



## Beyond the Great Wall: Christianity and Chinese-Western Cultural Exchange in Modern China

"Beyond the Great Wall," a new educational and research program co-sponsored by the Ricci Institute and the Center for Mongolian Studies at Inner Mongolia University, was held from May 27 – 31, 2009 in Hohhot, China. It was an inaugural program of the *Narratives from the Hinterland* project supported by a three-year grant from The Henry Luce Foundation in New York.

The program started with a series of lectures to students of Inner Mongolia University on the history of Chinese-Western encounters in the northern border areas of China, the role of religion in the modern world, historiography of Sinology, and multi-disciplinary approaches in the study of Chinese-Western encounters today. The lectures were

followed by a two-day research seminar attended by thirty junior and senior scholars from over twenty academic institutions throughout China. More than thirty graduate students from local universities also attended. Topics included Christianity and social development in Inner Mongolia, biographical research of Western missionaries, scientists, and travelers, and their impact on local society, regional NGOs, comparative studies of Christianity, Buddhism, and Islam, and archival resources.

A publication of archival resources in Mongolian will be produced in 2010 that will contribute information to historical studies of the region. Programs in other regions of China are under preparation by the Ricci Institute.

## "The Jesuit and the Skull" Attracts Audience Interested in the Life of the Jesuit Who Discovered Peking Man

On March 23, 2009, the Ricci Institute welcomed to the Hilltop over one-hundred guests and enjoyed an evening presentation and book signing by **Dr. Amir Aczel**, author of a recent publication entitled *The Jesuit and the Skull: Teilhard de Chardin, Evolution, and the Search for Peking Man*. The book captures the life of Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, S.J., who helped pull free a skull entombed in clay inside a cave near Beijing in 1929. Dr. Aczel, through his lively presentation of the scientific pursuit and philosophical discussions of Teilhard, revealed the life of a French Jesuit who kept his faith while maintaining his commitment to science.



## Author's Workshop on the Chinese Rites Controversy

**O**n a sunny and warm weekend in late April, three scholars of Chinese-Western relations long associated with the Ricci Institute, Professors **Nicolas Standaert** (Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium), **Antonio Vasconcelos** (Technical University of Lisbon, Portugal) and **Eugenio Menegon** (Boston University), joined Professor **Paul Rule** (emeritus, La Trobe University, Australia) and staff members and guests of the Ricci Institute in a workshop at the Ricci Institute on the Chinese Rites Controversy.



The discussion focused on the recently completed draft of Professor Rule's volume covering the early period of the Controversy (late 1500s century to 1695). The complex research for the preparation of this 600-page volume has been supported over the years by the Ricci Institute, and is mainly based on the contents of the Rouleau Archives housed at the Ricci Institute Library. Spirited exchanges on various aspects of the manuscript animated the sessions of this intense workshop, focusing on argumentation, historiography, and structure, as well as on editorial and bibliographical issues. The final draft of this volume is under preparation for submission to an academic publisher. (Contributed by Eugenio Menegon)

## Ricci Scholars' Report

*The Ricci Institute regularly hosts visiting scholars who conduct research using library and other resources at the University of San Francisco. The following are the reports by two Ricci Visiting Scholars in Spring 2009.*

**Marco Musillo** Ph.D., University of East Anglia, Norwich, U.K., 2006

I am doing my research on a Jesuit brother and artist Giuseppe Castiglione (1688–1766) who worked as a painter in the Qing imperial workshops from 1715 to 1766. The outcome of my investigation will be a monograph to be published in 2010. The collection of European and Qing material available at the Ricci Institute gave me the opportunity to develop a comprehensive analysis of Castiglione's artistic language, and of his engagement within the broader Sino-European political and historical context. In particular, I am focusing on Qing and Italian painting traditions, Jesuit sources, and documents from the *Propaganda Fide* and the Roman Curia. The analysis of the European evidence is supported by textual sources pertaining to the Qing court such as documents from the *Neiwufu* and imperial edicts about Europeans working in Beijing. My research is also enriched by secondary sources from different fields of scholarly inquiry such as the history of the visual arts in the context of cultural exchange between Europe and China, Jesuit historiography, and the history of the mid-Qing dynasty.



**Isabelle Duceux** Ph.D., El Colegio de México in Mexico, 2007

My areas of specialization are in Chinese and Western Philosophy with a particular emphasis on Neo-Confucian philosophy from Song to Ming as well as on European Renaissance philosophy and on early modern cultural exchange between Europe and China. My recent research is built upon my dissertation on the exploration of Francesco Sambiasi's Treatise, *Linghun lishao* 靈魂蠡勺 (1624). At the Ricci Institute,

I have been working on Niccolò Longobardo's two treatises: *A Short Answer Concerning the Controversies about Xang Ti* [上帝], *Tien Xin* [天神], and *Ling Hoen* [靈魂] and *Other Chinese Names and Terms* (1623–24) and *Linghun daoti shuo* 靈魂道體說 (1636). These works analyze the idea of the monism of the substance in Chinese philosophy, the presence or absence of the notion of a spiritual substance in it, and also address the Chinese converts' misunderstanding of Christian notions referring to spiritual substances. This research is part of my long-term project on the adaptation of Western theology and philosophy into Chinese by Jesuit missionaries of the early modern age.



## Ricci Institute Library Recent Acquisitions

*Zhunge'er Qi Zhasake yamen dang'an yibian (Translated Jasagh-Foreign Affairs Bureau Documents of the Jungar Banner)*, 准格爾旗扎薩克衙門檔案譯編, edited by Altandalai [Hohhot, Inner Mongolia People's Press, 2007-2008]. A Chinese translation of official Mongolian language documents of the Jungar banner, from 1739-1874.

*Shizi lianhua. The Cross-Lotus: A study on Nestorian inscriptions and documents from Yuan dynasty in China*, 十字蓮花: 中國元代敘利亞文景教碑銘文獻研究, by Niu Ruji (Shanghai Classical Press, 2008). Articles concerning the earliest Christian contacts with the Chinese empire focusing on Syriac, Uighur and Latin texts and antiquities of the Yuan period (1260-1368) found along the Silk Road and in ancient coastal cities.

*Histoire des missions de Chine*, by Adrien Launay (Paris, Mission Étrangères, 2002). Reprint of Launay's early 20th century histories of the MEP missions to Sichuan, Guizhou, Guangdong, and Guangxi, which detail life among the ethnic minorities living in China's southwestern regions.



## Scholars Visiting the Ricci Institute in 2008-2009



Duceux



Sudebilige



Musillo



Üçerler

**Isabelle Duceux**, Ph.D., received her doctoral degree recently from El Colegio de México in 2007. During her residence, she continued her research on the introduction of Aristotelian philosophy in China by Jesuit Missionaries in the seventeenth-century historical context and assisted the Ricci Institute with analysis and enhancement of online catalogue entries for the Rouleau Archives.

**Sudebilige**, Ph.D. [Inner Mongolia University, China], is the first visiting scholar sponsored by The Henry Luce Foundation grant *Narratives from the Hinterland* for the summer of 2009. His research focus is on the activities of the Catholic Church in Inner Mongolia and the issue of land ownership that evolved among Han Chinese migrants from China-proper, local Mongolians, and Catholic missionaries during the late Qing period.

**Marco Musillo**, Ph.D., received his doctoral degree from the University of East Anglia, Norwich, U.K., in 2006. As an art historian, he continued his research on the European artistic training of Giuseppe Castiglione, a Jesuit missionary, and its influence on his experience and the paintings he created in the Chinese imperial court in the eighteenth century.

**Antoni Üçerler**, S.J., Ph.D. [Oxford University], is an EDS-Stewart Distinguished Research Fellow. He completed the publication *Christianity and Culture: Japan and China in Comparison (1542-1644)*, scheduled for publication by late 2009. He joined USF faculty members and Ricci Institute staff to prepare for a series of events for 2010 commemorating the 400th anniversary of the death in Beijing of Matteo Ricci, the Institute's namesake.

## What's on Your Desk? Interesting books being read by Ricci Institute visiting scholars and research staff

**Isabelle Duceux**, Ph.D. *Le néo-confucianisme mis en examen: La pensée de Wang Tingxiang (1474-1544)* [Questioning Neo-Confucianism—The Thought of Wang Tingxiang (1474-1544)], by Frédéric Wang, Lille: ANRT Diffusion, 2006.

**Mark Mir**, MA *Carpentry and Building in Late Imperial China: A Study of the Carpenter's Manual / Lu Ban Jing*, by Klaas Ruitenbeek, Leiden: Brill, 1996.

**Marco Musillo**, Ph.D. *The Afterlife of Images: Translating the Pathological Body between China and the West*, by Larissa N. Heinrich, Durham: Duke University Press, 2008.

**Jan Vaeth**, MA *Wo de fuqin Deng Xiaoping: "Wenge" sui yue, 我的父亲邓小平: "文革" 岁月 (Deng Xiaoping and the Cultural Revolution: A Daughter Recalls the Critical Years)*, by Deng Rong 毛毛, Beijing 北京: Zhongyang wenxian chubanshe 中央文献出版社, 2000.

**Xiaoxin Wu**, Ed.D. *Return to Dragon Mountain: Memories of a Late Ming Man*, by Jonathan Spence, New York: Viking Penguin, 2007.

