
Documents 1622

A chartered Peruvian ship sent from Acapulco in 1622

1. Events of 1622, from Fr. Díaz' History

Source: Fr. Casimiro Díaz (ed.), Conquistas de las Islas Filipinas (1890), based on the notes left by Fr. Gaspar de San Nicolás, pp. 131 et sequitur.

Part 2, Book 1, Chap. 15: Events of 1622, and of the mission of religious who came from Spain that year, and of other events.

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The ship from New Spain arrived and aboard it was a boat-load of religious under the charge of the Father Commissioner Fray Alonso del Rincón. They arrived at the port of Casiguran de Valer,¹ since they had found an order of the Governor to that effect, to escape the traps set by the Dutch enemy. They went ashore after having suffered many hardships during the navigation, because the ship in which they came, which was from Peru, was very bad, old, and they had come with little comfort as there came three missions, ours [i.e. Augustinian], that of the Fathers of St. Francis, and that of the Society of Jesus. They had also suffered from an infectious epidemic that killed many of those of the other two missions and some laymen...

2. Events of 1622, from Fr. Medina's History

Source: Fr. Juan de Medina, Historia de la Orden de S. Agustín..., Manila, 1893; translated in B&R 24: 119-121/

Chapter XXXVIII.—Of the election of our Father Fray Juan Enríquez.

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1 Ed. note: Not in Baler Bay, but in Sorsogon Bay, position 13° N & 124° E.

During these years, the Dutch enemy did not discontinue coming to the coasts of Manila, where they robbed the Chinese [ships] and did all the harm possible. They tried to capture the ships carrying aid [from New Spain], so that without war they were growing rich, and disabling the people of Manila. In this emergency the pilots carried sealed orders, which they were to open on the return voyage and learn the port where they had to go, thus defeating the designs of the Dutch enemy, and freeing themselves from the secret spies who were in Manila—who, as it was said, were not lacking. Consequently, in many years no company [of religious] entered Manila directly, so that whatever missionaries the ships carried were scattered, and, not reaching Manila, no benefit was derived from them.

Father Fray Alonso del Rincón was coming from Spain with a fine company of religious. He reached the port of Acapulco, where that year [1622] the flagship from these islands did not arrive, [but] after leaving Manila and rounding the shoals, it had been wrecked near Verde Island [Mindoro], for the tides drove it upon some reefs. The *almiranta* passed on, and immediately another despatch followed it which the Governor made, when advised of the event. In the latter the pilot and commander was the overseer Gaspar Nuñez. This boat sailed on 16 September, and our Lord was pleased to let it arrive [at Acapulco], but both vessels were very small.

The Governor of Ternate, Pedro de Heredia, was coming [in 1622]. At last, as vessel happened to arrive from Peru, and was immediately laden. Our religious embarked in it, as also did the Fathers of the Society.¹ Although the other two small boats had sailed a fortnight before, this vessel overtook them, and all entered the port of Casiguran, opposite [the island of] Manila, about the same time. This small boat bore religious of our father St. Francis, and all the vessels suffered from a plague that almost was the end of them. All the Franciscans died, although only one of ours died, Father Fray Nicolás Goyas, a Biscayan by birth, of the province of Castile...

The rest recovered and reached the said port on 25 June, of the year 1622.

1 Ed. note: Fr. Medina gives a list of 20 Augustinians accompanying Fr. Rincón; 3 of them had died before reaching Acapulco.