

Monica Esposito

LA PORTE DU DRAGON

L'ECOLE LONGMEN DU MONT JINGAI ET SES PRATIQUES
ALCHIMIQUES D'APRES LE DAOZANG XUBIAN
(SUITE AU CANON TAOISTE)

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1993

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PREFACE BY THE EDITOR

When on March 10, 2011, my wife Monica Esposito suddenly passed away due to pulmonary emboly, the two volumes of her dissertation typescript of 1993 were, as always, within easy reach of her Kyoto desk. In the mid-1990s the Presses Universitaires de France (PUF) had agreed to publish it as a book, and Monica had begun to revise her thesis. However, considering the publisher's unwillingness to include essential materials in Chinese characters, she decided to wait and publish her Ph.D. thesis with less strictures at a later point.

While pursuing her research on premodern Daoism and publishing numerous ground-breaking articles in English, Italian, Japanese, and Chinese about the history of Daoism's Longmen ("Dragon Gate") school and other facets of Qing religion and history, Monica continually added handwritten comments and corrections to her increasingly tattered copy. This copy was of course not meant to be published. The majority of handwritten comments are in French, Chinese, Italian, and English. They were not systematically added, and some emendations that found their way into published articles are not marked.

Monica's motivation to revise and publish her thesis in French gradually decreased during her fourteen years of residence in Japan. Some parts of her 1993 thesis were gradually superseded by subsequent publications that tended to confirm her original working hypothesis; but both Monica and her colleagues appreciated her Ph.D. thesis as a pioneering study of premodern Daoism that challenged and overturned many traditional views. She was all the more startled when a French colleague told her in 2009 that specialists were unable to consult her thesis since its deposited copies had vanished from the library of her alma mater in Paris. At that time she mentioned the possibility of eventually publishing her thesis as it appeared in 1993, as a historical document useful also for students of the history of Daoist studies who are interested in consulting this pioneering work whose view of important aspects of premodern Daoism is now gradually being adopted even in China. But she decided instead to concentrate on the creation and direction of the international *Daozang jiyao Project* and on writing a book entitled *Creative Daoism* (ISBN 978-3-906000-06-0) that is slated to be published by UniversityMedia in 2012 on Monica's birthday, August 7.

The publication of these two PDFs at <http://www.universitymedia.org> thus has the primary aim of providing free universal access to Monica Esposito's 1993 Ph.D. thesis: *La Porte du Dragon. L'école du Mont Jingai et ses pratiques alchimiques d'après le Daozang xubian (Suite au Canon Taoïste)* [The Dragon Gate. The School of Mount Jingai and its Alchemical Practices According to the Daozang xubian (Sequel to the Daoist Canon)], written under the direction of Prof. Isabelle Robinet and submitted in 1993 at the University of Paris VII (Section Langues et Civilisations de l'Asie Orientale) whose jury (Profs. Catherine Despeux, Marc Kalinowski, Ian McMorran, and Isabelle Robinet) expressed its appreciation through the highest award of *summa cum laude*.

Since the black-and-white typescript of 1993 can be easily distinguished from handwritten comments, colored highlights, emphases etc. that stem from the period between 1994 and 2011, our two PDFs allow readers to consult and cite the 1993 thesis, and to simultaneously take note of such thoughts, corrections, and supplementary information as Monica gradually added in subsequent years.

To facilitate navigation within the PDFs, English bookmarks for all chapter headings were added (to see them, open the bookmark navigation panel of your PDF reader), and optical character recognition (OCR) was applied to render the text searchable. As expected, OCR accuracy is limited because of the handwritten insertions and colored highlights.

The editor wishes to thank Ms. Hamana Nakadate for scanning the two volumes at Kyoto University's Institute for Studies in the Humanities 京都大学人文科学研究所, and to Profs. Christian Wittern and Kunio Mugitani at the same institute for their continued support.

Bodhgaya (India), March 10, 2012

Urs App