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(p. 267). Omitindo qualquer referência, por mínima que fosse, ao lastro da discussão patristica acerca de *matéria, autor, criador* ou *coeterno* pode-se condenar um leitor menos preparado a uma certa ambiguidade conceptual ou, no pior dos cenários, a uma leitura superficial.

Em pouco mais de vinte e cinco anos, esta obra – hoje praticamente ignorada – alcançou repercussões editoriais e culturais sem precedentes e confirma uma vitalidade intelectual que a modernidade teima em negar àqueles séculos: as diversas edições em Madrid, Barcelona, Valência, Veneza e Lisboa comprovam o inquebrantável vínculo entre o mistério da Palavra e um monge de Cister, em cujo ministério sempre floresceu o intelecto ao serviço de uma interpretação discreta mas persistente da fé.

Estudar e tornar, hoje, os textos de Zamora acessíveis é um trabalho inegavelmente tocado por essa mesma persistência: para o estabelecimento deste texto, os editores optaram pela edição de Valência (A), anotando as variantes (quase exclusivamente gráficas) da edição de Barcelona (B), logrando um rigoroso trabalho intelectual que líquida com honradez uma dívida antiga que a modernidade tardava em pagar a Lorenzo de Zamora pela obscuridade a que o condenou.

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FERDINAND VERBIEST, *Postulata Vice-Provinciae Sinensis in urbe proponenda. A blueprint for a renewed SJ mission in China*. Translation from the Latin, introduction, notes, documental appendix, index and facsimile edition by Noël Golvers, Leuven, Ferdinand Verbiest Institute / KU Leuven, 2018 (Leuven Chinese Studies, XL). 248 pp. ISBN 978-9-492-76805-6

The name of Fr. Ferdinand Verbiest SJ is well-known for those who study the China mission in the seventeenth century, and we owe a great deal to Noël Golvers for editing some of the most relevant documents related with the Flemish Jesuit, namely his “*Astronomia Europaea*” (1993) and his correspondence (published in this same collection in 2017). Noël Golvers dedicates a new volume of Leuven’s Chinese Studies series to Verbiest’s “*Opera Minora*”, the “*Postulata*” (dated from 1680), arguing for its interest given the “*sui generis*” language and style adopted by Ferdinand Verbiest, and for dealing with topics (like China becoming a Province) absent from his letters (cf. p. 7). But, as Golvers also says in the introduction, the usage of Verbiest’s other writings is important to make clear the text and the context of the “*Postulata*”, which hasn’t been traditionally recognized as one of his works (cf. p. 8).

The volume is divided in three parts. A lengthy and scholarly “*Introduction*” (pp. 9-51) contextualizing the text and the time when it was written, as well as its outcome and reception in Rome (1684-1685), followed by the Latin transcription and English translation (pp. 54-101), with erudite notes dubbed as “*Commentaries*” to enlighten the content (pp. 105-173), to finish with an “*Index Nominum et Rerum*” (pp. 177-184). A third part comprises the “*Appendices*”, including the English translation of the Latin documents mentioned in the notes (pp. 187-202), the transcription of five related documents (pp. 203-227), and the facsimile of the document (non-paginated).

Verbiest’s “*Postulata*” was written for the Procurator of the China mission, Philippe Couplet, to take with him to Rome to present and obtain a set of objectives, taking advantage of the forthcoming “*iubilaeum*” of the China mission (1680-1681), founded by Michele Ruggieri and Matteo Ricci one-hundred years before. Some of these objectives had been requested earlier without success, namely in a “*Postulata*” written by Fr. Prospero Intorcetta

in 1666 (transcribed with the answer by the Jesuit's Father General Giovanni Paolo Oliva in pp. 203-209). In 1680, Ferdinand Verbiest wanted to obtain four great objectives from Rome, as he saw this as due to the most important Jesuit mission outside Europe, that of China (cf. p. 87). These four objectives had to do with the recruitment of Chinese to the Society of Jesus (together with the creation of a network of colleges to educate and select future local priests), to establish a novitiate in Hangzhou, to recuperate the permission to print books in China (suspended by Oliva in 1672, also connected with the *imprimatur* request by Verbiest to print his "Astronomia Europea") and to promote China to the status of Province (and also to exchange the jurisdiction of Guangdong and Guangxi, then under the control of the Province of Japan for Hainan, which belonged to China's Vice-Province).

But things began to unravel even before Fr. Philippe Couplet left for Europe, as Fr. Domingo de Navarrete's book reached Macau in 1680, with a series of damning accusations levelled against the Jesuits of the China mission, rendering the "Postulata" somewhat obsolete. Ferdinand Verbiest and his successor as Vice-Provincial Giandomenico Gabiani had to prepare new documents for Couplet to take with him to Europe to contest Navarrete's accusations. Couplet's long voyage to Europe (1681-1683) and his sojourn in Rome (1684-1685) achieved little, as all of the objectives set by the "Postulata" were refused, especially the promotion of China to the rank of Province, which appear cancelled in the document itself. One of the few positive outcomes was the *imprimatur* given to the "Astronomia Europea", a small reward for Verbiest himself, but the new Father General, Charles de Noyelle refused to give additional permissions for the Jesuits to print books in China without his authorization.

This carefully edited source, with a valuable introduction contextualizing the text and the period, and with documental appendices, is a true monument of scholarly erudition. Noël Golvers has provided historians with a relevant document to study the China mission at a major crossroads around 1680, particularly since he has translated the Latin text to English, thus rendering it available to all. Its subtitle, "A blueprint for a renewed SJ mission in China", is somewhat misleading, as Noël Golvers deals with other dimensions of the Jesuit Chinese mission, namely its cultural history. Historians and researchers alike will undoubtedly make good use of this little-known source in the future.

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SANTIAGO LÓPEZ MOREDA, *Antonio de Morales Spino. Definiciones latinas sobre las ocho partes de la oración con sus propiedades e accidentes*. Introducción, edición, traducción y notas de Santiago López Moreda, Cáceres, Universidad de Extremadura, Servicio de Publicaciones, 2021 (*Grammatica Humanistica Serie Textos*, 13). XI + 145 pp. ISBN 978-84-9127-085-0

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