

Contents

Preface	vii
List of Plates	xi

PLATES

ESSAYS

Literary Species or Real Species? Some Notes on Animals in the Chinese Classics	3
The Circulation of Animals and Animal Products in the South and East China Seas (Late Medieval and Early Modern Periods)	19
Chinese References to Camels in Africa and the Near East (Tang to mid-Ming)	37
Hainan and the Trade in Horses (Song to Early Ming)	57

The Avifauna of Macau: A Note on the *Aomen jilüe* 75

Intercultural Zoology: The Perception of Exotic Animals
in Chinese Jesuit Works 107

Index 129

Preface

This small book contains six articles, which were written between 2007 and 2010. Five of these papers were presented to international conferences held in different locations. The first paper, a very general piece, was read to a meeting on classical Confucian learning and texts (*jingxue* 經學) hosted by the Institute of Chinese Studies, Munich University, in summer 2010. The second paper, originally drafted in summer 2009, deals with animals and animal products in Asian maritime trade; it was presented on two occasions: to a small symposium in Lisbon (November 2009) and a large congress at the Universidade de Macau (April 2010). The third article is based on a short contribution to an interdisciplinary workshop on “Camels in Asia and North Africa”, organised by the Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna, in October 2010. The fourth paper summarizes the trade in horses from Hainan to the Chinese mainland; it first appeared in the proceedings of another colloquium, also held by the Austrian Academy in Vienna; this meeting took place in 2007 and the proceedings came out in 2009. Of the fifth paper, which investigates a list of birds in a work called *Aomen jilüe* 澳門記略, a Chinese version was read to Ji’nan University in Guangzhou; this was on the invitation of Professor Tang Kajian 湯開建, a leading Chinese specialist in the field of Macau history; later an English version appeared in *Monumenta Serica*.¹ The last paper, on animals in early Jesuit works, was first presented in Chinese to a conference held in Zhuhai and Macau (August 2010), and later in English, during a symposium organised by the Centro Científico e Cultural de Macau, in Lisbon (October 2010).

Before turning to the theme of the present volume, I would like to thank the Austrian Academy of Sciences and the editor of *Monumenta Serica* for giving their permission to reprint the essays on horses and birds in this collection. Furthermore, I greatly benefited from the generous support of two scholars:

1 See Bert G. Fragner, Ralph Kauz, R. P. and Angela Schottenhammer (eds.), *Pferde in Asien: Geschichte, Handel und Kultur. Horses in Asia: History, Trade and Culture*, ser. Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften, Philosophisch-historische Klasse, Denkschriften 378 (Vienna: Verlag der Österreichischen Akademie der Wissenschaften, 2009), pp. 219-228, and *Monumenta Serica* 57 (2009), pp. 193-230.

Zhao Dianhong 趙殿紅 and Cai Jiehua 蔡婕華. Mr Zhao translated the article on birds into Chinese, Mrs Cai translated the last piece. Although the Chinese versions are of no direct concern to this book, which is in English, I would like to thank both translators for their work. Finally, I am heavily indebted to Dr Marc Nürnberger for his technical help. He produced the relevant pdf files of the articles collected here. Without his help this collection would not have appeared in printed form. I would like to thank him for his patience and support.

In regard to the topics of this volume, the following may be said: At first sight they may seem quite disparate, but they share certain features and are related to each other in multiple ways. Their most basic common denominator is quickly identified: All papers deal with references to and / or descriptions of animals in traditional Chinese texts. Many of these old texts (or at least some sections found in them) are concerned with southern China and the maritime world. This includes aspects of trade, the perception of real and imagined elements, and the instrumentalization of animals for different purposes and within different contexts.

Furthermore, the overall arrangement of the volume follows broad considerations of time and space. The first paper comments on references to animals in *Shijing* 詩經 and *Erya* 爾雅. All subsequent articles look at later material; the last two in particular investigate works of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries (the *Aomen jilüe* dates from the Qianlong period). In terms of views – and geography – the discussion may be described as moving from center to periphery, or from “Central China” to the maritime world. However, the other direction is also explored, especially in the second paper.

Generally put, early Chinese texts were mostly written by authors hailing from the areas north of the Yangzi River, therefore one may ask to what extent the regions now belonging to southern China were considered in their accounts. Naturally, this also concerns botanical observations and the animal world. From the Tang and Song dynasties onwards, many changes can be observed: Now, Lingnan and Fujian figure more prominently in written material, especially in works belonging to the *biji* 筆記, *lishi dili* 歷史地理 and *leishu* 類書 genres. Almost at the same time, one encounters fresh information on distant lands located in Southeast Asia and along the shores of the Indian Ocean. Once again, this includes references to animals and animal products. All this is addressed in different parts of the present work.

Research method is another point of concern. The “Maritime Asia” series, in which this small volume has come out, contains two further collections with articles on animals. But these papers deal with one animal each, or with one group of animals. The focus is mostly on “zoological” issues, complex termino-

logical dimensions, uses of animal products in traditional medicine, culinary aspects, symbols, metaphors, religious themes, and so forth. The essays printed in the present collection are of a different kind. They investigate both general and highly specialized issues; at the same time they try to discuss certain points within larger contexts. The second paper, for example, proposes to link the shipment of animals and animal products across the South and East China Seas to the Mediterranean model developed by Braudel and others. By contrast, the essay on camels has a much more limited scope. It reviews the data on dromedaries found in early Chinese descriptions of East Africa and West Asia. This article could be defined as a “philological” note. But it also moves beyond the level of purely textual interpretation.

The paper on birds explores a further dimension: It comments on a set of animals listed in a single source and associated with one location, in that case Macau. There are thousands of traditional Chinese “gazetteers” comparable to the *Aomen jilüe*, i.e., works with a regional focus, and very often these sources provide rich data on the plants and animals of a particular area. Therefore, one could initiate similar studies on the fauna of other locations. The early chronicles related to Fujian, Guangdong, Guangxi and Hainan should be excellent candidates for this type of investigation. Some of the animal lists found in these sources may be classified as proto-zoological catalogues, but not infrequently they are flavoured with legends and references to the unreal.

The combination of real and imagined elements also marks the descriptions found in certain Jesuit sources, which are partly based on European material. In that sense, the last paper, and the one on birds as well, move towards new horizons. The perception of the animal world is now gradually enriched by fresh images imported from abroad. This in turn can be connected to the general idea of cultural exchange discussed by Braudel and other historians – and thereby to the theme of the second article.

Many more aspects of exchange between China and her maritime neighbours could be studied, for example, the transfer of animal symbols between coastal cultures, the impact of certain imports on local industries – giant clams, tortoise-shell, skins, horns and other substances should be interesting cases –, the circulation of medical knowledge related to birds and beasts, changing tastes, and so forth. In that sense, the papers in this volume only provide a few glimpses of what can still be achieved at China’s (or Asia’s) “maritime frontier”. They constitute a modest collection of short lectures written for different events, with different aspirations. In other words, although the laboratory may be set, much more research of a similar kind will be needed in the future.

In conclusion, it should perhaps be added that I have tried to standardize certain technical aspects, for example in the footnotes. Naturally however, some

“individual” features associated with the original versions, were kept and the surface was not totally “re-polished”. Finally, I have shortened several sections, especially in the first and last article, mainly to avoid repetitions. But in one or two cases, identical examples are still referred to in different contexts, because each paper was (and still is) designed as a separate entity. In spite of such considerations, this book is likely to carry many imperfections that I have failed to notice. – Clearly, the animal world should not be blamed for them...

R. P., September / October 2010

LIST OF PLATES

- 1 *Aomen jilüe* 澳門記略 (mid-eighteenth century), by Yin Guangren 印光任 and Zhang Rulin 張汝霖. Several editions. Biji xiaoshuo daguan edition, j. xia, 14b-15a: section on birds.
- 2 *Gugong niao pu* 故宮鳥譜, ed. by Qin Xiaoyi 秦孝儀 (Chin Hsiao-i) et al. (Taipei 1997), vol. 2, p. 40: *fenghuang yingwu* 鳳凰鸚鵡.
- 3 *Sancai tuhui* 三才圖會 (early seventeenth century), by Wang Qi 王圻 et al. Several editions. Section on *niao* and *shou*, 11a-b: *yingwu* 鸚鵡.
- 4 *Gugong niao pu* (see 2), vol. 2, p. 66: one type of *daoguaoniao* 倒掛鳥.
- 5 *Kunyu tushuo* 坤輿圖說 (earliest version 1672), by Ferdinand Verbiest. Several editions. Illustration and text from Zhihai edition, j. xia, 53a-b: bird of paradise.
- 6 *Kunyu wanguo quantu* 坤輿萬國全圖 (world map, early seventeenth century), by Matteo Ricci. Several versions. The one with animals now in Nanjing. Published, for example, in Cao Wanru 曹婉如 et al. (eds.), *Zhongguo gudai ditu ji: Mingdai* 中國古代地圖集: 明代 (Beijing: Wenwu chubanshe, 1994), as pl. 77.
- 7 *Kunyu tushuo* (see 5), j. xia, 71a: ostrich / rhea.
- 8 Ibid., j. xia, 59a: tarantula.
- 9 Ibid., j. xia, 61a: salamander.
- 10 Ibid., j. xia, 54a: unicorn.