

被衝撞的廣州體制？ ——重估清代中法交往和貿易的濫觴

(提要)

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清代廣州貿易是中外交流研究的一大議題，其中多以東印度公司主導性強的中英或中荷貿易為討論的焦點。然中國商品在西方市場所受到的歡迎，許多得益於十八世紀法國藝文、學術、宗教界等所吹起的「中國風」。中法貿易基於其低落的貿易量而少有論及，此與中國物品在法國市場所受到的追捧形成耐人尋味的對比。筆者以為這種情況或與法國宮廷、西洋傳教士、廣東地方大員和清廷的「廣州體制」(Canton system)等各方勢力的競逐有關，其尤其反映在中法貿易的首航「海后號」(L'Amphitrite)，該趟商貿活動可說是成就於法國耶穌會士白晉(Joachim Bouvet, 1656–1730)所操弄出的康熙皇帝(1654–1722)和法王路易十四(Louis XIV, 1638–1715)的神交假象。

關鍵詞：海后號 白晉 中法貿易 廣州體制(廣州體系)

Revisiting the Origins of Sino-French Contact and Its Potential Challenge to the Qing Government's Canton System

(Abstract)

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This paper delves into the origins of Sino-French trade in the late seventeenth century, which was a result of the purported gift exchange between the Kangxi Emperor (r. 1662–1722) and Louis XIV (r. 1643–1715). The author argues that the exchange was just a false impression manipulated by the eminent French Jesuit Joachim Bouvet (1656–1730). This manipulation led to the very first French commercial voyage of *L'Amphitrite* to China in 1698, which defied the Qing Court's Canton system. Its entire context is characterized by the intense competition between various parties, including the French court, European missionaries, the Qing court, and high-ranking Canton officials, each pursuing their own interests. The Canton trade has been a significant topic in the study of Sino-Western contacts during the early modern period, with the East India Company (EIC) and United East India Company (VOC) dominating the discussion. Although it is no exaggeration to say that France drove and led the wave of *chinoiserie* in the West, its role has often been omitted from this discussion due to its rather restricted trade with China and East Asia. By studying the context of the premier voyage of *L'Amphitrite*, this paper reveals that France developed its own unique approach to play an active and essential role in the Canton trade.

Keywords: *L'Amphitrite* Joachim Bouvet Sino-French trade the Canton system