

Announcement for New Edition of the Church Manual

On September 17, 1910, page 47, of the *Christian Science Sentinel*, the announcement for the 88th edition of the *Mother Church Manual* appeared. It read thus:

THE MANUAL

The 88th edition of The Mother Church Manual, containing all of the recent changes, has been issued and is now on sale.

Subsequent editions of the Manual will be issued when new by-laws are made or when important changes are made in by-laws already in effect; and due notice of each new edition will appear in the *Sentinel*.

Address all orders to Allison V. Stewart, Publisher, Falmouth and St. Paul streets, Boston.

From May 9, 1908, in the "Special Announcements" section at the end of each issue of the *Christian Science Sentinel* the wording was changed to include the following:

THE CHURCH MANUAL. — containing all the By-laws of The Mother Church, The First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Boston, Mass. Each new edition of the Manual will have special notice in the *Sentinel*.

This wording continued to appear in the *Sentinel* until the January 21, 1911 issue. It never appeared again and there was never an announcement of the first 89th edition which was issued December 17, 1910.

It is highly questionable whether Mary Baker Eddy ever approved the 89th edition of the *Church Manual*. Her signature on the manuscript or galley proof always provided her authorization. This was a practice from which she had not varied in over forty years of writing. No proof has ever been provided by the Board of Directors on this subject. This is a letter sent to a friend giving an explanation on the subject from the Church History Department.

The First Church of Christ, Scientist in Boston
Massachusetts

Church History

March 18, 1993

Dear,

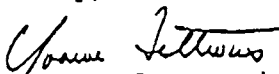
We were glad to receive your question about the Manual of The Mother Church.

The 89th Edition of the Church Manual was first issued on December 17, 1910. This edition carried a 1911 date on its front cover. Its By-Laws are identical to the 88th Edition issued September 14, 1910. In the Appendix of the 89th, however, the words "and Branch Churches" were added to pages 120:2 and 127:3 with Mrs. Eddy's written approval.

A second issue of the 89th Edition was published on June 21, 1911. The reason for this was to reflect the change in Readers in the list of Church Officers on page 21. John C. Lathrop and Grace E. Collins were the new Readers.

Please let us know if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,


Mrs. Yvonne C. Fettweis
Manager, Church History