

## **IMEMS, Durham University**

### **End of fellowship report Matteo Binasco**

I was awarded a one month fellowship at the IMEMS in order to work on the collection "Lisbon College Archives", which is contained at the Ushaw College Library. My initial research project was to examine the relevant documents pertaining to the early history of the English College of Lisbon, and how this institution was connected with the other English Colleges on continental Europe, and in particular with that of Rome.

My research at the Ushaw College Library benefitted of the excellent assistance provided by its archivist and librarian, Dr. Jonathan Bush. Indeed thanks to his kindness and support I looked at the material relating to the seventeenth century, when the college was founded and developed. In particular I examined the series LC/A6 which relates to the council and college's life during its early years of existence. This gave me a much clearer view of the college's key figures - its founders, rectors - and at the same time of the problems, like the lack of adequate funding, which beset this institution. I also examined the series Lisbon College, and in particular vol. no. 4 which contains a register of all the students, lecturers, and rectors who were in the college from its founding until the nineteenth century. The consultation of this series allowed me to track a certain number of students who went to Lisbon after having completed part of their studies in the English College of Rome.

Given the vast amount of material contained in the "Lisbon College Archives", I decided to extend my project to the eighteenth century and to the first half of the nineteenth century, thus being able to collect a wealth of information on the college's life and on the role played by this institution in Portugal. In that sense the series LC/A2-Certificates of Reconciliation was extremely relevant, because it provides information on the Protestants from the British Isles who arrived in Lisbon, and who were converted, on behalf of the Portuguese Inquisition, by the confessors of the English College. Instead for the nineteenth century I investigated part of the letters which are contained the correspondence Vol.I. Within this series, I found a very interesting letter written by an American priest and addressed to Edmund Winstaley, the then rector of the English College at Lisbon. This document combined with other letters was instrumental to discover that, since the late decades of the eighteenth century, the English College of Lisbon was involved in a well-developed commerce of wine between Portugal, England, and North America.

Beyond the collections at Ushaw College, I also worked in the Bill Bryson Library, where I was able to read relevant books on the English Catholicism during the early modern period, that I couldn't find in Italy. In terms of my time outside the archives and the libraries, the staff of the IMEMS was very welcoming. I am very grateful to Dr. Andrew Millard, director of the IMEMS,

and to all the selection panel for granting me this fellowship. I owe a big "thank you" to Dr. Elisabeth Alpass, who helped me to organize my research period in Durham, and who quickly replied to all my (boring!) questions. Equally I would like to thank Dr. Luke Sunderland who welcomed me and with whom I had a very pleasant conversation. I was glad to meet Professor Stefano Cracolici, member of the Department of Modern Languages and Cultures at Durham University, with whom I discussed of my research project, and who gave me illuminating advices on how to expand it for a future grant's application. Last but not the least I wish to acknowledge the help provided by Dr. James E. Kelly, senior research fellow in the Department of Theology at Durham University, who suggested me to apply for the IMEMS' fellowship.

Overall I would like to thank all the Institute of Medieval and Early Modern Studies for this wonderful opportunity which enabled me to access to an extraordinary amount of primary and secondary sources. Given the richness of the Lisbon College Archives' collection, I plan to come back, and I look forward to establish a steady research network with the IMEMS and with Ushaw College.