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the doctoral dissertation: **China, in the eyes of a Spanish Dominican, based on *Hechos de la Orden de Predicadores en el Imperio de China***

Summary

The aim of the doctoral dissertation is to assess the reliability and analysis of the manuscript *Hechos de la Orden de Predicadores en el Imperio de China*, by the Spanish Dominican Victorio Riccio (1621 - 1685). The manuscript contains not only stories about the life and martyrdom of Christians in the Middle Kingdom, during the turbulent dynastic transition, but also includes a description of Chinese customs and religions from the perspective of a Catholic missionary – there is also a unique account of Ricci's personal meetings with general Zheng Chenggong. There is a rich source of information in the manuscript, of relations between the Chinese minority, the Spanish authorities, and the indigenous people in Manila.

The dissertation consists of 5 chapters. The first chapter presents Victorio Riccio's biography and the current state of manuscript research, as well as the history of the autograph and surviving copies. The second chapter is a factual introduction of the world, in which Victorio Riccio lived. The third, in turn, presents people and places portrayed in the manuscript. The fourth chapter is an analysis of the world, in the eyes of the manuscript's author and the reliability of his message.

Hechos de la Orden de Predicadores en el Imperio de China, is a valuable source of knowledge about the history of the Church in China and the Spanish colony in the Philippines, as well as the relations between different cultures in East Asia in the 17th century. The information contained in the manuscript is largely reliable, with some reservations. It should be remembered that the author's goal is to show the great work that God does, carried out by the Dominicans in China, and to prove that "Chinese rites" are not necessary in the evangelization of China, rather they are even harmful.

Key words: manuscript, China, Dominicans, Catholic missions, the Philippines, Spain