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Andrea Breard* (andrea.breard@math.univ-lille1.fr), Universit des Sciences et Technologies Lille, U.F.R. de Math matiques, 59655 Villeneuve d'Ascq, France. *The ellipse seen from China*. Preliminary report.

The transmission of 'Western' mathematics and astronomy into China during the 17th century consisted not only in the introduction of certain methodological tools but also in the integration of new geometric objects, the ellipse being one of them. I will discuss in this talk how the calculation of the circumference of the ellipse for example was dealt with in early modern China within the traditional mathematical framework, and how ancient procedures were rewritten to help in the solution of the rectification problem. (Received September 23, 2006)