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FR. MANUEL TEIXEIRA

THE JAPANESE IN MACAO IN THE 16TH AND 17TH CENTURIES

THE CHURCH AND SEMINARY OF ST. PAUL

The Jesuits built their first residence and Church in Macao in December 1565 ; it was situated near St. Anthony's Church and made of straw. Since they played a continuous role in the missionary efforts for China and Japan. Following a fire in 1601, a new Church was built on the top of a hill and it was called *Mater Dei* -- Mother of God, also known as St. Paul's.

The city of Macao contributed to it one-half percent of the profitable cargo that came from Japan this year ; thus St. Paul's Church was built with money coming from Japanese trade. Although the Church was blessed and opened on Christmas Eve, 1603, the famous façade to cost 30,000 taels, was not finished until 1640. As in 1614, Christians and missionaries were expelled from Japan, it was the Japanese refugees that played a role in the façade's construction, as well as Japanese artists who decorated the Church. The designer, Fr. Carlo Spinola, was martyred in Japan.

A College and a Seminary were annexed to the Church, of which Fr. Fernão Guerreiro says :-

"And since this College and Seminary is the house of two such great enterprises and missions as those of Japan and China, in it we have studies of the humanities, arts and theology and here are perfected in study and spirit those who have worked in those great fields."

St. Paul's College was the centre whence issued forth most of the missionaries for China, Japan, Tonkin and Cochinchina.

China. Near this College, another Seminary was built, called St. Ignatius Seminary, to train young boys for missionary work in Japan ; it was founded by a Japanese Priest and by a Jesuit Martyr. The Japanese Priest, Paulo dos Santos, gave 12,000 taels ; the future martyr of Japan, Blessed Francisco Pacheco, founded the Seminary with this money in 1623.

JAPANESE ARTISTS AT ST. PAUL'S

In 1582, a Jesuit painter, Giovanni Nicolao (Giovanni Cola) arrived at Macao, where he painted the picture of Our Saviour, which was taken to China by Frs. Ricci and Pasio.

Fr. Nicolao sailed to Japan in 1583. In 1601, he opened a school of painting at Arima ; from 1603 to 1613, he ran another school at Nagasaki. In 1614, he returned to Macao, where he carried on painting and teaching until his death, on March 16, 1626.

Japanese disciples of Fr. Giovanni, who came and worked in Macao, included :

- 1- Jacob Niwa. In 1603, Brother Jacob Niwa accompanied Fr. Mateo Ricci to Peking, where his paintings, according to Ricci, astonished the whole of China ; everybody confessed that no painting could be compared with his, although before they were convinced that there were no paintings like Chinese ones(1).
- 2- Mancio Taichiku. He joined the Society of Jesus in Japan in 1607. In 1614, he took refuge in Macao, where died on January 20, 1615 ; he was buried in St. Paul's Church, near St. Michael's altar.
- 3- Tadeu. He joined the Society of Jesus in 1590 and came to Macao, where he was still living in 1620.
- 4- Peter John. He joined the Society of Jesus ; came to Macao, where he was still living in 1620.

Only these names of the Japanese painters, who worked in Macao under Fr. Giovanni Nicolao, decorating the Church of the Mother of God and drawing other paintings for the China

Mission, are known.

A MAGNIFICENT CHURCH

Peter Mundy, who visited Macao in 1637, describes the Church of the Mother of God thus :

The roofe of the Church aperteyning to the Collidge (called St. Paules) is of the fairest Arche that yet I ever saw to my remembrance, of excellent worckmanshippe, Don by the Chinois, Carved in wood, curiously gilt and painted with exquisite colours, as vermillion, azure, etts. Divided into squares, and at the joining of each square great roses of Many Folds or leaves one under another, lessening till all end in Knobbe standing from the roffe Downward. Allsoe there is a New Faire Frontispice to the said Church with a spacious ascent to it by many steppes ; the 2 last things mentioned of hewen stone.

In 1640 when according to Fr. Cardim, Macao was in the heyday of its prosperity, the newly-rebuilt Church reflected the riches of the city :

Macao is put together of very fair buildings and is rich by reason of the commerce and traffic that go there by night and day. It has noble and honourable citizens. It is held in great renown throughout the whole Orient, inasmuch as it is the store of all those goods of gold, silver, silks, pearls and other jewels, and all manner of drugs, spices and perfumes from China, Japan, Tonkin, Cochinchina, Cambodia, Macassar and Solor. Above all that, it is the head of Christendom in the East.

The ruins of St. Paul are today a relic of that glorious past, the ghost of the magnificent Church that filled an important part in Macao's days of prosperity.

The connection between the rebuilding of St. Paul's and a Japanese invasion of Canton in 1606 may not be immediately apparent, but here are the facts behind this strange incident in the history of the Japanese in Macao.

C.R. Boxer writes : 1606 Com Diogo de Vasconcelos made a prosperous voyage to Japan this year, which was otherwise noteworthy as witnessing a fantastic invasion-scare at Canton. Dom Diogo and the Jesuits were accused by hostile Cantonese of levying Japanese Christian mercenaries to invade China in conjunction with the Portuguese of Macao, and with the Dutch ! The fears aroused by this extraordinary scare were only allayed with great difficulty and after a Chinese Jesuit Brother had been tortured to death in a Canton Prison(2).

The Jesuits were expelled from Macao by Pombal in 1762.

On January 26th 1835, at 6 p.m. a fire broke out in the College's kitchen, and so rapidly it spread that at 8 1/4 nothing remained except the Façade and the Church walls.

THE JAPANESE EMBASSY

The visitor of the Jesuits, Fr. Alexander Valignano, planned in 1582 a Japanese Embassy to Rome. The Christian Daimyōs of Kyushu agreed to send as their representatives two young men -- Mancio Ito and Michael Chijiwa, accompanied by two boys, Julian Nataura and Martinho Hara. They sailed from Nagasaki on February 20th 1582 and arrived in Macao on March 9. Here they were welcomed by Bishop Leonardo de Sa, by Governor Dom João de Almeida and by the Jesuits. They remained at St. Paul's College nearly ten months.

Then they sailed to Lisbon, where they arrived on August 10th, 1584.

After touring Portugal and Spain, they arrived in Rome, where they were received in audience by Pope Gregory on May 23, 1585.

They arrived back at Macao on July 28, 1582 and at Nagasaki on June 23, 1590, accompanied by Fr. Valignano, who

took with him the first printing press to reach Japan, from which press 55 books were subsequently published.

Fr. Sande published in Macao in 1590 an account of this Embassy to Europe, entitled *De Missione Legatorum*.

THE RELIC OF ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

On April 27th 1619, the Provincial of Jesuits in Goa, Fr. Jacome Madeiros, cut the arm of St. Francis Xavier, as he said : "We extracted the bone of the right arm, which extends from the elbow to the shoulder and we gave it to Fr. Gabriel de Matos to take it to Japan." This relic is the humerus of the saint, 13 cm. long. Fr. Matos took it to Japan in the same year. When the persecution against the Church broke out, it was taken back to Macao before 1635.

Now this relic is venerated in St. Joseph's Church, on St. Joseph's altar(3).

In the annexed Seminary may be found a 300 year old painting of St. Michael drawn by a Japanese disciple of Fr. Giovanni Nicolao.

IN CAMOES MUSEUM

Here are kept a very old painting depicting the martyrs of Nagasaki burnt at the stake, February, 1595 ; and also a cannon ball, found about 50 years ago at the bottom of Nagasaki harbour and belonging to the ship *Nossa Senhora da Graça* sunk in that port in 1610 by Captain André Pessoa to avoid being taken alive with his cargo by the Japanese. Regarding the martyrs of Nagasaki, no relics can be found anywhere. Only a few bones were recovered from the "Holy Mountain" ; these were boxed and shipped to Manila, but the box was lost at sea(4).

A JAPANESE JUNK SHIPWRECKED OFF MACAO

In March 1685, a storm dragged a Japanese fishing junk

to Macao waters, where she ran aground. The crew of twelve were taken to the city. The frigate *São Paulo*, under the command of Capt. Manuel de Aguiar Pereira brought them back to Japan in the expectation of reopening the trade between this country and Macao. The Governor of Nagasaki received the Japanese fishermen, but in a letter given to the Captain of *São Paulo*, he warned the Portuguese :

"From now onwards should not dare to come again. When they arrive in Macao, they have to warn the Governor not to send any other ship to Nagasaki, if this one returns, it is because it brings back twelve Japanese."

The ship sailed from Nagasaki to Macao on August 30 and Japan remained closed for two centuries.

Before that, another attempt by Captain Gonçalo de Siqueira de Souza to reopen Japan, in 1644 - 1647, had failed too.

THE JAPANESE MARTYRS

Fr. Montanha, S.J., who arrived at Macao in 1742, wrote the history of Macao Bishopric, in which he gives a list of all relics kept in St. Paul's Church. He mentions 8 small cases and 11 big cases, 19 in all, containing the relics of Martyrs of Japan.

On January 29, 1806, these cases were opened by order of D. Francisco de Nossa Senhora da Luz Chacim, Bishop of Macao, and the bones identified. They were found to contain the bones of the Martyrs of Japan as follows :

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 1- Joana Taisafaixi | 2- Pedro Quiain |
| 3- Pedro Tintaro | 4- Tome Voregi |
| 5- João Nexi | 6- Mar Faiaxida |
| 7- João Tatun | 8- Leão Taiaxida |
| 9- Jacob Taiaxida | 10- João Tafure |
| 11- Simão Tajeda | 12- Tome Vada Tagbaje |
| 13- Leão Quita | 14- Miguel Fingemon |
| 15- Martha Voda | 16- Jacob Voda |

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| 17- Tome Mithaiti | 18- Ignez Tingano |
| 19- Leão Tapdami | 20- Joaquim Vatanabi |
| 21- Justo Veda | 22- Joanna Tajeda |
| 23- Miguel Vatanabi | 24- Paulo Tagedomi |
| 25- Mathias Vatanaba | 26- Luis Minami |
| 27- Magdalena Paixida | 28- João Qango |
| 29- Domingos Jorge | 30- Pe. Fraco Garcia |
| 31- Diogo Quissai | 32- Maria Magdalena crucified
in Japan |
| 33- Miguel Mituachai | 34- Joanna Canquazaqui |
| 35- Adrião Tacataxi | 36- Diogo Cangugami |
| 37- Thome Tam aguihi | 38- Leonardo Magataxi |
| 39- Estevão Mitarai | 40- Leão Tagedomi |
| 41- Thome Miteami | 42- Pedro Tituro |
| 43- João Naco | 44- Justo Voda |
| 45- Thome Vitanabi | 46- João Minami |
| 47- Damião Tamaguihi | 48- Bento Tabaja |
| 49- Paulo Tagedomi | 50- Magdalena Minormi |
| 51- Ignacio Tai | 52- Simeão Velho |
| 53- Vicente, Catechist | 54- Francisco Toiame |
| 55- Jorão Bugo | 56- Gaspar Nexi |
| 57- Ursula Nexi | 58- Matias Voda |
| 59- Jacob Cunochi Xugiro | |

Besides these Martyrs of Japan, there were in the same cases those of Cochin-China :

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| 60- Domingos | 61- Thomas |
| 62- Pedro | 63- Caio |
| 64- João | 65- Benedicto |
| 66- Martinha | 67- Agostinha |
| 68- Ignacio Filongotis | 69- Marinho |
| 70- Pedro Dang | 71- Vicente |
| 72- Aleixo | 73- Andre, Proto-Martyr of
Cochin-China |

All these cases were kept in the Chapel of St. Francis Xavier in St. Paul's

When the Church was burnt in 1835, these relics were

transferred to St. Anthony's Church ; today they are kept in the Cathedral of Macao, in a little Chapel above the Chapel of the Blessed Sacrament, where they can still be seen.

Relevant information on Japanese Christian refugees follows. On January 27, 1614, Ieyasu issued a decree ordering all missionaries to leave Japan and all the Catholics to return to the religion of their ancestors.

On November 7 and 8, many missionaries and Christians left Japan in five ships, two of which sailed to Manila and three to Macao and Siam.

In 1592, there were in Manila 300 Japanese Christians ; in 1606, 1,500 ; and in 1628, 3,000. They founded two towns in the Philippines : Dilao in 1592 ; and San Miguel in 1615.

In 1636, the Japanese women, married to the Portuguese, and their children were banished to Macao ; they were 287 in all. We know of a Japanese, John Pacheco, born in Macao on March 8, 1668, studied at St. Ignatius Seminary, ordained Priest in 1694, who died on April 4th 1725 and was buried in St. Paul's. Records of deaths give the names of 25 Japanese who were buried in St. Paul's Church.

NOTES

- 1- Fr. Fernão Guerreiro, *Relação Anual*, Vol. II, p. 93.
 - 2- C.R. Boxer, *The Great Ship from Amacon* (Lisboa, 1959), p. 70.
 - 3- Fr. Manuel Teixeira, *Macau e a sua Diocese*, Vol. III, p. 197-199.
 - 4- *Felipe*, by Helene Margaret, the Bruce Publishing Company, Milwaukee.
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