

TEILHARD STUDIES

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Pierre Leroy, SJ (1900-1992), French biologist, first met Teilhard in 1928 in Paris while preparing to assume ministry in China as assistant to Père Emile Licent, SJ, founding director of the Jesuit museum in Tientsin. Later, Teilhard, who had spent his first years in China working with Licent, sometimes visited Leroy at the museum in his capacity at the Chinese Geological Society. When Licent left China due to poor health, Leroy became the museum's director. During the Japanese occupation of China, the museum was forced to close and Leroy and the contents of the museum were transferred to Peking (now known as Beijing) where he lived, worked, and helped Teilhard to develop the Institute of Geobiology. Their five years together in semi-isolation helped to draw them ever closer together. Once the war ended, both Jesuits returned to Paris and, when eventually separated by distance, especially while Teilhard was working in New York City and Leroy was teaching in Chicago, continued their close relationship by way of letters. When Teilhard died in 1955, Leroy rushed to New York arriving in time for the funeral and was one of the few persons who accompanied Teilhard's body to the Jesuit novitiate in Poughkeepsie, NY for burial. Leroy was clearly Teilhard's closest confidant, as is apparent from the frankness of Teilhard's frequent letters to Leroy. These letters have been edited by Leroy, translated by Mary Lukas, and compiled in the volume, *Letters from my Friend Teilhard de Chardin: 1948-1955*.

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