

THOMAS OBICINI (1585-1632)

An Italian Franciscan and Orientalist. In 1616 and 1619 he took part in the discussions with the Nestorians (Chaldeans) at the [Synod](#) of Diarbekr as papal delegate and was a member of the committee that produced the Arabic translation of the [Bible](#) for the Congregatio de propaganda fide. He was the first European scholar to study a *scala* (dictionary; Arabic, [sullam](#)) brought from Egypt by Pietro della Valle. When he died, the manuscript was published by A. Kircher. The result of Obicini's studies (HS Borgiani Lat. 769) was published by A. van [Lantschoot](#) as *Un précurseur d'Athanasius Kircher: Thomas Obicini et la scala vaticana copte* 71 (Bibliothèque du Muséon 22, Louvain, 1948).

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- Giamberardini, G. "Father Thomas Obicini: Pioneer of Coptic Philology." *Franciscan Studies* 25 (1965):277-84.
- Lantschoot, A. van. "Lettre inédite de Thomas Obicini." *Revista degli studi orientali* 28 (1953):118-29.

[**MARTIN KRAUSE**](#)

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