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Abstracts

**Manichaeans and Nestorians in South China - a Parallel and Comparative
Study in Survival**

Sam Lieu

Since 2000, an Australian team under the leadership of Professor Sam Lieu has been systematically cataloguing Nestorian and Manichaean remains in the Quanzhou (medieval Zayton or Zaitun) area now housed in four major provincial museums and in situ (such as the shrine on Huabiao Hill).

Website: <http://www.anchist.mq.edu.au/doccentre/Zayton.htm>

It is generally assumed that Nestorianism re-entered this region because of the Mongol occupation of this part of China in the late 13th and 14th C. while Manichaeism survived as a secret religion from 9th-13th C. There are however tentative signs also of Nestorian survival alongside Manichaeism in this region from 9th-13th C. which makes the story of Marco Polo's encounter with a secretive sect of Christians in nearby Fuzhou as recounted in the unique Z-manuscript of a Latin version of the Il Milione (not discovered until the mid 19th C) even more intriguing than it is already.