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## Document 1583

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# Voyage of the Nuestra Señora de la Cinta from Peru

*Source: RAH Col. Salazar F18 (now N° 9/426), Doc. 14, folios 88-112v.*

## Narrative of the voyage made by Don Juan de Mendoza from the city of Lima in Peru to that of Manila in the Philippines, and to China, in the year of 1583

On the 2nd of February of the year 1583, the ship named **Nuestra Señora de la Cinta**<sup>1</sup> left the port of Callao of Lima to make our voyage to the Philippine Islands where it arrived after 74 days. The said voyage went without any impediment; rather, favorable weather, and 5 days of calm weather.

Having arrived with this ship at the said Philippines, we found that their Governor, Don Gonzalo Ronquillo, had died there, and the superior government was in the hands of Diego Ronquillo. We also found the city of Manila with many hardships and needs because it had caught fire and was completely burned.

On the 20th of June of the said year, there departed from the port of Manila bound for New Spain a ship of His Majesty named **San Juan Bautista** which, while pursuing its voyage<sup>2</sup>, on the eve of St. John [i.e. 23 June] was hit by such a strong storm and weather that it was [almost] lost many times, in addition to the heavy leakage made by the said ship, as well as the many broken rigging and sails of the said nao, all of this obliged to let the said nao run where the weather wished to take her.

This took us to the coast of Great China where, on the day after we arrived which was on Thursday 11 July, we discovered the coast better. It turned out that some of those going there knew the neighborhood in which we found ourselves.

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1 Ed. note: The church dedicated to this Virgin, the Lady with the belt, is located in Huelva, Spain.

2 Ed. note: Northward to round the northern part of Luzon.

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[The damaged ship was at about 60 leagues from Macao where the Portuguese were established. They were forced to go overland. They reached Canton in August and Macao on the 28th of that month. As for the **San Juan Bautista**, it was made seaworthy again, in time for Francisco Gali to use to make his voyage of discovery to New Spain in 1584.]