

**COSTUME OF PRELATES
OF THE CATHOLIC
CHURCH, ACCORDING
TO ROMAN ETIQUETTE**

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Costume of Prelates of the Catholic Church, According to Roman Etiquette by John Abel Nainfa

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JOHN ABEL NAINFA

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OF THE
CATHOLIC CHURCH

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ACCORDING TO ROMAN ETIQUETTE.

By JOHN ABEL NAINFA, S. S., D. C. L.

Professor of Church History,
St. Mary's Seminary, Baltimore, Md.

NEW AND REVISED EDITION

*I have loved, O Lord, the beauty of Thy house, and
the place where Thy glory dwelleth. — Ps. xxxv. 8.*


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FOREWORD.

The encouraging success obtained by the first edition of this Manual prompts its author to offer it again, in a somewhat altered form, to interested readers who will find in its pages considerable new matter. Pius X.'s Constitution *Sapienti consilio*, reorganizing the administration of the Roman Curia, the promulgation of the new Code of Canon Law, and numerous answers and decrees of the Sacred Congregation of Rites, have made many changes necessary, and I have also received and inserted some valuable suggestions kindly offered by several Prelates.

My sincere thanks go to all who have in any way helped and encouraged me in this undertaking, and particularly to the many Prelates and liturgists who have, verbally or in writing, praised the purpose and contents of the book. Success has crowned this work, in spite of the good-natured predictions of failure which greeted its inception; friendly criticism has not been wanting, it is always most welcome; I have received it with gratitude and availed myself of it when practicable. Occasionally

COSTUME OF PRELATES

also have I had the surprise to read some portions of this book, given as original productions, over the signatures of genial, if not over-scrupulous, authors; forgetting however the unpleasant feeling. I prefer, for this once, to regard plagiarism, like imitation, as the best kind of flattery.

Now as in the past, I shall gratefully accept suggestions or corrections, and willingly place my little experience of the subjects treated in these pages at the disposal of priests and Prelates for assistance in the solution of practical difficulties which so many regulations of etiquette, precedence and costume may, at times, present or create.

John Abel NAINFA, S. S.

Baltimore, 23 February 1925.

PREFACE TO THE FIRST EDITION.

The contents of this little book will be new, doubtless, to most readers. Indeed, the first reason that prompted its composition was the fact that there is not in the English language any other work on this subject.

Really, if we except the important writings of Mgr. Barbier de Montault, we find scarcely anything treating *ex professo* of this matter. The works of this learned Prelate deserve the reputation they enjoy; for they are a mine of erudition. The information they furnish is, as a rule, remarkable for its accuracy. It seems, however, that a serious lack of order, numerous and useless digressions, and the aggressive tone in which these works have been written, have proved a serious hindrance to their popularity.

To this first reason, rather negative, for its publication, I might add a second, that of positive utility. With the exception of Italy, there is no other country in which the proportion of Prelates is larger than in the United States. Now these Prelates would naturally desire to have their official costume conform as far as possible to the rules and