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cover: A picture of veins (血絡圖) from the Chinese translation «人身圖說» in the late Ming manuscript (Beijing University Library) of Ambrose Paré's *Anatomie*.

- 1 Necrology: le Père Yves Raguin SJ 甘易達神父 (1912-1998)
- 5 Eugenio MENEGON: The 'Archives des Missions Étrangères de Paris' - AMEP and their Chinese Holdings
- 9 Nicolas STANDAERT: A Chinese Translation of Ambroise Paré's *Anatomy*
- 34 New Publications in the Field
- 59 Notable Doctoral Dissertation
- 60 International Conference on Wang Tao and the Modern World 王韜與近代世界

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La Profondeur de Dieu. Paris: Desclée De Brouwer. Collection Christus, 1973.

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[Additional translations into English (1975 & 1979), Italian (1975), Portuguese (1979) & Spanish (1982)]

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God is my Life (Guide for Retreats).

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In collaboration: *Dictionnaire Français de la langue Chinoise.* Taipei: Ricci Institute; Taichung: Kuangchi Press; Paris: Institut Ricci. 1976. xii+1136+186 pp.

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Part II: Methods and Powers. xii+248 pp. 1944.

Part III: Spiritual writers and works: a parallel between East and West. In preparation.

Part IV: Chinese Spirituality. In preparation.

THE 'ARCHIVES DES MISSIONS ÉTRANGÈRES
DE PARIS' - AMEP
AND THEIR CHINESE HOLDINGS

by
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The Archives of the Foreign Missions of Paris ("Archives des Missions Étrangères de Paris - AMEP") were mainly used in the past by members of the MEP Congregation, but today they are fully open to researchers, and are undergoing a large and time-consuming project of microfilming (on microfiches), computer-scanning of documents and photographs, photocopying of catalogues, and cataloguing on computer.

Although they existed in some form since the 1680s, the Archives were first organized and catalogued only in the second half of the 19th century. In the 1880s, Fr. Adrian Launay MEP was charged with the compilation of the "Tables Analytiques des Archives du Séminaire," a dozen of large in-folio manuscript volumes, each containing between 600 and 1,000 pages, as well as four volumes of "Tables Alphabétiques." They obviously cover only materials up to the late 19th century.

The "Tables Analytiques" (vols. V-VI cover China) are generally arranged in chronological order, and offer for each letter or document, date, place, name of author, a brief French summary of the contents (except for materials not in French), the foreign language used, and the first folio number. In contrast, the "Tables Alphabétiques" are an alphabetical listing of materials, arranged by author's name, place, subject etc., and supplying keywords and references to the originals (the entry on Charles Maigrot is 13-pages long!). The 'Tables alphabétiques' have been photocopied and put in binders, while most of the 'Tables Analytiques' are still the original manuscripts by Launay (vol. V = original; vol. VI = 3 photocopy binders). Both are available upon demand.

These are still the best tools to orient oneself in the collection, together with the "Titres des volumes analysés. Catalogue de 1997" compiled by the current Archivist (it is a summary table of contents of the 'Tables Analytiques', useful for a first overview).

Contents

The contents of the Archives fall into three categories:

1) 'archives anciennes', covering the years 1660-1920. The documents have been classified and catalogued long ago (although some notations in the 'Tables Analytiques' contain errors, especially in the case of Chinese-language documents). The documents are bound in large volumes, numbering 1 through 1815.

2) 'archives récentes', covering the period 1920 to the present. These documents (ca. 1600 large envelopes) are undergoing a process of reordering and cataloguing. Some older documents (mainly copies of 18th and 19th century items coming from MEP secularized archival holdings in other collections; a list can be consulted) are occasionally found in this section.

3) 'fonds iconographique', containing more than 50,000 items (photos, prints etc.), mainly dating from 1845 on.

The 'archives anciennes' formed the basis of some important published works by Frs. Rousseille and Launay. Launay, archivist of the AMEP for forty years until his death in 1927, published a *Histoire de la Société des Missions-Étrangères* (1894; 3 vols.), as well as histories of the missions of India, Cochinchina, Tonkin and Siam, and a series of volumes entitled *Histoire des Missions de Chine*, issued between 1903 and 1920, covering the history of the MEP missions in Guangdong, Sichuan, Guizhou, Guangxi, Manchuria and Tibet between the 18th and early 20th century. Launay's research was based not only on the archives, but also on materials copied for him by a team of secretaries during a voyage he conducted in China in 1898. In 1924, shortly before his death, he finally published the extraordinary *Journal d'André Ly, prêtre chinois, missionnaire et notaire apostolique, 1746-1763*.

After perusing Launay's volumes, where many documents have been included in appendix, one can proceed to plumb the riches of the Archives. The 'archives anciennes' contain a section 'Missions Etrangères', consisting of official correspondence, letters of bishops, vicars and missionaries, and spiritual-theological writings (1663-1932); a section 'Maisons de Société', mainly administrative correspondence on the different houses of the Congregation (among them, the Procurator Offices in Macao, 1732-1836, and in Shanghai, 1861-1906); and a section 'Pays de Mission' covering the following countries: Canada, Persia, China, Japan, Korea, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Siam, Burma, and India.

The sub-section 'Chine' of the 'Pays de Mission' section contains what follows:

a) Correspondance of bishops and missionaries, state of the missions, and Chinese Rites, covering the period 1666-1887: 114 volumes (volumes no. 400 to no. 509; there are some double volumes).

This grouping gathers most of the 17th and 18th century materials. It contains a large quantity of letters and reports by Western and Chinese missionaries (Fujian, Sichuan, Guangxi, Guangdong, etc.) in French, Latin, Spanish, Portuguese and Chinese (at least 40 vols.); copies of Chinese-language government materials, especially anti-Christian memorials; and writings on Chinese religious customs and on the problems involved in the Chinese Rites Controversy. A series of at least 10 volumes contains the writings of Bishop Charles Maigrot.

The remaining volumes contain 19th and 20th century materials:

- b) Mission of Sichuan (1843-1919): 38 vols.
- c) Mission of Yunnan (1843-1928): 11 vols.
- d) Mission of Guizhou (1849-1919): 31 vols.
- e) Mission of Guangdong (1849-1936): 27 vols.
- f) Mission of Guangxi (1840-1919): 7 vols.
- g) Mission of Tibet (1844-1920): 26 vols.
- h) Mission of Manchuria (1840-1919): 7 vols.

Location and Schedule

Since the 17th century, the Archives have been located in the historic palace of the MEP 'Séminaire', on the elegant rue de Bac, at the center of Paris. They are just a short walk away from the nearby underground station of Sèvres-Babylone (crossed by lines 10 and 12). Passing through an arched gate, surmounted by a statue of the Virgin Mary, one will find the Church of the Seminary, and the entrance to the building itself on the right. After announcing oneself to the gate-keeper, the visitor will proceed for the formalities to the office of the Archives on the second floor (i.e. "premier étage") of the main building. A letter of introduction from an academic institution or sponsor is required. Thereafter, formalities are minimal.

Besides two rooms occupied by the Archivist and his Assistant, as well as two repositories for the documents—closed to the public—the Archives offer a reading room, with seats for approximately eight researchers. Fr. Gérard Moussay MEP is the Archivist; Assistant Archivist is Ms. Brigitte Appavou; Ms. Brigitte Lourdes-Maguimey is in charge of the scientific laboratory. They all speak English.

The offices of the Archivist are open Monday through Friday (except holidays) from 9 am to 12 am and from 2 pm to 5 pm. During the midday intermission, researchers can continue their work undisturbed in the reading room. Each researcher can work on one codex at a time, but it is possible to ask for more codices during office

hours. Codices must be returned to the assistant archivist before 5 pm. The Archives are usually closed to the public between mid-July and mid-September.

The volumes containing the documents are generally arranged in chronological order. Unfortunately, several documents are in a poor state of conservation, and letters written on Chinese paper are particularly brittle. Therefore, utmost care must be exerted in dealing with the manuscripts. The Archives do not offer a microfilming service. Since only a small portion of the holdings (mainly on the Vietnamese missions) have been photographed and can be purchased in microfiches, for the time being the materials on China must be consulted in the Archives. Researchers are thus advised to plan a relatively long stay in Paris.

The Archivist can be contacted at the following address:

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'Bibliothèque Asiatique des Missions Étrangères'

In the modern wing of the Seminary is located the 'Bibliothèque Asiatique des Missions Étrangères', containing 10,000 volumes on the history of Asian missions, and 10,000 volumes in Asian languages, with some 18th and 19th century editions of Chinese Catholic materials. The entrance is on 28, rue de Babylone; the Library is open on Tuesdays, 9-12 and 14-17; Wednesdays 9-12; Fridays, 9-12, closed July and August; there is a photocopying service; the librarian is Mrs. Annie Sablayrolles.

Further Readings

"Archives privées - Société des Missions Étrangères de Paris," in Commission française du Guide des Sources de l'Histoire des Nations (ed.), *Sources de l'Histoire de l'Asie et de l'Océanie dans les Archives et Bibliothèques françaises. 1ère Partie: Archives*, K.G. Saur, München- New York - London - Paris, 1981, pp. 496-498.

Moussay, Gérard, "Archives des Missions Étrangères de Paris," *Archives de l'Église de France. Bulletin de l'Association des Archivistes de l'Église de France* 50 (Automne 1998), pp. 25-32.