

大使参观古观象台 | 清朝传教士南怀仁原来是比利时人!

Ambassador Visits Ancient Observatory

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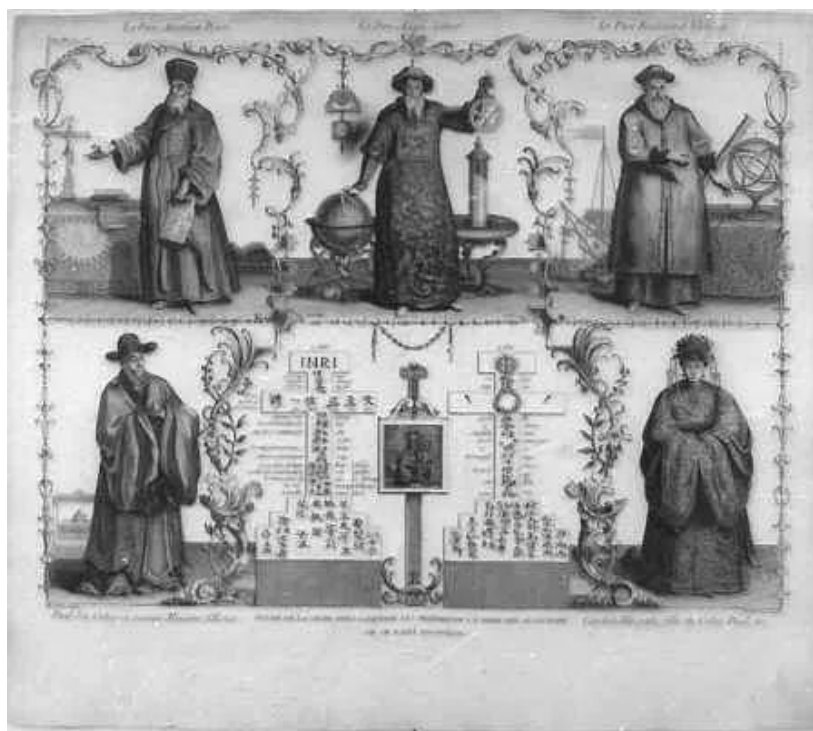
你知道南怀仁是比利时人吗?

Ferdinand Verbiest S. J.

在我们的历史书中，我们熟知明清时期来华传教的几位外国传教士的名字，如利玛窦、汤若望、南怀仁等。他们受到中国人的尊敬和怀念。但你知道，南怀仁是比利时人吗？[上一期的《比利时王国的象征》互动活动中的那么多提名](#)，竟然没有一个人提到南怀仁！那就让我们来一起了解一下这位 **17 世纪中叶来到中国，并最终安葬于北京** 的比利时法兰德斯耶稣会传教士吧。

From our history books, we are familiar with several names of foreign missionaries who came to China during the Ming and Qing Dynasties, such as **Matteo Ricci, Johann Adam Schall von Bell, and Ferdinand Verbiest**. They were respected and remembered by Chinese people because of their achievements. But do you know Ferdinand Verbiest (in Chinese: Nan HuaiRen) is Belgian? He was not mentioned among the famous Belgian nominees (see yesterday's post). Let's get to know this Flemish Jesuit missionary better, who **came to China in mid 17th century and was buried in Beijing**.





这是 1736 年出版的一本关于中华的法语书中的版画。上排从左到右依次为：利玛窦，汤若望，南怀仁

An engraving from a French book about the Chinese empire, published in 1736. Represented from left to right: Top: Matteo Ricci, Johann Adam Schall von Bell, Ferdinand Verbiest; By Jean-Baptiste Du Halde; Origine web : <http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/archives/dossiers/shanghai/prol>, Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=798177>

杰出的传教士

An Outstanding Missionary

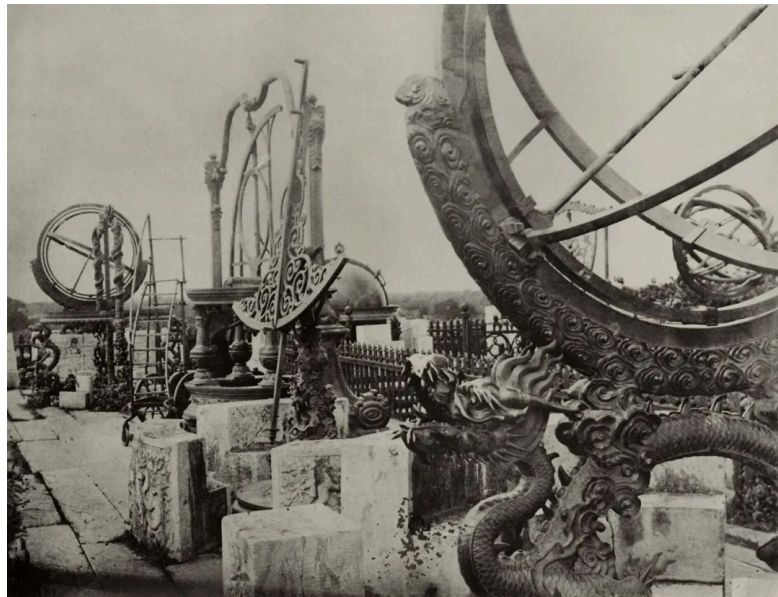
南怀仁是一位杰出的数学家和天文学家，在清朝康熙年间的历史上留下了不可磨灭的印记。他的专业知识对天文学进行了革新，为他在宫廷中赢得了显赫的地位和皇帝本人的尊重。**他被任命为数学委员会主任和北京古观象台台长。**此外，他还被委以校正中国历法的重任。

南怀仁与康熙皇帝建立了深厚的友谊。康熙皇帝经常向南怀仁寻求几何学、哲学和音乐方面的指导。他还担任外交官、制图师和翻译（他会说拉丁语、德语、荷兰语、西班牙语、希伯来语、意大利语和满语）。

Verbiest is a remarkable mathematician and astronomer, who left an indelible mark on Chinese history during the reign of the Kangxi Emperor (Qing Dynasty). His expertise revolutionized astronomy and earned him a prominent role in the court and the respect of the emperor himself. **He was appointed the head of the Mathematical Board and Director of the Beijing Ancient Observatory.** He was furthermore entrusted with correcting the Chinese calendar.

Verbiest developed a close friendship with the Kangxi Emperor. The emperor frequently sought Verbiest's guidance in geometry, philosophy, and music. He served as a diplomat, cartographer, and translator (he spoke Latin, German, Dutch, Spanish, Hebrew, Italian, and Manchu).

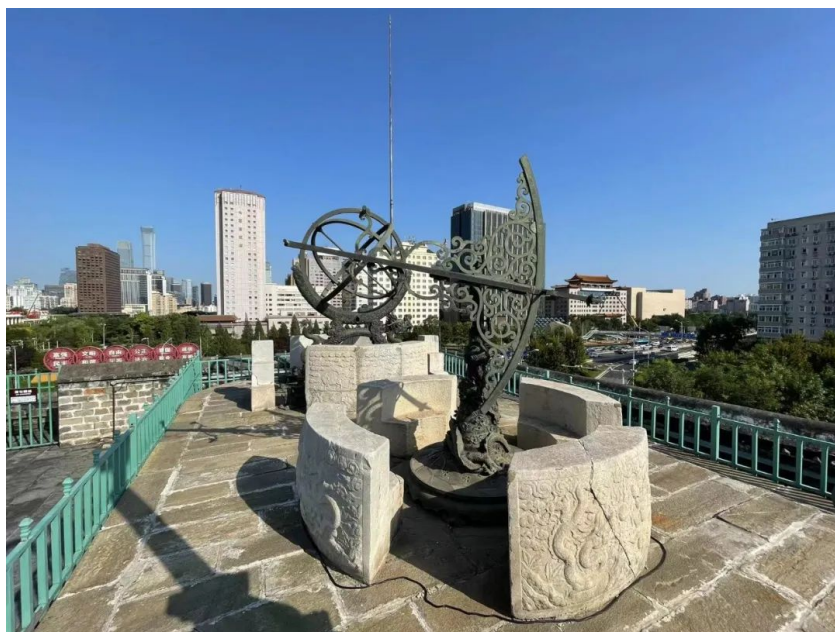
在解决了与历法有关的问题并编制了一份未来两千年所有日食和月食的表后，皇帝让他全权负责皇家天文台的工作。他于 1673 年重建了天文台。那之前已有的设备已经过时，因此南怀仁将它们捐献给了博物馆，并设计了六种新仪器：**地平经仪、天体仪、黄道经纬仪、赤道经纬仪、纪限仪、象限仪。**



古观象台的老照片

By Childe, Thomas - ImageZeno.org, ID number 20001859366, Public Domain,
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=64892978>

Having resolved the issues surrounding the calendar and composed a table of all solar and lunar eclipses for the next 2000 years, the emperor awarded him complete charge of the imperial astronomy observatory, which he rebuilt in 1673. The existing equipment was obsolete, so Verbiest consigned it to a museum and designed six new instruments: **Altazimuth, Celestial globe, Ecliptic armilla, Equatorial armilla, Sextant, Quadrant Altazimuth.**



现在展示在古观象台的纪限仪 Sextant

安博宁大使最近首次访问了北京古观象台。古观象台台长齐锐先生带领大使参观了古观象台，并讲述了历史和中国天文学的发展。他还向大使展示了南怀仁制作仪器的原件。大使甚至做了“功课”：他阅读了南怀仁的原著《欧洲天文学》（*Astronomia Europea*）！



从左至右：古观象台台长齐锐，比利时大使安博宁，比利时参赞冯云汉

大使和齐锐台长还讨论了计划在北京举行的南怀仁诞辰 400 周年的庆祝活动。今年的 10 月 9 日是**南怀仁诞辰 400 周年纪念日**。

Ambassador Bruno Angelet recently made his first visit to the Beijing Ancient Observatory. The Director of the Observatory, Mr. Qi Rui, gave the ambassador a tour of the premises and recounted the observatory's history and the development of Chinese astrology. He also showed the ambassador the original instruments made by Verbiest. To prepare for his visit, the ambassador even read Verbiest's original work, *Astronomia Europea!* (Published in 1687, it explained how European astronomy, namely the European way to calculate the Chinese calendar and to predict lunar and solar eclipses, succeeded in resuming its former position after the persecution under the Oboi regency (1661-1669).

The ambassador and director, Qi Rui, also discussed the celebrations planned for the 400th anniversary of Verbiest in Beijing. **This 9th of October marks the 4. Centenary of the birth of Ferdinand Verbiest S. J.**, and events are coming up to honour our remarkable Belgian Father.

