Scholars from the United States, China, and Taiwan gathered at the University of San Francisco on Friday, May 9, 2008, to present their research on Chinese-Western musical exchange from the 16th-20th centuries. During this day-long symposium, organized and hosted by the Ricci Institute, panelists were divided into three sessions: Celestial Harmonies, Music in Cosmopolitan Shanghai, and Modern and Contemporary Musical Exchange. Themes highlighted during the symposium covered the multi-faceted role music played in Chinese-Western cultural encounters, e.g., music as diplomacy, ritual, art, and native identity.

Participants included: Joyce Lindorff (Temple University), David Francis Urrows and Hon-Lun Yang (Hong Kong Baptist University), Jeremy Leong (University of Wisconsin–Madison), Chun-Zen Huang (National Taiwan Normal University), Adam Cathcart (Pacific Lutheran University), S. Andrew Granade (UMKC Conservatory of Music and Dance), and Yen-Ting Chao (National Taiwan University), with Peter Allsop (Central Conservatory, Beijing), Sheila Melvin (independent scholar), and Jindong Cai (Stanford University) serving as discussants. For a complete listing of papers presented, visit: http://www.ricci.usfca.edu/events/index.htm

Music & Mission in 18th c. China

Interweaving musical performance with the history of Teodorico Pedrini’s experiences in China, Drs Joyce Lindorff (Temple University) and Peter Allsop (Central Conservatory, Beijing), with guest artist Kati Kyme, presented a rare treat at the Ricci Institute’s May 8th public lecture. The audience was transported back in time to the 18th century as Lindorff (harpichord) and Kyme (baroque violin) performed Pedrini’s sonatas set in context by Allsop’s reading of Pedrini’s letters detailing his life experiences en route and during his time in China. A podcast of the performance will be posted on the Institute’s website in the near future.

Malatesta Scholarship Application Now Available Online

Chinese doctoral students and post docs can now apply for the Ricci Institute’s Edward J. Malatesta Scholarship online in Chinese. Applicants for the 2008-2009 academic year will be utilizing the new application process for the first time. The online form is designed to standardize the application process and increase accessibility for Chinese applicants. The online form will also dramatically save on postage and time in transit. For application guidelines and form, visit: www.ricci.usfca.edu/fellows/malatesta/Malatesta_scholarship.htm
SOPHIE MINGHUEI LEE, PhD, Executive Director of the newly established Center for the Promotion of Partner Based Learning, was in residence at the Ricci Institute for the spring semester 2008. Dr Lee, a former faculty member of Fu Jen University (Taiwan) in Social Work, divided her time at the Ricci Institute between observing the Institute's administration, its research, and planning projects for her new center in China. Visit her new center's website at: http://www.partner-based-learning.org

RUI OLIVEIRA LOPES, PhD candidate, Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Lisbon and Research Fellow at Fundação Oriente, visited the Ricci Institute in April 2008 for research on the cross-cultural confluence of Christian Art in Asia between 1500 and 1800, namely in India, China, and Japan.

His research begins with the principal idea that the artistic object is a symbiotic result between cultural environment and universal laws that transcend the cultural boundaries and styles, and looks for the understanding of formal and conceptual changes, which emerged throughout those cultural encounters between Europe and Asia.

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A CURIOUS FIND AT THE RICCI LIBRARY

The Ricci Institute’s Research Associate Jan Vaeth recently unearthed a curious, uncataloged volume in the library stacks. Scenes in Chusan, or, Missionary labours by the way, an anonymous work published by the Presbyterian Board of Publication in Philadelphia in 1857, describes life among British officers and enlisted men stationed on the island of “Chusan” (Zhoushan 蘇山) between April 1, 1845, and August 7, 1846. Zhoushan, located just outside of Hangzhou Bay was an important island entrepôt in the 1840’s. Events depicted in the book occur after the Treaty of Nanking as British forces evacuated the area in 1846. The book is one of the earliest examples of what would eventually become a flood of personal narratives written by visitors to China in the latter half of the 19th century.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

INTERACTION & EXCHANGE AT THE IMPERIAL COURT: WESTERNERS & THE QING (1644-1911)

The Ricci Institute is pleased to announce its upcoming symposium, “Interaction and Exchange at the Imperial Court: Westerners and the Qing (1644-1911),” to be held in Beijing at Renmin University on October 17-19, 2008. The symposium will provide a forum for an interdisciplinary examination of the interaction between Westerners and the Qing court with the aim of creating a more nuanced and balanced reconstruction of this historical contact. The symposium is intended to broaden our understanding of the breadth of Westerners interacting with the Qing court as well as the perspectives of all of the historical actors involved, both Chinese and Western. Topics addressed at the conference will include: scientific and artistic exchange, gender, social class and status groups, race and ethnicity, diplomacy, transmission of knowledge, rituals and ceremony, material culture, economics, imperialism and semi-colonialism, etc. Ultimately, the project will add to our knowledge of cultural interaction during the late imperial period in China. To learn more about the conference, visit: http://www.ricci.usfca.edu/ Cosponsored by the Ricci Institute for Chinese-Western Cultural History at the University of San Francisco Center for the Pacific Rim 利瑪竇中西文化歷史研究所, the Qing History Institute, Renmin University, China 人民大學清史研究所, and The Beijing Center for Chinese Studies 北京中國學中心.

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Research Conferences: China

“Body, Soul & Nature” Conference Held at Shandong University

On April 18–20, 2008, twenty-two scholars from sixteen different universities in China gathered at Shandong University to attend “Body, Soul & Nature.” During the conference, sixteen Chinese scholars presented their research on topics related to Chinese-Western medical exchange, especially the history of Western medical services in China. Twelve interested Chinese graduate students were also in attendance. Dr Gary Tiedemann, a retired professor of history from SOAS at the University of London, provided the summation. The conference was cosponsored by the Ricci Institute and the Center for Judaic and Inter-Religious Studies of Shandong University.

What’s on Your Desk?
Interesting Books Being Read by Ricci Institute Research Staff


New from the Ricci Institute & M.E. Sharpe


Scholars investigating the history of Christianity in China or Sino-Western cultural exchange will find this guide to missionary societies, organized by confession, an invaluable resource for their research. Containing nearly 500 entries, the Guide provides material on the multiple dimensions of the missionary presence in China prior to 1950 ranging from anthropology, education, medicine, science, society, politics, to religion.

360 pages  •  8 ½” x 11”  •  978-0-7656-1808-5 Cloth  $128.95


Now revised and expanded to incorporate numerous new materials, this is the major guide to repositories of resources for researching Christian activity in China, especially that of missions and missionaries, from the eighth century through 1952, when missionary activity virtually ceased.

Est. 1,000 pages  •  8.5” x 11”  •  978-1-56324-337-0 Cloth  $249.95

To order these forthcoming titles, call 1-800-541-6563 or visit http://www.mesharpe.com, click “books” and search by author or title.

The USF Center for the Pacific Rim and its Ricci Institute create value for the greater metropolitan Bay Area through community and academic educational programs that bridge the Pacific, promoting cross-cultural understanding between America and the other nations of the Asia Pacific region and through research, publications, and scholarly exchange activities.