

Georgia Southern University

Digital Commons@Georgia Southern

European Jesuit Libraries Provenance Data
Spreadsheets and Administrative Documents

European Jesuit Libraries Provenance Project

Summer 2021

Jesuit Author Biographies

Kalan Eppley

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.georgiasouthern.edu/jesuit-lib-data>

This other is brought to you for free and open access by the European Jesuit Libraries Provenance Project at Digital Commons@Georgia Southern. It has been accepted for inclusion in European Jesuit Libraries Provenance Data Spreadsheets and Administrative Documents by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons@Georgia Southern. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@georgiasouthern.edu.

Jesuit Author Biographies (compiled by Kalan Eppley, EJLPP intern, Summer 2021). *General bibliography follows.*

Manuel Álvarez (1526-1583): Álvarez was a Portuguese Jesuit educator who taught classical language. He was so successful with his studies and teaching of the language that his Latin grammar, *Emmanuelis Alvari e Societate Iesu de institutione grammatica libri tres*(1573), became the standard used by the Jesuits. He was born on the island of Madeira and entered the Society in 1546. Álvarez taught Latin grammar at the Jesuit colleges in Coimbra, Lisbon, and Evora. Several versions of his grammar have been published.

Lawrence Anderton (1577-1643): Anderton was born in Lancashire (England) in 1577 and studied at Christ's College in Cambridge, while there he was greatly praised for his genius and eloquence. He became a priest and joined the Society in 1604. He served as superior of his home Lancashire district for several years. He was known for being a skilled preacher and controversialist who wrote against English Protestants.

François Annat (1590-1670): François Annat was a French Jesuit who taught philosophy and theology at the Jesuit college in Toulouse. He joined the Society of Jesus in 1607 and taught at the college in Toulouse, seven years later he served as rector there and in Montpellier. Annat also served as assistant to the Superior General of the Society in Rome and as provincial of Paris. He attended court as confessor of King Louis XIV and resigned from his duties afterwards, citing the cause as the King's extramarital affairs. In 1632 he published a defense of the Jesuit Divine grace against the Oration Gibieuf(1632). Annat published several more works after 1644 involving the Divine grace controversy.

Daniele Barbaro (1514-1570): In his early years, Barbaro attended the University of Padua, whose botanical garden design he is given credit for today. He is most famously an architect and editor of Vitruvius' *De architectura*, his translation and commentary of it was published in 1556 as *Dieci libri dell'architettura di M. Vitruvio*. He served as ambassador of Venice to the court of King Edward VI of England for 2 years, and also as a representative of Venice at the Council of Trent (1545-1563).

Francesco Benci (1542-1594): Born originally as Plauto in the agricultural city of Acquapendente, Italy, Benci would grow to become a well known humanist and professor. He joined the Society in 1562 after the death of his mother and taught rhetoric at the colleges in Siena and Rome. During this time, he changed his name to Francesco, the same as his father. His writings were very diverse, including an epic poem, lyrics, allegorical dramas, and a work on Rhetoric. His most famous work, *Quinque martyres e Societate Jesu in India* (1591), is a Jesuit epic poem about the missions to India.

Edmund Campion (1540-1581): Campion was born the son of a bookseller in London in 1540. While studying at Oxford in 1569, he delivered an oration during a visit from Elizabeth I which greatly impressed her. He was ordained as an Anglican deacon, but he was unsatisfied, and left England for a Catholic seminary in France. In 1573, he joined the Society of Jesus in Rome. Campion was safe until he joined a Jesuit mission to England, where he preached in secret to the Catholics in England. He passed out copies of his *Decem rationes*(1581) in Oxford, and was arrested a month later. He was convicted of treason and executed on false charges of conspiring to harm the king after refusing to denounce his

religion. Campion was canonized in 1970.

Peter Canisius (1521-1597): Canisius was born to a wealthy family in the Habsburg Netherlands and was sent to study at the University of Cologne at a young age. Here he was introduced to the Society of Jesus by Peter Faber, and he would become the first Dutchman to join in 1543. He is known for his 1556 *Catechism* (with many early printings, in German and Latin), which was among the first Catholic catechisms.

Cristobal de Castro (1150-1615): *No reputable information found*

Jean Chevalier (1587-1644): *No information found*

Christopher Clavius/Christoph Clau (1538-1612): A German mathematician and astronomer, Christopher Clavius is best known for his development of the Gregorian calendar (based on work by Aloysius Lilius, c. 1510-1576). In 1555, he entered the Jesuit order and traveled to Portugal to study at the University of Coimbra. Later, while attending the Jesuit Collegio Romano in Rome, he was tasked with creating a calendar that would stop the drifting of religious holidays. He was a well respected astronomer, which has resulted in a crater on the Moon being named after him.

Edward Coffin 1570-1626: Coffin was an English Jesuit born in Exeter.

Jean Crasset (1618-1692): After entering the Society of Jesus in 1638, the Frenchman Jean Crasset became a successful professor and preacher. He was an ascetic author, best known for works such as *Méthode d'oraison avec une nouvelle forme de méditations* (1672), *Le Chrestien en solitude* (1674), and *Vie de Madame Helyot* (1683). He served for 23 years as director of the Congregation des Messieurs, a sodality of men known for their connection to the Jesuit professed house in Paris.

Thomas Fitzherbert (1552-1640): Fitzherbert was the eldest son of a wealthy family in Staffordshire (England) and he became head of the family as a young child after his father died. After being sent to Oxford at 16, he left England with his wife and children due to persecution in 1582. The family relocated to northern France where he became close with and trusted by Catholic leaders. He served Catherine de' Medici and supported Mary Queen of Scots. Fitzherbert took a vow of celibacy after his wife died in 1588, but continued his Catholic service faithfully by moving to Spain and becoming the secretary of Phillip II. He was accused of conspiring to kill Queen Elizabeth I by the suspicious English authorities, which prompted two works in his own defense: *An Apology of T.F.* and *A Defence of the Catholic Cause*. Fitzherbert became a priest and was ordained in Rome in 1602. He entered the Society of Jesus in July of 1614. He served as rector of the Venerable English College in Rome and is today considered responsible for the creation of its archive.

Giacomo Grassetti (1579-1656): He was an Italian Jesuit who entered the Society at the age of 18. He first taught rhetoric at a college in Modena for 10 years, before moving to teach moral theology at colleges in Parma and Rimini, where he taught for 20 years. He was appointed rector of the college in Mirandola in 1624. Giacomo was well known among peers for his piety and obedience as a Jesuit. He wrote a biography of Catherine of Bologna, *Vita della beata Caterina di Bologna* (1610), which was very

popular during its time.

Edward Knott (Matthew Wilson) (1582-1656): The Jesuit controversialist was born with the name Matthew Wilson but changed it while studying at the Venerable English College in Rome. He would use the name Edward Knott for the rest of his life. He became a priest in March 1606 and joined the Society seven months later. Knott was arrested and taken to prison in Southwark after serving as a missionary in 1626. Three years later, he was freed by Henrietta Maria after her mother, Marie de Medici, insisted. He served as vice provincial in the London district and later as provincial.

Jerome Lalemant (1593-1673): Lalemant was a French Jesuit priest who most notably served as Provincial Superior on the Huron missions from 1645 to 1650. He studied philosophy and theology at the Collège de Clermont and Pont-à-Mousson. He served as chaplain and head of the boarding school at Collège de Clermont (Paris) before he was sent to Canada. In 1639 Lalemant was one founder of the missionary settlement Sainte-Marie among the Hurons, and was serving when the eight missionaries were martyred during the Huron-Iroquois War. His contribution to the *Journal des Jésuites* provided useful insight into everyday life in Canada at the time.

William Malone(1586-1656): Malone was born in Dublin to a merchant family. He was sent to Portugal and then Rome in his early years to study. At 20, he joined the Society of Jesus. He served as rector of St. Isidore's College in Rome (founded by the Franciscans) and later as Superior of the Jesuit mission in Ireland. Controversy among the clergy added difficulty to this position which ended in Malone's arrest by the parliamentarians, who were suppressing the Irish Catholics.

François le Mercier (1604-1690): A well known priest and missionary, le Mercier traveled to Quebec after completing his Jesuit training. He was among a group of French missionaries to the Huron tribe and was very successful in studying their language. Le Mercier and his fellow missionaries lived among the tribe and enjoyed their same peaceful lifestyle until the Huron tribe became hostile due to epidemics that had been passed to them. During his time in New France (1635-1673), Le Mercier wrote *Relations des Jésuites de la Nouvelle-France (1632)* and other works concerning the Jesuit missions to Quebec. In July of 1671 le Mercier became vice-president of the Jesuit college in Quebec, a . He was appointed superior-general of missions in the West Indies from 1674 to 1681. In 1671 he became vice-president of the Jesuit college in Quebec.

Robert Parsons/Persons (1546-1610): Robert Persons was an English Jesuit priest born in Somerset, England. He was an organizer in the Roman Catholic resistance against Queen Elizabeth I and he was part of the English missions alongside Edmund Campion in 1580. He became a Jesuit priest in July 1575 after travelling to Rome. After accompanying Campion to England, the mission fell apart and the two went into hiding. Persons spent his time in England printing until Stephan Brinkely, who ran the printing press was arrested. Shortly afterwards, Persons relocated to France in 1581 and began to write while also directing the English missions. He was sent to Spain in 1588 and established seminaries for English priests in Madrid, Sevilla, and Valladolid.

Nicolau Pimenta (1546-1616): Portuguese Jesuit involved in missions to the East Indies.

Juan Alfonso de Polanco (1516-1577): Polanco was born to a noble family in Burgos, Spain. He studied at the University of Paris and served as *scriptor apostolicus* at the Roman Curia before he decided to join a group of men who were following Ignatius of Loyola. He entered the Society of Jesus in 1541, which caused him to be rejected by his family. Polanco then studied theology at the University of Pauda. In 1547 became the personal secretary to Ignatius of Loyola, which greatly heightened his influence in the Society. Even after the death of Ignatius, Polanco continued to serve as secretary for the next two Superiors General, for a total of 26 years. After this, Superior General Everard Mercurian (1514-1580) tasked him with writing *Chronicon Societatis Iesus*(1573), the early history of the Society for which he is best known.

Paul Ragueneau (1608-1680): Ragueneau was a French Jesuit priest who was a missionary to Quebec. He entered the Society in 1626 and taught at the College in Bourges for four years. In 1636, was sent to the Huron mission in Quebec, where he worked for eight years and became superior of the mission. During this time, the devastation of the Canadian Martyrs occurred and many missionaries died. Ragueneau led a group of survivors to Quebec and wrote about the experience in his “Relations des Hurons” (1646). He served as vice-rector of the Quebec college and superior of the Canadian missions before returning to France in 1662. Ragueneau died in Paris, the same city he was born, in September of 1680.

Pedro de Ribadeneyra (1527-1611): Born in Spain to a well off family, Ribadeneyra was admitted into the Society of Jesus in 1540 by founder Ignatius of Loyola. In 1549, he began teaching rhetoric at a newly opened Jesuit college in Palermo, where he greatly impressed an assembly of Roman nobles and St. Ignatius himself. He was ordained in 1553 and in 1560 served as Provincial of the Society of Jesus in Tuscany, then in Italy. He wrote *Historia Ecclesiastica del scisma del Reyno de Inglaterra* around 1588 after taking inspiration from his earlier mission to Belgium in 1555. His most famous contribution is *Life of Loyola*(1572), which contains his opinions on the miracles and importance of Loyola to the Society.

Giovanni Battista Riccioli (1598-1671): The Italian astronomer is best known for his discovery of the first double star and his naming of areas on the Moon. He entered the Society of Jesus in 1614 and studied humanities at the colleges in Ferrara and Piacenza. He also studied at the College of Parma, where he met fellow Jesuit astronomer Giuseppe Biancani, and collaborated with him and others. After Riccioli completed his studies in 1628, he was ordained and requested mission work. He was instead sent to teach at Parma, where he would study pendulums and falling bodies before being sent to Bologna to teach theology. At Bologna he taught, collaborated with other Jesuits, and published many works on theology and astronomy.

Johannes Roberti (1569-1651): Jean (Johannes) Roberti was born in Saint-Hubert (Low Countries). Before entering the Society of Jesus in 1592, he studied in the colleges at Liège and Cologne. He served as rector of the college in Paderborn. He is best known for his involvement in a medical controversy against Rudolph Goclenius and Johannes Baptista van Helmont. This controversy involved the use of a weapon salve and whether it was natural or evil magic.

João Giros Rodrigues (1559-1633): Rodrigues was a Portuguese Jesuit most famous for his role in the Japan missions. He sailed from Portugal to India in 1574 and to Japan in 1577. Here he taught grammar

while he learned Japanese. He was ordained in 1580 in Macau and afterwards returned to Japan. He served as a diplomat and interpreter between Japanese leaders and foreign sailors. He was sent away from Japan in 1610 after an incident involving a Portuguese ship resulted in Japanese soldiers being killed. The ship was burned and Christian missionaries were expelled from the country

Heinrich Scherer (1628-1704): Scherer was a Jesuit priest, teacher, and cartographer best known for creating *Atlas Novus* (1702). He spent most of his life creating the seven volume geography guidebook, which was completed shortly before his death in 1704. Scherer taught in Germany at the University of Dillingen until he moved to Munich to become a tutor to the Royal Princes of Mantua and Bavaria in 1680.

Robert Southwell(1561-1595): Southwell was born the youngest of a family with eight children in Norfolk, England. He studied at the College de Clermont under Thomas Darbyshire and joined the Society in 1580. After joining, he studied philosophy and theology at the Jesuit College in Rome. Southwell was sent to England as a missionary in 1586, where he worked for six years before being arrested and imprisoned in the Tower of London. He remained here for three years before he was tried for treason and executed.

General Bibliography. All web citations are current as of July 21, 2021.

Adams, John Henry, curator. "Places in the World: Treasures from the Venable Collection." Special Collections and Rare Books, University of Missouri Libraries.

<https://library.missouri.edu/specialcollections/exhibits/show/venable-maps/mapmakers/scherer>

Alberigo, Giuseppe. "BARBARO, Daniele Matteo Alvise in 'Dizionario Biografico.'" *Dizionario Biografico Vol. 6*, 1960. [www.treccani.it/enciclopedia/daniele-matteo-alvise-barbaro_\(Dizionario-Biografico\)](http://www.treccani.it/enciclopedia/daniele-matteo-alvise-barbaro_(Dizionario-Biografico)).

"Christoph Clavius, 1538-1612." Loyola University Chicago Digital Special Collections.

<http://specialcollections.luc.edu/exhibits/show/jesuitsciences/15401620/vlavius>

"Daniele Barbaro (1514-70): In and Beyond the Text." © 2021. <https://arts.st-andrews.ac.uk/danielebarbaro/project/>

Fujikawa, Mayu. "Studies on the Jesuit Japan Mission." *Jesuit Historiography Online*. 2017.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1163/2468-7723_jho_COM_196472>

"Jesuits in New France, The." <https://www.levillee.net/ancestry/jesuitsbio.htm>

Manning, Patricia W. "Writing in the Shadow of Past Polemics: Historiography about the Pre-Suppression Society of Jesus in Spain." *Jesuit Historiography Online*. 2016.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1163/2468-7723_jho_COM_192587>

Pisani, A. "João Rodrigues Girao." Biblioteca Universitaria di Genova – Percorsi tematici universalitas e persvasivitas: Il costituirsi e diffondersi della S.J. e suoi echi (1540-1773).

http://www.bibliotecauniversitaria.ge.it/export/sites/bug/documenti/UetP/2_MISSIONI/Rodrigues_Girao.pdf

"Resources: St. Edmund Campion, SJ." <http://jesuitinstitute.org/Pages/Campion.htm>

“Saint Peter Canisius.” *Franciscan Media*, 21 Dec. 2020, www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day/saint-peter-canisius.

Rabin, Sheila J. “Jesuit Science before 1773: A Historiographical Essay.” *Jesuit Historiography Online*. 2017. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1163/2468-7723_jho_COM_196375>

Rochford, Tom. “Saint Edmund Campion.” *The Society of Jesus*, www.jesuits.global/saint-blessed/saint-edmund-campion/.

Rochford, Tom. “Saint Robert Southwell.” *The Society of Jesus*, www.jesuits.global/saint-blessed/saint-robert-southwell/.

Schofield, Nicholas. “The Rectorate of Thomas Fitzherbert, SJ, 1618–39.” *VEC Archives*, VEC Archives, 4 Apr. 2020, www.vecarchives.org/blog/2019/the-rectorate-of-thomas-fitzherbert-sj-161839.

Thomas, Hannah. “Historiography of the Jesuits in England in the Early Modern Period.” *Jesuit Historiography Online*. 2016. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1163/2468-7723_jho_COM_193581>

Van Ortro, F. “Pedro de Ribadeneira” *The Catholic Encyclopedia*. New York: Robert Appleton Company, 1912. <http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/13029a.htm>

See also the following Wikipedia pages:

François Annat: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fran%C3%A7ois_Annat

Giacomo Grassetti https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Giacomo_Grassetti (in German)