

Yasmin Haskell, *Deities, demons... or decoration? Eastern gods in Francesco Benci's "Quinque martyres" (1591) and Bartolomeu Pereira's "Paccidos libri xii" (1640)*

This paper considers the representation of Western and Eastern divine and demonic forces in two Jesuit Latin epics: Francesco Benci's *Quinque martyres* (1591/2), on the five Jesuits massacred in Cuncolim, southern India, in 1583, and Bartolomeu Pereira's *Paccidis* (1640), on the life and martyrdom in Nagasaki, in 1626, of the poet's cousin, Francisco Pacheco. While Benci exercises Tridentine restraint in his use of divine machinery, Pereira's poem is much more baroque: Hindu, Shinto and Buddhist deities join the Greco-Roman gods, as well as allegorical personifications of the virtues, vices and passions. It is impossible to extrapolate a general rule from two examples, but these poems usefully illustrate the different senses in which we can speak about 'global' Latin. I will suggest that the Latin humanism lies at the root of Jesuit policies and practices of cultural accommodation and appropriation.