



**Paul Shore**

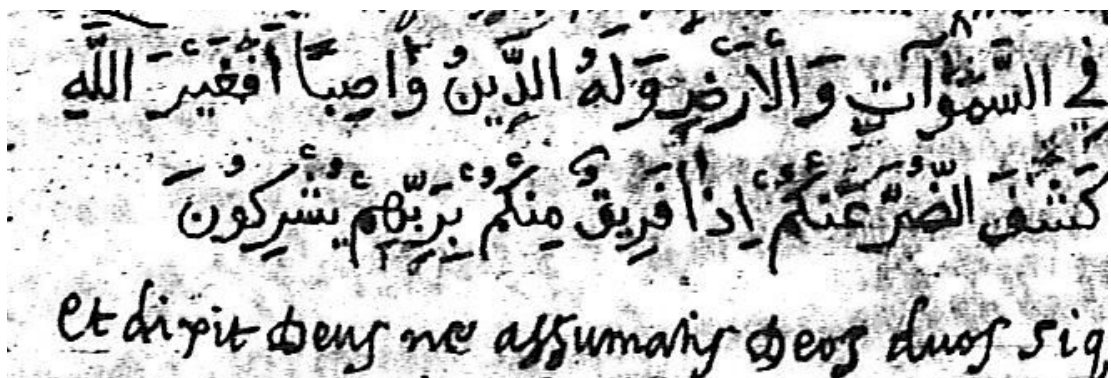
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## **Reading Between the Lines:**

### **A Forgotten 1622 Latin Translation of the Qur'an**

**by Ignazio Lomellini, SJ**

Wednesday, 28.09.2016, 18:00  
Zentrum für Alte Kulturen („Atrium“)  
Langer Weg 11, SR 5



The first complete Latin translation of the Quran to include the entire Arabic text was composed by the little known Jesuit priest Ignazio Lomellini (c. 1560-1645). The translation itself is superior to any previously done into a Western European language, yet the manuscript is full of puzzles: who was Lomellini and how and where did he gain his knowledge of Arabic? What was the role of Lomellini's patron, Cardinal Alessandro Orsini (1592-1626) in the production of this document? Why was this work never published and why do Jesuit records contain no mention of it? What other Arabic texts did Lomellini have access to? Who was the intended audience?

We will explore these and other questions, including the place of this translation in the history of Christian engagement with the Quran, and the relationship of Lomellini's work to the baroque Jesuit "culture of translation," and to the educational and missionary enterprises of the Society of Jesus.