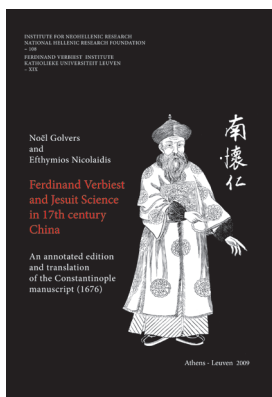


## CHINESE SCIENCE FOUND IN CONSTANTINOPLE

*Noël Golvers and Efthymios Nicolaidis, Ferdinand Verbiest and Jesuit Science in 17<sup>th</sup> century China. An annotated edition and translation of the Constantinople manuscript (1676), Institute of Neohellenic Research, NHRF and Ferdinand Verbiest Institute, KUL, Athens-Leuven, 2009, 384 p.*



This book contains two manuscripts authored by Ferdinand Verbiest, S.J. (1623 - 1688), written in 1676 in Beijing for the attention of the Russian tsar and brought in Moscow by the legate Nicolas Spathary Milescu. Both texts represent the oldest version of

the *Astronomia Europaea* corpus written by Verbiest, and had until recently been forgotten. Their recent discovery was in the form of a manuscript copy, produced by Chrysanthos Notaras (nephew of the Patriarch of Jerusalem Dositheos), during his mission in Moscow in 1693, which has languished in obscurity in the library of the *Metochion* of the patriarchate of Jerusalem in Constantinople.

The manuscripts describe astronomy, physics and mechanics as they have been introduced by Jesuits in China. In this book, the Latin texts have been reconstituted, translated into English and annotated. Illustrations of the sciences described, as they appear in the Chinese edition of Verbiest analogue texts, are also given in appendix. The introduction situates the manuscripts within the corpus of Verbiest's Latin writings and emphasises both the sections of the manuscripts that were subsequently included in the well-known *Compendium Latinum* and *Astronomia Europaea* edition (Dillingen, 1687) and those that were eventually omitted. It also describes Verbiest's science and its contexts, Chinese and Jesuit and his efforts to introduce European science and engineering in China. Furthermore, the introduction traces the histories of the Moscow manuscripts and especially their Constantinopolitan copy - the only remaining testimonium of them - and chronicles the until-now unknown reception of 17<sup>th</sup> century Jesuit astronomy, mechanics, and physics in post-Byzantine Russia and South-Eastern Europe.