

Description and Narrative Context of Cheylam and Tamchuy in Late Sixteenth-century Spanish Document “Manila MS.”

Tsung-jen Chen

ABSTRACT

This article explores how the Spaniards depicted the ethnic groups at Keelung and Tamchuy according to an anonymous manuscript which Charles Boxer named “Manila MS.”. The manuscript is a late sixteenth-century Spanish work with over a hundred custom images of East Asia. Through bringing together related Chinese, Dutch, and Spanish primary sources on Taiwan’s aboriginal documents in the early modern period, and analyzing the text and narrative structure of the Keelung and Tamchuy pictures, the author argues that the descriptions of Keelung and Tamchuy reflect the Spanish and Chinese perspectives on the trade and geopolitical situation of Taiwan waters in the late sixteenth century.

The article concludes by outlining how the relationship between the Chinese, the Spanish, and aborigines in Taiwan developed and explains the circumstances facing the Spaniards in Taiwan waters during the 1590s.

Keywords: “Manila MS.”, Cheylam, Tamchuy, Gómez Pérez Dasmariñas, Geographical Cognition