

**THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF
AMERICA STUDIES IN AMERICAN
CHURCH HISTORY, VOL. III: THE SOCIETY
FOR THE PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH;
ITS FOUNDATION, ORGANIZATION, AND
SUCCESS (1822-1922); A DISSERTATION**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649138821

The Catholic University of America Studies in American Church History, Vol. III: The Society for the propagation of the faith; its foundation, organization, and success (1822-1922); A dissertation by Edward John Hickey

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

EDWARD JOHN HICKEY

**THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF
AMERICA STUDIES IN AMERICAN
CHURCH HISTORY, VOL. III: THE SOCIETY
FOR THE PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH;
ITS FOUNDATION, ORGANIZATION, AND
SUCCESS (1822-1922); A DISSERTATION**

UNIV. OF
CALIFORNIA

**THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA
STUDIES IN AMERICAN CHURCH HISTORY**

Vol. III

THE SOCIETY FOR THE PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH

Its Foundation, Organization and Success

(1822-1922)

By

EDWARD JOHN HICKEY, S.T.B., M.B.A. (Harvard)

A DISSERTATION

**SUBMITTED TO THE FACULTY OF PHILOSOPHY OF THE CATHOLIC
UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE
DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY**

1922

TO VIMU
AMMOTLAD

574

Nihil Obstat.

†THOMAS J. SHAHAN,
Censor Deputatus.

Imprimatur.

†MICHAEL J. CURLEY,
Archiepiscopus Baltimorensis.

Baltimore, die XXVI Maii, 1922.

Copyright 1922, by Edward J. Hickey.

Gift

CONTENTS

	PAGE
Preface	v
Chapter I. The Historical Background	1
Chapter II. The Foundation of the Society	10
Chapter III. The Organization of the Society	26
Chapter IV. The Administration of the Society	46
Chapter V. Ecclesiastical and Lay Coöperation.....	61
Chapter VI. The Growth of the Society	109
Chapter VII. The Success of the Society	130
Chapter VIII. Allied and Subordinate Activities	154
Chapter IX. Critical Essay on the Sources	163
Conclusion	183
Appendix	187

H

PREFACE

The American Church History Seminar at the Catholic University of America is not principally an informational course of study but a training ground in historical research by personal work on the part of the student guided by the professor. The work done comprises an introduction to the study of ecclesiastical history together with a special subject of research for each student. In this seminar the sources and materials for the study of American Church history necessarily receive special attention.

During my first year at the University, Dr. Guilday drew my attention to the study of those Foreign Mission societies which had so liberally contributed to the Church of the United States, and to their published collections of sources which were rich in historical material for our Church.

Since 1915, the Director of the Seminar has had the plan in mind of encouraging some of the students to devote themselves to a study of these published collections, and also to research-study in the archives of these Societies. His research year in the Archives of Propaganda impressed upon him the necessity of similar researches in the Archives of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith of Lyons and Paris, and in those of the Leopoldine Association of Vienna and the Ludwig-Missionsverein of Munich.

As a member of the Seminar during the scholastic year (1919-1920), and as Dr. Guilday's companion in Europe during the long vacation of 1920, I had splendid opportunities of following out his plan. Before departing, I consulted Mgr. Freri, the American Delegate of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith. I found him in cordial sympathy with the project, and he provided me with a letter to M. Alexandre Guaseo, the General Secretary of the Central Council at Paris. I called upon M. Guaseo in June, 1920, and was

received with his customary urbanity. He permitted me to study in the office of the Central Council and facilitated my work with his direction which was of special value by virtue of his long acquaintance with the activities of the Society.

The *Annales de la Propagation de la Foi*, which have been published since the foundation of the Society in 1822, contain a very extensive collection of letters dealing with the Church in the United States. It was quite natural that these published documents should be studied first; and this study impressed upon me the fact that the unpublished material for any diocese in the United States or, indeed, for all the dioceses, was much more vast than scholars realize. At an early date I expressed this conviction to the General Secretary, but owing to various difficulties which arose I did not succeed in obtaining access to the unpublished documents until after the New Year, 1921.

Once begun on the work of sifting all this unpublished material, the subject became more difficult of treatment; for no one scholar could copy all the correspondence of the American bishops to the Society during the last hundred years. It would take an experienced secretary at least three years to copy all this material.

At first the *dossiers* containing the letters from the American dioceses were studied in alphabetical order. Later, this plan was abandoned in favor of the *dossiers* containing the letters from the fourteen American archdioceses, together with those from other dioceses evidently of considerable importance, either by virtue of their connection with the foundation of the Society or the length of years in which they had received aid from the Society, or on account of the conspicuous importance of some of their bishops.

Later, it developed that the correspondence from America before the years 1832-1838 did not exist in the Paris Archives. Hence the necessity arose of visiting Lyons with the hope of finding this material there. Owing to the danger that these archives would be confiscated by the Government at the time of the Associations Cultuelles (1906), all the documents had

been packed in cases and shipped to Fribourg, Switzerland, where they still remained.

With gracious co-operation, M. Valerian Groffier, General Secretary of the Central Council of Lyons, was kind enough to go to Fribourg for the express purpose of finding this material for my thesis. The result was that I have the most important documents from 1822 to 1838, which have never been published in the *Annales*. Monseigneur Béchetoille, President of the Central Council of Lyons, gave me copies of valuable documents concerning Pauline-Marie Jaricot and the foundation of the Society.

After these letters had been procured, however, it became evident that additional material might be located in the archives of the Superior Council. These archives disappeared in the Revolution of 1830, and no trace of them remains. In order clearly to establish the relationship between the Society and the Sacred Congregation de Propaganda Fide it was necessary to visit Rome where Cardinal Van Rossum, the Prefect of the Congregation, made it possible for me to procure all the important data on this point.

From the outset, the plan had been to treat the Society's foundation, organization, administration and accomplishments in the world in an introductory chapter, and to confine to the body of the work the story of those results which could be traced to the financial aid the Society had given to the dioceses of the United States. The large number of dioceses which had received assistance from the Society and the length of years over which this assistance was distributed, together with the impossibility of transcribing all the documents regarding these dioceses rendered this plan far too extensive. Some limitation had to be devised. A geographical limitation was not satisfactory, because there could be very little connection between the story of the foundation of the Society and its results in any restricted part of the United States. A limit in time also involved a lack of proportion in the work, since there was a dearth of material for some dioceses and a

large quantity for others. A suitable *terminus ad quem* might necessitate the selection of the First Plenary Council of Baltimore (1852), but this would require too lengthy a work for a doctoral dissertation. Even the arbitrary time limit of the first ten years involved many of these difficulties.

It was found necessary, before treating the results of the Society's contribution to America, to endeavor critically to clear up the mooted questions connected with the foundation of the Society. In addition to this, its end, its means, its organization, its development through the encouragement and cooperation of the Holy See and the Episcopate, its accomplishments in evangelization, in education and in works of charity, and its services to civilization and science, together with its allied activities, required a great deal of detailed exposition.

Moreover, coming as it does, in the centenary year of the Society, it was found desirable to give in these pages a general conspectus of the Society's accomplishments in the five continents of the world, and to postpone until later the story of its contribution to the American Church.

Grateful acknowledgment is due to Rev. Dr. Peter Guilday, my major professor, to whom I owe my historical training. It was only by virtue of his generous counsel, his direction and assistance, that I was enabled to complete this essay.

Special thanks are due to Monsignor Freri, whose kind encouragement and cooperation were necessary at every stage of the research and the composition.

In Paris the Central Council of the Society has for some forty years been under the direction of M. Alexandre Guasco, the General Secretary. Undoubtedly, this gentleman is better acquainted with every detail in connection with the history of this Society than any man living. After all these years of self-sacrificing service to the missionary cause, during which he has published a number of books on the subject, M. Guasco was the one person capable of directing this work. No doubt I caused a considerable amount of labor and