Recusant Literature

**Benjamin Charles Watson, University of San Francisco**

**Document Type**
Bibliography

**Publication Date**
2003

**Abstract**
Description of USF collections by and about Catholics in England during the period of the Penal Laws, beginning with the accession of Elizabeth I in 1558 and continuing until the Catholic Relief Act of 1791, with special emphasis on the Jesuit presence throughout these two centuries of religious and political conflict.

**Recommended Citation**
https://repository.usfca.edu/librarian/2

**INCLUDED IN**
- English Language and Literature Commons
- European Languages and Societies Commons
- History Commons
- Library and Information Science Commons
- Religion Commons

**SHARE**

---

Recusancy was the state of those who refused to attend Anglican services during the history of England and Wales and of Ireland; these individuals were known as recusants. The term, which derives ultimately from the Latin recusare (to refuse or make an objection) was first used to refer to those who remained loyal to the pope and the Roman Catholic Church and who did not attend Church of England services, with a 1593 statute determining the penalties against "Popish recusants".

**RECUSANT LITERATURE**

Though technically the term "recusant" applied to all who, contrary to the Act of Uniformity of 1559, refused to attend Anglican services (see recusants), recusant literature is a convenient term covering religious works by English Catholics in penal times. Source for information on Recusant Literature: New Catholic Encyclopedia dictionary. Recusant Literature. New Catholic Encyclopedia COPYRIGHT 2003 The Gale Group Inc.