

Henry Piers's Continental Travels, 1595–1598

Brian Mac Cuarta SJ has served as director, Archivum Romanum Societatis Iesu, Rome, since 2010. An Irish Jesuit, he previously spent ten years in Northern Ireland. He has taught at Queen's University Belfast and was a visiting professor at St Joseph's University, Philadelphia. He has published on the Catholic community, and on recent settlers, in early modern Ireland. Author of *Catholic Revival in the North of Ireland* (Dublin: Four Courts Press, 2007), he has edited, *Ulster 1641: Aspects of the Rising* (Belfast: Institute of Irish Studies, 1993; 2nd edn, 1997), and *Reshaping Ireland 1550–1700: Essays Presented to Nicholas Canny* (Dublin: Four Courts Press, 2011).

The text, published here for the first time, is a significant addition to Elizabethan travel writing and religious autobiography. It describes a journey in 1595 to Rome through the Low Countries, Germany, and Italy. The author describes life in Rome (he was based in the English College, 1595–1597), including an encounter with the Inquisition, and an account of the ghetto; his work is unusual among contemporary memoirs because it includes a narration of his subsequent sojourn in Spain in 1598. The book affords a rare lay perspective on conversion to Catholicism and its value is heightened by the author's origins in Ireland and connections in England, thus illuminating a recusant community which straddled both realms. As an eye-witness, the author offers fresh and individual insights on the Elizabethan Catholic diaspora in Rome and Spain during the turbulent decade of the 1590s.

Cover illustration: Detail from *The Departure of a Dignitary from Middelburg*, Adriaen Pietersz. van de Venne, 1615. Amsterdam, Rijksmuseum, Object number SK-A-1775, D. Franken Bequest, Le Vésinet.



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

ISBN 978-1-108-49677-3



9 781108 496773