
Document 1640A

Jesuit annual report for 1639-40

Sources: Vol. ii, pp. 167-184, Ventura del Arco transcripts, Ayer Collection, Newberry Library, Chicago; transcribed in Pastell's edition of Colin's Labor evangelica, iii; translated and published in B&R 29: 194-207.

Events in the Philippine Islands from August 1639 to August 1640

On 4 August, 1639, orders were given that the ship **Concepción**, built in Camboja, should leave the port for her voyage to New Spain; and in the afternoon of that day began a furious monson wind which lasted three days. This compelled the ship to ask for aid by firing two cannon, as its people feared some danger; but when the storm was over, the ship began its voyage.

At that very time, five large ships had sailed from Manila, on their return to Great China; and two of these were driven ashore by the great force of the wind, four leagues from Manila. Six hundred Chinamen were drowned, although a still larger number escaped [ashore]; for, on account of the lack of subsidy in these two years, many were returning, leaving their houses and shops deserted.

On the 7th came the unexpected news of the relief ships; their arrival was celebrated with the utmost joy, and all the bells were rung. The people were revived by this news, all the more because these ships were the almiranta [**San Ambrosio**] of last year, and the patache of two years ago—which, with so great injustice and excessive harshness, had been detained at Acapulco—the[sort of] injury of which this country has complained to God and to the king for many years. Wives who had put on mourning for their husbands took off those garments, giving thanks to God and receiving from His hand their husbands, as it were, restored to life. The Chinese, who learned the news on board their ships, disembarked, and returned to their shops and their trading. There was also a circumstance in this coming of the ships, in which God displayed the providence that He exercises over this country; for they arrived at the port of Nueva Segovia, from which had just departed two hostile Dutch galleons, who had pretended that they were English and friendly [to us].

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On 21 August, at daybreak, a Spaniard arrived here from Nueva Segovia; he says that **the two relief ships from Mexico were wrecked** at that port, and 150 persons were drowned, which has been a severe punishment from God upon the past [sins?]; and with this news the [local] people have returned to their former sadness. The ships were lost on 5 August. It was afterward learned that the relief despatched by the King had been taken out of the ships before they were wrecked; but that the property of the citizens that has been lost will amount, in luxuries and money, to 550,000 pesos.

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The patache **San Nicolás** is going with the relief for Ternate; its chief pilot is Captain Machado, a pilot of long standing and great experience. This vessel has orders to go, on the return voyage from Ternate to the Ladrones Islands, in order to carry away the Spaniards and other people from the wrecked ship who are there.¹

On 25 November, in the morning, confused reports reached us that the Sangleyes had revolted at Calamba...²

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- 1 Ed. note: In 1993, Professor Boxer of England still had in his possession an autograph record of service for this Captain Machado.
 - 2 Ed. note: This was the beginning of a large insurrection by the Chinese living in the Philippines where they then numbered about 35,000. Those at Calamba on the western shore of Laguna de Bay had been sent there by Governor Corcuera to work in rice fields, in virtual slavery. The revolt was severely repressed and much blood spilled on all sides, at least 22,000 Chinese having died during the war.

