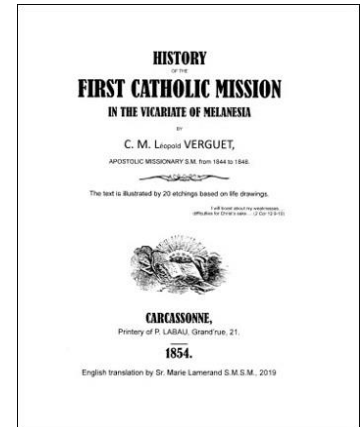




## Léopold Verguet: History of the First Catholic Mission in the Vicariate of Melanesia

*(publisher's details for English  
translation)*



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### **Description**

This is a history of the first Catholic mission to New Caledonia, New Hebrides and Solomon Islands beginning in 1844. The author, C. M. Léopold Verguet, was one of the French Marists Fathers on that mission between 1844 and 1848. The text follows the course of his journey from France with Bishops Epalle and Collomb and includes periods in New Holland and New Zealand. Verguet displays an interest in the characteristics of the land and in the cultures and practices of the peoples. This text is a translation from the French and is laid out in the style of the original edition with accompanying illustrations.

### **Author**

Léopold Verguet (1817 - 1914) was born in France and became a diocesan priest in the diocese of Carcassonne. He was interested in missionary work and in 1844 he joined the Society of Mary and prepared for the new Catholic mission in Melanesia. He was one of fourteen in the eleventh missionary band to leave France. He was involved in attempts to establish missions in New Caledonia, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. None of these first attempts succeeded, and Verguet was with Bishop Epalle, when he was killed in Solomon Islands. In 1848, Verguet left the mission and subsequently left the Society of Mary and returned to his diocese. He was an ethnologist and artist, and his sketches and writings offer important insights into Melanesian life at the time of European contact. In France, he continued to write and to advise on the Melanesian mission. He died at age ninety-seven.

### **Translator**

Marie Lamerand is a Marist Missionary Sister, who was born in Australia of French ancestry. She has worked in the Solomon Islands, Australia and then in Rome, where she was engaged in administration and the translation of historical documents.

### **Designer**

Mervyn Duffy is a Marist priest from New Zealand. He holds a degree in mathematics and a doctorate in theology from the Gregorian University in Rome and lectures at Good Shepherd College, Auckland, New Zealand.