Franciscans, baptisms and rescues of abandoned children in eighteenth century China: a point of charity

El objetivo principal de este estudio es examinar el trabajo de los misioneros en la Edad Moderna en el rescate y bautismo de niños chinos. Para ello Manila se convirtió en un puente clave no sólo para los misioneros a seguir su camino a China sino por ser un punto crucial ya que los fondos para sostener esta causa vino de la piadosa obra de La Misericordia y muchos de esos niños fueron enviados a las instituciones cristianas filipinas para ser criados y educados. A la luz de esta tendencia podemos observar historias conectadas que reflejan realidades pluralistas y complejas en las que la piedad filial descrita y admirada por los misioneros fue cuestionada a la vez por una realidad apremiante en el Imperio Dragón. Por otro lado, el trabajo piadoso religioso también estaba marcado por intereses más profundos. Este trabajo intenta explorar la información proporcionada por el estudio de fuentes inéditas del “Archivo Franciscano Ibero-Oriental” para analizar la naturaleza de estos fenómenos, su costo, el número de hijos, la edad, el género y el destino de quienes terminaron viviendo no sólo entre océanos sino entre culturas.

The main objective of this study is to examine missionaries' labor during the Early Modern Period on rescuing and baptizing Chinese children in which Manila became a key bridge not only for the missionaries to follow their way to China but for being a crucial point since funds to sustain this cause came from the pious work of La Misericordia in Manila. Many of those children were sent to Philippine Christian institutions to be raised and educated. In the light of this trend we can observe connected histories that reflect pluralistic and complex realities in which that Chinese filial piety described and admired by the missioners was at the same time called into question because of a pressing reality in the Dragon Empire. On the other hand religious pious work was also marked by deeper interests. This paper tries to explore the information provided by the study of unpublished sources of the “Archivo Franciscano Ibero-Oriental” in order to analyze the nature of these phenomena, its cost, the number of children, age, gender and destiny of those who ended up living not only between oceans but among cultures.

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Franciscan, any member of a Christian religious order founded in the early 13th century by St. Francis of Assisi. The members of the order strive to cultivate the ideals of the order’s founder. The Franciscans actually consist of three orders. The First Order comprises priests and lay brothers who have sworn to lead a life of prayer, preaching, and penance. We welcome suggested improvements to any of our articles. You can make it easier for us to review and, hopefully, publish your contribution by keeping a few points in mind. Encyclopædia Britannica articles are written in a neutral objective tone for a general audience. You may find it helpful to search within the site to see how similar or related subjects are covered. The need for charity. London in the eighteenth century was a swirling mass of contrasts. A rowdy hedonistic, gin-swilling public rubbed shoulders with gentlefolk keen to do good work. But London was late in providing welfare for these children in comparison with many other European cities. Rome, for example, already had its Conservatorio della Ruota, founded by Pope Innocent III in the thirteenth century, and Venice had La Pietà, a fourteenth-century orphanage for girls. His wife, Queen Caroline, was sympathetic to the rescue of foundlings even to the extent of writing a pamphlet on the Hospital for Foundlings in Paris, published after her death. Coram decided to enlist the support of noble and fashionable ladies after discovering the important role of women in the Paris hospital. Though; the children who lived in these houses still did suffer without medicines and most died at a very young age. Bernard Le Brun, native of St. Reine, aged nine years. Arrived from the nursery on 29 December 1706, aged 8 years. Deceased 30 March 1714. I read somewhere that around that period in France unwanted babies in large cities could be abandoned to a sort of orphan warehouse. Nicknamed ‘Angel Hospitals’ because neglect there turned so many of the infants into angels. Before reliable birth control or safe, medical abortion, it was one way of dealing with the results of sexual intercourse. According to our friend Wikipedia, in England “The growth of sentimental philanthropy in the 18th century, led to the establishment of the first charitable institutions catering for the orphan.”