

**FERRARA (JESUIT PRIEST).**  
**Ferrara (Jesuit Priest) A retreat given at the**  
**Benedictine [sic] Convent Hammersmith for**  
**the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, 1852**

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**Descriptive Summary**

**Creator:** Ferrara (Jesuit Priest).  
**Title:** Ferrara (Jesuit Priest) A retreat given at the Benedictine [sic] Convent Hammersmith for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, 1852  
**Call Number:** Manuscript Collection No. 190  
**Extent:** 0.1 cubic ft. (1 volume)  
**Abstract:** Consists of one volume approximately 100 pages long containing the handwritten transcription of meditations given by Ferrara at the Hammersmith Convent for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.  
**Language:** Materials entirely in English.

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**Administrative Information**

**Restrictions on Access**

Unrestricted access.

**Terms Governing Use and Reproduction**

All requests subject to limitations noted in departmental policies on reproduction.

**Citation**

[after identification of item(s)], Ferrara (Jesuit Priest) A retreat given at the Benedictine [sic] Convent Hammersmith for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, Archives and Manuscript Dept., Pitts Theology Library, Emory University.

**Processing**

Processed by Karen L. Esterl, 1999.

## **Collection Description**

### **Biographical Note**

The author of this text, Father Ferrara, identifies himself as belonging to the Society of Jesus, a religious order founded by St. Ignatius of Loyola in the first half of the sixteenth century. Members of this order, also known as Jesuits, are missionary priests of the Roman Catholic Church.

### **Scope and Content Note**

The volume is approximately 100 pages long and contains the handwritten transcription of meditations given by Ferrara at the Hammersmith Convent for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. This particular religious feast celebrates the Catholic belief that Mary, the mother of Jesus, was preserved, by the grace of God, from the stain of original sin. Perhaps what is most interesting about this particular document is its date, 1852, since the notion of the Immaculate Conception was not officially recognized by the pope until 1854. Previously, the feast had been entitled simply the Feast of the Conception of Mary, and no mention was made of her sinlessness. According to *The Catholic Encyclopedia*, "before 1854 the term 'Immaculata Conceptio' is nowhere found in the liturgical books, except in the invitatorium of the Votive Office of the Conception." The fact that this manuscript was thus entitled in 1852—two years before the pope's declaration of the Immaculate Conception—is, accordingly, rather unexpected.

As the title of the volume indicates, the retreat was given at a Benedictine convent—the Benedictine Order being a religious order of the Roman Catholic Church, marked by its adherence to the Rule of St. Benedict. Since Ferrara addresses his listeners as "sisters," the convent at Hammersmith was probably restricted to Benedictine nuns, though there were and are monks in the Benedictine Order.

The volume also bears a bookplate with the inscription "Ex Libris Monasterii, Sanctæ Scholasticæ. O. S. B. Teignmouth," with the "O. S. B." presumably indicating the Order of St. Benedict since Teignmouth was also a Benedictine monastery.

