Bishop. Dr Bishop was responsible for organising a regular form of ecclesiastical government throughout the country. The Chapter, consisting of 24 canons headed by Dean John Colleton, was an integral part of this scheme. The Chapter's authority was a matter of some debate, having no diocese attached to it and having never been formally recognised by Rome. Nevertheless, there were no attempts to suppress the Chapter and it retained canonical status, existing "sciente et tacente sede apostolica" (with the knowledge and silent consent of the pope). Following the deaths of Dr Bishop and his successor, Dr Richard Smith, the Chapter assumed the right to rule the country and all offices were transferred to the authority of the dean. Although the Old Chapter's authority was weakened by James II, who issued a decree suspending all jurisdiction of chapters, it continued in existence until the Restoration of the Hierarchy in 1850. Never formally dissolved, the Old Chapter was reconstituted as the Old Brotherhood of the English Secular Clergy, with the dean of the Old Chapter becoming president of this new organisation.

### Provenance

Collection brought together by Rev. Michael Sharratt as part of the Old Series of documents in Ushaw College Library

### Previous custodial history

Previous reference number OS/F

### 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 [pg.library@durham.ac.uk](mailto:pg.library@durham.ac.uk) 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

Card catalogue with item list

## Form of citation

The form of citation should use the code GB-0298-UC/P 14, or the collection name (Old Chapter Papers), 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.

## Old Chapter Papers

UC/P44/1 1622

Note by Thomas Eyre on the foundation and organisation of the Chapter by Bishop William Bishop

*Language:* English

1f

UC/P44/2 [?1655 x 1659]

Paper by [?John Sergeant] defending the continuing authority of the Dean and Chapter after the death of Bishop Smith, giving an account of the foundation and quoting canonical authorities to demonstrate its equal standing with other chapters

Includes a typed transcript

*Language:* English

2f

UC/P44/3 [?1630]

Answers by an anonymous writer to objections that the bishop of Chalcedon is not the Ordinary of England and has no immediate jurisdiction

Endorsed: copy of notes found at Townley

Includes a typed transcript

*Language:* English

2f

UC/P44/4 [?1640]

Part of a disquisition on chapters by an anonymous writer to demonstrate the undoubted authority of the Chapter founded by William Bishop and confirmed by Richard Smith

*Language:* Latin

2f

UC/P44/5 [2 August 1656]

(1) Copy of the institution of the Dean and Chapter by William Bishop

(2) Extract of a letter from George Leyburne to some of his brethren

(3) Letter from John Sergeant to Chapter: arguing that the reception in Rome of the Chapter's agent, Plantin [Lawrence Platt], is equivalent to a recognition of the Chapter's jurisdiction

Includes a typed transcript of (3)

*Language:* English

2f

UC/P44/6 6 - 11 May 1667

Copy of the minutes of the General Assembly of the Chapter

Includes a typed transcript

*Language:* English

4f

UC/P44/7 [?1660 x 1669]

Letter from John Sergeant to [?]: defending the Chapter from unfair comparison with the Long Parliament of Cromwell, suggesting that Trent's decrees are neither promulgated in England nor relevant to the unbeneficed Chapter, and the pope and Cardinal Barberini mentioning membership as qualification for a bishopric [Russell's appointment] and the *curia* wishing to appoint deans in the future

Includes a typed transcript

*Language:* English

2f

UC/P44/8 1653 - 1676

31 orders for the government of the English clergy made in the assemblies of 1653, 1657, 1661, 1667 and 1672, and confirmed by the assembly of 1676

Includes a typed transcript

*Language:* English

1f

UC/P44/9 [?1665 x 1669]

Note by [?John Sergeant] and [?Alexander Holt] entitled "A little memorial concerning the Bishop of Chalcedons Authty remaining in the Chapter"

In Latin: arguments to show that the Chapter has continuing jurisdiction

Includes a typed transcript

*Language:* English and Latin

1f

UC/P44/10 12 - 17 July 1798

Extracts from the minutes of a General Chapter held at Birmingham concerning the orthodoxy and status of Joseph Cuthbert Wilks

*Language:* English

4f