



Spotlight on treasures

From the Rare Book Collection oldest western language book

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Dell' historia della China, descritta nella lingua spagnuola, dal P. Maestro Giovanni Gonzalez di Mendoza, et tr. nell' italiana, dal magn. M. Francesco Avanzo. Parti due, divise in tre libri, & in tre viaggi, fatti in quei paesi, da i padri Agostiniani, & Franciscani ... / by Gonzalez de Mendoza, Juan, 1545-1618. Venetia: Andrea Muschio, 1588. (Italian edition)

This Italian version was translated from the original Spanish edition entitled *Historia de las cosas mas notables ritos y costumbres del gran dela China* (*The history of the remarkable rites and customs of great China*) by Father Gonzalez di Mendoza (1545-1618).

A Spanish missionary, Father Gonzalez di Mendoza wrote this travel book from the accounts of several groups of Augustinian and Franciscan missionaries who went to China in the 16th century. Aside from China, this book touches on the history and culture of the Philippines, Japan and Latin America, and contains one of the earliest descriptions of the Philippines and Southeast Asia. It is also the first book printed in Europe to contain Chinese characters and observations on the nature of Chinese writing and ideography.

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