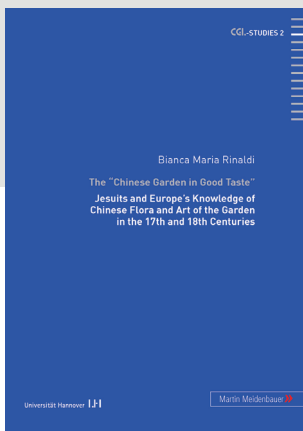


# Bianca Maria Rinaldi

## The “Chinese Garden in Good Taste”



Jesuits and Europe's Knowledge of Chinese Flora and Art of the Garden in the 17th and 18th Centuries (CGL-Studies 2)

**2005**

- 296 Seiten
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During the eighteenth century, Europe saw a radical change in taste in the art of the garden, which led to the development and spread throughout the continent of gardens inspired by an artistic naturalness. A contribution to this process came from the Society of Jesus, whose members were the first to inform Europeans of the natural forms of the gardens of China.

The book illustrates the Jesuits' visits to the main imperial gardens, and documents the many reports about Chinese flora and garden art they compiled and sent during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Evaluating the ways in which the gradual deepening of the Jesuits' investigation reflected the changes in botanical studies and in gardening taste in European culture of the period, the book focuses on European intellectual and social history of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, as well as on the story of cultural relations between Europe and China in terms of flora and the art of the garden.

*“This is a book for the academic or those with a deep enthusiasm and interest in Chinese flora and gardens. [...] There are balanced and useful explanations, and the quality and depth of research is the great strength of this book. Sources of the wide-ranging primary data are carefully referenced allowing the dedicated scholar to find the originals.” (Jill Raggett, Garden History)*