Abstract

The present paper tries to define the commitments and duties of the Procurator (i.e. bookkeeper) of the Society of Jesus in Japan during the first years of the Tokugawa shogunate. It approaches this subject especially through the Procurator's regulations written by Alessandro Valignano S.J. and through the letters of the Italian Jesuit, Carlo Spinola, who served as Procurator first in Macao between 1601 and 1602 and subsequently in Japan from 1612 to 1618. In order to understand Carlo Spinola and his background, a brief sketch of his life is given at the beginning, and then, his two procuratorships are analysed. In addition to looking at Spinola's and Valignano's documents, we will also assess João Rodrigues Tçuzu's writings, as this Portuguese Jesuit is the most studied Procurator of the Japanese and Chinese missions. Examining the office involved in the Macao- Nagasaki silk trade also requires analysing the financial situation of the Jesuits in Japan. This paper is another contribution to the research line on the economy of the Society of Jesus within the Bulletin, and follows two articles already published on the figure of the Procurator in Japan (Oka 2006 and Faria 2007).

Keywords

Tokugawa Japan, Society of Jesus, Procurator, Carlo Spinola