

<i>Foreword by Prof. Joachim Wolschke-Bulmahn</i>	5
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	8
Introduction	11

Part I

1	Jesuits in Far East Asia: faith and scientific curiosity	21
1.1	Missionary action in Far East Asia	22
1.2	Jesuits and European expansion in Eastern Asia	26
1.3	The Society of Jesus	28
1.4	The Jesuits in China	29
1.5	Science as a tool of propagation of the Catholic faith	34
1.6	Jesuits writings about China	41
2	European political and commercial expansion towards East Asia in seventeenth century	49
2.1	The Portuguese desire of the Indies	51
2.2	The Dutch supremacy on the spice trade	53
3	Knowledge of Asiatic flora and Chinese gardens in sixteenth-century Europe	57
3.1	Plants from East Asia. Their use in the kitchen	59
3.2	Plants from East Asia. Their use in pharmacology	63
3.3	Plants from East Asia. Collectors and botanical curiosity	66
3.4	Chinese gardens: the earliest descriptions	70

Part II

4	Gathering information on plants in China	79
4.1	Trips through the Chinese empire and direct observation	80
4.2	Studying the bencao	84
5	Jesuits' writings on vegetation in China	91
5.1	Botanical references in the general descriptions of Chinese provinces	94
5.1.1	Herbs	96
5.1.2	Fruits	100
5.1.3	Spices and medicinal plants	106
5.1.4	Woods	109
5.1.5	Ornamental plants	110
5.2	Jesuits treatises on Chinese flora	116
5.2.1	Depiction and illustration: an interaction. <i>Flora Sinensis</i> by M. Boym	117
5.2.2	Towards a classification system. <i>Herbarum aliarumque Stirpium</i> by G.J. Kamel	132
5.2.4	The Linnaean methodology. <i>Flora Cochinchinensis</i> by J. de Loureiro	137
5.3	Letters and memoirs	142
5.3.1	For many purposes: P. Jartoux, F. Dentrecolles and D. Parrenin	143
5.3.2	Gardener for the Emperor: P. d'Incarville	153
5.3.3	Popularizing Chinese plants: P.M. Cibot and the <i>Mémoires... des Chinois</i>	161

Part III

6	The Jesuit contribution to knowledge about Chinese gardens	171
6.1	Jesuit writings on Chinese gardens	175
6.2	1580-1700. An ambivalent attitude: the discovery of naturalness in Chinese gardens	178
6.2.1	Specific compositional elements	185
6.3	1700-1760. The art of the irregular	196
6.4	The final descriptions. The rules of a "Chinese garden in good taste"	210
6.4.1	Proof of an ancient tradition. <i>Le Jardin de Sée-Ma-Kouang</i> by P.M. Cibot	212
6.4.2	Towards a grammar of the Chinese garden. <i>Essai sur les jardins des plaisance des Chinois</i> by P.M. Cibot	218

6.5	The Chinese garden in graphic representations	231
7	The reception of the Jesuit writings on Chinese plants and gardens: a conclusion	241

Appendices:

<i>Biographical notes of the main Jesuits mentioned in the text</i>	261
<i>Bibliography</i>	266
<i>Index of names and places</i>	281
<i>Index of plants names</i>	288
<i>Illustrations</i>	292

Author's note

For the botanical names, and their authors, of plants listed in the text the name given first is the one considered official today, wherever possible, followed by the sign (=) and the synonym.

Abbreviations

AJV = Archives des Jésuites, Vanves
 ARSI = Archivum Romanum Societatis Iesu
 BAV = Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana, Vatican City
 BFG = Bibliotheek van de Faculteit Godgeleerheid, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven
 BI = Bibliothèque de l'Insitut, Paris
 BL = Bodleian Library, Oxford
 BNC = Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale "Vittorio Emanuele II", Rome
 BNF = Bibliothèque Nationale de France, Paris
 BNN = Biblioteca Nazionale "Vittorio Emanuele III", Naples
 BM = British Museum, London
 BSB = Biblioteca Storica "A. Bertoloni", Dipartimento di Biologia of the Università degli Studi, Bologna
 CCA = Canadian Center for Architecture, Montreal
 DPR = Dresden Print Room, Dresden
 NLT = National Library, Taipei
 NYPL = New York Public Library, New York

Other abbreviations used in text

LEC = Lettres édifiantes et curieuses écrites des missions étrangères, par quelques Missionnaires de la Compagnie de Jésus
 MCC = Mémoires concernant l'histoire, les sciences, les arts, les mœurs, les usages, & c., des Chinois: par les Missionnaires de Pékin.