

## 25 July 2019 - Belgian Father Ferdinand Verbiest

Belgium inChina

<https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/zD-pGPWW5sLEhgyQSeDjdA>



A large number of Chinese people got to know Father Ferdinand Verbiest (Nan Huairen/南怀仁) because of his connection with Emperor Kangxi. Today let's talk about this important Belgian figure who helped the spread of Western scientific knowledge in China during the Qing Dynasty.

In 1659, Belgian Jesuit missionary Father Ferdinand Verbiest departed to China, initially to increase the pool of Chinese Christians. He however ended up taking a public test ordered by Emperor Kangxi to compare the merits of European and Chinese astronomy. Unlike his Chinese adversary, Father Verbiest succeeded in all the related tests, and was immediately installed as Director of the Beijing Observatory.

In this function, he corrected the Chinese calendar and undertook many projects, including the creation of star charts for the Kangxi emperor to tell the time at night. The 4th Qing emperor formed a special friendship with Father Verbiest and took him on expeditions throughout the empire while the Jesuit taught him geometry, philosophy and music.

After having fallen off his horse and passing away due to the sustained wounds, Ferdinand Verbiest received the honour of a posthumous name by Emperor Kangxi of Qin Min (勤敏; industrious and smart).

比利时传教士南怀仁  
比利时驻华使馆

很多中国人知道南怀仁这个名字是因为康熙皇帝。今天我们就来简单介绍一下这位清朝时期为西方科学知识在中国传播作出重要贡献的比利时人。

1659年，比利时传教士 Ferdinand Verbiest(南怀仁)来到中国，最初是为了宣传教义，后来他参加了康熙皇帝下令的对比中西方天文学的考试，南怀仁在各项测试中表现优秀，打败了中国的对手们，随即被封为当时国家天文台(钦天监)最高负责人。

供职期间他改良了中国的历法推算并负责承担了一系列项目，包括为康熙绘制星象图，知晓夜晚时间。南怀仁与康熙皇帝交情匪浅，曾跟随皇上游历中国，期间也同时教他几何学、哲学和音乐。在南怀仁坠马负伤久不得愈而不幸病逝之后，康熙皇帝赐谥号“勤敏”以缅怀他。