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cover The first page of Zhou Xianchen's preface (1607) to M. Ricci's
Tianzhu shiyi, reproduced from Zhou's *Xuelin waibian* 周獻臣, 鷺林外編
(Wanli edition), treated in Mr. Dudink's article.

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bibliographical information, including the seals of the collectors, signatures of connoisseurs, description of title pages and in some cases a description of the contents. There are four separate indexes for titles, places of publication, languages and subjects. The prefatory material is in English, except for a Chinese preface by Mr. Zhu Qingzuo, Director of the Shanghai Library. An English translation of this preface by Mr. Wu Xiaoxin of the Ricci Institute is included.

The value of this catalog to research libraries dealing with early modern Sino-Western history is obvious and, given the tendency of books published in China to quickly go out of print, it should be purchased without delay.

D. E. M.

ARCHIVO DE LA PROVINCIA DEL SANTO ROSARIO (APSR)

*formerly in the Convento de Santo Domingo, Manila, Philippines,
now in the Convento de Santo Tomás (Real Monasterio), Avila, Spain.*

by Eugenio Menegon

In March 1994, I spent some time in the Archives of the Dominican Province of the Holy Rosary (Provincia del Santo Rosario, PSR), researching the missions of the Philippines, Japan, China, Formosa and Tonkin since the end of the 16th century. Since its foundation in 1587, the superiors of the Province of the Holy Rosary organized the ordering and conservation of the important documents regarding all the missions which were subject to the authority of the Dominicans of Manila. These documents originated both in the provincial curia of the Convent of Santo Domingo and in the different missions. The documents, particularly numerous from the 17th century on, were kept safely in the Archives for more than three centuries. During World War II, a special concrete shelter was built to preserve the documents from the Japanese invasion, and they escaped the fire that destroyed the Convent on the night of December 27, 1941. Soon afterwards, the documents were transferred to the University of Santo Tomás in Sulucan. After the War (1955), the archival holdings were brought back to the newly-built Convent of Santo Domingo in Quezon City, near Manila. Later, from 1977 to 1984, the Archives were housed in the Convento de San Juan del Monte, in the suburbs of Manila.

In 1985, the Provincial Chapter of the Province was held in Avila, Spain, in the Royal Monastery of St. Thomas (Real Monasterio de Santo Tomás). It was decided that all the archival holdings in Manila should be transferred to Spain, except a small part dealing with the ecclesiastical history of the Philippines. This was ultimately due to the establishment of an independent Dominican Province in the Philippines, separated from the old Province of the Holy Rosary since 1971.

The documents were first shipped to Madrid. In 1987, when a suitable space in the Convent of Santo Tomás in Avila was ready, the Archives finally found their home. Avila is world-renowned as the city of Santa Teresa and St. John of the Cross. It is a splendid medieval city in the mountainous region of Old Castille, at an altitude of 1127 meters above sea level, with a dry climate suitable for the preservation of the documents.

The new Archives of the Province of the Holy Rosary (APSR) are located in the east wing of the so-called "Claustro del Noviciado" of the Real Monasterio de Santo Tomás, in the south-eastern part of the town. The Convent, traditionally known as "Real Monasterio," was built under the patronage of the Catholic Kings Isabel and Fernando from 1482 to 1493, under the supervision of the famous Dominican Fr. Torquemada. It has three silent cloisters, and a beautiful gothic church, enshrining the tomb of Prince Juan, son of Isabel and Fernando.

The Archives have a main repository, closed to the public, and a reading room, with

study carrels for researchers. A photocopying service and a modern microfilm reader-printer are available. The Archives are opened from Monday to Saturday, 10 am-1pm and 4 - 6 pm. The archivist is Fr. Vicente Muñoz, OP.

Attached to the Convent is the "Residencia Santo Tomás," a modern facility with nice rooms. Meals are offered in the nearby Old Refectory. Room and board is around 3,800 pesetas (25 \$) per day and must be arranged well in advance. A museum of Oriental Art is also hosted in the Royal Halls of the Monastery.

ARCHIVAL HOLDINGS

There are three main classes of archival materials:

I. Manuscripts

Many of the manuscripts in the section *Manuscritos*, especially those dating back to the 16th and 17th centuries, are 19th-century copies of the originals. The humid and hot climate of the Philippines has prevented the conservation of the old paper, usually made out of rice, which has been destroyed by insects and parasites. Fortunately, the old Archivists were vigilant, and copied the originals before it was too late. Fr. Ocio in the 19th century did it by hand, while Fr. Fernández in the last decades transcribed at least 20 volumes of documents with a typewriter. Some old manuscripts are still in existence, but their use is almost impossible because of their fragility. Sometimes the ink has changed its color, or it has damaged the paper.

Presently, in the Archives are preserved around 1,100 volumes of manuscripts, many of them in several copies. Some 120 volumes were left in Manila, pertaining to the sections "Historia Ecclesiastica de Filipinas," "Cagayán," "Chinos de Manila," and "Batanes." The manuscripts in Avila cover the different areas of civil and ecclesiastic history of the Philippines, China, Japan, Formosa and Tonkin, as well as the history of the Convento de Santo Tomás in Avila itself.

As to the material regarding the missions of China, a very good guide to these holdings readily accessible is found in volume 5 of José Maria González' *Historia de las misiones dominicanas de China - Bibliografías*, Madrid, Imprenta Juan Bravo, 1967 (this monumental work can be acquired at the Monastery). Unfortunately, if González' work is very helpful as far as the titles of the holdings are concerned, it still records the old *signaturae*, which were reformed completely in the early 1970s. New typewritten catalogues are available in the reading room. Fr. Donato González, the previous Archivist, is going to publish a very useful introduction to the Archives, entitled "El Archivo de Extremo Oriente de los Padres Dominicos de Avila," on which the present report is based.

The historian of China and of the Chinese missions will be mostly interested in three sections: *Formosa, China*, and *Ritos Chinos*. Among the most valuable pieces held in the

Archives are Victorio Riccio's *Hechos de la Orden de Predicadores en el Imperio de China* (1667) and the original acts (1635) of the Dingdou trial on the Chinese Rites, by Juan Bautista de Morales, OP and Antonio de Santa María Caballero, OFM.

II. Printed Documents and Books

The section of Printed Works (*Impresos*) consists of 1400 volumes, mostly published in modern times. Around thirty books can be considered "rare." Unfortunately, some of the volumes listed in the catalogue have not been sent from Manila. The Archives have the complete collection of *El Correo Sino-Annamita* (1852-1916) and the monumental series edited by E. H. Blair, and J.A. Robertson, *The Philippine Islands, 1493-1898*. Cleveland: The Arthur H. Clark, Co., 1903-1907, 55 vols.

III. Microfilms

The entire collection of manuscripts of the APSR and some manuscripts held in the University Santo Tomás were microfilmed in 1971. The microfilm section (*Microfilmes*) consists of 490 rolls (35 mm), each roll containing up to 2,000 pages. There are three copies of this microfilm collection: one in the Convento de San Juan del Monte (Manila), one in the University Santo Tomás (Manila) and one in Avila. A catalogue of the microfilm section is available in the reading room.

A further reason makes a visit to Avila worthwhile: the Franciscan Archives of Pastrana, preserving the documents of the old Province of St. Gregory (Philippines and Far East), once in the province of Guadalajara, north-east of Madrid, have been recently moved near the Curia Provincial OFM, C. Duque de Sesto, 9, 28009 Madrid (Archivist Fr. Cayetano Sánchez, OFM).

Once in Madrid, it is possible to visit the Franciscan Archives, some other important Archives and Libraries (Biblioteca Nacional and Archivo de la Academia de Historia)¹; then, from the station of Chamartin in Madrid, by train, it takes only one and one-half hours to get to Avila. The Monasterio is not far from the station: one can both walk or take bus number 3. For further information, contact the Archivist:

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¹ An old, brief, but still instructive description of the Chinese holdings of these institutions is Paul Pelliot's. "Notes sur quelques livres ou documents conservés en Espagne," *T'oung Pao* 26 (1929), pp. 43-50.