

***HISTORIA DE LAS MISIONES DOMINICANAS DE CHINA.*** 1632-1700 Jose Maria Gonzalez, O.P. Tomo 1. Madrid 1964 pp. 719

This book is the first of a four-volume work by a distinguished and consummate historian on Dominican missions in China. These missions, fathered by a select and choice Dominicans from various Provinces particularly those of Spain had their "res gestas" so intimately identified with the aims of the Order, catapulting the newly formed Province of the Most Holy Rosary into one of best show cases of the "primogenia inspiratio" of her founder. Father Gonzalez proves equal to the task with a life-time labor of research and travels bringing him to various centers and libraries including the personal manuscripts of the men who made history and succeeding in a tremendous synthesis from more than 6000 documents as primary sources.

This particular volume includes a list of the countless sources of information, pertinent indexes and bibliographies of the birth, growth and crisis which spiced the glorious missions; biographical sketches of the missionaries and their associates in the evangelization; pictures and reproductions of maps and striking documents which are a source of delight even to the uninitiated reader. The discussion on Fr. Navarrete which has triggered some amount of controversy today may well be compared with some modern works to juggle document and opinion.

The author's indisputable experience plus his knack for a critical grasp of the more important facts with a presentation polished by a score of past publication of books and articles on this matter exacts on the reader a profound confidence to dare anybody with a take-up-and-read invitation. After all the author is at the same time *the* authority.

**Norberto Castillo, O.P.**