
Document 1669G

Cryptic letter from Fr. Sanvitores to Fr. Medina, dated Rota 26 December 1669

Source: 1-page ms. in Guam Diocese archives, formerly in 26 Martyrs' Museum, Nagasaki, Japan; reproduced in facsimile in appendix of Ledesma's Cause of the Beatification, 1981, and in Ledesma's translation of Fr. Risco's book. The illustration is courtesy of Fr. Diego Yuuki.

Note: Fr. Medina was then in Tinian; he was to die of martyrdom in Saipan one month later. Fr. Sanvitores had gone to Guam and was returning with soldiers on a peace-making mission back to Tinian.

Original text in Spanish.

Mi Padre Luis de Medina

Pax et Bellum Christi et M[ari]æ D. N.

Va el General de la Artilleria D. Francº de Mendoza y el Gl. de la Cavalleria D. Gregorio Martinez, Capn. D. Joseph de Peralta[,] el Condestable Juan de los Reyes, todos del Tercio Mariano, y llevan el plenipotenciario Si Bachi y lo demas que dira con mejor letra, palabras y obras nuestro Angel y Padre [blot] &a. No digo mas, porque otro Verbo de mas importancia dira lo que fuere de mayor gloria de N.Sor, a su tiempo. para la eternidad con mucha gloria y almas marianas, &a.

S. Xavier de Sostarago, Rota, Diciemb. 26 de 669.

Siervo de V.Rª

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+ Diego Luis S. Vitores

*[P.S.] Convenidos desde aca va por cabeça en el camino de los que van en esta banca de **Nonohot** y que hara quiza algo en las paces a su tiempo. halla [sic] dicen todos tambien que estaran al orden de Dios por medio del Padre que esta en su lugar y de qualquiera que V. Rª les ordenare. No tengo mas que añadir sino que **lo dicho dicho**. Dominus Deus exercitus: et Domine Castrorum Actes ordinata. Nunc refero me Goam &a. De todas las cosas que fueren alla y personas se dispondra [h]asta que yo veyra como el Sor. dispusiere por medio de V. Rª las que a V. Rª no se le ofreriere de cierto para que son. Haga que se guarden ay [alli] [ha]sta que yo vaya.*

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Inutil siervo

Mi Pe. Luis de Medina

Pax et Bellum Xpi et M. D. N.

Va el General de la Artilleria D. Fran^{co}
de Mendoza, y el G^{te} de la Caballeria D.
Gregorio Martinez. Capⁿ D. Joseph de Paula
El Condestable suende los Reyes todos de tier.
cio Mariano y llevan el Plenipotenciario Si Bach
y lo desay q' dira con mejor letra, palabras y
don no Angelyte. No digo mas. porq
ese verbo de mi importancia dira lo q' fuere de
mayor gloria de Dios. anticipo por la amistad con
muchos y los armonizar la. S. Xavier de Lorena
go. Kota. Diciembre 15 de 1703

Lienobellina.

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+ Diego Luis de Vitoria

Convenido de de aca vapor cabes en el caso
de lo q' un cura buena de Novodon y q' hera quiza
algo calapay o un tiempo. halla dicen todos tambien
q' eston al piden de Dios por medio de la q' en con
liger x de la q' una leordenare.

Altope me q' venir king lo Bichiblo. Dico Dem exarcing: est Die Carrenan.
Actu Odivato. Mea refeto me gran la. De taler la con q' fueren alay
person se desopora una y el y con el m. de pome por mudiobella. lo q' sera
no subreire de cicio por m. he q' se pueren by atay y el y q' t.
i mudi fieno

Translation of the above.

My dear Fr. Luis de Medina

Peace and war in Christ, and Mary, our Lord and Lady.

There goes the General of the Artillery, Don Francisco de Mendoza, and the General of the Cavalry, Don Gregorio Martinez, Captain Joseph de Peralta, the Constable Juan de los Reyes, all those of the Mariana Company,¹ and they take along the plenipotentiary Si Bachi² and the rest which will be said with better polish, words, and deeds by our Angel Fr. [blot]³ etc. I do not say more, because he will say verbally anything else that may be of more importance for the glory of the Lord, etc. in due course, for eternity with much glory and Mariana souls, etc.

St. [Francis] Xavier⁴ of Sosarago [Sosanlago], Rota, 26 December 1669.

Your Reverence's servant,

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+ Diego Luis S. Vitores

[P.S. They have] agreed that the leader will go ahead aboard this canoe of **Nonohot**⁵ and he might perhaps do something about the peace [negotiations], in due course. Overthere they all say as well that they will await the order from God, through the Father who stands for him and of whatever Your Reverence should order them [to do].

I have nothing more to say, except that **what was said was said**. [In Latin:] *The Lord God [is our] army. O Lord of the fortified places, regulate [our] actions. I refer now to Goam, etc.* Whatever [happens] with things and persons overthere, Your Reverence should dispose until I see how the Lord will dispose through Your Reverence. Those Your Reverence cannot deal with for sure, because they are so [blank], keep them in abeyance until I get there.

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[Your Reverence's] Useless servant

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- 1 Ed. note: There is no logical explanation why he refers to the Spanish troop leaders with such inflated military titles, unless it was a common joke among the Fathers. This was probably the case, as his puny army, then on an expedition to Tinian and Saipan, consisted of one Spaniard with a tiny field piece, three others with muskets, and half a dozen Filipino boy soldiers. As for the cryptic postscript, there had to have been some pre-arranged meanings between Fr. Sanvitores and Fr. Medina. Francisco de Mendoza had been a survivor of the Concepción shipwreck, has previously lived in the Marianas from 1638 to 1658, and was the most knowledgeable one of two interpreters who had taught the Mariano language to Fr. Sanvitores. Juan de los Reyes was a Pampango (see Doc. 1668F & 1676C2).
 - 2 Ed. note: Si is the Filipino prefix, or article, before any proper name. This man was most likely a native chief.
 - 3 Ed. note: The word blotted out is Pedro, i.e. Fr. Pedro Casanova.
 - 4 Ed. note: This is a strange name, since the name of San Pedro was given to Rota Town from the beginning. The name of St. Francis Xavier was then applied to a site on Tinian, and later on to another site on Rota.
 - 5 Ed. note: Nonohot was a chief in Rota (see Doc. 1671U).

Mi P. Pedro de los Anos

Par ex Betty Xon et me

el mdo de la tierra
diputaciones de la gran
republica

Harto me he gao qd habia en la
el p. de los Anos Bellipoten
Mariano. hna el dta q' ay se ponia
pero q' habia medio y medio es
pensando en los dta q' dta.
delante de los dta q' dta
qui ay adhesion en mayor dta
nada. en el dta y el dta, V.R.
dta q' dta pta de los dta
q' dta mayor dta pta q' dta
mi angel de guarda por pta en
vita exalta en dta q' dta pta
hna dta. en pta q' dta
pta dta dta dta. y dta dta
hna dta dta dta dta dta
dta dta dta dta dta dta
dta dta dta dta dta dta
dta dta dta dta dta dta

101. Pedro. hna dta dta dta dta dta
dta dta dta dta dta dta