

Call for papers
1st international symposium
(Montpellier 3, Sorbonne Université, Paris 7)

Cross-cultural encounter as a mediatic enterprise

The first Japanese embassy in Europe (1582-1590) and the *De missione legatorum iaponensium ad Romanam curiam*

Université Paul-Valéry Montpellier 3 (France)
November 8-9th, 2018



Symposium organized by:

- CRISES, EA 4424 – Université Paul-Valéry Montpellier 3
- IRIEC, EA 740 – Université Paul-Valéry Montpellier 3
- IRCL, UMR 5186 CNRS – Université Paul-Valéry Montpellier 3
- CRCAO, UMR 8155-CNRS/EPHE/Paris VII/Collège de France

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In 1579, Alessandro Valignano, Visitor of the Society of Jesus to India, arrives in Japan and reorganizes the Jesuit mission in the Orient. As already a number of travelers before him, if only François-Xavier, he discovers an incredible country, with haughty, refined, and shady

manners. With the help of some local lords, he undertakes to initiate the Japanese neo-converts to the splendors of the so-called Catholic Europe, as well as to stress the importance of Japan's mission to the Pope. He thereby sends four young aristocrats and neo-converts from Kyushu, including their servants, in a Grand Tour *avant la lettre*, that will last over eight years and cover Portugal, Spain and Italy, with a final stop at the Roman Curia. The notes reported by the young travelers relate their impressions, and Valignano then conceives the idea of a book drawn from them, which could be used by Japanese seminarians in Japan as a textbook of Latin. The relation of the four envoys will come out in 1590.

The announced symposium, scheduled from November 8 to 9, 2018, belongs to an overall project of translation into French and a critical edition of the *De missione*. Every paper will necessarily start from the text under scrutiny, already translated into various European languages and into Japanese, as well as from the various writings of Luis Fróis referring to it, and examine the following aspects:

1. Philology: the examination of the original Latin text, including the various xenisms due to the national identity and culture of the writer;
2. History: contextualization of the mission in relation to strategies and tactics of Jesuit predication around the world, as well as in comparison with other written treatises by the Jesuits (Matteo Ricci, Giulio Aleni, etc.) or other religious orders;
3. Imagology: the ideological and / or utopian representations of each of the countries visited, to be related to the image of this same mission as related by Fróis; the self-image of the Japanese envoys as Japanese and Christians;
4. Dialogism: the rhetoric at work, especially the polyphonic game, in the apologetic frame of mind;
5. Criticism: the reception of the work in Europe and Japan, in the history of failed or successful encounters between Japan and the non-Japanese world, as well as in the arts (painting, theatre, literature, sacred writings).

Other proposals, not directly focused upon but linked with the Jesuit mission in Japan, will of course be duly taken into consideration.

Contributors are invited to send their abstract to demissionelegatorum@gmail.com by the **1st September, 2018** (1500 words in English and in their native tongue), and then, if their submission is retained, the article or a draft of it by October 15, 2018, so that all participants can read the papers and discuss them on D-day.

Dates : 8 et 9 novembre 2018

Place : Université Paul-Valéry – Montpellier 3 (France) – Site Saint-Charles - Salle Kouros

Fees : 50 €