

International Memory of the World Register

Materials Related to the Keicho-era Mission to Europe

(Japan and Spain)

2012-69

1.0 Summary (max 200 words)

Materials related to the Keicho-era Mission to Europe are composed of two parts, related to a mission from Japan sent by the lord of the Sendai-han in 1613.

One part consists of 3 objects brought back to Japan after 7 years of travel: a Certificate of Citizenship of Rome for Hasekura Tsunenaga (1570-1621), who led the mission to Europe, portraits of Tsunenaga and the Pope Paulus V.

The other includes 94 written documents related to the mission, kept in two archives in Spain. It includes letters from Hasekura Tsunenaga to the King of Spain and detailed records of their stay in Spain and Rome.

These materials are precious testimony of the east-west exchange in the early 17th century in the fields of diplomacy, trade, religion and fine arts, and the success of such exchange depended on the Manila Galleon route. The entire collection has survived 400 years to this day, particularly the objects in Japan, including the 250 years of a ban on Christianity.

Due to the so-called “isolation policy” of Japan issued soon after the mission’s departure, no similar mission was sent. Therefore, these materials are typical evidence of east-west exchange during the Age of Discovery.

[197 words]

2.1 Name of nominator (person or organization)

Japan : The Selection Committee for Memory of the World of the Japanese National Commission for UNESCO

Spain : Department of Education, Culture and Sport. General Directorate of Fine Arts, Cultural Heritage and of Archives and Libraries.

2.2 Relationship to the nominated documentary heritage

Japan : The nominated documentary heritage was chosen in accordance with the Japanese National Commission for UNESCO's decision and upon consultation with the related government departments and organizations.

Spain : The General Directorate is responsible for fostering preservation of Documentary Heritage and national and international promotion and dissemination (Royal Decree 1887/2011, of 30 of December, developing the basic organic structure of the Department of Education, Culture and Sport).

2.3 Contact person(s) (to provide information on nomination)

Japan : Mr. Masanori Aoyagi, Chairperson of the Committee

Spain : Mr Jesús Prieto de Pedro. General Director of Fine Arts, Cultural Heritage and of Archives and Libraries

2.4 Contact details

Japan

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Spain

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3.1 Name and identification details of the items being nominated

If inscribed, the exact title and institution(s) to appear on the certificate should be given

Materials Related to the Keicho-era Mission to Europe

3.2 Catalogue or registration details

List of Documents

List of Document at Sendai City Museum (SCM)

SCM Document No.1.

Certificate of Citizenship of Rome
Conferred onto Hasekura Tsunenaga
Dated November 20, 1615
Color on parchment, 68.5×88.5cm

SCM Document No.2.

Portrait of Hasekura Tsunenaga
(1615), oil on canvas, 80.8×64.5cm

SCM Document No.3.

Portrait of Pope Paulus V
(early 17th century), oil on canvas, 76.5×61.0cm

These materials and the other 44 objects were designated as Important Cultural Property on June 11, 1966, then, designated as National Treasures (historical materials) on June 22, 2001

List of Documents at General Archive of Simancas (AGS)

AGS Document nº1

Title Copy of the settlements (*capitulaciones*) signed by Daté Masamune, Lord of Sendai [King of Oxiú/Wuxú, sic], and Diego Fernández de Córdoba, viceroy of New Spain.

Date 1613 October, 16.

Reference Code EST,LEG,256-1,2

AGS Document nº2

Title Letter from fray Luis Sotelo, Franciscan friar, addressed to Felipe III, King of Spain, reporting on the immediate visit of Hasekura Tsunenaga, Lord of Sendai's ambassador [King of Oxiú/Wuxú,sic], and the benefits that he could bring to the monarchy.

Date 1614 October, 1. Sanlúcar [de Barrameda] (Spain).

Reference Code EST,LEG,255,230

AGS Document nº3

Title Letter from Alonso Pérez de Guzmán y Sotomayor, Duke of Medina Sidonia, to Juan de Ciriza, secretary of State, reporting to him about the staying of the embassy of the Lord of Sendai [King of Oxiú/Wuxú,sic].

Date 1614 October, 9. Sanlúcar [de Barrameda] (Spain).

Reference Code EST,LEG,256-1,14

AGS Document nº4

Title Copy of the letter from Hasekura Tsunenaga, Lord of Sendai's ambassador [King of Oxiú/Wuxú, sic], to the city of Seville announcing his embassy.

Date 1614 September, 30.

Reference Code EST,LEG,256-2,46

AGS Document nº5

Title Copy of the letter from fray Luis Sotelo, Franciscan missionary, to the city of Seville communicating the significance of the embassy of the Lord of Sendai [King of Oxiú/Wuxú, sic] and requesting their help.

Date 1614 September, 30.

Reference Code EST,LEG,256-2,45

AGS Document nº6

Title Letter from Juan Gallardo de Céspedes, Reales Alcazares commander (*alcaide*) addressed to Felipe III, King of Spain, reporting about the preparations of the Lord of Sendai's embassy accommodations.

Date 1614 October, 14. Seville (Spain).

Reference Code EST,LEG,256-2,47

AGS Document nº7

Title Letter from Diego Sarmiento de Sotomayor, count of Salvatierra and Seville assistant, to Antonio de Aróstegui, secretary of State, notifying the departure of Hasekura Tsunenaga, Lord of Sendai's ambassador [King of Oxiú/Wuxú, sic] and his predictable arrival at Madrid around the 4th or 5th of December.

Date 1614 November, 25. Seville (Spain).

Reference Code EST,LEG,255,228

AGS Document nº8

Title Copy of the letter from Antonio de Aróstegui, secretary of State, to Diego Sarmiento de Sotomayor, count of Salvatierra and Seville assistant, notifying the imminent arrival of Hasekura Tsunenaga, Lord of Sendai's ambassador [King of Oxiú/Wuxú, sic] and the need to lodge and entertain him generously.

Date 1614 October, 26. Madrid (Spain).

Reference Code EST,LEG,255,234

AGS Document Nº9

Title Letter from Juan Gallardo de Céspedes, Reales Alcazares commander (*alcaide*) to Antonio de Aróstegui, secretary of State, communicating to him the religion and trade settlements (*capitulaciones*) that the ambassador Hasekura Tsunenaga wants to deal with the King of Spain.

Date 1614 November, 2. Seville (Spain).

Reference Code EST,LEG,255,235

AGS Document nº10

Title Letter from Diego Sarmiento de Sotomayor, count of Salvatierra and Seville assistant, to Antonio de Aróstegui, secretary of State, reporting in detail the arrival of Hasekura Tsunenaga, Lord of Sendai's ambassador [King of Oxiú/Wuxú,sic], the observed protocol during the visit, as well as his impressions about the persons and the political interest of the event.

Date 1614 November, 1. Seville (Spain).

Reference Code EST,LEG,255,233

AGS Document nº11

Title Letter from Juan Gallardo de Céspedes, Reales Alcazares commander (*alcaide*) to Antonio de Aróstegui, secretary of State, reporting about the good procedures arranged by the assistant to guarantee the stay in Seville of the Lord of Sendai's ambassador [King of Oxiú/Wuxú,sic] Hasekura Tsunenaga, and his travel to Court.

Date 1614 November, 17. Seville (Spain).

Reference Code EST,LEG,255,231

AGS Document nº12

Title Letter from Diego Sarmiento de Sotomayor, count of Salvatierra and Seville assistant to Antonio de Aróstegui, secretary of State, explaining the efforts made by the city of Seville to guarantee the staying of the Lord of Sendai's embassy [King of Oxiú/Wuxú,sic], and the need that the King thank these services.

Date 1614 November, 16. Seville (Spain).

Reference Code EST,LEG,255,232

AGS Document nº13

Title Letter from Juan Gallardo de Céspedes, Reales Alcazares commander (*alcaide*), to Antonio de Aróstegui reporting the departure from Seville of Hasekura Tsunenaga, Lord of Sendai's ambassador [King of Oxiú/Wuxú, sic], and the retinue arranged for his trip to the Court.

Date 1614 November, 25. Seville (Spain).

Reference Code EST,LEG,255,229

AGS Document nº14

Title Letter (in Japanese) from Hasekura Tsunenaga, Lord of Sendai's ambassador [King of Oxiú/Wuxú, sic], to Felipe III, King of Spain.

Date	1614 September, 30.
Reference Code	EST,LEG,256-1,126
AGS Document nº15	
Title	Letter (in Japanese) from Hasekura Tsunenaga, Lord of Sendai's ambassador [King of Oxiú/Wuxú, sic], to Francisco Gómez de Sandoval, Duke of Lerma.
Date	1614 September, 30.
Reference Code	EST,LEG,256-1,127
AGS Document nº16	
Title	Letter from fray Luis Sotelo to Francisco Gómez de Sandoval, Duke of Lerma, communicating the plans and wishes of Hasekura Tsunenaga, Lord of Sendai's ambassador [King of Oxiú/Wuxú, sic], and requesting his mediation before the King.
Date	1614 September, 26.
Reference Code	EST,LEG,256-2,33
AGS Document nº17	
Title	Copy of the note addressed by Antonio de Aróstegui, secretary of State, to Luis de Velasco y Castilla, president of the Council of the Indies, asking for his opinion about the relevance of the Japan embassy and possible activities to be developed.
Date	1614 November, 24. Madrid (Spain).
Reference Code	EST,LEG,255,236
AGS Document nº18	
Title	Note addressed by Antonio de Aróstegui, secretary of State, to Francisco Gómez de Sandoval, Duke of Lerma, expressing the opinion of the State Council related to the visit of the Japanese embassy. In margin note, Duke of Lerma answers.
Date	1614 November, 9. Madrid (Spain),
Reference Code	EST,LEG,2644,36
AGS Document nº19	
Title	Consultation (<i>consulta</i>) of the State Council about the Japanese embassy.
Date	1614 November, 22. Madrid (Spain).
Reference Code	EST,LEG,2644,37
AGS Document nº20	
Title	Royal document (<i>Real Cédula</i>) ordering Francisco Ruiz de Castro, count of Castro and Spanish ambassador in Rome, to honour as befits the Japanese embassy when arrives.
Date	1615 August, 1. Valladolid (Spain).
Reference Code	EST,LEG,1001,136
AGS Document nº21	
Title	Copy of the letter from Francisco Ruiz de Castro, count of Castro and Spanish ambassador in Rome, to Felipe III, King of Spain, describing in detail the arrival of Hasekura Tsunenaga, Lord of Sendai's ambassador [King of Oxiú/Wuxú, sic] to Rome.
Date	1615 November, 9.
Reference Code	EST,LEG,1001,80
AGS Document nº22	

Title	Copy of the letter [written by Count of Castro and Spanish Ambassador in Rome] to the King notifying the good impression left by the Japanese embassy in the Holy See.
Date	1616 January, 8.
Reference Code	EST,LEG,1002,25
AGS Document n°23	
Title	Letter from Francisco Ruiz de Castro, count of Castro and Spanish ambassador in Rome, addressed to Felipe III, King of Spain, relating his impressions about the presence in Rome of the Japanese embassy.
Date	1616 January, 9. Rome (Italy).
Reference Code	EST,LEG,1001,354
AGS Document n°24	
Title	Letter from fray Luis Sotelo, Franciscan friar, addressed to Felipe III, King of Spain, asking for help for the maintenance of Hasekura Tsusenaga, Lord of Sendai's ambassador [King of Oxiú/Wuxú, sic] during his stay in Rome.
Date	1616 February, 8. Genoa (Italy).
Reference Code	EST,LEG,262,227
AGS Document n°25	
Title	Letter from fray Luis Sotelo, Franciscan friar, addressed to Juan de Ciriza, secretary of State, asking for help for the maintenance of the ambassador of the Lord of Sendai [King of Oxiú/Wuxú,sic], Hasekura Tsunenaga, during his stay in Rome.
Date	1616 February, 9. Genoa (Italy).
Reference Code	EST,LEG,262,228
AGS Document n°26	
Title	Consultation (<i>consulta</i>) made by the State Council about the help to be provide to Hasekura Tsunenaga, Lord of Sendai's ambassador [King of Oxiú/Wuxú, sic], because he had fallen ill with fever during his stay in Rome.
Date	1616 March, 28. Madrid (Spain).
Reference Code	EST,LEG,262,226
AGS Document n°27	
Title	Memorial from the city of Seville to Felipe III, King of Spain, to favour the transferral of religious to Japan.
Date	1617 April, 20. Seville (Spain).
Reference Code	EST,LEG,263,74
AGS Document n°28	
Title	Letter from fray Luis Sotelo, Franciscan friar, addressed to the King asking for the exit from Japan of the agreed religious.
Date	1617 April, 20. Seville (Spain).
Reference Code	EST,LEG,263,75
AGS Document n°29	
Title	Letter from Hasekura Tsunenaga, Lord of Sendai's ambassador [King of Oxiú/Wuxú, sic] addressed to Felipe III, King of Spain asking for the exit from Japan of the agreed religious. (Contains hand-written autograph in Japanese)
Date	1617 April, 24. Seville (Spain).
Reference Code	EST,LEG,263,76

AGS Document nº30

Title Consultation (*consulta*) of the Council State showing their agreement about giving the dispatches (*despachos*) to the religious offered to Hasekura Tsunenaga, Lord of Sendai's ambassador [King of Oxiú/Wuxú, sic].

Date 1617 May, 20.

Reference Code EST,LEG,263,7

List of Documents at General Archive of the Indies (AGI).**AGI Document nº 1**

Title Letter from Rodrigo de Vivero y Aberrucia, governor of the Philippines, to the King of Spain, informing, among other things, about issues with Japan.

Date 1608 July, 8. Manila (Philippines).

Reference code FILIPINAS,20,R.2,N.21

AGI Document nº 2

Title Letter from the Granada's Archbishop to the President of the Council of the Indies, advising the sending of religious missionaries of different Orders to Japan, both from the east and from the west, and the appointment of bishops in Japan. . Including copy of three chapters of letters (*capítulo de carta*) about Japan: two from the Manila Court (Audiencia de Manila. July-8-1608; July-16-1611) and one from the Governor of the Philippines (June-24-1609)

Date 1632 January 23

Reference code FILIPINAS,163,N.1 (including Anejo 2)

AGI Document nº 3

Title Letter (in Japanese) from the *Shogun* Tokugawa Iyeyasu (Minamoto Yeas)[sic], to Francisco Gómez de Sandoval, Duke of Lerma, authorizing the arrival of Spanish ships from New Spain, leaving the details of this subject to the Franciscan Fray Luis Sotelo.

Date 1610 January, 22.

Reference code MP-ESCRITURA_ CIFRA, 30

AGI Document nº 4

Title Letter (in Japanese) from the *Shogun* Tokugawa Hidetada (Minamoto Hidetada) [sic], to Francisco Gómez de Sandoval, Duke of Lerma, authorizing the arrival of Spanish ships from New Spain to Japanese's ports, leaving the details of this subject to the Franciscans Fray Alonso Muñoz and Fray Luis Sotelo, who carried with them five Japanese armours as presents.

Date 1610 June, 24.

Reference code MP-ESCRITURA _CIFRA, 31

AGI Document nº 5

Title Letter from Luis de Velasco, marquis of Salinas and viceroy of New Spain, informing the King of Spain about the trade and the diplomatic relations with Japan.

Date 1610 October, 20. México.

Reference code FILIPINAS,193,N.3

AGI Document nº 6

Title Consultation (*consulta*) of the Council of the Indies about the letters of

Date	the <i>shogun</i> (translated by fray Alonso Muñoz, Franciscan friar) in which he asks for a yearly ship from New Spain and a present for the <i>shogun</i> . 1613 May, 10. Madrid (Spain).
Reference code	FILIPINAS,4, N.8
AGI Document nº 7	
Title	Decree (<i>decreto</i>) by Francisco Gómez de Sandoval, Duke of Lerma, to Luis de Velasco y Castilla, President of the Council of the Indies, to order the money for the <i>Shogun</i> 's present.
Date	1613 May, 31.
Reference code	FILIPINAS,4, N.8 (Anejo 2)
AGI Document nº 8	
Title	List of presents to be given to the <i>Shogun</i> .
Date	[1613]
Reference code	FILIPINAS,4, N.8 (Anejo 3)
AGI Document nº 9	
Title	Consultation (<i>consulta</i>) of the Council of the Indies in order to answer the <i>shogun</i> 's letter.
Date	1613 June, 14. Madrid (Spain).
Reference code	FILIPINAS,4,N.8 (Anejo 4)
AGI Document nº 10	
Title	Royal document (<i>Real Cédula</i>) to Diego Fernandez de Córdoba, viceroy of New Spain, informing him about the letter sent to the <i>Shogun</i> and ordering the dispatch of an annual ship to Japan.
Date	1613 June, 17. San Lorenzo (Spain).
Reference code	MEXICO,1065,L.6. (Images number 242, 243, 244 and 245)
AGI Document nº 11	
Title	Royal document (<i>Real Cédula</i>) addressed to Juan de Silva, governor of the Philippines, ordering the delivery of a ship to Fray Alonso Muñoz and his companions, for their journey from the Philippines to Japan.
Date	1613 June, 17. San Lorenzo (Spain).
Reference code	MEXICO,1065,L.6. (Images number 245 and 246)
AGI Document nº 12	
Title	Letter from Felipe III, King of Spain, to the <i>Shogun</i> Tokugawa Iheyasu [sic], reporting that he has ordered the dispatch of an annual ship with merchandise from New Spain to Japan.
Date	1613 June, 20. San Lorenzo (Spain).
Reference code	MEXICO,1065,L.6. (Images number 246, 247 and 248)
AGI Document nº 13	
Title	Letter from the King to the <i>Shogun</i> Iheasu [sic] asking him to take care of the religious who are living in his kingdom. At the same time, the King informs him about the arrival of several religious from San Francisco's order to Japan with some goods.
Date	1613 June, 20. San Lorenzo (Spain).
Reference code	MEXICO,1065, L.6. (Images number 319 and 320)
AGI Document nº 14	
Title	Consultation (<i>consulta</i>) to the Council of the Indies about writing independently to the <i>Shogun</i> and his son.

Date	1613 November, 12. Madrid (Spain).
Reference code	FILIPINAS,4,N.8 (Anejo 5)
AGI Document nº 15	
Title	Reply from Felipe III, King of Spain, to <i>Shogun's</i> son.
Date	1613 November, 23. El Pardo (Spain).
Reference code	MEXICO,1065, L.6. (Images number 266, 27 and 268))
AGI Document nº 16	
Title	Letter from Diego Fernandez de Córdoba, marquis of Guadalcazar and viceroy of New Spain, to Felipe III, King of Spain, reporting the arrival of the Japanese to Acapulco and the confiscation of its weapons.
Date	1614 May, 22. México.
Reference code	MEXICO,28,N.17.
AGI Document nº 17	
Title	Consultation (<i>consulta</i>) of the Council of the Indies relating the opinions of Luis de Velasco y Castilla, viceroy of New Spain, and Sebastián Vizcaíno, about the Japanese embassy coming with fray Luis Sotelo, which was addressed to fray Alonso Muñoz, Franciscan friar, to Francisco de Varte [sic Uarte] and to the Indian Commissioner General.
Date	1614 October, 30.
Reference code	FILIPINAS,1, N.150
AGI Document nº 18	
Title	Consultation (<i>consulta</i>) of the Council of the Indies with letters from Francisco de Varte [sic Uarte] and Sebastián Vizcaíno, Castilian crown's sailor, about the arrival of fray Luis Sotelo's, Franciscan friar, and Hasekura Tsunenaga, Lord of Sendai's ambassador.
Date	1614 November, 11. Madrid (Spain).
Reference code	FILIPINAS,1, N.151
AGI Document nº 19	
Title	Copy of the letter from Francisco de Varte [sic Uarte] addressed to Luis de Velasco and Castilla, marquis of Salinas, reporting about fray Luis Sotelo, Franciscan friar, and Hasekura Tsunenaga, Lord of Sendai's ambassador.
Date	[1614] Seville (Spain).
Reference code	FILIPINAS,1,N.151 (Anejo 1)
AGI Document nº 20	
Title	Copy of the letter from Sebastián Vizcaíno, Castilian crown's sailor addressed to Felipe III, King of Spain, about his trip of discovery of the Gold and Silver Islands (Islas Rica de Oro y Plata) going through Japan and relating extensively about the Japanese situation.
Date	[1614]
Reference code	FILIPINAS,1,N.151 (Anejo 2)
AGI Document nº 21	
Title	Agreed letter (<i>carta acordada</i>) from the Council of the Indies related to the payment of the sustenance of Hasekura Tsunenaga, Lord of Sendai's ambassador, who has been lodged in the San Francisco convent.
Date	1614 December, 15. Madrid (Spain).
Reference code	Indiferente,1970.L.2. Images number 471 and 472.)

AGI Document n° 22

Title Royal document (*Real Cédula*) to Diego Fernandez de Córdoba, viceroy of New Spain, with what it's arranged for the *shogun*.
Date 1614 December, 23.
Reference code MEXICO,1065,L.6. (Images 320, 321 and 322)

AGI Document n° 23

Title Consultation (*consulta*) of the Council of the Indies about what Diego Fernandez de Córdoba, viceroy of New Spain, should do with the presents for the *shoguns* and with the ship that brought the Sendai's ambassador.
Date 1614 December, 23. Madrid (Spain).
Reference code FILIPINAS,1, N.152

AGI Document n° 24

Title Consultation (*consulta*) of the Council of the Indies about the treatment that has to receive the ambassador of the Lord of Sendai when showing off the credential letters of his journey.
Date 1615 January, 16. Madrid (Spain).
Reference code FILIPINAS,1, N.153

AGI Document n° 25

Title Letter from Diego Fernandez de Córdoba, viceroy of New Spain, addressed to Felipe III, King of Spain, informing him about the situation of the religious that went to Japan.
Date 1615 January, 31. México
Reference code MEXICO,28,N.20

AGI Document n° 26

Title Consultation (*consulta*) of the Council of the Indies suggesting the dismissal of the Lord of Sendai's ambassador as soon as possible because of the expenses he generates.
Date 1615 February, 4. Madrid (Spain).
Reference code FILIPINAS,1,N.154

AGI Document n° 27

Title Royal document (*Real Cédula*) to Diego Fernandez de Córdoba, viceroy of New Spain, ordering the delivery to Fray Alonso Muñoz of the letters and the present from Felipe III, King of Spain, to the *Shogun*.
Date 1615 March, 8. Madrid (Spain).
Reference code MEXICO,1065,L.6. (Images number 323 and 324)

AGI Document n° 28

Title Consultation (*consulta*) of the Council of the Indies about the matters pointed out by fray Luis Sotelo, Franciscan friar, proposing: not to give a license to travel to Rome to Hasekura Tsunenaga, Lord of Sendai's ambassador, the assignment of new bishops and a seminar for the new Christians in Japan (but not maintained by the Treasury), the delivery of 2.000 ducats to the embassy for its permanence in Spain, the licence for 20 religious from Philippines, the gratefulness showed to the *Shogun's* disposition and, finally, that they should go to Seville to embark.
Date 1615 April, 2. Madrid (Spain).
Reference code FILIPINAS,1,N.157

AGI Document n° 29

Title	Consultation (<i>consulta</i>) of the Council of the Indies proposing the refusal of the Santiago's Order habit to Hasekura Tsunenaga, Lord of Sendai's ambassador, and recalling the consultation (<i>consulta</i>) about their departure in the next fleet.
Date	1615 April, 29. Madrid (Spain).
Reference code	FILIPINAS,1,N.158
AGI Document n° 30	
Title	Official note from Diego Vergara Gaviria, Council of the Indies' receiver (<i>receptor</i>), addressed to Juan Ruiz de Contreras about the payment to the lady who gave the clothes to the Japanese.
Date	1615 May, 29.
Reference code	FILIPINAS,37,N.13 (Anejo 1)
AGI Document n° 31	
Title	Report made by the Accountancy of the Council of the Indies, of the clothes given to Hasekura Tsunenaga, Lord of Sendai's ambassador, and its costs.
Date	s.f. [1615]
Reference code	FILIPINAS,37,N.13 (Anejo 2)
AGI Document n° 32	
Title	Documents about the expenses paid by the Spanish authorities to Hasekura Tsunenaga, Lord of Sendai's ambassador, during his permanence in Spain.
Date	1615 June, 4 – 1615 December, 1.
Reference code	FILIPINAS,1,N.160
AGI Document n° 33	
Title	Consultation (<i>consulta</i>) of the Council of the Indies with a new memorial from Pedro de Leganes, guardian of the San Francisco's monastery (in Madrid), requesting a new emplacement for the residence of the Japanese embassy.
Date	1615 June, 14. Madrid (Spain).
Reference code	FILIPINAS,1,N.161
AGI Document n° 34	
Title	Consultation (<i>consulta</i>) of the Council of the Indies reporting the need of money and medicines for the travel to Rome of Hasekura Tsunenaga, Lord of Sendai's ambassador.
Date	1615 July, 9.
Reference code	FILIPINAS,1,N.162
AGI Document n° 35	
Title	Note from the Council of Indies about the delivery of the 4.000 ducats to the Japanese's embassy journey to Rome.
Date	[1615]
Reference code	FILIPINAS,1,N.162 (Anejo 1)
AGI Document n° 36	
Title	Note from fray Luis Sotelo, Franciscan friar, designating Gregorio Matías, Lord of Sendai's ambassador steward, as the person in charge of receiving the 4.000 ducats for the ambassador's journey to Rome.
Date	1615 August, 6. Madrid (Spain).
Reference code	FILIPINAS,1,N.162 (Anejo 2)

AGI Document nº 37

Title Memorial (*memorial*) from fray Luis Sotelo, franciscan missionary, asking that the 1.000 ducats are given to Tomás Laferie, Japanese officer, for books and ornaments.

Date [1615]

Reference code FILIPINAS,1,N.162 (Anejo 3)

AGI Document nº 38

Title Consultation (*consulta*) of the Council of the Indies with a copy for the Rome Ambassador informing him about the demands previously denied to fray Luis Sotelo, Franciscan friar, and Hasekura Tsunenaga, Lord of Sendai's ambassador, in case they asked for the approval of the Pope.

Date 1615 September, 15.

Reference code FILIPINAS,1,N.163

AGI Document nº 39

Title Consultation (*consulta*) of the Council of the Indies proposing that fray Luis Sotelo, franciscan missionary, and Hasekura Tsunenaga, Lord of Sendai's ambassador, who are returning from Rome, go directly to Seville to embark instead of stopping at the court.

Date 1616 March, 10. Madrid (Spain).

Reference code FILIPINAS,1,N.165

AGI Document nº 40

Title Consultation (*consulta*) of the Council of the Indies with the query (*consulta*) of the Council of Portugal (not attached) about the intentions who had in Rome the Japanese, Hasekura Tsunenaga, Lord of Sendai's ambassador, and fray Luis Sotelo, Franciscan friar, reporting what is resolved and proposing to ask the Indian Commissioner general for a reprimand for the Franciscan missionary.

Date 1616 April, 16. Madrid (Spain).

Reference code FILIPINAS,1,N.170

AGI Document nº 41

Title Consultation (*consulta*) of the Council of the Indies refusing to send the present requested by fray Luis Sotelo, Franciscan friar, to the Lord of Sendai, and that he can be written thanking him for his good will, but sending the letter to the Governor of the Philippines to make use of it in accordance with the state that has the Christianity of Japan upon arrival.

Date 1616 June, 4. Madrid (Spain).

Reference code FILIPINAS,1,N.172

AGI Document nº 42

Title The King of Spain expresses to the Lord of Sendai [Rey de Bojú, sic] his satisfaction for the wishes of the Japanese population to profess the catholic religion, according to the reports from Hasekura Tsunenaga, Lord of Sendai's ambassador, and from fray Luis Sotelo, Franciscan friar.

Date 1616 July, 12. Madrid (Spain).

Reference code FILIPINAS,329,L.2,F.208R-208V

AGI Document nº 43

Title Consultation (*consulta*) of the Council of the Indies reporting of the

proceedings made with the Japanese [embajador de Boju, sic] for his departure and that he did not embark claiming illness.

Date 1616 August, 27. Madrid (Spain).
Reference code FILIPINAS,1,N,174.

AGI Document nº 44

Title Spanish official document about the main issues contained in the documents dispatched (*despacho*) by fray Luis Sotelo, Franciscan friar, and the Japanese.
Date [1617]
Reference code FILIPINAS,4,N.10 (Anejo 2)

AGI Document nº 45

Title Memorial (*memorial*) from fray Luis Sotelo, Franciscan friar, and from the Lord of Sendai's ambassador in Japan, asking for a present to the Lord, the appointment of eight religious, and finally, help for the payment and recommendation cards.
Date [1617]
Reference code FILIPINAS,4,N.10 (Anejo 1)

AGI Document nº 46

Title Decree (*decreto*) from Francisco Gómez de Sandoval, Duke of Lerma, to Luis de Velasco y Castilla, president of the Council of the Indies, about the documents dispatched (*despacho*) by the Lord of Sendai's ambassador and fray Luis Sotelo, Franciscan Friar.
Date 1617 June, 11.
Reference code FILIPINAS,4,N.10

AGI Document nº 47

Title Consultation (*consulta*) of the Council of the Indies proposing not to spend more with the Japanese ambassador and nor give him rise to stay in Spain.
Date 1617 June, 16.
Reference code FILIPINAS,1,N.177

AGI Document nº 48

Title Memorial (*memorial*) from fray Luis Sotelo, Franciscan friar, and from the Lord of Sendai's ambassador asking for license to stay in Spain until the departure of the 1618 fleet to the Indies.
Date [1617]
Reference code FILIPINAS,1,N,177 (Anejo 1)

AGI Document nº 49

Title Letter from fray Luis Sotelo, Franciscan friar, [addressed to the President of the Council of the Indies] requesting the sending of 12 religious of the Order of San Francisco to Japan. To support his request he claims the good relations that exist with the *king of Woxú* [sic], who is willing to increase the relationship and communications with the King of Spain, having turned into the defender and protector of the Christians in front of Japan's Emperor.
Date 1618 February, 3. México.
Reference code MEXICO,299

AGI Document nº 50

Title	Letter from fray Luis Sotelo, Franciscan friar, addressed to the [Duke of Lerma] about the previous subject. (AGI Document nº49)
Date	1618 February, 4. México.
Reference code	MEXICO,299

AGI Document nº 51

Title	Letter from Diego Fernandez de Córdoba, viceroy of New Spain, addressed to Felipe III, King of Spain, informing, among other things, about the ships sent to Japan with presents.
Date	1616 May, 15. México.
Reference code	MEXICO,28,N.24

AGI Document nº 52

Title	Letters from Diego Fernandez de Córdoba, viceroy of New Spain, to Felipe III, King of Spain. It includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Report about the embassy sent by the King of Spain to the <i>Shogun</i> and his son, embassy composed by three Franciscan friars. 1617• [Report by] Fray Diego de Santa Catalina to the Viceroy at his arrival to New Spain, about his trip to Japan with others fellow religious. 1617 February, 25.
Date	1617 March, 13. México.
Reference code	MEXICO,28,N.49

AGI Document nº 53

Title	Letter from Diego Fernandez de Córdoba, viceroy of New Spain, to Felipe III, King of Spain, informing, among other things, about the arrival to Acapulco of the embassy composed by three San Francisco's Priests.
Date	1617 May, 24. México.
Reference code	MEXICO,28,N.51

AGI Document nº 54

Title	Royal document (<i>Real Cédula</i>) addressed to Diego Fernández de Córdoba, viceroy of New Spain, ordering him, on one hand, to sell the Spanish presents that were refused by the <i>Shogun</i> and, on the other hand, that he gives a good treatment to the Japanese, despite the bad treatment received by the Christians in Japan.
Date	1617 June, 20. Madrid (Spain).
Reference code	MEXICO,1065,L.6 (Images number 442, 443 and 444)

AGI Document nº 55

Title	Letters from Diego Fernandez de Córdoba, viceroy of New Spain, to Felipe III, King of Spain, informing him of financial issues. It includes two documents about the taxes of the Japanese goods.
Date	1618 May, 25. México.
Reference code	MEXICO,29,N.6

AGI Document nº 56

Title	Letter from Diego Fernández de Córdoba, viceroy of New Spain, to Felipe III, King of Spain, informing about the situation of the Philipines and the Spanish embassy to Japan.
Date	1617 October, 20. México.
Reference code	MEXICO,28,N.56

AGI Document n° 57

Title Letter from Diego Fernandez de Córdoba, viceroy of New Spain, addressed to Felipe III, King of Spain, relating, among other things, the ban on exports of silver and gold to Japan.

Date 1618 May, 25.

Reference code MEXICO,29,N.5

AGI Document n° 58

Title Letter from Diego Fernandez de Córdoba, viceroy of New Spain, to Felipe III, King of Spain, informing him of the financial issues, including the taxes to Japanese.

Date 1619 May, 25. México.

Reference code MEXICO,29,N.23

AGI Document n° 59

Title Letter from Juan de Alvarado Bracamonte, Manila's Court prosecutor (*Fiscal de la Audiencia de Manila*), about the purchase of Japanese ships in prevision of a Dutch attack.

Date 1619 July, 28. Manila (Philippines).

Reference code FILIPINAS,20,R.13,N.86

AGI Document n° 60

Title Letter from fray Pedro Arce, bishop of the city of Santísimo Nombre de Jesús [Cebú. Philippines], to the King of Spain, about the rivalry of the Jesuits and other religious Orders in Japan, the attitude of the Japanese towards the Christians in Japan, and the situation of the Archbishopric of Manila.

Date 1619 July, 30. Manila (Philippines).

Reference code FILIPINAS,76,N.10

AGI Document n° 61

Title Letter from Alonso Fajardo de Tenza, governor of the Philippines, dealing, among other things, about the presents that were sent to the *Shogun*.

Date 1619 August, 10. Manila (Philippines).

Reference code FILIPINAS,7,R.5,N.58

AGI Document n° 62

Title Royal document (*Real Cédula*) to fray Pedro Arce, bishop of the city of Santísimo Nombre de Jesús [Cebú. Philippines], replying his letter of July 1619 where the Bishop informed, among other things, of the intention of the Jesuits to expel other religious orders from Japan.

Date 1620 October, 31. San Lorenzo (Spain).

Reference code FILIPINAS,329,L.2 (Images number738, 739 and 740)

AGI Document n° 63

Title Letter from Miguel Garcia Serrano, archbishop of Manila, relating, among other things, to the prosecution of Christians in Japan and the suspension of the travel of Luis Sotelo, Franciscan friar, as bishop.

Date 1621 July, 30. Manila(Philippines).

Reference code FILIPINAS,74,N.91

AGI Document n° 64

Title Letter from Miguel Garcia Serrano, archbishop of Manila, relating the

	religious distinguished for the prelates, including Fray Luis Sotelo, Franciscan friar.
Date	1622 July, 31. Manila (Philippines).
Reference code	FILIPINAS,74,N.93

Description of the objects

The Keicho-era Mission to Europe, organized upon advice from the missionary Luis Caballero de Sotelo (1574-1624), by Date Masamune (1567-1636), Lord of the Sendai han (feudal domain), with his subordinate Hasekura Tsunenaga as its leader, was sent to visit the King of Spain and the Pope during the Keicho (1596-1615) and Genna (1615-1624) eras. Its purpose is said to have been to request for missionaries to be sent to Japan and to establish a trade relationship with Mexico, which was under Spanish rule at that time. The objects brought back to Japan by the mission after the 7 years of travel are collectively known as the Materials Related to the Keicho-era Mission to Europe.

San Juan Bautista, the ship used by the mission, was built in Japan. The Western style ship was constructed by Date Masamune with permission from the Tokugawa government and cooperation from Sebastian Vizcaino (1548-1628), using the Tokugawa government's shipbuilding department and numerous carpenters and blacksmiths.

The mission headed by Hasekura Tsunenaga left the Tsukinoura bay in Sendai on October 28, 1613, crossed the Pacific ocean using the Manila Acapulco (Manila Galleon) route discovered by Andrés de Urdaneta in 1565. After landing in Mexico, the mission crossed the Atlantic ocean and arrived in Spain, and travelling on land and sea, reached Rome on October 25, 1615.

The "Certificate of Citizenship of Rome" was conferred by the city of Rome to Hasekura Tsunenaga during this visit. It is written in Latin using gold ink on parchment with seven circles drawn along the upper edge and on either upper sides, in which "Submission of pagans to Rome", "Romulus and Remus", "Rome's coat of arms", "Family crest of the Hasekura family" and the coats of arms of three Roman Senates are painted.

The certificate, on which Hasekura's name is written including his baptismal name (PHILIPPO FRANCISCO FAXECVRA ROCVYEMON), testifies that Tsunenaga is conferred Citizenship of Rome and also is ennobled. The certificate also mentions the name of Date Masamune (IDATE MASAMVNE) and at the end of the text the date "November 12, 1615" (Anno ab vrbe condita MMCCCLXVI et ab orbe redempto MDCXV, XII kal[enda]Decembris) is given. According to the "Minutes of Roman city council" in the collection of Archivio Storico Capitolino and other records, Hasekura's attendants were also conferred citizenship only, in addition to the certificate of himself, but this special certificate issued to Tsunenaga is the only one that exists today. It is a record of the official treatment Hasekura received in Rome and evidences that the European world received Japanese people with due respect.

The materials include 2 portraits, one depicting Hasekura Tunenaga and the other the Pope Paulus V. The portrait of Hasekura, which is thought to have been painted in Rome by Claude Deruet (1588-1660) an artist associated with Roman Curia, is an important work as the oldest portrait of a Japanese painted in oil. It portrays Hasekura, with a rosary in his hands, looking at a crucifix and praying. The figure of a man who made an extremely difficult travel from the country on the eastern edge of Asia to Rome, the center of the Christian world, supported by his strong mind and deep faith, not only reflects his personality but also demonstrates how the Europeans of the 17th century understood the Japanese when they saw these people firsthand. The folds and creases visible around the center of the painting are said to have resulted from the persecution of Christianity after Hasekura's return to Japan. The portrait was preserved by the Hasekura family after Tsunenaga's return, until it was confiscated by the Sendai han government in 1640, when the family was deprived of the status for a crime related to Christianity, and had been kept in the government's storage.

When Hasekura Tsunenaga arrived in Rome he was granted an informal audience with the Pope Paulus V at Palazzo del Quirinale on October 29, 1615, received the blessing of the Pope on November 1 during the mass at Basilica di San Pietro in Vaticano, and was granted a formal audience with the Pope at the Vatican on November 3. "Portrait of Pope Paulus V" has traces of the Pope's name "PAVLVS" and an inscribed date on the upper edge. There is an opinion that the portrait was painted by Antonio Scavati (c.1557-1622), who was specialized in portraits of Popes (Kristhina Herrmann Fiore, 1993).

This portrait is a proof of warm reception given by the Pope and Roman Curia to the mission. This is evident from the fact that Paulus V later issued a mandate to soothe and encourage the Christians in Japan who were suffering from the persecution.

On the other hand, Spain is nominating materials from the General Archive of Simancas (AGS) and the General Archive of Indies that are related to the Keicho-era Mission to Europe.

The General Archive of Simancas (AGS) holds letters from Hasekura Tsunenaga to the King of Spain, letters by Luis Caballero de Sotelo, detailed records of the mission's stay in Spain, and letters exchanged with Rome on the mission's visit to the Roman Curia (Vatican).

The General Archive of the Indies mainly holds correspondence between the Indies's advisory conference and privy council, as well as reports from the Philippines' government general.

The collection of two archives in Spain includes following important documents.

Copy of the settlements (capitulaciones) signed by Date Masamune and viceroy of New Spain (AGS document no.1), official letters from Tokugawa Ieyasu and his son Hidetada to the Duke of Lerma (AGI documents no.3 and 4), draft of the letters from Felipe III to Ieyasu, Hidetada and the Lord of Sendai (AGI 12,15, 42). These documents are official diplomatic records at that time showing the history of the exchange between Japan and Spain.

The letters from Hasekura Tsunenaga, head of the mission, to the city of Seville and to Felipe III (AGS documents no. 4,14 and 29), show us Tsunenaga's struggle to complete the mission against the context of increase oppression and ban to the Christianity in Japan.

From the Queries (consulta) of the Council of the Indies (AGI documents no. 26 and 28), one can follow Spanish treatment to the Japanese mission in detail.

The letters from Luis Sotelo to the city of Seville and the King of Spain (AGS documents no.5 and 28) shed light on Sotelo's effort to help the mission to complete their work, considering interest of both Japanese and Spanish side.

The copy of letter from Sebastian Vizcaino to the king of Spain (AGI document no. 20) is interesting because one can know his view on propagation of Christianity in Japan, different from that of Hasekura and Sotelo.

The other documents in two archives are also extremely important because they include the records of the decision to accept the mission from Japan within the people in New Spain and Spain, records of the behaviour of the mission members and other outstanding testimony of the history of east-west exchange.

As explained above, the objects collectively known as "Materials Related to the Keicho-era Mission to Europe" are important cultural properties marking the remarkable achievement in the history of east-west exchange during the Age of Discovery, and are unique and incomparable heritage which have been handed down for 400 hundred years to this day.

3.4 History/provenance

Documents at the Sendai City Museum (SCM)

After Hasekura Tsunenaga returned to Sendai in September 1620, the "Portrait of Pope Paulus V" was presented to Date Masamune, the Lord of the Sendai han (feudal domain), and the rest of the materials remained in the possession of the Hasekura family. In 1640, when the Hasekura family was deprived of the status and privilege of samurai for a crime related to Christianity, the objects preserved by the family were confiscated by the han government, and although they were prohibited to possess, had been kept in the government's storage since then.

With the abolition of the han system and establishment of the prefecture system in 1871, the materials kept in the han government's storage excepting the "Portrait of Pope Paulus V", were placed under the custody of the Miyagi prefectural government. They were returned by the prefectural government to the Date family upon the family's request in 1889. In the early Meiji period (1868-1912), the "Portrait of Pope Paulus V" left the Date family and was obtained by Fujisaki Jiemon, but in the early part of the second half of the Meiji period it was presented to the Date family by Ono Kiyotaka, former retainer of the Date family. At that point the entire materials were back in the possession of the Date family.

After World War II, the materials, which were on long-term loan to the Museum (the present Tokyo National Museum) went into the possession of a private collector, while they remained in the care of the museum. On July 17, 1964 Sendai city obtained them by purchase from the said collector and put them in the custody of Sendai City Museum. The materials are in the museum's collection to this day.

Documents at the General Archive of Simancas (AGS)

The General Archive of Simancas, started by Carlos I (King of Spain, 1516-1556) and completed by his son Felipe II (King of Spain, 1556-1598), houses all the documentation produced by the government bodies of the Spanish monarchy from the time of the Catholic Monarchs (1475) until the birth of the Liberal Régime (1834). It represents, therefore, the most homogeneous and complete document collection of our historical memory of the 16th to 18th centuries.

This major set of documents has been housed since the 16th century in a purpose-built archive building constructed by Juan de Herrera. Since that time, the generations of archivists have maintained it in order to prevent its loss or deterioration; they study and describe it so as to understand its content, and publicise it in order to make it better known and appreciated by the public. With such support any member of the public may easily gain access to study of one of the most outstanding eras of our historical past.

Documents at the General Archive of the Indies (AGI).

The General Archive of the Indies is basically responsible for custody of the resources produced by the institutions created by the Spanish Administration for the government and administration of Spain's overseas territories. These institutions are: the Council of the Indies and the Office Secretariats, the Contracting House and the Consulates of Seville and Cadiz. It also preserves other resources from less important institutions, as well as those from private individuals linked to Spanish colonies in America and Asia. It was created in the XVIII century mainly with the documents that were previously at the Simancas Archive.

The aim of the Archive is to conserve these resources and, through their organisation and description, encourage their dissemination to all citizens.

3.5 Bibliography

Japan

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OFFICE MUVE,

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Miguel Leon Portilla,

El Galeon del Pacifico,

Gobierno Constituyente del Estado de Guerrero, Mexico, 1992

Spain

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4.0 Legal information

4.1 Owner of the documentary heritage (name and contact details)

Japan

Name	Address	Telephone	Facsimile	Email
Sendai City	3-7-1 Kokubun-cho, Aoba-ku, Sendai-shi, Miyagi	+81-22-261- 1111	+81- 22- 211 -1291	Som001020@city.sendai.jp

Spain

Name	Address	Telephone	Facsimile	Email
Spanish Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport	Plaza del Rey nº 1. Planta 0. 28018 Madrid	34 91 70 17 271	34 91 70 17 403	secretaria.libro@mcu.es

4.2 Custodian of the documentary heritage (name and contact details if different from the owner)

Japan

Name	Address
Sendai City Museum	26 Kawauchi, Aoba-ku, Sendai-shi, Miyagi

Telephone	Facsimile	Email
+81 -22-225-3074	+81-22-225-2558	Kyo019500@city.sendai.jp

Spain	Address
Name	C/ Miravete, 8,
General Archive of Simancas	47130 Simancas (Valladolid)

Telephone	Facsimile	Email
(34) 983 590 750	(34) 983 590 311	
(34) 983 590 003		
(34) 983 591 812		

Name	Address
General Archive of the Indies	Edificio de la Lonja, Av. de la Constitución, 3, Edificio de La Cilla C/ Santo Tomás, 5, 41071 Sevilla

Telephone	Facsimile	Email
(34) 95 450 05 28	(34) 95 421 94 85	

4.3 Legal status

Japan

Complete ownership is held solely by Sendai city (local autonomous entity).

The custodian is Sendai City Museum, a registered museum as stipulated in the Museum Law and an "public approved institution", which is admitted to exhibit cultural properties as stated in the Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties (an institution which belongs to the Sendai Municipal Board of Education)

The materials were designated as important cultural property on June 11, 1966 and designated as national treasures on June 22, 2001 as stipulated in the Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties, and their preservation and opening to the public are done according to the regulations of that law.

Spain

Ministerio de Educación, Cultura y Deporte (Spanish Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport for the documents from the General Archive of Simancas and the General Archives of the Indies.

4.4 Accessibility

Describe how the item(s) / collection may be accessed

Japan

The materials are displayed at Sendai City Museum.

Photographic images of the materials are available on the website of Sendai City Museum at <http://www.city.sendai.jp/kyouiku/museum/syuzou/index.html> as "Principal objects in the collection". You can also access in Cultural Heritage Online (website managed by the Agency for Cultural Affairs).

All access restrictions should be explicitly stated below:

None.

Spain

Free access at the two Spanish archives where the originals documents are kept. Reproductions of some of the documents are public on the website of the Spanish State Archives (<http://pares.mcu.es/>)

4.5 Copyright status

Describe the copyright status of the item(s) / collection

Japan

The copyright of the author has expired as its term of protection provided by the Japanese copyright law (50 years after the author's death) has ended.

Copyright of the submitted nomination form is held by The Selection Committee for Memory of the World of the Japanese National Commission for UNESCO.

Copyright of the photographs provided herewith is held by Sendai City Museum.

Spain

All the manuscripts and documents are over 100 years old and therefore form part of the public domain. Digital and other types of copies are covered by intellectual property legislation.

5.0 Assessment against the selection criteria

5.1 Authenticity.

Japan

The conferment of the Certificate of Citizenship of Rome, the representative item among the materials, and its circumstances have been recorded concretely in Minutes of Roman city council" in the collection of Archivio Storico Capitolino and other contemporaneous records in Europe, which prove the authenticity of this document.

The objects including the above-mentioned Certificate of Citizenship of Rome which form these materials are clearly mentioned in a number of different documents and records of the Edo period.

The "Portrait of the Pope Paulus V" and the "Portrait of Hasekura Tsunenaga" are mentioned in "Teizan-ko Jike Kiroku (official history of the Date family)", which records the return of Hasekura, as "brought back a portrait of a European king and portrait of himself. These were painted and given by Europeans" in the entry of September 22, 1620. The portraits are also mentioned together with the "Certificate of Citizenship of Rome" in "Kodan Hitsujo" written in 1724 by a retainer of the Sendai domain.

In the record of Takano Norikane, who viewed the materials brought back by Hasekura preserved in the Sendai domain government's storage on August 29, 1774, the "Portrait of Hasekura Tsunenaga" and the "Certificate of Citizenship of Rome" are noted.

Otsuki Gentaku, a famous doctor of Western medicine and scholar of Western sciences during the mid-Edo period, also examined the objects brought back by Hasekura Tsunenaga with permission from the han government on November 7, 1812, and made a detailed record. ("Kinjo Hiun part 2, 'Consideration on the utensils brought back to Japan by Tsunenaga' ")

Otsuki recorded more than 30 items, including the "Certificate of Citizenship of Rome" and the "Portrait of Hasekura Tsunenaga" among others.

As stated above, the history of these materials can be traced by several written records from the 17th to 19th century. The portrait of Pope Paulus V was presented to Date Masamune, immediately after Tsunenaga's return, and the other materials were possessed by the Hasekura family. However, when the Hasekura family was deprived of the status and privilege of samurai for a crime related to Christianity in 1640 they were confiscated by the han government. Since then, the objects presented to Date Masamune and the confiscated objects had been kept in the government's storage.

With the abolition of the han system and establishment of the prefecture system in 1871, the materials left the Date family and were placed under the custody of the Miyagi prefectural government, and were exhibited in the Tohoku Exposition and viewed by Emperor Meiji in 1876 during his travel around the Tohoku region, and also shown in the Miyagi Prefectural Exposition in 1880. They were returned by the Miyagi prefectural government to the Date family in 1889.

In 1945, after World War II ended, the "Materials Related to the Keicho-era Mission to Europe" left the Date family again and went into the possession of a private collector, who was famous as a lover of old Japanese art, and then were purchased wholly by the Sendai City Museum on July 17th, 1964, and are still housed there to this day. The heritage, even during the time they were owned by the private collector, were deposited in the Museum (the present Tokyo National Museum) as objects on long-term loan to the museum and taken care of by its experts.

There are photographs taken by the photographer Endo Rikuro in 1884, which show the entire collection of the "Materials Related to the Keicho-era Mission to Europe" in Japan. It has been confirmed that they correspond with the "Materials Related to the Keicho-era Mission to Europe" which exist today.

As explained above, the history of the "Materials Related to the Keicho-era Mission to Europe", from the arrival in Japan until they became part of the Sendai City Museum collection, can be traced clearly by records. They are an authentic heritage with the evaluation established through research by many scholars, and designated as National Treasures by the Japanese government in 2001.

Spain

The documents related to the Keicho era Embassy in custody of the General Archive of Simancas and the General Archive of the Indies have been preserved since the XVII century in the public administration Archives: first at the Archive of Simancas (XVII century) and later on, in the XVIII century, some documents were transferred from the Simancas Archive to the Indies Archives. These facts assure the authenticity of the above documents, since in both Archives were the original documents of the Spanish Public Central Administration in the XVII century.

5.2 World significance

This document heritage is a collection of materials related to the Keicho-era mission to Europe, a mission sent from the country on the eastern edge of Asia to the Western world. The mission was a

symbolic event of the Age of Discovery, and its success especially depended on the Manila Galleon route. The fact that the "Certificate of Citizenship of Rome", which testifies that Tsunenaga was conferred citizenship of Rome and also was ennobled, and the "Portrait of Pope Paulus V" and "Portrait of Hasekura Tsunenaga" were given to Hasekura indicates the mission was received by the European world with great interest and due respect, and these materials clearly show this actually happened. The diplomatic materials that remain in Spain and records of meetings that took place in the country are evidence of the mission and its duties, and help us understand in more detail the reactions and responses of Europe, which accepted the mission.

This cultural heritage reflects the great impact the Keicho-era mission had on the European people, and indicate the significance of the role the mission played to enhance the understanding of the existence of a different cultural sphere among Europeans. The materials are formed of real objects from such a remarkable event and related documents and have a great significance in world history.

Prior to the Keicho mission, the Tensho Embassy is known to have been sent to Europe in the late 16th century. This mission, consisting of only four boys and attendants, was planned by the Jesuit missionary Alexandro Valignano (1539-1606) as a sort of courtesy visit with religious reasons, and quite different from the Keicho mission, which was sent with permission from the shogunate and had concrete purposes regarding diplomacy, trade and religion. Further, there exists no material which has been proved as items directly brought back to Japan by the Tensho Embassy members themselves.

Because Japan maintained the ban on Christianity and the "isolation policy" for more than 250 years, after the return of the Keicho mission, no similar mission was sent to the European countries during that period. Therefore, the objects brought back by the Keicho Mission are the only examples of materials brought back from Europe known to exist.

Presently, there are ten-odd objects said to have been brought back to Japan by the mission other than the materials discussed here, but they have no proof of their authenticity. Therefore, these objects cannot replace the said materials.

From these reasons, these materials are the only authentic examples, outstanding both in quality and quantity, of materials to shed light on the history of the east-west exchange during the Age of Discovery and they are quite important for the world history.

5.3 Comparative criteria:

1 Time

With the international exchanges brought about by the advancement of shipbuilding techniques and navigation art, and the worldwide activities of Catholic missionaries as background, Europeans made inroads and expansion of their influence into Asia from the 16th century. Europeans arrived in Japan for the first time in 1542 (another opinion says 1543) and the first missionary work was done in 1549 by Francisco de Xavier (1506-1552). More frequent visits of European ships to Japan and an increase in the Christian population in Japan resulted from the discovery of the Manila Acapulco (Manila Galleon) route by Andrés de Urdaneta in 1565.

It is said that Sotelo, a Franciscan friar from Spain, wished to stabilize his missionary work in Japan, and appointment of a Franciscan bishop, while Date Masamune had a scheme to expand his power by opening trade with Mexico. It was their common interest which made the Keicho-era mission to Europe a reality. The opportunity to send the mission was generated by the combination of the Spanish catholic group's situation and the great ambition of Date Masamune, the powerful feudal lord in the Tohoku region, set in the background of the relation between Europe and East Asia at that time.

In Japan, in the year the mission left, persecution of Christianity began on a full scale as an order to expel the missionaries and Christians was issued throughout Japan. From 1635 travel to and return from overseas countries of the Japanese was prohibited.

Thus, the Tokugawa government strengthened and established the "isolation" policy, and maintained it until the Treaty of Amity and Commerce was concluded between Japan and the United States of America in 1858. The ban on Christianity was lifted in 1873. Therefore, after the Keicho-era mission to Europe, it was impossible to send a similar mission to Europe.

As stated above, the Keicho mission clearly reflects the international and Japanese situations of the early 17th century. We cannot help but conclude that there was no chance other than this opportunity to send any kind of mission successfully. The objects related to the Keicho mission are an incomparable cultural heritage that records such a period.

2 Place

The Keicho mission was sent to the King of Spain Felipe III and the pope Paulus V, and so the destinations of their travel were Madrid and Rome. The reason the mission visited the king of Spain was that Mexico, with which Date Masamune wished to open trade, was a colony of the Spanish empire and the destination of Manila Acapulco route.

The mission, on their way to the destinations, made a call at Havana (Cuba), which was also a domain of Viceroy of Viceroyalty of New Spain. On their way back to Japan, Hasekura Tsunenaga and other members of the mission had to stay in Manila (Philippines) for more than 2 years. This place was also a domain of the Spanish empire occupied by Miguel Lopez de Legazpi (1502-1572) by an order of Viceroy of Viceroyalty of New Spain.

The places which were important for the mission's journey were all owned by the Spanish empire, indicating that the mission's travel would not have been possible without the existence of the extensive territories of the Spanish empire, which was once called "the empire on which the sun never sets".

The mission's travel was a great expedition from the eastern edge of East Asia to Europe, taking 7 years and crossing the Pacific Ocean, Middle America, the Atlantic Ocean, the Iberian peninsula and the Mediterranean Sea.

The "Certificate of Citizenship of Rome", "Portrait of Hasekura Tsunenaga" and "Portrait of Pope Paulus V" were produced and obtained in Rome, their final destination. The "Certificate of Citizenship of Rome", in particular, was issued by the city of Rome and mentions the specific locations and organizations, the names of specific individuals and dates.

For reference: *Itinerary of travel from Japan to Europe*

October 28, 1613 Departed from Tsukinoura, Sendai domain

January 28, 1614 Landed at Acapulco, Mexico

After staying in Mexico city, departed from San Juan de Ulúa, and made a call at Havana

Circa October 5, 1614 Landed at Sanlúcar de Barrameda, Spain

After staying in Sevilla for one month, visited Cordova and Toledo en route to Madrid

Circa December 5, 1614 Arrived in Madrid

August 22, 1615 Departed from Madrid

Visited Zaragoza and Fraga en route to Barcelona, from where took sea route and made a call at Saint-Tropez, Savona and Genova

October 18, 1615 Landed at Civitavecchia

October 25, 1615 Arrived in Rome

Itinerary of return travel

January 7, 1616 Departed from Rome
Circa April 17, 1616 Arrived at Madrid
July 4, 1617 Departed from Sevilla, and sailed again to Mexico
April 2, 1618 Departed from Acapulco, Mexico
Circa August 10, 1618 Arrived at Manila

Stayed in Manila for about 2 years

Circa August, 1620 Arrived at Nagasaki
September 20, 1620 Returned to Sendai

3 People

Persons recorded in the materials include Hasekura Tsunenaga himself (the Portrait, Certificate of Citizenship of Rome), the pope Paulus V, whom Tsunenaga was granted a formal audience with on November 3, 1615 (the Portrait), three Roman Senates including LVDOVICVS RENTIVS (Certificate of Citizenship of Rome), and Date Masamune (ditto). Other than them, many persons in Japan, Spain and other places in the world were concerned with these materials. They include Tokugawa Ieyasu, who granted permission to the mission to travel, the missionary Luis Caballero de Sotelo, who gave advice to Date Masamune to send a mission and accompanied the mission from Japan to Spain, Rome and Manila, Sebastian Vizcaino, Mukai Tadakatsu, Head of the Tokugawa government's shipbuilding department and many carpenters and metal smiths who took part in the construction of the Western style ship in Japan, about 40 Spanish sailors from the ship San Francisco which was wrecked near Japan who became crew members of the mission's ship and worked as navigators, etc., Gregorio Matias, an Italian who spoke Japanese fluently and worked as an interpreter of Italian; the Viceroy of Viceroyalty of New Spain, the King of Spain Felipe III, the pope Paulus V and Cardinal Scipione Borghese (1576-1633), who received Hasekura Tsunenaga and people the mission met at each place they visited.

The mission included Takino Kahei, Itami Somi and Noma Hanbei as representatives of the Christians in the Kinai (Kyoto, Nara and surrounding areas) region, who were granted an audience with the Pope and made a petition to the canonization of 26 Catholics crucified by the order of Toyotomi Hideyoshi in Nagasaki. It was a remarkable achievement at that time that they explained directly to the Pope the severe situation of the Japanese Christians and their firm faith.

The mission could only have been realized after the great discovery of Andrés de Urdaneta and other explorers of ocean routes during the Age of Discovery.

The great achievement of the mission was the result of mutual understanding and cooperation of these people, and through this mission the exchange, mutual understanding and cooperative relationship between the people in Europe and East Asia were enhanced. These materials are a precious collection of objects that prove these facts concretely.

4 Subject and theme

The Materials and other relevant documents Related to the Keicho Mission are the only group of actual objects to exist in East-Asia which shed light on the history of early 17th century east-west cultural exchange in the fields of diplomacy, trade and religion. The "Certificate of Citizenship of Rome" was conferred on Hasekura Tsunenaga after the city of Rome decided to give him citizenship of Rome and ennoble him. It is an official document in the traditional style and proves the mission headed by Tsunenaga was formally accepted by the European world. It is an important material in the history of diplomacy.

The portraits of Hasekura Tsunenaga and the Pope Paulus V are precious evidence of the Japanese Christian faith in the early 17th century and its actual situation. They are evidence of the response of Europe to the mission as Christians, and are quite important historical materials of spiritual exchange

between the East and the West.

The portrait of Hasekura is an important work in art history as the earliest portrait of a Japanese painted in oil. It is also the only painting of a praying Japanese Christian, who actually existed in the 17th century, and was produced at that time.

Furthermore, the related documents that remain in Spain demonstrate through records the European mission and its duties, and are hugely valuable in the field of diplomatic and cultural history.

5 Form and style

The "Certificate of Citizenship of Rome" written in the form of the official document of the city of Rome, is a rare example which exists in Japan and East Asia, where there is no custom to use parchments as recording medium.

The portraits of Hasekura Tsunenaga and the Pope Paulus V are oil paintings by 17th century professional artists in Europe depicting actual persons, which were brought contemporaneously to Japan. There is no similar example in Japan.

Letters from Hasekura Tsunenaga to the King of Spain adhere to the official Japanese style of formal writing, and very few examples exist in Europe.

6 Social/ spiritual/ community significance:

The Materials Related to the Keicho-era Mission attracted the attention of many intellectuals since early on. They are recorded in many writings including "Teizan-ko Jike Kiroku (official history of the Date family, 1706)", "Kodan Hitsujo" written in 1724 by Hachiya Yoshitaka, a retainer of the Sendai domain, "Takanoke Kiroku (diary of Takano Norikane, 1774) and "Kinjo Hiun" (1812) by Otsuki Gentaku, a scholar of Western sciences. In Japan during the time of the persecution of Christianity and "Isolation policy" when objects related to Christianity were closely hidden for the public, the unique collection of actual materials conveying information on European countries and the world of Christianity, was a precious source of knowledge to understand the European society, culture and religion.

After the materials were open to the public in the modern period, when Japan was working to modernize itself following the example of European countries, the materials quickly drew attention as a record of the earliest achievement in the history of exchange between Japan and Europe and were recognized as extremely important historical heritage. As a result, it was viewed by Emperor Meiji, shown in exhibitions and became the subject of scholarly research. The high regard for the heritage's significance eventually led to its designation by the Japanese government as Important Cultural Property in 1966, and then as National Treasure in 2001.

As the Keicho-era Mission to Europe is mentioned in all textbooks currently used for school education, it is well known among youths.

The port of Tsukinoura, from where Sant Juan Bautista departed is located in Ishinomaki city of Miyagi prefecture. There is a museum featuring the Keicho-era Mission to Europe (Miyagi Sant Juan Bautista Museum) in the city, and in its dock area stands a replica of Saint Juan Bautista, which was produced to appeal the internationality, progressive way of thinking and challenging spirit of the people of Miyagi to the world. Constructed according to relative documents, the wooden ship measuring 55m long is very popular among the local people and is utilized in many lessons outside the classroom.

At Tsukinoura the conservation and improvement work has been done as a historical site since the Meiji period, and a stone monument was erected. "Sant Juan Festival" and "Commemorative Festival of Sant Juan Bautista's Departure" are held every year by the local people in order to honor the historical heritage, promote international exchange, and to pass the memory of the mission on to the future

generations.

The replica of Sant Juan Bautista and the museum were considerably damaged by the Great Eastern Japan Earthquake which occurred on March 11, 2011, and are closed currently. These facilities now serve as the nucleus of the local people's identity and their reopening as a symbol of the recovery of the region is eagerly anticipated.

The year 2013 will mark the 400th anniversary of the Keicho-era Mission's departure for Europe, and commemorative events are under preparation both in and outside Miyagi prefecture.

At the **General Archive of Simancas** and the **General Archive of the Indies**, as cultural institutions, there is a special room for permanent exhibitions. At the same time, temporal exhibitions are regularly held. Both archives have public reading rooms for the general public, where the original documents can be examined. The public of both archives is not only Spanish; people from around the globe visit them because they have the original records of the Spanish Crown in a period in which the Spanish had official and unofficial contacts with America and East Asia.

6.0 Contextual information

6.1 Rarity

There is no heritage comparable to this as a collection of actual objects formed through an exchange between East Asia and Europe which took place during the time the objects were produced, and documents that record these events.

6.2 Integrity

Although the collection partly lacks completeness of its original appearance through secular changes, and show intentional damages as they underwent a time of severe persecution of Christianity, as a whole, it maintains its historical value adequately. Regarding the intentional damages, they themselves are the significant evidence of the historical circumstances they were in after they had been accumulated. The present state in which they are possessed and preserved will ensure the integrity of their historical value in the future.

The documents preserved at the **General Archive of Simancas** and the **General Archives of the Indies** have been preserved by the Spanish central administration services since its origin (XVI for Simancas and XVIII for Indies) because they testify all the official actions taken by the Spanish government during centuries. Although the General Archive of the Indies was created in the XVIII century, it was created with documents that, mainly, were previously located at the General Archive of Simancas. The integrity of the documents has been guaranteed by specific civil servants since its origin.
