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## Document 1573C

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# 1570-1573 events by the notary Hernando Riquel

*Sources: Ms. in the Archives of Simancas under Secretario de Estado, leg. 155; also contained, in part, in a document bound with the Artieda relation in MN, formerly MBU (see Doc. 1567A); RAH has also part of this document copied by Muñoz. It is shown here as translated in B&R 3:231-247 without the corrections and additions made by himself, and others.*

## News from the Isles of the West by Hernando Riquel

I have always given news of local events, and therefore do so at present, referring to some things which have happened since I last wrote—a letter sent by the last ships which arrived in this kingdom in the year 1570. I will mention the most notable events, leaving other and unimportant matters for other writers who may be less busy than I am; and I refer you to the captains, passengers, and other persons who go in these ships.

On the 17th of November of the year 1570, the Governor Miguel López de Legazpi left the Panay River for Cebu. According to the orders given him by his Majesty, he established a town of 50 inhabitants, to whom he allotted grants of Indians, with the approbation of the Provincial, Fray Martín de Rada, and the Master-of-Camp and the captains.

After establishing this town he returned to Panay, where, after his arrival, he remained until he prepared for the expedition to Manila—a city in the island of Luzon, and at present the principal settlement and camp of his Majesty. He set out on the 16th of April of the year 1571, on Easter Monday. They embarked on the galley called **La Leona de España**, completed in that season. On the way, they were detained 32 days before arriving at the said town of Manila.

...

A camp was formed in the land, and we have established a settlement, as well as we could; and every day more is being accomplished.

...



**Statue of Miguel López de Legazpi by A. Marinas. *His death occurred suddenly on 20 August 1572. (From Mundo Naval Ilustrado, July 1897)***

When the affairs of this country were in this condition, the Governor heard of the arrival of two ships, the **Santiago** and the **San Juan**. This caused universal satisfaction; and although the ships arrived in a bad condition, they were repaired as well as they could be, in order to make the return voyage to that New Spain.<sup>1</sup>

The same pleasure was experienced at the coming of Don Pedro de Luna in the ship **Espiritu Santo** [in 1572].

Of the three ships, two were despatched last year, but on account of their late departure they experienced stormy weather on the sea, and were compelled to put into port again. Accordingly, God willing, they will sail at the beginning of the month of July of this year, 1573.<sup>2</sup>

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1 Ed. note: They failed to make it in 1572, but returned via Guam where they captured the would-be kidnapper of 1567.

2 Ed. note: They did, but the San Juan turned back a second time in a row.

**[Death of Legazpi]**

On the 20th of August of the past year 1572, our Lord was pleased to call to Himself the Governor, Miguel López de Legazpi. He died suddenly, having that day arisen in good health. In his cabinet a provision of his Majesty was found, issued by that Royal Audiencia during his administration, on account of the death of the Viceroy, Don Luis de Velasco. Therein were designated the successors of Miguel López; and the office at this time fell to the treasurer, Guido de Lavezaris.

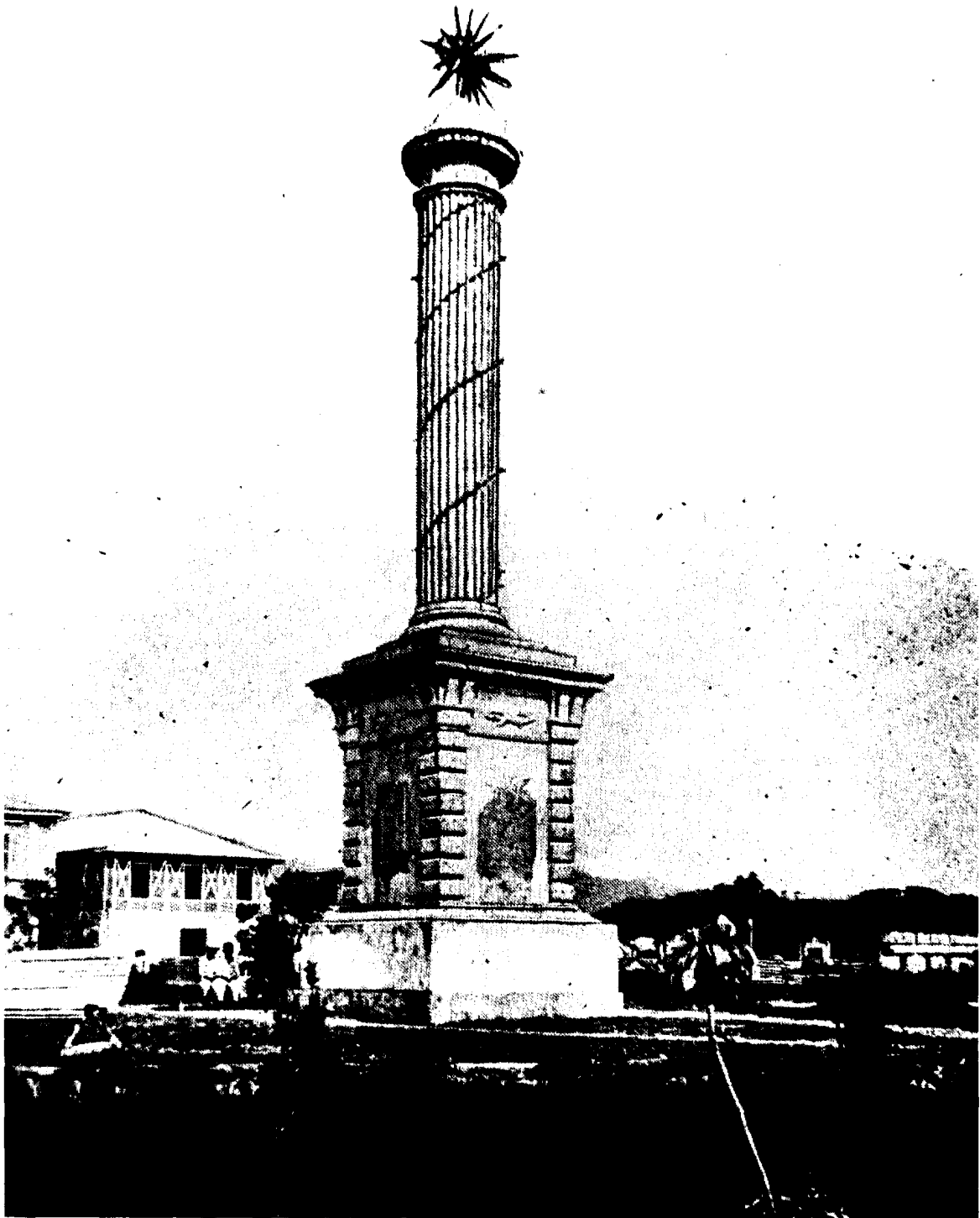
...  
A year ago there came to the port of this city three ships from China, and to the neighboring islands five more. Those which came here brought merchandise such as is used among the Chinese, and such as they bring here ordinarily.

...  
They brought specimens of many kinds of goods peculiar to their country, in order to arrange the price at which they can be sold—such as quicksilver, powder, pepper, fine cinnamon, cloves, sugar, iron, copper, tin, brass, silks in textiles of many kinds and in skeins, realgar<sup>1</sup>, camphor, various kinds of crockery, luscious and sweet oranges; and a thousand other goods and trifles quite as many as the Flemings bring [to Spain]. Moreover, they brought images of crucifixes and very curious seals, made like ours. The cause of this unusual visit is that freedom, and passage to their own country, were given to some Chinese who were slaves among us; those people spread the news of this settlement, where they could come with safety and trade freely; accordingly they came, with the ships and goods to which we have already referred.

...  
The matter most essential to this country is what I have already referred to today, regarding trade. May the prospect of riches and traffic be all to the service of our Lord.

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<sup>1</sup> The red sulphuret of arsenic.



**Monument to Legazpi in Cebu City.** (From Adeline Knapp's *The Story of the Philippines*, NY, 1902)