



All Kinds of Goods

Missionaries and Materialities

Centro Científico e Cultural de Macau, Lisbon, June 7th, 2023

ABSTRACTS

THE PROPAGANDA FIDE EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY CHINA MISSION IN THE MANUSCRIPT ACCOUNT BOOKS OF SAN LORENZO IN LUCINA (ROME)

Eugenio Menegon | BOSTON UNIVERSITY

A voluminous collection of papers by two Procurators of Propaganda Fide in China, Giuseppe Cerù (Pang Kexiu 龐克修, 1674-1750; in China 1713-1721) and Arcangelo Miralta (Min Mingwo 閔明我, 1682-1751; in China 1729-1750) has remained so far unexplored at the National Central Library of Rome (BNCR). The manuscripts are contained in a miscellaneous series created in the 1870s with archival papers from suppressed convents in post-unitary Rome. Both men were members of the Order of Clerks Regular Minor (C.C.R.R.M.M.= Ordo Clericorum Regularium Minorum; also known as Caracciolini). Cerù served as the fourth PF Procurator, traveling to China with the cardinal biretta for Legate Carlo Maillard de Tournon. Miralta was the sixth procurator, and served for over two decades in Canton and Macao. Both men returned to Italy and died in Rome or its vicinity, thus leaving their *personal* papers and notes to the central convent of the order, San Lorenzo in Lucina in Rome. Extensive manuscript relations by Cerù and Miralta exist in the Propaganda Fide archives as well, reflecting the *official* correspondence with the PF Congregation. In this preliminary presentation I



will offer a first exploration of the *private* manuscripts at the BNCR, considering 1) how they reflect the social and economic life of the China mission in the first half of the 18th century, and 2) how they compare with the *official* correspondence sent to PF.

TRUNKS AND COMMODITIES BACK AND FORTH. THE JESUIT PROCURATORS OF SANTO ANTÃO AND MACAU

Isabel Murta Pina | CCCM & Maria João Pereira Coutinho | IHA/NOVA FCSH / IN2PAST

In 1616, a unique description of the contents of the Jesuit procuratorship of Macau revealed a chest full of relics of martyrs of Japan leaning against a corner, among many other objects – a veritable testament to the wealth found within. Several other chests containing all sorts of goods travelled between this procuratorship and that of Santo Antão, in Lisbon and vice-versa. The main goal of this paper is to analyse these networks of Jesuit procurators, as they were responsible for the material and logistical issues of the overseas missions. These networks began and gained further definition from the second half of the 16th century onwards. The paper also intends to explore the different products circulated on a global scale by these actors, with a special focus being laid on artistic objects.

SINGULAR MATERIALITY: ODYSSEY OF A CASKET FROM EUROPE TO ASIA AND BACK AGAIN

João Teles e Cunha | CEC/FLUL

Museu Nacional de Arte Antiga in Lisbon has in its collection a remarkable piece of Venetian goldsmith art, a rock-crystal, silver, gold-gilt, copper and wood casket (inventory n° 576 Our), probably created around 1600 in the workshop of Antonio



Fontana. Behind this anodyne description lies the fascinating history of an object offered by Venetian silk merchants to King Firuz Shah of Hormuz (1602-1609), who later presented it to D. Fr. Aleixo de Meneses, archbishop of Goa (1595-1610) and governor of India (1606-1609), who in turn brought it back to Europe in 1610 and donated it to Our Lady of Grace monastery in Lisbon in 1611, which belonged to his order, the Augustinians, and was closely related to Portuguese Asia and the Persian Gulf, where it stayed until its incorporation in the Museum's collection in 1919.

Its bustling history will allow us to evaluate the role played by rare and luxury commodities in the cultural transfers between Christian Europe and the Islamic world in the early modern age, how it was perceived, used and repurposed according to ideas and values of the societies it crossed, and its artistic influence and attraction over centuries as well.

GIFTS FOR SALE: THE JESUITS OF GOA IN THE MARKET PLACE

Jorge Flores | CIUHCT / FCUL | FCT – UNL

The extant scholarship on the economic dimension of Jesuit activities in early modern Asia is scarce and seldom goes beyond the finances of the Society's missions. The present paper seeks to interlock the material, the political, and the artistic by focusing on the gifts offered to the Portuguese monarchs by several Asian rulers. These objects were typically channeled to Goa and the profit made with their sale in the city allocated to St Paul's College during the second half of the sixteenth-century. The documentation then produced by priests and viceroys, and the controversies opposing the several agents in presence, allows one to better grasp the Jesuit stance vis-à-vis gift exchanges and economic transactions.