We are pleased to let you know that we are currently finishing volume XXIII in the series Leuven Chinese Studies, published by the Ferdinand Verbiest Institute of the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven.


This is the first volume of a wide-ranging study of the spread and penetration of Western books in late-Ming, early-Qing China via Jesuit missionaries. The study is based mainly on archival sources (letters, manuscripts, treatises), supplemented with the 4,100 extant books (‘Beitang collection’ in Peking), especially those (ca. 2,500 items) containing one or more inscriptions. This first volume focuses on the logistics of the book acquisition: from the selection made in China, through the role of the book agents and donors in Europe, to the delivery routes, both overseas and overland. The prosopographical study of the names mentioned in the book inscriptions reveals not only the identity of the original owners and the intentional donors – and by consequence the milieus of interest and participation in the Jesuit mission within Europe – but especially the roughly fifteen regional support networks of the mission, ranging from Sicily and the Low Countries, on the one hand, and Mitteleuropa and Portugal, on the other. This European part of the circulation process touched European book and printing history, with regard to prices, distribution, and editors (Low Countries; France; England; Mitteleuropa; Italy; Portugal).

The next volume will focus on the formation of regional Western libraries in China (in Peking and the other main cities, but also in ‘minor’ residences), the different ‘classes’ of books represented (from Bible study through sciences to belles lettres), and the different ways these books were used by the Jesuit readers for their missionary goals, within the program of an ‘apostolate of the press’, leading to the transmission to, and reception by the Chinese.

As such, this study – when completed – will reveal a largely neglected chapter of European book and reading history, and at the same time a crucial chapter in the intercultural exchange between the late humanistic Western and the Chinese culture, in which the printed book played a pivotal role.

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Price: 75 euro.

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Other publications of the same author, to be ordered at the same address:

*The Astronomia Europaea of Ferdinand Verbiest, S.J. (Dillingen, 1687): Text, Translation, Notes and Commentaries (Monumenta Serica Monograph Series XXVIII), Net-tetal (Steyler Verlag), 1993, 547 p., ill.*

ISBN: 3-8050-0327-7
Price: € 42,14

In his *Astronomia Europaea*, published 1687 in Dillingen, Ferdinand Verbiest (1623-1688), coryphée of the Jesuit Mission in China, describes concisely, yet detailed, to a European public, how the use of European astronomy in calculating the Chinese calendar and predicting lunar and solar eclipses, succeeded in resuming its former position of influence after the persecution under the Oboi regency (1664-1669).

In a second part, Verbiest reports on the achievements of the Jesuits in fourteen distinct mathematical and mechanical sciences (gnomonics, ballistics, hydragogics, mechanics, optics, catoptrics, perspective, statics, hydrostatics, hydraulics, pneumatics, music, horological technology, meteorology) during the decisive decade (1669-1679) when a strong base was laid for the revival and the flowering of the Jesuit Mission.

This edition of the *Astronomia Europaea* presents a photostatic reprint of the rare original edition next to an English translation, annotated from contemporary first-hand and mostly unpublished documents, situating and explaining the treatise both against a Chinese context and European, in particular Jesuit background. An extensive introduction describes its complex growth process and defines its relation to previous astronomical treatises by the same author, put forward between 1669 and 1678, both in Chinese and in Latin, including the recently discovered *Compendium Historicum and Mechanica.*

ISBN: 90 5867 001 5
Price: € 73

This volume brings the story of François de Rougemont, a Dutch Jesuit, during the last stage of a 52-years life span, which he spent as a missionary in Changshu, in Suzhou Prefecture. The reconstruction of this missionary stint was based, albeit not exclusively, on the excerpting of a newly discovered account book which covered the period between October 1674 and April/May 1676. The book did register the personal expenses of the missionary, next to the minor sources of receivings he expected to benefit from. Absolutely unique is the part of the account book which reveals the successes and failures in the missionary’s own spiritual quest.

After an introductory reconstruction of the life of de Rougemont and the handing down of the account book, its contents are presented in a bilingual (Latin-English) edition. The text is read from different angles of investigation into the general topographical settings, the ten voyages undertaken by the missionary over the period 1674-1676, the social contacts to which he did refer, the different aspects of his priestly and pastoral life, the evangelical tools at his disposition, the material culture of the mission (station) and finally its financial structure. The volume highlights the great value of the small account book for the reconstruction of missionary life in 17th century China.


Price: € 67,00

The first part of this volume describes the characteristics of the astronomical corpus, - one of the most spectacular bibliographical testimonia of Jesuit presence in 17th-18th century China, - and subsequently disentangles the complex mutual interrelationship between the various items.

By investigating handwritten dedications and owner's marks, material indications and external testimonia, N. Golvers succeeded in reconstructing the history of the shipments of the documents to Europe, connecting these to the late 1670s, i.e. to Ph. Couplet's European 'tour' (1683-1692) and the presence of A. Thomas, S.J. in Peking (1685-1709). In the last section of the volume, several case-studies illustrate how over the 17th-18th centuries European scholars 'received' these documents for any of their astronomical, sinological, historical, linguistic or purely bibliophile values. This research measures for the first time, in quantitative and geographical-historical terms, the penetration in contemporary Europe of Jesuit publications on China. It also traces the different motivations behind these dispatches, i.e. in terms of public relations, in defense of particular evangelisation methods or in search of support while offering bibliophile curios in return.

This abundantly illustrated volume provides not only a substantial contribution to the history of the Jesuit mission in China and the methods applied, but also to the advancing of knowledge about the history of western astronomy in East Asia, and about the presence of Sino-Jesuit printed materials preserved in different European collections.


Price: € 37
This book makes available two manuscripts by Ferdinand Verbiest, S.J. (1623-1688), written in 1676 in Beijing for the attention of the Russian tsar and brought to Moscow by the legate Nicolas Spathary Milesescu. Both texts represent the oldest version of the *Astronomia Europaea* corpus, and were until recently totally forgotten. Their discovery of late was due to the recognition of a manuscript copy produced by Chrysanthos Notaras in Moscow in 1693. This manuscript has languished in obscurity in the library of the Metochion of the Patriarchate of Jerusalem in Constantinople for centuries.

In this edition, the Latin texts have been reconstituted, translated into English and annotated. The introduction situates the manuscripts within the corpus of Verbiest’s Latin writings and emphasizes both the sections of the manuscripts that were subsequently included in the well-known *Compendium Latinum and Astronomia Europaea* edition (Dillingen, 1687) as well as those that were eventually omitted. Furthermore, the introduction traces the histories of the Moscow manuscripts and especially the Constantinopolitan copy – their only remaining testimony – and chronicles the hitherto unknown reception of the 17th century Jesuit astronomy, mechanics and physics in Russia and South-Eastern Europe in the post-Byzantine era.


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