Old Books, New Outlooks

Seated at my desk in the Ricci Institute’s "Gold Room", surrounded by old Chinese books while visiting scholars pour over rare books and view digital documents on computer terminals, I feel fortunate to work in an environment that allows me to pursue my passion for learning more about the history and culture of China.

I often wonder, "What did the Chinese think of these visitors from afar who were living and working in the emperor's presence?" "What attracted the Chinese to these missionaries?" "Why did they allow them to stay and work in China?" Jesuit accounts of the Chinese are well known but what about the Chinese side of the story? This desire to present a more balanced portrayal of the encounters between China and the West is behind both my personal research projects and those that I organize and coordinate for the Ricci Institute.

— Melissa Dale, Ph.D.
Assistant Director for Research

News at the Ricci Institute

A public lecture, Stained Glass Illuminations. East & West: Renovation of the Historic Jesuit Cathedral in Shanghai, was presented at the University of San Francisco in November 2005. Thanks to generous funding from the Friends of Ricci, Fr. Thomas Lucas and Ms. Teresa Wo Ye, the lead artists for the project, were able to travel to Los Angeles, Santa Clara, San Mateo and Berkeley to share their remarkable experiences with communities in those areas.

Mr. & Mrs. George & Irene Cheng, founding members of Friends of Ricci hosted two distinguished presentations at their home in the summer 2005. Focusing on the China mission experience throughout history, Fr. Beda Liu, S.J., shared the vision of the Society of Jesus with participants. Prof. Tao Feiya, an internationally known historian on the history of Christianity in China, discussed his research in this field and his collaboration with the Ricci Institute with members of Friends of Ricci.

Upcoming Events 2006

March 24-25, Christian Secondary Education, Beijing, China
Yin Wenjuan, 2002 Malatesta Scholarship recipient and now Assistant Professor at Beijing Normal University will co-host Christian Secondary Education with the Ricci Institute this spring in Beijing. This two day seminar will bring together scholars from across China to discuss the role of secondary schools in China established by Christian missionaries in social and educational development in China.

April 1-2, Sources and Perspectives: The Study of Christianity through Chinese Language Materials, Wuhan, China
Zhang Xianqin, 2002 Malatesta Scholarship recipient and currently Assistant Professor at Xiamen University, will co-host a two day seminar with the Ricci Institute in Wuhan, China. With this conference, the Ricci Institute endeavors to promote the use of Chinese language materials in the study of Christianity in China.

April 5, Gender, Culture, and Power: Chinese Women and Western Women Interact in Late Imperial and Modern China, San Francisco
The Ricci Institute will host a one day seminar to be held at USF to explore the interaction between Chinese women and Western women in China during the late imperial and modern periods. Dr. Melissa Dale has created this interdisciplinary seminar highlighting issues of gender, culture, and power to provide a forum for the examination of themes such as: social and cultural roles, social reform, education, cultural exchange, encounters with Christianity, relations of power, gender roles, and issues of race.

Training at the Ricci Institute

Thanks to a grant from the United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia, Ms. Liu Li, office manager at the Research Center for East-West Cultural Exchange at Central China Normal University in Wuhan, China, will spend four weeks in fall, 2005 at the Ricci Institute being trained in administrative skills. Ms. Liu arrived particularly interested in learning more about the administration of a research institute and the management of its library collection. Commenting on her time spent at the Ricci Institute, Ms. Liu said: "The Ricci Institute has given me work skills and knowledge which will benefit me my whole life."
Three Promising Young Chinese Scholars

The Ricci Institute recently awarded three Edward J. Malatesta Scholarships for the 2005-2006 academic year to promote the research of Chinese doctoral candidates as they research and write their dissertations on topics related to the history of Christianity in China. This year’s recipients are:

**Deng Jie**, a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of History and Culture at Sichuan University, is examining the Church of Christ’s border service movement (1939-1955), focusing on themes such as the relationship between church and state and the spread of Western medicine into Chinese frontier regions.

**Long Yun**, a Ph.D. candidate in both the Institute of Comparative Literature and Culture at Beijing University and the University of Paris, Sorbonne, is focusing his research on the famous Jesuit and Sinologist, Joseph Amiot, as a facilitator of East-West cultural exchange.

**Zhang Yu**, a Ph.D. candidate in the College of Liberal Arts at Jinan University, will use his Malatesta award to further his research on the Catholic Church in Inner Mongolia during the late Qing dynasty, especially the anti-Catholic Movement of 1900.

A Successful Scholarship Endowment Drive

The establishment of the Malatesta Scholarship Endowment was the first major fund raising activity of the Friends of Ricci. The campaign successfully raised $115,527.00, more than our original goal of $100,000.00. Looking at the list of donors, one cannot help but notice that the majority of the donors are Chinese Americans. Emboldened by this first success, the Friends of Ricci Executive Committee is presently planning the next fund raising campaign.

Publications to Support Ricci Research Awards

Two books are now available for purchase at the Ricci Institute:

1. *Jesus Among Men (人間的耶穌)* by Wen Yong. The Religious Cultures Series.


Proceeds from the sale of these two publications are to be used to support the Ricci Research Award Endowment established to promote the study of Christianity in China. For more information, please contact the Ricci Institute.

New Publication / Acquisition by Ricci

The Ricci Institute Library has received a new publication on the history of Zikawei, the famous Catholic district of Shanghai. Entitled *Lishishang de Xujiatui, or Zikawei in History*, this large-format bilingual Chinese-English text includes historic maps and photographs, as well as modern color images detailing the cultural heritage and lasting legacy of Zikawei’s Catholic institutions. Included are chapters on the Bibliotheca Zika-wei, the Zikawei College, the Cathedral, Taow-wei, Aurora College, the Jesuit Theologate, Tsung-Tæ Girls’ School, the Heude Museum of Natural History, and many other sites. Portraits of Ricci, Schall, Verbiest, and Xu Guangqi painted at the Orphanage and now on display at the Ricci Institute appear on pp. 118-119. 239 p. Published in September 2005 by the Shanghai wenhua chubanshe

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: usfca.edu/ricci, or via e-mail at: ricci@usfca.edu

Contributors to this issue of the newsletter:
Melissa Dale, May Lee, Li Liu, Michel Marcil, Mark Mir, Xiaoxin Wu, & Wen Yong