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Jesuit annual report for 1635-1636

Sources: RAH Jesuit tome 119, n° 16; translated in B&R 26: 31-59.

Relation of events in the city of Manila from the year 1635 until the month of June 1636

On the 23rd of June 1635, the ships from Castile [sic] arrived at the port of Cavite, in which came Don Sebastián Hurtado de Corcuera, knight of the Habit of Alcantara, as governor and captain-general for his Majesty. On the 24th of the said month and year, on St. John's Day, about 4 p.m., he entered Manila to take possession of the government, first taking the customary oath, on entering through the gate of the Bagun-gaiabar,¹ which is one of the chief gates of this city...

[Governor Corcuera's nephews]

A few days after his arrival he reviewed all of the Spanish infantry in the camp (together with the rest that he brought in his company), where he made sweeping changes, leaving the four captains in the camp. He named as sergeant-major of the regiment Don Pedro de Corcuera, his nephew; and to the man who had held that office he gave the governorship of Hermosa Island. He likewise appointed, as captain and governor of his company, Lieutenant Don Juan Francisco de Corcuera, his nephew. He immediately decided that the ships (which were ready to make the voyage) should not go to Castile [sic], saying that it was not expedient for them to go; and thus it came about, for no-one dared to oppose him.

...

A ship has come from Macao and brought news that there had been a great persecution in the kingdom of **Japan** and the martyrdom of many Catholic religious. It is also said that Father Cristobal Ferreira, the provincial at that time for the Society of Jesus in that kingdom, has apostatized; and that he not only had recanted, but had married a heathen woman, and that the wife of the said Portuguese father had given birth to a child. Moreover, he had betrayed [to the authorities] the few other religious who

1 Apparently referring to the gate (now Puerta Real) at the southern end of the city...

had remained there. Such things as these, and worse, persons who abandon our holy faith usually do. The emperor of Japan has ordered that no friar or other religious should enter [that country], and has promised great rewards to those who should learn of their entrance into his kingdom, and inform him thereof; and he threatens severe punishment to those who do not do so.