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# LOUVAIN CHINESE STUDIES VI

# THE CHRISTIAN MISSION IN CHINA IN THE VERBIEST ERA:

# SOME ASPECTS OF THE MISSIONARY APPROACH

Noël Golvers (ed.)



1999

LEUVEN UNIVERSITY PRESS FERDINAND VERBIEST FOUNDATION Introduction

The Jesuit mission, however, was far more than a mission in Beijing. In order to represent the scene outside the capital in this issue, a description of the missionary approach as applied in the Suzhou Prefecture (Jiangnan Province) by François de Rougemont (1624-1676) has been added. Again, Western documents are the almost-exclusive source here, illustrating, apart from a series of individual characteristics, many aspects of the Jesuit presence in the Chinese interior. This contribution can be read as a synthesis of the purely missionary chapters of the forthcoming major publication on François de Rougemont, S.J., Missionary in Ch'ang-shu (Chiang-nan). A Study of the Account Book (1674 -1676) and the Elogium, which will be published in Louvain Chinese Studies.

All in all, these six contributions demonstrate the interdisciplinary character of the historical research on the China mission, and the rich results one can expect from a research based on both Western and Chinese sources. Several of the next volumes will be dedicated to other aspects of seventeenth and eighteenth century mission with a similar preference for introducing into the scientific discussion new or less-known source material.

Noël Golvers Editor F. Verbiest Foundation April, 1999

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