



BIBLIOTECA UNIVERSITARIA DI GENOVA - PERCORSI TEMATICI

Universalitas & Pervasivitas

IL COSTITUIRSI E DIFFONDERSI DELLA S.J. E SUOI ECHI (1540 - 1773)
di A. Pisani

Schede autori Attività missionaria

Charles Le Gobien

French jesuit and founder of the famous collection of Lettres édifiantes et curieuses, one of the most important sources of information for the history of Catholic missions, b. at StMalo, Brittany; d. at Paris, 5 March, 1708. He entered the Societas Jesu on 25 November, 1671. As professor of philosophy and especially while procurator of the Franco-Chinese mission, he sought in a series of admirable papers to awaken the interest of the cultivated classes in the great work of Christianizing Eastern Asia. In 1697 appeared at Paris his « Lettres sur les progrès de la religion à la Chine ». Apropos of the violent literary feud then in progress concerning the so-called « Chinese Rites », he published among other things « Histoire de l'édit de l'empereur de la Chine en faveur de la religion chrétienne avec un éclaircissement sur les honneurs que les Chinois rendent à Confucius et aux morts » (Paris, 1698) ; and in the year 1700 : « Lettre à un Docteur de la Faculté de Paris sur les propositions déférées en Sorbonne par M. Prioux ». Under the same date there appeared in Paris the « Histoire des Isles Mariannes nouvellement converties à la religion chrétienne ». The second part, translated into Spanish by J. Delgado, is found in the latter's "Historia General de Filipinas" (Manila, 1892).

In 1702 Père Le Gobien published « Lettres de quelques missionnaires de la Compagnie de Jésus, écrites de la Chine et des Indes Orientales » ; this was the beginning of the collection soon to become celebrated under the title of « Lettres édifiantes et curieuses écrites des missions étrangères par quelques missionnaires de la Compagnie de Jésus ». The first eight series were by Père le Gobien, the latter ones by Fathers Du Halde, Patouillet, Geoffroy, and Maréchal. The collection was printed in thirty-six vols. Duodecimo (Paris, 1703-76), and reissued in 1780-81 by Fathers Yves, de Querbeux, and Brotier in twenty-six vols. Duodecimo, unfortunately omitting the valuable prefaces. New editions appeared in 1819, 1829-32, and 1838-43. One abridgment in four vols. Octavo, was entitled "Panthéon Littéraire", by L. Aimé Martin (1834- 43). A partial English translation came out in London in 1714. The publication incited the Austrian jesuit Stöcklein to undertake his "Neuer Welt Bott" (about 1720), at first considered merely a translation,

LETTRES
ÉDIFIANTES
ET CURIEUSES.



BIBLIOTECA UNIVERSITARIA DI GENOVA - PERCORSI TEMATICI

Universalitas & Pervasivitas

IL COSTITUIRSI E DIFFONDERSI DELLA S.J. E SUOI ECHI (1540 - 1773)
di A. Pisani

Schede autori Attività missionaria

but soon an independent and particularly valuable collection (five vols., folio in forty parts) substantially completing the “Lettres Edifiantes” (see Kath. Missionen, 1904-05).

Source: SOMMERVOGEL, Bibl. de la Comp. De Jésus, s. v. Gobien ; DE GUILHERMY, Ménologe de la Comp. De Jésus, I (Paris, 1892), 324 ; Nouv. Biogr. Gén., XXX (Paris, 1883), 403 ; FELLER, Dict. hist., IV, 82.

About this page

APA citation. Huonder, A. (1910). Charles Le Gobien. In The Catholic Encyclopedia. New York: Robert Appleton

Company. Retrieved July 9, 2012 from New Advent:

<http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/09132a.htm>

MLA citation. Huonder, Anthony. "Charles Le Gobien." The Catholic Encyclopedia. Vol. 9. New York: Robert Appleton Company, 1910. 9 Jul. 2012

<http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/09132a.htm>

Transcription. This article was transcribed for New Advent by WGKofron. With thanks to St. Mary's Church, Akron, Ohio.

Ecclesiastical approbation. *Nihil Obstat*. October 1, 1910. Remy Lafort, Censor. *Imprimatur*. +John M. Farley, Archbishop of New York.

Vedi anche: [breve profilo biografico di Charles Le Gobien nel sito dell'Enciclopedia Treccani](#)