

Latin as the vehicular language in the scientific communication between Europe and China (17th-18th cent.)

1. Correspondence

The *Constitutiones* and letter writing in the SJ

- Position of Latin

- Instrument for (a) spreading information and (b) constituting a ‘corporative identity’ (Giard/Romano / Friedrich);

Letters transcribed circulated widely; summarized; printed and read – in private / in public (refectory): for motives of *pietas*; self-education; scholarly interest.

Preferred before books.

Contents / domains: various

2. Western libraries

- Masterplan of Longobardo (1611).

- Implementation by N. Trigault – J. Terrentius during their European ‘tour’ (1615-1618); later permanent / irregular extensions up to ca. 1800

- Preserved:

- 4,100 titles: 69% in Latin; a very large but fragmentarized evidence on the use of these titles;

- Domains: entire European scholarship (some exceptions);

- Most of the ‘landmarks’ of Western scientific ‘revolutions’ (Copernicus, Galileo, etc.> Newton; Linnaeus, etc.; *Tabulae astronomicae*); > the explicit desire to transfer ‘up-to-date’ science;

- Presence of ancient Latin literature; Greek authors in bilingual editions;

- Academic periodicals (*Acta Eruditorum*, etc.)

- Latin as linguistic reference language: bilingual dictionaries (Latin -...); linguistic description of Chinese and Manchu in Latin

3. Translations: the original aim of the library project

- Various forms: from translation to paraphrase and patchwork

- From Latin to Chinese;

- From Chinese into Latin;

- Role of Chinese assistants.

Conclusion.