PART FOUR

CATHOLICS AT HOME AND ABROAD
In the late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries, a number of colleges were established in continental Europe for the education of Scottish Catholics. Although they acted mainly as seminaries, they also had a wider role in providing higher education for men and boys. It is known that at least 900 students attended the Scots Colleges in the period from 1603 to 1688. Almost 90% of the students came from Scotland; the remaining 10% were either sons of expatriates or non-Scots. Most of them (approximately 60%) returned home on completion of their studies. Those who did not, spent their lives in the church, the military, education or academia, while a small number entered the service of foreign states as agents or couriers or else followed careers in commerce. The archives of the colleges, particularly the registers, provide much valuable information on the students which in turn sheds light on Scottish communities outside of Scotland at this time.\footnote{Records of the Scots Colleges at Douai, Rome, Madrid, Valladolid and Ratisbon Volume I. Register of Students (Aberdeen, New Spalding Club: 1906. (Hereafter RSC)} Thus, the principal objective of this paper is to present some of the key findings from the registers in relation to these. A secondary objective is to demonstrate, through the use of one example, that these communities had close and active connections with the colleges and through them with each other.

*The Origin of the Colleges*

As part of the Treaty of Edinburgh passed by the Scottish Parliament in 1560, it became mandatory for anyone wishing to graduate from a Scottish university to ascribe to the Confession of Faith. For a few years, Catholics were able to attend the University of Aberdeen which, under the protection of Mary Queen of Scots, defied Parliament on