

「今爾國使臣之意，欲任聽夷人傳教？」： 馬戛爾尼使團乾隆致英國王第二道敕諭中的傳教問題

(提要)

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1793年馬戛爾尼使團訪華是中英交往上重大歷史事件，當中較多人關注的是馬戛爾尼曾否向乾隆行三跪九叩禮，但其實還有另一個很值得深入討論的問題：究竟使團有沒有向乾隆提出傳教的要求？乾隆在致送英王喬治三世的第二道敕諭中指斥「今爾國使臣之意，欲任聽夷人傳教」，並明確表示「尤屬不可」，但馬戛爾尼三番四次否認曾提出傳教的要求。本文通過分析那不勒斯中華書院、梵蒂岡傳信部以及東印度公司檔案，詳細探討馬戛爾尼使團這個所謂傳教要求的問題，並分析在義大利完成傳道訓練，獲授聖職的使團譯員李自標在這事件中的角色，嘗試補充現有研究的不足。

關鍵詞： 馬戛爾尼使團 李自標 斯當東 乾隆 天主教

“Now your ambassador requests to allow the
foreigners to preach freely?”:
The Preaching Issue in Emperor Qianlong’s
Second Letter to the British King in the
Macartney Mission

(Abstract)

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The Macartney Mission to China in 1793 is no doubt an important event in the history of Sino-British relations. While most people are eager to know for sure if Lord Macartney has kowtowed to Emperor Qianlong, there is another issue that deserves serious attention: Did the embassy ever request for permission for the Westerners to preach Christianity freely in China? In his second letter to King George III, Qianlong denounced the ambassador for requesting free preaching of Christianity in China. But Lord Macartney denied that he had ever made such a request. By consulting the archival materials from the East India Office, Archivium Propaganda Fide, and Università degli Studi di Napoli “L’Orientale,” the present paper explains how the controversy has come about. Special attention is paid to the role played by the embassy’s interpreter, Jacobus Ly, a Chinese missionary trained in Naples.

Keywords: Macartney Mission Jacobus Ly George Thomas Staunton
Qianlong Christianity