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The Church of the East in Central Asia and China

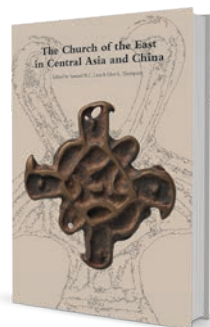
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Series: China and the Mediterranean World, vol. 1

IN PRODUCTION



A collection of papers on the history of Christianity along the Silk Road and in pre-modern China, pushing back the frontier of knowledge in a quickly developing new area of research.

The diffusion of Christianity along the Silk Road from Iraq and Iran to China in the pre-modern era has attracted scholarly attention in the West since the discovery of the famous Xi'an (Nestorian) Monument c. 1623. The initial discovery was dismissed as a 'Jesuit forgery' by Voltaire, Edward Gibbon and many other scholars of the Enlightenment. However, its authenticity has been more than vindicated by the discovery of genuine (Nestorian / Jingjiao) Christian texts in Chinese from Dunhuang and in Syriac, Sogdian and Old Turkish from Turfan (Bulayiq) at the beginning of the century. The discovery of a second major inscription which included part of a Chinese Christian (Jingjiao) text already known to scholars from Dunhuang,

and the recent re-discovery of several Dunhuang Christian texts in a Japanese library, has removed any lingering doubts about the authenticity of the texts recovered from Dunhuang. The surviving material spans almost a millennium from the introduction of Christianity along the Silk Road in the sixth and seventh centuries through the Mongol period and beyond.

Professor **Samuel N.C. Lieu** is the current President of the *Union Académique Internationale* (International Union of Academies) and a *Bye Fellow of Robinson College Cambridge*. Professor **Glen L. Thompson** is Professor of *New Testament and Historical Theology at the Asia Lutheran Seminary, Hong Kong*.

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