

This volume is the critical edition of a seventeenth-century manuscript about youth and education in Italy, *Memoirs of Seventeen Boarders at the College of Nobles in Parma* (1670), preserved at the Biblioteca Comunale "Passerini Landi", Piacenza. A later manuscript at the Archivum Romanum Societatis Iesu was part of a publication project that never went ahead in the 1820s, shortly after the papal restoration of the Society of Jesus.

Published for the first time, the work is by Orazio Smeraldi SJ (1592–1672). It spans a period of five decades and narrates the lives and premature deaths of a number of young boarders who were at the college overseen by the Society of Jesus. Smeraldi presents these students to the reader in terms of their exemplary lives at the renowned ducal college.

*Memoirs of Seventeen Boarders* is filled with insights into college life, seen through the eyes of the author: its operations; the Jesuit educational method; the relationship between the Jesuits and boarders, and their families; the conduct of the students, and the recorded affective and spiritual experiences of these youths.

Edited by Miriam Turrini, the book includes the full transcribed text of *Memoirs* in the original Italian language, with extensive annotations and a substantial Introduction in English that places the work and its author in context and traces the manuscripts' fortunes between the Old and New Society.

Orazio Smeraldi's work is a valuable source for scholars and students of the history of education, and of the Jesuit role in the early modern pedagogical sphere.

*Memoirs of Seventeen Boarders at the College of Nobles in Parma* is the eleventh volume in *Monumenta Historica Societatis Iesu - Nova Series*. Established in 2005, the new series of *Monumenta* publishes primary source material in the form of critical editions, reprints, and translations of Jesuit historical writings across a broad range of themes.

Miriam Turrini is professor of early modern history at the University of Pavia (Italy). She has researched and published on the relationship between conscience and political order; on institutions and educational models; on ecclesiastical structures, and on the dynamics of personal vocations in the Catholic sphere between the sixteenth and eighteenth centuries. She has also examined the vocational autobiographies of Jesuits and student life at Jesuit institutions in the early modern period. Turrini's publications include: *La coscienza e le leggi. Morale e diritto nei testi per la confessione della prima Età moderna* (Bologna: il Mulino, 1991); *Il 'giovin signore' in collegio. I gesuiti e l'educazione della nobiltà nelle consuetudini del collegio ducale di Parma* (Bologna: CLUEB, 2006).