Legacies of the Book:
Early Missionary Printing in Asia & the Americas

September 24 - 26, 2010
Fromm Hall, University of San Francisco Main Campus
(Parker@Golden Gate in San Francisco)

One of the principal aims of this symposium will be to outline a comparative cultural typology of books printed in the sixteenth to eighteenth centuries in the context of Christian missions beyond the boundaries of Europe as a means of transmission of faith, knowledge, and culture. Presenters will analyze the process of adaptation of the printing press and production of movable type in non-European languages in Asia and the Americas. The geographical scope of the symposium will concentrate on various key points on the Pacific Rim, including Mexico, Peru, Alta and Baja California, the Philippines, India, Japan, and China.

The symposium will be complemented and illustrated by a display of rare original manuscripts, imprints, and other missionary artifacts at the Thacher Gallery and Gleeson Library Rare Book Room as part of the exhibit, In the Circle of the Galleon, with items from over thirty museums, archives, and private collections on both sides of the Pacific.

For the full symposium program and registration information, please visit www.usfca.edu/ricci/events/

Multiculturalism in the Far Reaches: Chinese-Western Cultural Exchange in the Recent History of Gansu, Ningxia, and Qinghai

“Multiculturalism in the Far Reaches,” a new educational and research program co-sponsored by the Ricci Institute and Center for the Study of Christian Culture, Lanzhou University, was held from May 17 – 21, 2010, in Lanzhou, China. It was the second program of the Narratives from the Hinterland project supported by a three-year grant from The Henry Luce Foundation in New York.

The program consisted of a series of lectures to students and scholars in Lanzhou City on sociological research in northwest China, historiography of foreign missions in China through diaries and oral history, and recent studies on Christianity and Islam in China. In addition, research seminars were held and attended by scholars from more than a dozen Chinese universities. Graduate students and faculty members from local universities and local government officials met with people of different faiths in the region. Topics included the history of Christianity in northwest China, regional social development, relations between Christians and Muslims, and cultural encounters between Western missionaries and Tibetans in the region.
Ricci Institute Scholars’ Report

The Ricci Institute regularly hosts visiting scholars who conduct research using library and other resources at the University of San Francisco. The following are the reports by two Ricci Visiting Scholars in Spring 2010.

Isabelle Duceux, Ph.D., El Colegio de México in Mexico City

My areas of specialization are in Chinese and Western philosophy and on early modern Sino-European cultural exchange. My emphasis is on Neo-Confucian philosophy of the Song through Ming periods and its European Renaissance philosophical contemporaries. My research focuses on the adaptation of Western theology and philosophy into Chinese by Jesuit missionaries of the 17th century. At the Ricci Institute, I have been working on two of Niccolo Longobardo’s treatises: *A Short Answer Concerning the Controversies about Xang Ti [上帝], Tien Xin [天神], and Ling Hoen [靈魂] and Other Chinese Names and Terms* (1623–24) and *Linghun daoti shuo 靈魂道體說* (1636). These works became a part of the Terms and Rites Controversy, a debate which divided Christianity during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. They examine the problem of translating Christian notions of spiritual substance into Chinese language and thought.

Minghui Hu, Ph.D., University of California at Santa Cruz

The “West” historically meant different things to literati in imperial China. When and how did it begin to refer to the aggregate of alien knowledge of European origins? What kind of process was needed to filter mathematical astronomy, scientific instruments, glass technology, cultural geography, and religiosity of Catholic or Protestant evangelicalism into the Chinese mindset? Benjamin Elman has provided an overall depiction of this process from 1550 to 1900 in his *On Their Own Terms* (published in 2005). I will build on his arguments by triangulating three components in motion: the perpetually shifting body of scientific and technological knowledge dubbed “Western Learning”; literati’s reconstruction of their high culture (mostly classical knowledge); and the political negotiation between the domestic and the foreign. I will discuss the triangulation among those three changing components as follows: (1) collect occurrences of “Western Learning” from 1550 to 1900; (2) analyze mathematical astronomy as classical knowledge and a crucial component of elite culture; and (3) demonstrate the collapse of the triangulation of “Western Learning,” classical knowledge, and elite politics as a category.

Ricci Institute Visiting Scholars (Spring 2010)

Chi-ming Yang is Assistant Professor of English at the University of Pennsylvania. With her specialization in 18th-century British literature and culture, she spent her sabbatical year in the San Francisco Bay Area and has been continuing her book project, *Oriental Exemplarity: Importing China in Eighteenth-century England, 1660–1760*, using resources at the Ricci Institute library.

Hélène N. Sanko is Professor of French and Francophone Languages, Literatures, and Cultures in the Department of Classical and Modern Languages and Cultures at John Carroll University (Cleveland, Ohio). She visited the Ricci Institute in June 2010 and conducted her research on “China through the Eyes of the French” in literature and art, in preparation for a 2010 paper and a course she plans to offer at John Carroll University.

Hongyan Xiang is a doctoral student of the Department of History and Religious Studies at Pennsylvania State University. She is in residence during the summer of 2010 in San Francisco, assisting the Ricci Institute in analyzing and cataloging Chinese language documents of the Canton Diocese Archives and preparing her review paper for delivery at an upcoming symposium in Hong Kong on this collection.
New Acquisitions by the Ricci Institute Library

清廷三大實測全圖集 (Complete Illustrated Collection of the Three Great Atlases of the Qing Court). Series of maps produced through the collaboration of Chinese and Jesuit cartographers and engravers during the 18th century. First commissioned by the Kangxi emperor and presented to the throne in 1718, this massive work was the most authoritative atlas of the Chinese empire for the next two centuries. The succeeding emperors Yongzheng and Qianlong each ordered their own dominions be charted in similar manner. Each atlas is cased, with separate map sheets representing one segment of a coordinate grid. These maps served the political aims of three major Qing emperors, and provide an important resource for study of the period.

Le Grand Ricci numérique: dictionnaire encyclopédiique de la langue chinoise. The Association Ricci has released the digital edition of the Grand Ricci Chinese-French dictionary. Containing over 13,300 main characters and 280,000 expressions, the new format supports multiple search methods, conversion from traditional to simplified characters, and comprehensive analysis of terms, phrases, and variants in the classical language. To order or for more information, see: www.grandricci.org.

New Publications

Sociology of Religion: Religion and China. This cross-disciplinary volume is the second in a series on the academic study of religion. It draws on classic theory and contemporary research to examine the dynamic relationship between society and religion. Proceeding from this sociological perspective, its chapters focus on religion in Chinese society—past, present, and future. The publication is authored by Dr. Fan Lizhu of Shanghai Fudan University and Drs. James and Evelyn Whitehead of the Ricci Institute, and is sponsored by the Ricci Institute.

Three new publications in Chinese in the New Century, New Thoughts, New Scholars series. This series consists of eight publications as the result of eight Ricci Institute co-sponsored seminars in China on Chinese-Western cultural and historical exchanges in different disciplines. The three new books are: 基督教在中國：比較研究視角下的近現代中西文化交流 (Christianity in China: Chinese-Western Cultural Exchanges from the Perspectives of Comparative Studies), edited by Liu Shusen of Peking University, 多元族群與中西文化交流：基於中西文獻的新研究 (Multiculturalism and Chinese-Western Cultural History: New Studies on Sources in Chinese and Western Languages), edited by Temur Temule of Nanjing University, and 地方社會文化與近代中西文化交流 (Local Society and Culture in Modern Chinese-Western Cultural Exchange), edited by Wu Yixiong of Sun Yat-sen University. The series is published by Shanghai People's Publishing House.

口述史研究方法 (Oral History Research Methodology), co-authored by Li Xiangping of East China Normal University and Jean-Paul Wiest of the Beijing Center for Chinese Studies. Sponsored by the Ricci Institute, Central China Normal University, and Shanghai University and based on research by the co-authors and two oral history research methodology workshops, this publication aims at utilizing oral history interviews that have been widely employed in field research in China and producing new studies in history, sociology, and anthropology. It is published by Shanghai People’s Publishing House.
Ricci Institute Receives a New Grant for Research and Bilingual Textbook Publication

In the spring of 2010, the Ricci Institute received a grant of $62,000 in support of the third and final Chinese-English publication in the Religion and China textbook series. The series is undertaken in support of curriculum development in programs of religious studies at universities throughout China today. Each of the three volumes in the series is intended as a resource textbook for use in advanced undergraduate courses and masters’ level seminars. These books will also serve a wider audience of Chinese readers interested in understanding the role of religion in contemporary culture, East and West. The third volume, tentatively entitled China and the Cultural Psychology of Religion, is being co-authored by Drs. James and Evelyn Whitehead of the Ricci Institute and Dr. Fan Lizhu of Shanghai Fudan University.

Ricci Institute Director Delivered the 2010 Martin D’Arcy Lectures at University of Oxford

In the spring of 2010, at the invitation of Campion Hall, University of Oxford, Dr. Xiaoxin Wu, Director of the Ricci Institute, delivered the 2010 D’Arcy Lectures in Oxford, England. Named after Rev. Martin D’Arcy, a Jesuit philosopher and former master of Campion Hall, the series invites international scholars to Oxford and lecture on subjects relating to history, philosophy, theology, sociology, etc. Entitled The Dragon and the Cross, Contemporary Chinese Perspectives on Christianity in China, Dr. Wu’s lectures focused on the recent studies of Christianity in China and included three case studies in different historical periods by Chinese scholars in different disciplines. The lectures can be found on podcasts.ox.ac.uk/ and on the University of Oxford’s Humanities page on iTunesU.

What’s on Your Desk? Interesting books being read by Ricci Institute visiting scholars and research staff


