
Documents 1603

Events of 1603

1. Morga's mention of the ships of 1603

Sources: Dr. Morga's Sucesos; translated in B&R 15:281; 16:27-30.

Chapter 7.

...
At the end of the same month of May [1603], there came to Manila two ships from New Spain, in command of Don Diego de Çamudio, with the regular reinforcements for the Philippines... In the same ships came two auditors for the Audiencia of Manila, Licentiates Andrés de Alcaraz, and Manuel de Madrid y Luna.

The captain and sergeant-major, Juan Xuarez Gallinato, with the ship **Santa Potenciana** and the men whom he had taken in it to the Moluccas in aid of the Portuguese fleet which Andrea Furtado de Mendoça had brought to assault the fortress of Ternate, found this fleet in the port of Talangame...¹

On the 10th [July] of the same year [rather, month], the ships **Espiritu Santo** and **Jesús María** left the port of Cavite en route for New Spain—in the wake of two smaller vessels, which had been despatched a fortnight before—with the Philippine merchandise. Don Lope de Ulloa was their commander, while Doctor Antonio de Morga [i.e. the author] left those islands in the *almiranta*, the **Santo Espiritu** [sic], to fill the office of criminal court official in Mexico. Before leaving the bay, both ships were struck head on by a storm, and went dragging upon the coast, buffeted by the heavy seas and winds, and amid dark and tempestuous weather, from 3 in the afternoon until morning of the next day, notwithstanding that they were anchored with two heavy cables in the lee of the land, and their topmasts struck. Then they grounded upon the coast of Pampanga 10 leagues from Manila. The storm lasted for three more consecutive days. Consequently, it was regarded as impossible for those ships to sail and make their voyage, inasmuch as the season was now well advanced, and the ships were very large ones and heavily laden, and were deeply imbedded in the sand.

1 Ed. note: Hence we learn of the final disposition of a former Manila-Acapulco galleon.

Advice was immediately sent overland to Manila, whence were brought several Chinese ships, cables, and anchors. By dint of the great efforts exerted, each one of the two ships was fitted with tackle and cables, which were rigged at the stern. There awaiting the high tide, the ships were drawn, by force of capstan and men, stern first for more than one league through a bank of sand, upon which they had struck, until they were set afloat, on the 22nd of July, St. Magdalen's Day.

Immediately they set sail again, as the ships had sustained no injury, nor sprung any leak; and they made their voyage and navigation, under light winds, to the coast of New Spain. A violent SSW gale, accompanied by heavy showers, hail, and cold, struck the ship **Espiritu Santo** on 10 November in 42° and within sight of land [of California]... It made the port of Acapulco on 19 December. There were found the two smaller vessels that had sailed first from Manila. Three days later, General Don Lope de Ulloa entered the same port of Acapulco, in the ship **Jesús María**. That ship had sustained the same storms as the ship **Espiritu Santo**. From the time when the two ships had separated, on sailing out of the Capul Channel in the Philippines, they had not sighted each other again during the entire voyage.

In the same year 1603, Governor Don Pedro de Acuña sent the ship **Santiago** from Manila to Japan with merchandise. It was ordered to make its voyage to Quanto, in order to comply with the desire and wish of Daifusama...¹

2. Letter from Licentiate Andrés de Alcaraz, dated Manila, 27 June 1603

Source: AGI Fil 19, ramo 5, doc. 147.

Report to H.M. about his rescue of two religious of the order of St. Francis and one soldier at the island of Zarpana in the Ladrones, survivors from the shipwreck of the galleon Santa Margarita.

[Document wanted. If found, will appear in the supplementary volume]

¹ Ed. note: This ship was carried Fr. Luis Sotelo, who was soon to gain notoriety with the Japanese and lead an embassy to Rome. The name of the ship could have been the **San Antonio**, although the latter may have made a similar voyage in 1604 instead; a ship by the name of "Antonio" is mentioned in a letter by Ieyasu to Governor Acuña in 1605 (B&R 16:48).

3. Letter from Governor Acuña to the King, dated Cavite, 20 July 1603

Sources: AGI Fil. (1600-1628) 67-6-7; translated in B&R 12:134-135.

Sire:

On the 4th of the present month there left this port the ship **Nuestra Señora de la Antigua**, one of the two from Peru that I brought in the fleet last year, with the reinforcements of troops, arms, and military supplies which came to these islands.

On the morning of the next day the other ship, called the **San Alfonso**, left...

With this goes a memorandum of matters which occur to me as necessary, and which, after due examination and consideration, with much thought and reflection, it has seemed best to me to send to your Majesty. The most important thing in these matters is promptness and secrecy, and the latter is most necessary in Spain, since there watch can be kept upon the Dutch, so that reasonable preparations can be made in Spain, and they be prevented from becoming masters of the Moluccas, before we can do so—which would be a very great loss, and one very difficult to repair.

May God grant success as He may, and protect the Catholic person of your Majesty, according to the needs of Christendom.

Port of Cavite, 20 July, 1603.

Don Pedro de Acuña¹

1 Ed. note: This letter probably made it aboard the **Espiritu Santo**, and was not examined by the Council of the Indies until 14 June 1604. The Spanish government did heed the warning against the Dutch presence in Asian waters and the Moluccas, and sent a large reinforcement that crossed the Pacific in 1605. Meanwhile, in 1603, the Manila authorities were busy dealing with a revolt of the Chinese residents and a fire that destroyed much of the city.