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## Document 1638B

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# Jesuit annual report for 1637-38

*Sources: RAH Jesuit tomo 84, n° 35; published in B&R 29: 23-49.*

*Note: This Jesuit letter is unsigned, but was no doubt written by Fr. Juan López, who was then in charge of the Jesuit house at Cavite. The last entry is dated July 1638.*

## Events in the Philippines, 1637-38

The patache for [New] Spain left here 24 August [1637]. It had a propitious season [for departure], and therefore it has apparently enjoyed favorable monsoon winds. A short time before that, the patache had left for the island of Hermosa;<sup>1</sup> its commander was Don Alonso de Alcoçer, and the governor of that islands, Sergeant-Major Pedro Palomino, sailed in it. On 5 September, a galley arrived from India on its way to Macan, which had been obliged to put in here on account of the weather. It left Malacca on 16 August in order to warn the inhabitants of Macan to be on the lookout, for there were many Dutch in the strait [of Malacca]. Now they are going in the galleon **San Juan Baptista** under the command of Juan López de Ariduin, to buy materials of importance for his Majesty's fleets. The galley remains here to be used for the expedition to Jolo, for which it seems well fitted.

...  
Of their own accord the Sangleys<sup>2</sup> offered the governor a gift of 6,000 pesos, giving the following reasons for doing so: first, because he had redeemed 31 of their people from the captivity of Corralat [in Mindanao]; second, because he had made the seas free and secure for their ordinary trade; and third, because he maintained them in peace and justice. Consequently, the expense of the war of Mindanao, taking into account the artillery, and the pillage which pertained to his Majesty, and the above-mentioned 6,000 pesos, was not only covered, but there were also 1,500 pesos left over, as I was told by his Majesty's accountant. The latter also adds that the golden water-jug and

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1 Ed. note: So called by the Portuguese and later called Formosa and Taiwan.

2 Ed. note: Chinese merchants at Manila.

plate that belonged to Auditor Alcaraz were bought for the King our Lord with those 1,500 pesos; and the governor Don Sebastian [Corcuera] added to that sum more than 100 pesos as a gift from his own purse, in order to make up the cost of the said water-jug and plate.<sup>1</sup> Dated at Cavite 15 September 1637.

...

24 October: The patache from the island of Hermosa entered the port, and it brought back most of the people in those forts...

The day before, the 23rd, Sergeant-Major Don Pedro de Corcuera, the governor's nephew, died at Manila. The governor had raised him from childhood in Flanders. He was well liked and respected in these islands, for his affable manners had obtained for him much popularity.

...

The Master-of-Camp Pedro de Heredia died at Manila on 5 November. He left all his property to charity. But the Audiencia sequestered it all immediately, until the end of his residencia.<sup>2</sup> Captain Don Diego de Miranda also died from an accident, which carried him off in thirty hours.

News was received on 15 November that the [Dutch] enemy were passing the Mindoro coast. That same day, Don Sebastian despatched some vessels to attack them.

...

Yesterday, 9 December, Don Sebastian set out from Manila for Jolo. He sailed in the galley flagship. With him went the other galley, brigantines, champans, and the two galleons for Ternate, under the command of Gerónimo Enriquez; and as admiral Don Pedro de Almonte, the same as last year.

...

A patache arrived at Manila on 27 December from Macan, laden with 5,000 arrobas of iron bought by Captain Juan López de Arduin from some English, who were near Macan with three galleons and this patache.<sup>3</sup>

It brought news of the remarkable martyrdom of Father Francisco Marcelo Mas-trillo, who reached Japan on 19 September last. Having left Manila on 10 July, he landed in the kingdom of Satsuma with only one companion. He immediately went inland to go to the emperor's court, but he was seized on 4 October and, having suffered most cruel tortures, he was beheaded on October 17 with his aforesaid companion. Since I translated the relation from Portuguese into Castilian, I enclose it herewith.

...

It was learned, at the coming of that patache, that those fathers who had accompanied the venerable Father Marcelo who went with the captain-major of Macan had ar-

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1 Ed. note: One can reasonably expect, therefore, that such gold artifacts were shipped aboard the galleon Concepción that was shipwrecked at Saipan in 1638.

2 Ed. note: A residencia was an official management audit of someone's term of office.

3 Ed. note: Fr. López mentions later on that the English ships were friendly, because England was then allied with Spain and the daughter of their king had gone to Spain where she would spend the rest of her life.

rived safely; and that the champan which had fled there with 18 [Spanish] sailors had made port at that city. It was reported that the Portuguese have not been well received in Japan either this year or last, and all that is because of the preachers who go there [from here].

...

Almost the whole month of January and that of February was taken up with prayers in various churches, for the fortunate success of Don Sebastian [and his expedition]... On the night of 10 February, thieves entered the church of this residence at Cavite, and stole two silver lamps... A week later, about 2,000 pesos' worth of jewels were stolen in Manila in [the church of] St. Dominic, Our Lady of the Rosary. But the thief (who was a Spaniard) was discovered, and most of it has been recovered.

...

A patache which left Macan some days after our galleon **San Juan Baptista** arrived from that city on 4 May, and they expected to find the galleon here; however, experienced persons say that it is not late...

At the closing of the hour of prayer on 13 May, the day of the glorious Ascension of our Lord, news arrived of the capture of the [fortified] hill of Jolo. It is a matter of the greatest consolation for all nations; at least, all joined in the festival with great appearances of rejoicing...

The above news was received on the occasion of the arrival of 5 or 6 ships from Great China, laden with merchandise, which was needed in the islands. They give as news that 11 other and more powerful ships have been given trading licences. That has been of the greatest consolation, for in the last two years those ships have had so little custom, because of the small amount of silver that had been sent from Mexico, that it was feared that the Chinese would not come this year.

...

Today, 20 May, at 2 p.m., quite without our expecting it, and without the fires in Mariveles having announced it, the galleon **San Juan Baptista**—which had taken 50 days to come from Macan, a voyage which the patache made in 9—arrived. God delivered them from a great danger on some shoals, to which the currents were taking them swiftly during a calm.

...

It has been learned from Japan, from the very ones who are in power, that they are now tired and weary of killing Christians; and that they are not well satisfied with the Dutch and their trade... All the priests in Japan at present are three of the Society of Jesus, all Japanese... There is one other father, a European, named Juan Baptista Porro. They do not say that he is alive, for, although his death is not known, it is presumed that he is dead...

Yesterday, 27 May, the galleons of the Ternate relief expedition anchored at this port...

Yesterday, 31 May, Don Sebastian made his triumphant entrance into Manila, in the same manner as he had done, the year preceding, upon his arrival from Mindanao.

...

Today, 18 July, the patache sails with the reinforcements for the island of Hermosa, under the command of Don Pedro Fernández del Rio.

Yesterday, 23 July, at dawn, a Macan patache anchored in the roadstead. It comes from Camboja laden with rice, *camanguian* or benzoin, and other drugs.