

利类思、万济国和神学术语的翻译

Ludovico Buglio, Francesco Varo and the
Translation of Theological Terms

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[**Abstract**] Ludovico Buglio, SJ (1608 – 1682) and Francisco Varo, OP (1627 – 1687) were important translators and theological authors. The literary activities of Buglio in Beijing (ca 1648 – 1682) and Varo in Funing (ca 1649 – 1687) are a witness to the rise of a theological language in China. Buglio's main achievement was the partial translation of Thomas Aquinas' *Summa Theologiae* into Chinese, in which he already employed a rich theological and philosophical terminology in the Chinese language. Francisco Varo has, among other works in Chinese, elaborated a Spanish-Chinese dictionary, which was re-edited by W. South Coblin in 2006. This short study is based on Buglio's translation of the *Summa Theologiae* and Varo's *Vocabulario de la Lengua Mandarina*. A comparison of the theological language used by both authors shows many similarities, leading to the conclusion that in the mid 17th century a common theological language was used in North and South China by both Jesuit and Dominican missionaries. Terms like “linghun” (soul),

“xinde” (faith), “shengshi” (sacrament) or “chaoxingde” (theological virtue) were used by both Varo and Buglio, and are still in use in the Catholic Church of China today.

Despite their success, the influx of new terminology and new thought through the efforts of Buglio, Varo and many other tireless translators did not lead to a Chinese Renaissance in the Qing Dynasty. Even today, few Chinese translators bother to study the etymology of the theological terms they are using, which would involve a serious study of old European languages, which have shaped theological thinking: Latin, Greek, and Hebrew. What did terms like *religio*, *lex*, *providentia* or *amor* mean in the European tradition? These kinds of study would raise awareness among Chinese translators today regarding issues of the translatability or incommensurability of theological and philosophical terms.

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一、Buglio(利类思)和 Varo(万济国) 的生平和著作

意大利人 Lodovico Buglio 生于 Sicilia。^① 他 16 岁时就入耶稣会, 1637 年入华, 先在江南传教, 1640 年奉派到四川, 大概是第一个在四川传教的欧洲人, 与 Gabriel de Magalhaes (安文思, 1610—1677) 一起传教, 在许多地方建立教会。1643 年张献忠占领成都, 影响两个人的传教工作, 最终他们于 1648 年到北京, 后在首都协助 Adam Schall von Bell (汤若望) 等人在新的政权 (清人 1644 年入

^① 关于 Buglio 的资料多来自 Louis Pfister, *Notices Biographiques et Bibliographiques sur les Jesuites de l'ancienne Mission de Chine 1552 - 1773* (上海 1932, 汉语版, 费赖之著, 冯承钧译, 《在华耶稣会士列传及书目》, 北京 1995 年)。