My Recent Trip to China

Dear friends,

In late October I went to China to bring my wife back to the USA. She reached Beijing by train, one day before my arrival.

The Ricci Institute's old friend Prof. Wen Yong and his wife were our most gracious hosts in Beijing. We visited the Zhalan Cemetery and the tomb of Mateo Ricci. There we also met Professor Yu Shanle who gave us a private tour of this historical site.

Both Profs. Wen and Yu were friends and collaborators of the University of San Francisco/Ricci Institute. I met Prof. Wen in San Francisco in the early 1990s when he was a visiting scholar. Our friendship has continued because of our common interest in theology and history.

I am not a scholar but I am deeply impressed by Prof. Wen and Prof. Yu's devotion to their scholarly research in Chinese-Western cultural history and in the history of Christianity in China. It is a hard and lonely academic road to travel. Scholars dedicated to this field are men and women of extraordinary high ideals.

The late Fr. Ed Malatesta had many friends in China who shared his vision of a bridge of understanding between China and the West. Today the Ricci Institute continues this work and mission. I am glad to be part of this worthy enterprise and hope to continue to build this bridge.

Sincerely yours,

Bill Chu, Chairman of Friends of Ricci

Ricci Institute Staff Visited the Former Jesuit Library in Shanghai

Zikawei Library, a unique library established by the French Jesuit missionaries in the 19th century in Shanghai and best known for its extensive collection of books in Chinese and Western languages, re-opened in July 2003. Two staff members and a senior research of the Ricci Institute visited the library. Discussions are continuing between the Ricci Institute and the library as to how to promote the use of the collections, especially those books relating to sinology, mission history and religious studies.

Upcoming Event Announcement

Jesuit Asia, Past and Present: India, China, and Japan
5:45 PM; February 4, 2004
USF Lone Mountain Campus, RM 100

A public lecture delivered by
Paul Rule, Ph.D., EDS-Stewart
Distinguished Fellow of the USF Ricci Institute and Honorary Associate in the History Department at La Trobe University in Melbourne, Australia. Join Prof. Rule as he discusses early Jesuit encounters with indigenous religions and cultures in Asia, including special missions to tribal people in India—the Jesuit sambhais, to the villages of minority peoples in rural China with sinologists and teachers of Sino-Christian meditation; and to Japan where the exponents of Zen Christianity have continued the Jesuit tradition.

For further information, call the Ricci Institute at 415.422.6401 or visit our website: http://www.usfca.edu/ricci

Librarian’s Note

The Ricci Institute Library has recently received two important works. The first is the Qing zhong gianqiu Xiyang Tianzhu youzi zhi Hua lunedong dang an shihao 清中前期西洋天主教在华活动档案史料, a four-volume collection of previously unpublished source documents dealing with Catholic missionaries and mission affairs from 1644-1850 held at the First Historical Archives (Zhongguo di 1 lishi dang’anguan 中国第一历史档案馆). Jointly edited by the First Historical Archives, the Ricci Institute, and the Beijing Center for Language and Culture, these documents will provide new insights based on official Chinese sources of the period.

The second work is a rare 1925 edition of the Yingzao fashi 建造法式, a classic treatise on architecture and construction methods dating from the Song dynasty. Written by Li Jie 李诫 and completed in the year of his death (A.D. 1100), the manuscript was lost in the early 16th century and only rediscovered in 1919. Our edition includes hand-colored details of construction and design elements and traditional motifs, and provides a sourcebook for Chinese architecture dating back to 12th century Kaifeng.
Notes from the Malatesta Scholarship Recipients

My recent trip to the US makes me recall my first visit to this country a few years ago when I was in the second year of my doctoral studies. The Ricci Institute had recently created the Malatesta Scholarship to help Chinese students complete their doctoral research. I was honored to be the first ‘Malatesta scholar’. In October 1999, I came to the University of San Francisco Ricci Institute and later went to Yale University to collect materials for my doctoral thesis. Without the help of the Malatesta Scholarship, it is difficult for me to imagine how I could have been able to complete my research in time and get my Ph.D. I wish to thank all the Friends of Ricci who support the Malatesta Scholarship Endowment.
—Liu Jiafeng

I would like to share with you all a piece of good news. My daughter, Haiyi, came into this world on November 12, 2003. She is healthy and beautiful, with plenty of vigor and a bit mischievous. As a Malatesta scholar, I was very happy to have a rare opportunity to pay a visit to the Ricci Institute last September. This was my first time abroad. To me, San Francisco is a beautiful city, a real ‘heaven on earth’. However, what impressed me the most was the Ricci Institute. I like everyone there. Of course, I like those rare books too. I am now at Georgetown University to pursue my post-doctoral research work. My best regards to the Friends of Ricci,
—Zhang Xianqing

Malatesta Scholarship Endowment Campaign

The campaign goal is to raise an endowment of $100,000. It will guarantee a regular annual income in perpetuity. As of December 1, 2003, $65,000 have been raised with the generosity of the members of Friend of Ricci and colleagues and friends of the Ricci Institute.

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How to join Friends of Ricci

The fully tax deductible annual membership of Friends of Ricci is used to support various unique programs at the Ricci Institute. For detailed information about how to become a member, please contact us at: 415-422-6401, on the web: http://www.usfca.edu/ricci, or via e-mail at: ricci@usfca.edu

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Calligraphy & seal: Wen Yong