

# **Journey of the Sangleys and Their Goods between Taiwan and Manila (1626-1662): A Study of Documents from Spanish Accounting Books**

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## **ABSTRACT**

Ever since the Spanish took over Keelung in 1626, the soldiers and officers stationed in northern Taiwan had had to rely on aid from Manila due to limited local resources. On the basis of documents from the accounting office of the General Archive of the Indies of Seville, this paper analyzes records related to Taiwan from 1626 to 1662, which detail people, including the Sangleys (mestizo), and their goods sent by the government of Manila to northern Taiwan. The analyses reveal the following. Firstly, the people sent included Sangley pilots and sailors sailing the junks, as well as stonemasons, bricklayers, sawyers and carpenters for building forts in northern Taiwan. Among the Sangleys with names recorded were Rufu and his uncle who were merchants, Pablo Pacheco and Francisco Hernández who served as interpreters for communicating with Fujian merchants. Secondly, the Spanish government at Manila depended much on the Sangleys during their occupation of northern Taiwan and the supplies sent, such as daily necessities and food, were mostly bought from Sangley traders in Manila, including the Sangley governor of the Parian. Thirdly, after 1630, around nine Sangley merchants went from northern Taiwan to Manila for trade, although their trading volumes were rather limited. Fourthly, after the Spanish withdrew from northern Taiwan in 1642, few Sangley merchants continued trading between Taiwan and Manila. Only three names, Chapsaqua, Quianco and Yocsay, were mentioned in documents of the 1650s. Moreover, the trade route changed from Keelung in northern Taiwan to Tayguan in southern Taiwan.

**Keywords:** Taiwan, Manila, Sangleys, 17<sup>th</sup> Century, Spanish Accounting Books