

Japanese Silver and the Namban Trade in 16th Century Japan:

The increase in the production of Japanese silver, especially with the development of the Iwami Silver Mine, promoted Japan's involvement in the global economy. The first contacts between Japanese and Europeans were concentrated in the ports of the Satsuma region, situated in the southern part of Kyushu Island, which had flourished with trade by Wokou and Chinese vessels in the previous decades. The Portuguese first came to the ports of the Satsuma region as clients aboard Chinese junks, then later in their own junks with Chinese crews. After Jesuit proselytization began in Japan, the trade came to be influenced by Jesuit intentions. Jesuits sought agreements with Japanese war lords who were interested in foreign trade through their ports with the intention of converting them to Christianity. The year 1562 was a turning point in the early Namban trade in the sense that the Jesuit influence over trade became more pronounced with the opening of the port of Yokoseura. However, even after that year, private Portuguese traders on Chinese junks did not cease going to ports without Jesuits frequented by Japanese merchants in order to acquire Japanese silver. Recently, I analyzed one document in the Archivo Historico Nacional in Madrid that describes direct trade by the Portuguese in Yunotsu (the port of the Iwami Mine) far from Nagasaki, which was the official port for the Namban trade from 1570 to 1639, indicating that private Portuguese traders from Macao continued their business in other ports of Japan outside Jesuit influence. Although my monograph *The Namban Trade* (Brill, 2021, forthcoming in July) analyzed the close ties between the Jesuits and Portuguese merchants, it might be noted that they did not necessarily always have common interests.

自己紹介

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Publications in English: M. Haneda & M. Oka (eds.) *A Maritime History of East Asia*, Kyoto University Press, 2019.

M.Oka. *The Namban Trade* (Brill, 2021, forthcoming in July)

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