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Jesuit annual report for 1636-1637

*Sources: RAH Jesuit tome 84, n° 26; published by Vicente Barrantes, in his *Guerras piráticas de Filipinas contra Mindanaos y Joloanos* (Manila, 1878), pp. 289-303; translated in B&R 27: 306-329.*

Events in the Philippines, 1636-1637, by Fr. Juan Lopez

Pax Christi, etc.

[To] Father Diego de Bobadilla:

I shall give your Reverence an account in this letter, although very briefly, of what happened in these islands after your Reverence left them;¹ for many are writing long relations of special matters.

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Moluccas.—The relief ships for Ternate sailed in January of this year. Their commander is Jerónimo Enriquez Sotelo, who sailed in the galleon **San Luis**. As admiral goes, in the **San Ambrosio**, Don Pedro de Almonte, who came from Acapulco as captain the year before. Don Alonso de Alcoçer was commander of the patache which came from Acapulco as *almiranta*; and Rafael Ome was commander of a galley which had just been finished on the stocks, named **San Francisco Xavier**. Father Marcelo Mastili said mass in it and blessed it, on the day of its launching. A number of large *cham-pans*[sampans] went also. The Dutch were awaiting them with two galleons, but, seeing our fleet, they retired under shelter of their fort at Malayo.

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Japan.—Since ships have come neither from that kingdom nor from Macao, we have not had any letters giving a detailed report of events, but we have learned from Chinese ships that the Portuguese of Macao went to the fairs in that country, and made great profits. It is also said that the emperor has ordered the Dutch that they shall not

1 Ed. note: Fr. Bobadilla had gone to Europe to get more missionaries.

2 Ed. note: Fr. Lopez goes on to relate the Mindanao and Jolo campaign by Governor Corcuera, about whose victories he says, among other things, that “the booty found there was immense.”

be permitted at any time or place to harm the ships of Macao that sail to Japan. A renegade mestizo priest—of a Portuguese father and a Japanese mother—gave as his opinion that, in order to extinguish more completely the Christianity of that kingdom, they should exile all those who had any blood of the Portuguese or Spaniards. That was done, and they were delivered to those from Macao, so that these people might be taken to their city, and there be kept until further orders. They ordered that renegade also to go to Macao, since he was concerned by this. He begged them to send him to Jacatra [Jakarta] with the Dutch, and his request was granted. It has also been said that a cousin of the king [i.e. Iemitsu], who is lord of five kingdoms, is making war on him, and that many Japanese are following him.

...

This is what has occurred to me to write your Reverence. I shall be careful to do the same, God helping, every year, provided that your Reverence writes me of occurrences there.

May our Lord preserve your Reverence, and give you a prosperous voyage, etc.

Cavite, 23 July 1637.

Juan Lopez.¹

¹ Fr. Juan Lopez was born in Moratalla, Spain, in 1584. He entered the Jesuit order at the age of 15. In 1606, he departed for the Philippines, where he held numerous positions of trust in his order. For a time, he went to Rome as procurator of the Philippines. He died at Manila in 1659.