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Additional Notes on the Variants of the Spelling of Michael Boym's Name: New Materials

In my article *Note on the Spelling of the Family Name of Michael Boym (1612–1659), Missionary in China*, RO XV, 1949, pp. 235–238, I have indicated nine variants of Boym's name as they appeared on the title pages of his published works in several countries, especially in France in the 17th century.

Boym, however, signed his letters, memoranda, relations of his travels, reports of activity or other papers: Michael Boym Societatis Jesu Polonus. While not many Jesuits added nationality to their signatures, it is characteristic of Boym's signature that he consistently added 'Polonus' after his family name.

In the Roman Archives of the Jesuit Society (Borgo Santo Spirito 15), there are preserved relatively rich manuscript materials of this great early Sinologist written mostly by his hand¹. In signing these MSS, however, he usually did not put his middle name, Petrus (Piotr in Polish). But there are two MS pieces which, when referring to him, mentioned his middle name: Michael Petrus Boym Societatis Jesu, filius Nicolai². Here I would like to observe a significant difference with the name of Boym's father, Nicolaus (Mikołaj in Polish). On his portrait dated 1640, the Italian painter Giani put the name "Paul[us]), Boym Philosophiae et M.[edici-nae] Doctor..." The portrait is hanging in the family chapel which is adjacent to the two floor house, the home of the Boym family, preserved to our day in the city of Lwów. One may speculate why Paulus and not Nicholaus. It is most probably the middle name of Michael Boym's father.

Portuguese lists of passengers to the Far East quite often misspelled their names and this probably also happened with the name of our missionary who was travelling to China in 1643, returned to Europe and again travelled to China in 1659 on the Portuguese ships. There are many examples of that chaotic spelling: for instance, the family name of a prominent Polish mathematician in China Jan Mikołaj Smo-

¹ See also Bolesław S z c z e s n i a k, *The writings of Michael Boym*, "Monumenta Serica", vol. XIV, 1949–1955, pp. 481–538.

² See "Jap-Sinica", 77.

gulecki (d. 1656) is also known as Smogoleski, Smogoliński, Smoguleski³. It is not an isolated case. Besides misspelling German, French and other ethnic names the Portuguese often misspelled their own.

In the mentioned article I have indicated the variants "from printed materials":

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| 1. Boym | 6. Bovyn |
| 2. Boymus | 7. Boyn |
| 3. Boim | 8. Boyne |
| 4. Boimus | 9. Boijm |
| 5. Boem | |

After these we may proceed to the strange erroneous variants partly found by J. D e h e r g n e in his *Répertoire des Jésuites de Chine de 1552 à 1800*⁴, and also found recently by me in rare unknown sources.

Accordingly five new variants of our prominent scholar of Chinese learning should be added to the above list which I have compiled from the unexplored sources:

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| 1. Buim | 4. Boino |
| 2. Boin | 5. Bohym |
| 3. Boyn | |

The first variant is in the work of A. F r a n c o, *Catalogus virorum Societatis Jesu qui ad fidem catholicam propagandam primi a fundata Societate saeculo ex Lusitania ad Indiae regiones navigerunt, Catalogus Provinciae Lusitanae Societatis Iesu* (Lissabon, 1884)⁵.

The second is in the book by A. H u n d e r, *Deutsche Jesuitenmissionäre des 17 und 18. Jahrhunderts* (Freiburg i. Br., 1899), p. 91.

The third is found on the manuscript list of early missionaries in China, preserved in the Bibliotheca Publica in Evora, MSS. 6.

The fourth is Boino by the prominent Jesuit historian Daniel B a r t o l i (1608–1685) in *Censura circa relationem quandam a P. Boim*, corrected into Boino by an unknown hand⁶.

The fifth is Bohym and it is in the MS *Historia Societatis* vol. 48, p. 101v., preserved in the Roman Archives of the Society, Borgo Santo Spirito.

³ Joseph D e h e r g n e, *Répertoire des Jésuites de Chine de 1552 à 1800*, (Paris-Rome, Letouzey et Institutum Historicum S.I.), p. 255, the transcript made from the Fondo Borgia Lat: pp. 523, 58, in the Vatican Library.

⁴ J. D e h e r g n e, op. cit., p. 34.

⁵ Antonio F r a n c o, *Synopsis annalium Societatis Jesu in Lusitania ab anno 1540 usque ad Annum 1725*. Augsburg und Graz 1726; after Joseph D e h e r g n e, op. cit., p. 255; *Catalogus virorum Societatis Jesu qui ab anno 1641–ad annum 1724 ut fidem catholicam propagarent ex Lusitania ad Indiae regiones navigarunt*, Lissabon [sic!], 1885.

⁶ Jesuit Archives in Rome, Daniel B a r t o l i, rework on the folio of the MS, *Censura/circa relationem quamdam a P. Boim*, ARSI-Opp. NN. 96. f. 7, "Titolo ripreso dalla nota sul dorso", f. 8 v. Boim, corrected, "boino mi sembra autografa del Bartoli Em. L." Here the initials mean Edmond L a u r a l l e, the present Director of the Roman Archives of the Society in Rome.

However, M. Teixeira in the recent Portuguese publication in English language correctly spells: Boym⁷.

Undoubtedly these and other possible variants of Boym's name were in some instances caused by the missionary's signatures often not being written in a very clear hand, in other instances, however, the name was misspelled by the copyists or printers. Jesuit writers with one exception of Daniel Bartoli spelled the name correctly.

The street adjacent to the prominent family chapel and house where Michael Boym was born, situated next to the Latin cathedral of the fourteenth century in the Polish Royal City of Lwów, was named perhaps in the eighteenth century as Boim Street (ulica Boimów in Polish). This error is really that of a phonetic identification of boym. However, Boym and Boim are variations in Polish common usage⁸.

In my article cited above (p. 237/8) I made a risky statement (*lapsus linguae*) referring to the letter of the Polish Carmelite Dionisius a Jesu to his superior General in Rome⁹, and dated Goa, May 6, 1652, that "Il P. Michael Boim Jesuita Polacko [sic!], Missionario di China credo che gia in questo arrive a Roma..." In this instance the Carmelite spelled the name Boim. My earlier statement "Father Michael's name is spelled according to the genuine old orthography," should be: "according to the genuine old pronunciation".

According to the *Dictionary of Polish Language of the XVIth Century* published by the Polish Academy of Sciences the word *boym* in the singular, and its plural, *boymy*, means 'orderly, military rows,' also 'files and ranks'¹⁰.

On the other hand, while Mi k o ł a j (or Nicolas) of Wilkowiecko in his *History of the Glorious Resurrection of the Lord*, used the noun *bojem*, *boim*, meaning, 'the one who fights, strikes, batters'. The work was published in Kraków, ca. 1580¹¹.

In the *Dictionary of Old Polish*, also published by the Polish Academy of Sciences, *boym* is explained as *boyować*, meaning 'bellare, dimicare'; ablat. *boyem* = *bojem*; *boyowacz*—*boyny*, or 'to fight, to struggle'. The source of this form is taken from the Sermons of the Holy Cross Abbey of the middle of the fourteenth century¹².

During my personal search in 1935 in the old archives of the Boym native city

⁷ M. Teixeira, *The Portuguese Missions in Malacca and Singapore (1511–1958)* (Lisbon 1961), pp. 440–442, in the chapter treating on the missionaries in Siam.

⁸ Boim, variation of Boym, or vice versa of the own coat of arms, 1600; see Adam Boniecki, *Poczet rodów w Wielkim Księstwie Litewskim w XV, XVI*, (Warszawa 1887) p. 29; Strykowski Kasperzycki i Michał Dmowski *Polska encyklopedia szlachecka*, vol. IV, p. 228.

⁹ Preserved in the archives of the Casa Generalizia dei Carmelitani Scalzati, Roma.

¹⁰ See *Słownik polszczyzny XVI wieku*, published in Wrocław, Ossolineum, 1966, vol. II, p. 1, col. 2.

¹¹ Ibid., *Historia o chwalebnym Zmartwychwstaniu Pańskim*, pp. 308–311.

¹² *Słownik staropolski*, Polska Akademia Nauk, Warszawa, 1950–1953, vol. 7, pp. 125–156, 141–142.

of Lwów I had been impressed with the name and its family which most probably take their origin in the beginning of the fourteenth century.

The ancient Boym family, distinguished for their services to the Polish Commonwealth and Kingdom, lived and held prominent city positions as Royal Secretaries, Councillors of the Royal Free and Privileged City of Lwów and were prominent as rich merchants.

In conclusion, we may assert that the variety of erroneous spellings originated from foreign writers, mostly French and Portuguese. Some of the error was caused by the misreading of Boym's manuscripts or his signature. Boym was a prolific writer of letters, and works of geographical, lexical, cartographic, medical, botanical or of diplomatic nature. He was recognized in Europe in his age, but later somewhat forgotten. Jesuits contemporary to our Sinologist spelled his name correctly: Athanasius Kircher, a German polihistor, Daniel Bartoli, historian of the Society, Philippe Couplet S. J., and Jan Mikołaj Smogulecki, Boym's friend in China and other. Today the name's spelling and its origin is well established as Boym according to its old genuine spelling and pronunciation¹³.

¹³ For the bibliography and archivistic collections, see Bolesław Szczesniak, *The Writings of Michael Boym*, "Monumenta Serica. Journal of Oriental Studies", XIV, 1949-1955, pp. 481-537, with eight plates. See also Robert Chabrié, *Michel Boym Jé suite Polonais et la Fin des Ming en Chine (1646-1662)*, Paris 1933.