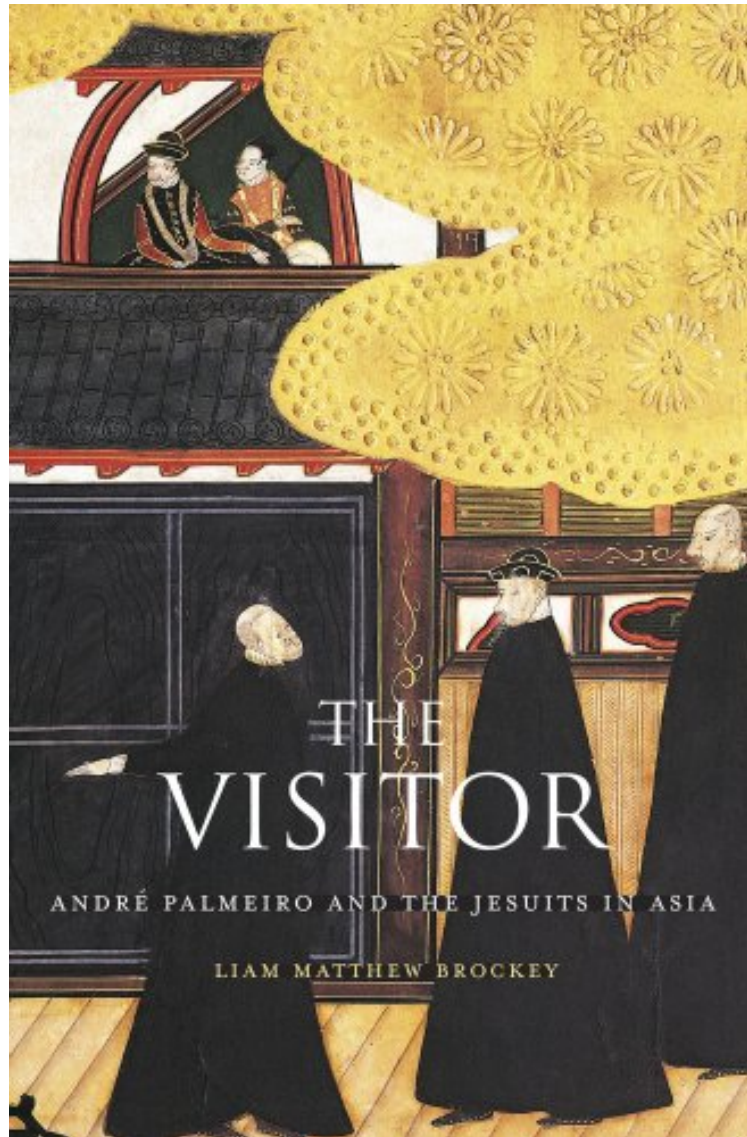


[E-BOOK] The Visitor: Andr Palmeiro and the Jesuits in Asia

The Visitor: Andr Palmeiro and the Jesuits in Asia

Liam Matthew Brockey

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Liam Matthew Brockey : The Visitor: Andr Palmeiro and the Jesuits in Asia before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Visitor: Andr Palmeiro and the Jesuits in Asia:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. A Jesuit Inspector General and his Travels and Travails among Catholics and "Pagans" in 17th century AsiaBy M. J. SweetThe protagonist of this book, the Portuguese Jesuit Andr Palmeiro, was sent out in the early 17th century to inspect the then flourishing Jesuit missions in India and E. Asia. As the "Visitor" he had supreme power to make decisions about policy, personnel, and finances, in the name of the Father

Superior in Rome. The life of an administrator doesn't immediately suggest itself as a fascinating subject, but Palmeiro's accounts of his extensive travels in India and China are full of interest, in their depiction of an early modern post-Tridentine Catholic's encounter with cultures totally different from his own. Palmeiro was quite orthodox in his religious views, but otherwise relatively open to the diversity of human cultures, and a master negotiator and personnel manager. The book engagingly written, and it also gives a broad picture of the context of Palmeiro's work, the Jesuit missions in Asia from the apex of their success to the beginning of their slow decline because of brutal persecution (as in Japan), internal dissension within the order, the decline of Portuguese power, and opposition from opponents within the Church. Brockey makes a good case that the much vaunted Jesuit accommodation to non-Christian cultures was merely an expedient, and not a true attempt at inculturation and dialogue as it has been seen in modern times. I found his debunking of the differences between Portuguese and Italian Jesuits (the former seen as more orthodox and less open to other cultures, the latter as more adaptable and accepting of non-religious difference) to be less convincing. There are of course exceptions to these stereotypes, which are cited by the author; however, it remains true that the great innovators of the more gentle accommodation approach (Ricci, Valignano, Nobili) were all Italian, and their opponents mainly Portuguese and other non-Italians; the Renaissance and Humanism was enormously influential in the Italian states, and much less so in Portugal and Spain. It is a thought-provoking book, although not everyone will agree with all the author's conclusions. Despite minor shortcomings attributable to the publisher (the end notes gave only text references, and the index could have been more inclusive) this is a brilliant work of original scholarship, to be read by anyone interested in the encounter of Catholic Europe with early modern India, China, Japan, and Southeast Asia. Palmeiro is a figure who was known to very few, and Brockey has given him the recognition he deserves. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. New lights on the missionary labor in China By Cuauhtemoc Villamar The book opens a new perspective about one of the several missionaries in Asia, beyond the well known names of Valignano or Ricci. The work of Brockey is rigorous and based on first hand sources, as in previous publications of the author. It includes new lines of information about the early European presence in Asia. Very detailed and informative, with elegant prose. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Fascinating portrait of a person identified by his office. By Gordon The details never seemed trivial even though they were sometimes minute enough to give a realistic "aroma" of a scene. I should think any one who loves good historical writing would enjoy this book.

In an age when few people ventured beyond their place of birth, Andr Palmeiro left Portugal on a journey to the far side of the world. Bearing the title Father Visitor, he was entrusted with the daunting task of inspecting Jesuit missions spanning from Mozambique to Japan. A global history in the guise of a biography, *The Visitor* tells the story of a theologian whose extraordinary travels bore witness to the fruitful contact and violent collision of East and West in the early modern era. In India, Palmeiro was thrust into a controversy over the missionary tactics of Roberto Nobili, who insisted on dressing the part of an indigenous ascetic. Palmeiro walked across Southern India to inspect Nobili's mission, recording fascinating observations along the way. As the highest-ranking Jesuit in India, he also coordinated missions to the Mughal Emperors and the Ethiopian Christians, as well as the first European explorations of the East African interior and the highlands of Tibet. Orders from Rome sent Palmeiro farther afield in 1626, to Macau, where he oversaw Jesuit affairs in East Asia. He played a crucial role in creating missions in Vietnam and seized the opportunity to visit the Chinese mission, trekking thousands of miles to Beijing as one of China's first Western tourists. When the Tokugawa Shogunate brutally cracked down on Christians in Japan where neither he nor any Westerner had power to intervene, Palmeiro died from anxiety over the possibility that the last Jesuits still alive would apostatize under torture.

Andr Palmeiro (1569-1635) is one of the forgotten men of Jesuit history. Liam Brockey's major interpretative biography deserves to achieve a reversal of this neglect. Brockey's colorful and meticulously researched travel narrative takes us with him to South India and Sri Lanka, Macau and Beijing, as well as to other fields for which Palmeiro had responsibility but never visited in person. In his extended discussion of the principle of accommodation in the Chinese context, Brockey is at his most original and controversial. This is a book with the potential to redraw the historical map of Christian missions in Asia. It is the product of exhaustive archival and library research in Rome and Lisbon. It is also beautifully illustrated and engagingly written. Liam Brockey has reminded us that the most significant Christian missionary enterprise of early modern times depended for its stability and survival on ecclesiastical bureaucrats. Andr Palmeiro, *God's Mandarin*, deserves his place in historical memory alongside the more charismatic figures of Xavier, de Nobili and Ricci. (Brian Stanley *Times Literary Supplement* 2015-07-17) An account of the fascinating life of [Andre] Palmeiro, a Portuguese appointed by his superiors in Rome in 1617 to inspect Jesuit missions around the world. (Mark O'Neill *South China Morning Post* 2014-08-10) A substantial, scholarly biography of a figure who has hitherto only been a footnote in Jesuit history. (Thomas Tallon *The Tablet* 2015-04-11) This story transcends Palmeiro's life. Indeed, it is Palmeiro's own letters and his lively accounts of his journeys, along with other sources, that Brockey puts to excellent use in his account of Jesuit enterprise in the Portuguese Empire in maritime Asia. In crafting Palmeiro's life story, Brockey brilliantly accomplishes his goal of shedding light on different historical contexts as well as the

problems and questions of the early modern world. This well-written and enjoyable book illustrates how Palmeiros' final days until his death marked the end of a generation of Jesuits whose dreams materialized in the expansion of Christianity in Asia. (Ana Carolina Hosne *Times Higher Education* 2014-12-11) This excellent book describes the Jesuit Asian missions at a crucial time through the eyes and reports of Andr Palmeiro (1569-1635), a Portuguese Jesuit. Brockey offers many insights in good evocative prose. Telling the story of the missions and disputed matters through Palmeiro is very effective, not least because it enables readers to see how the Asian missions functioned on a personal and practical level. (P. Grendler *Choice* 2015-02-01) A richly colored baroque portrait of a philosophy professor turned world traveler, the Portuguese priest Andr Palmeiro. His subject spent two decades as a plenipotentiary visitor representing the highest authorities of the Jesuit order in mission areas extending from Mozambique and Ethiopia through Goa and Malabar to China and Japan. The political and cultural challenges that Palmeiro faced in that vast and varied space are treated extensively. *The Visitor* is a display of rigorous and inventive historical scholarship, founded in a mastery of the archives. Brockey writes with imagination, scope, and style. (J. S. A. Elisonas, *Indiana University*) Liam Brockey does what an excellent scholar should in a pioneering work. He helps us understand Palmeiros' work and its importance for the history of the world. He also achieves what seemed impossible from the evidence available: vividly and convincingly, he evokes much of Palmeiros' spiritual and intellectual life. (Felipe Fernandez-Armesto, author of *Our America*)

About the Author
Liam Matthew Brockey is Professor of History at Michigan State University.