The 400th Anniversary of Matteo Ricci’s Passing Celebrated on USF Campus

The year 2010 marked the 400th anniversary of the passing of Matteo Ricci (1552–1610), after whom the USF Ricci Institute is named. To celebrate the legacy of this pioneering Jesuit for his contribution to East-West relations, the Ricci Institute co-sponsored a series of events on the USF campus that drew attention locally, nationally, and internationally.

On September 7, 2010, a public lecture entitled Matteo Ricci: Jesuit & Scholar in the Middle Kingdom was presented by Rev. M. Antoni J. Üçerler, S.J., Senior Tutor of Campion Hall, Oxford University, and Visiting Fellow of the USF Ricci Institute. The lecture explored how Ricci learned about China and the ways in which he was transformed by this unique encounter.

On September 14, 2010, a second public lecture, Galleons & Globalization: California Mission Arts & the Pacific Rim, was presented by Rev. Thomas Lucas, S.J., University Professor and Director of USF Thacher Gallery. The illustrated lecture and gallery tour of the exhibit presented new insights into the impact of Asian and Central and South American art and artifacts on the development of material culture in Mission-era California.

Taking place simultaneously with the lectures and lasting through the Fall 2010 academic semester were two art & book exhibits, Galleons & Globalization: California Mission Arts & the Pacific Rim and Early Missionary Printing in Asia & the Americas. More than 170 objects dating from the 16th to the 19th centuries featured in the art exhibit exemplify the rich cultural interchange among missions in the Philippines, Macau, China, Japan, Mexico, Peru, Paraguay, and Baja and Alta California. Rare books on display consisted of very early imprints from Japan, China, the Philippines, Mexico, and Peru in theology, philosophy, language, astronomy, and cartography related to missionary activities in these regions from the 16th to the 19th centuries. The Ricci Institute was a co-sponsor of both exhibits in collaboration with the USF Thacher Gallery and Gleeson Library Rare Book Room.

The highlight of the anniversary celebration was the three-day international symposium Legacies of the Book: Early Missionary Printing in Asia & the Americas. Joined by scholars from more than a dozen countries, including participation by USF faculty and students, the eighteen papers offered an outline and discussion of a comparative cultural typology of books printed in the 16th to 18th centuries in the context of Christian missions beyond European boundaries as a means of transmission of faith, knowledge, and culture. Preparation of the symposium proceedings is under way, with publication expected in 2012.
Visiting Scholars from the Hinterland of China at the Ricci Institute

Sun Haoran, Ph.D. (Yunnan Nationalities University), is the third visiting scholar from remote provinces of China to be in residence at the Ricci Institute. Thanks to the grant from the Henry Luce Foundation, Dr. Sun spent most of the fall semester in 2010 conducting research on the influence of Christian missions on Chinese minority women in South China in the first half of the 20th century.

Gong Minlu, Ph.D. (Hunan Normal University) is Associate Professor at the Department of Modern Chinese Literature. She is the fourth visiting scholar from China who has benefited from the Henry Luce Foundation grant. As a scholar in modern Chinese literature, she focused her research on the influence of Christianity on modern Chinese writers and their works in the Republican Era (1911 - 1949).

Henry Luce Foundation Grant Project Explores the Relationship between Literature and Religion in the Hinterland of China

Supported by a major grant from the Henry Luce Foundation, the fourth program of the Narratives from the Hinterland Project took place in Changsha, capital of Hunan Province, China, from April 21 to 25, 2011. Entitled Literature and Religion: Reflections of the Literati from the Hinterland of China in the Late Qing and Republican Era, this program included a series of lectures attended by local faculty, students, and researchers on methodology in comparative culture, modern literature and history, and comparative literature. The seminar following was attended by more than 30 Chinese scholars from more than 20 universities and research institutions, with topics ranging from studies of modern Chinese social movements and literature to the influence of Christian faith on Chinese literati as reflected in their poetry, novels, diaries, dramas, and newspapers. The program concluded with a field trip to Mawangdui, an internationally known archeological site that holds artifacts over 2,000 years old.

1,500 Volumes Added to the Ricci Institute Library

In the summer of 2010, the Ricci Institute received the final volumes from the collection of the Fr. Albert Chan, S.J., known as the Bibliotheca Sinensis Societatis Iesu. 105 boxes of books were sorted and shelved for cataloging, adding over 1,500 volumes to the Ricci Institute library. In return, an equal number of boxes of duplicates and other specialized books were sent to university libraries in Hong Kong and Guangzhou. The texts retained by the Ricci Institute include dictionaries and reference works, collected literary works, collectanea (congshu), and modern reprints of important historical sources. Sources directly useful for the focus of the Ricci Institute include new editions of Ming works such as the Tushu bian三才圖會, by Zhang Huang 章潢 (1527-1608) and the Sancai tuhui 準格爾旗扎薩克衙門檔 案基督宗教史料 [Historical Sources Related to Christianity in the Dzungar Banner Jasagh Yamen Archives], Sodbilig [ed.]. Guangxi Normal University Press, 2011.

Ricci Institute Publications for 2010 – 2011

Supported by the Henry Foundation Luce grant for the Narratives from the Hinterland Project, the Ricci Institute worked with Chinese scholars in remote provinces of China and produced two collections of primary resources this year. These publications provide access to difficult to obtain local documentary sources on the history of Christianity in China.

Ricci Institute Sponsors a Public Lecture on the Life of Matteo Ricci

On September 14, 2011, the Ricci Institute sponsored a public lecture on the Life of Matteo Ricci, given by Prof. R. Po-Chia Hsia, Edwin Erle Sparks Professor of History, Religious Studies and Asian Studies at Pennsylvania State University. Based on his most recent publication, *A Jesuit in the Forbidden City: Matteo Ricci (1552 – 1610)* (Oxford University Press, 2010), Prof. Hsia shared with 100 attendees of the lecture Ricci’s remarkable life, from his childhood in Macerata, Italy, through his education in Rome, to his sojourn in Portuguese India, and eventually his long journey of self-discovery and cultural encounter in the Ming realm of China from the late 16th to the early 17th centuries. On the following day, Prof. Hsia also led a workshop on historiography in the study of early Jesuit missions to China, which was attended by researchers from the Bay Area.

2011-2012 Ricci Institute Awards

Two Chinese Doctoral Students Malatesta Scholarships to honor the memory of Rev. Edward J. Malatesta, S.J., founding director of the Ricci Institute, for his contributions to the history of Chinese-Western cultural exchange and to promote research by Chinese scholars on topics related to the history of Christianity in China. This year’s recipients are:

MEI Rong, Center for Mongolian Studies at Inner Mongolia University, China. Her dissertation topic is *History of Christianity in Western Inner Mongolia during the 19th and 20th centuries*.

WANG Miao, Center for Modern Chinese History at Central China Normal University, China. His dissertation is *War, Christianity, and Nationalism: A Case Study of Methodist Episcopal Church in Northern China during the Anti-Japanese War (1937 – 1945)*.

Ricci Institute Library Recent Acquisitions

Alumna of San Francisco College for Women [Lone Mountain] Donates 19th Century Japanese Wooden Printing Blocks to the Ricci Institute

The Ricci Institute has received a donation of six 19th century Japanese wooden printing blocks from Ms. Rosemary Cozzo, a graduate of the former San Francisco Women’s College, now the Lone Mountain home of the Ricci Institute. The blocks represent a portion of the text *Sentetsu sōdan* 先哲叢談 and its continuation *Sentetsu sōdan kōhen* 先哲叢談後編, by Tōjō Kindai 東条琴台 (1795–1878). These are biographies of Confucian scholars written in Kanbun 漢文 (Chinese characters) with Japanese reading marks.

Former EDS-Stewart Visiting Fellow Received the 2011 Joseph Levenson Book Prize

At the 2011 annual conference for Association for Asian Studies (AAS) in Honolulu (Hawai'i), Dr. Eugenio Monegon, Associate Professor of History, Boston University, received the prestigious Joseph Levenson Book Prize — Pre-1900 Category for his monograph *Ancestors, Virgins, and Friars: Christianity as a Local Religion in Late Imperial China* (Harvard Asia Center, 2009). The prize citation defines the book as “a ground-breaking study of the ways in which Christianity became a local religion in late imperial China.” Dr. Menegon was Ricci Institute’s EDS-Stewart Visiting Fellow in 2006 and continues to participate in the research works of the Ricci Institute since then.

What’s on Your Desk? Interesting books being read by Ricci Institute staff


**Xiaoxin Wu, Ed.D.** China’s Saints: Catholic Martyrdom during the Qing (1644 – 1911), by Anthony E. Clark, Bethlehem: Lehigh University Press, 2011.