
PART TWO

JESUIT SEISMOLOGICAL STATIONS

IN THE

UNITED STATES AND CANADA

CHAPTER V

HOPES UNREALIZED

By James B. Macelwane, S. J.

In the first enthusiasm of the movement expectations ran high and initially favorable responses were received by Father Odenbach from many quarters. He fully expected seismographic stations to be established at Saint John's College, Toledo, Ohio; at Seattle College, Seattle, Washington and at Brooklyn College, Brooklyn, New York.

When it came to the crucial point of placing an order for the seismographs the hopes of Father Odenbach were destined to be disappointed except in the case of Brooklyn College, now known as Brooklyn Preparatory School.

The first president of Brooklyn College, the Reverend J. F. X. O'Connor, S. J., planned a seismological observatory as a department of the School of Science of the College which he established in 1911. An 80 kilogram horizontal component Wiechert seismograph was purchased and set up in the room prepared for it. But an interested director was lacking and with the departure of Father O'Connor and the eventual abandonment of the college plan in favor of the Preparatory School alone the seismograph was neglected and the room closed. As an unfortunate sequel, vandals broke into the seismograph room and carried away or destroyed all of the delicate parts of the instrument. It was never restored.