

THE YANGZHOU LATIN TOMBSTONES: A NEW INTERPRETATION OF CATHOLIC IDENTITY AND INTERCULTURAL SYNTHESIS IN YUAN CHINA

LI WENDAN *

ABSTRACT The Yangzhou Latin tombstones of Catherine and Anthony Ilioni, dated 1342 and 1344 respectively, provide a window into the intercultural interactions between medieval Europe and Yuan China. Rooted in Catholic epigraphy and iconography, these monuments, adorned with depictions of the Virgin Mary, Christ, and the saints Catherine and Anthony, functioned as sacred spaces for devotion, comparable to niches or altar pieces in Medieval Europe. Simultaneously, their appearance reflects a pluralistic artistic style that serves as tangible evidence of the Catholic minority's engagement with local society in Yuan China. Drawing on a comparative analysis of Eastern and Western sources, this article explores the tension between the patrons' distinct Catholic identity and the intercultural synthesis embodied in these monuments.

KEYWORDS Yangzhou Latin tombstones, intercultural interaction, afterlife imagery, Medieval Europe, Yuan China



* Li Wendan  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6747-8672>

Assistant Professor at Department of History & Center for Classical and Medieval Studies, Peking University

揚州拉丁文墓碑再探： 元代來華天主教徒的身份認同與文化會通

李文丹*

摘要 1342年與1344年為卡特琳娜·伊利奧尼與安東尼·伊利奧尼所立的揚州拉丁文墓碑，為我們深入理解中世紀歐洲與元代中國之間的跨文化交流提供了重要線索。這兩座墓碑植根於天主教的銘文與圖像傳統，雕飾有聖母瑪利亞、基督以及聖凱薩琳和聖安東尼的形象，作為敬拜之用的神聖空間，其功能可與中世紀歐洲的龕位或祭壇裝飾相媲美。與此同時，其外觀呈現出多元化的藝術風格，成為了作為少數群體的天主教徒與元代中國地方社會互動的物質證據。本文通過對中西方史料的分析，探討了墓主家族鮮明的天主教身份認同與這些墓碑所呈現的跨文化藝術綜合之間的張力。

關鍵詞 揚州拉丁文墓碑 跨文化交流 來世圖像 中世紀歐洲 元代中國



* 李文丹  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6747-8672>
北京大學歷史學系暨西方古典學中心助理教授