

Dear colleagues of the Ricci Institute,

first of all, I would like to thank you for your generosity of granting my travel to your institute and providing me with the opportunity of utilizing your library and with much more kind help. In this report, please allow me to inform you about my research progress and experience during my stay.

Although it has been as short as one week, I believe that my gains were plenty. I came with the aim of looking for new materials as well as with the hope to find possibilities of cooperation for our new research project at Tübingen University “Translating Western Science, Technology and Medicine to Late Ming China: Convergences and Divergences in the Light of the *Kunyu gezhi* 坤輿格致 (Investigations of the Earth’s Interior, 1640) and *Taixi shuifa* 泰西水法 (Hydromethods of the Great West, 1612)”. In the end, I return with plenty of new materials and wonderful perspectives for cooperation.

Firstly, my research was developed by obtaining new materials including both primary sources and secondary literature. On the first day of my arrival (6th August), librarian Mr. Mark Mir immediately provided me with many useful digitalized books, which brought enormous convenience for my research. Besides, he introduced to me several highly interesting manuscripts discovered by Father Antoni Ucerler in Japan. Those are:

- *Taixi shuifa* 泰西水法, second volume of two
- *Yuanjing shuo* 遠鏡說, one volume complete
- *Hengxing li* 恆星歷, three volumes complete
- *Tianxue shijie* 天學十誠, one volume complete

The above-mentioned manuscripts are undated handwritten copies made in Japan during the period of proscription of Christian religious materials beginning in the early 17th century. The texts are punctuated with Japanese reading marks and marginal notes in red or black ink. It would be very interesting to know, how these books, which are of scientific topics, came to Japan, and how they were spread or prohibited there, how they were received and practiced by Japanese scholars, with a comparison to the situation of *Kunyu gezhi* 坤輿格致 in China, which was only preserved in the form of one hand-copied manuscript as well. Another primary source I obtained is the newly published facsimile version of *Zhili shugao* 治歷疏稿, collected in *Hanyu jidujiao zhenxi wenxian congkan* 漢語基督教珍稀文獻叢刊, which has not yet arrived in the libraries of Tübingen and Peking Universities. This source is of particular importance because it provides the background information of work, personnel, finance, intention, and procedures of the Calendar Bureau where *Kunyu gezhi* was produced. Furthermore, thanks to Mark’s excellent skills, we found several letters written by Luo Wenzao 羅文藻 (Gregorio López, 1615-1691), in Latin and Spanish original as well as Chinese translation, in which traces of Liu Yunde 劉蘊德 (Blasius Verbiest, 1628-1707) could be found. Liu seems to be a key person for the spread of the *Kunyu gezhi* as well as of western mining knowledge and activities during the early Qing period.

Secondly, cooperation possibilities could be discussed between my home university and the Ricci Institute. Director of the Institute, Father Antoni took his time and had a great, inspiring conversation with me. After getting to know that my research topic has to do with the global silver production, he pointed out that in *Travels of Marco Polo*, abundant silver deposits were already mentioned. He showed much interest in visiting Tübingen University in the coming year and offered to give a lecture on a theme related to primary sources in Japan that show and tell the story of how Chinese Jesuit works (both religious and scientific) were imported—both legally and illegally—through Nagasaki by Edo-period scholars and circulated in manuscript copies. I very much look forward to his visit and it will surely benefit our research project and the cooperation between our two institutes!

Thirdly, chances were given to me to get to know other visiting scholars and their profound works. We found many interests in common and I could really learn a lot from these colleagues. For example, Dr. Yating Yu (Kansai University) examines *Dicionário Português-Chinês* and builds up a database of the included vocabulary; Fusheng Luo (Ph.D. cand., University of Michigan) investigates land markets, semi-colonial law through land purchase deeds material of churches in Guangzhou during the 19th century; Dr. Jeanhyoung Soh (Seoul National University) studies Aristotle's logic and the relations of beliefs and knowledges brought by Christianity and the governing in Korea; Anna Strob (Ph.D. cand., University of Tübingen), who is a colleague and research partner of me in our university, deepens her research on Jesuit translation strategy and their approach to the cultural and intellectual atmosphere of late Ming China. It was an amazing experience to bond with these old and new friends and share our ideas and thoughts.

One week was indeed too short to enjoy fully the collections and sources in the Ricci Institute at USF. It was a pity that I could not meet Dr. Wu Xiaoxin during my brief stay. I need to also express my gratitude to Ms. Gladys Perez who dealt with my formalities and documents always with friendly smiles and patience. After such a wonderful trip I am sure I will come back one day and stay longer in the beautiful “Harry Potter Room” and the “Silver Room”!

Best regards,

Cao Jin

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