

The visit to China of the Papal Legate Charles Thomas Maillard de Tournon (1705-1710) was a decisive turning point not only in the history of Christian missions in China but in the history of the Society of Jesus.

The Legate succeeded not only in imposing his negative views about Chinese rituals for ancestors and Confucius but contributed to the vilification of the Jesuits that led to their suppression later in the century. The German Jesuit Kilian Stumpf was a privileged observer of these events, particularly those in Beijing, the Chinese capital, but also through his extensive correspondence in the rest of China. He worked directly for the Chinese Emperor Kangxi as director of the imperial glassworks. He was designated as the procurator or negotiator with the Legate on behalf of his Jesuit companions; he lived in the same house as the Legate during his period at the court and as a papal notary kept a daily record of events and copies of key documents in a huge document sent in sections to Rome, the *Acta Pekinensia*. Here, for the first time, this neglected document is provided in an annotated English translation. It should be of value to historians of the Catholic Church, sinologists and students of religion, but it also presents a good story full of fascinating personalities and events.

PD Dr. theol. Claudia von Collani is a Missiologist with secondary studies in Sinology and Japanology. Her special subjects are East Asian mission history, inculturation, mission theology of early modern times, cultural exchange between Europe and East Asia, history of science and medicine, and especially Chinese Figurism. She is affiliated to the chair of Missiology and Dialogue of Religions at the University of Würzburg and involved in several international research projects. Her more than 120 book reviews and 130 publications include books and articles about the Yijing and about the Daodejing. Additionally she authored more than 200 contributions to the Internet Encyclopedia of Stochastikon.

Paul Rule was born and educated in Melbourne, Australia. He is a former Director of the Religious Studies program at La Trobe University in Melbourne, where he taught Chinese and Aboriginal religions, religious theory and modern Catholicism from 1974 to 2002. Dr. Rule's research and publications have mainly related to China and include K'ung-tzu or Confucius? The Jesuit Interpretation of Confucianism as well as books and articles on Christianity in China, other Chinese religions, Aboriginal religion and peace and justice issues. He is currently a research associate in the History Program at La Trobe University and is working on a history of the Chinese Rites Controversy for the Ricci Institute for Chinese-Western Cultural History at the University of San Francisco.