

XLI, Doc. No. 9

The King of the Country of Ryukyu addresses Your Majesty the King of the Country of Malacca in this despatch.

We have learned that every territory, no matter where, has wealth, and all wealth, no matter where, has its use. And without the exploitation of wealth, how can it be used satisfactorily?

We know well that the people of your country lead a rich life and that your products are abundant. We ascribe this to the virtues of you, the Wise King.

Last year we dispatched envoys and offered our presents, observing the principles of neighborly relations. We were given a great deal of gifts, and you have indeed responded to our heart-felt wishes. We now are specially dispatching Chief Envoy Takushi, Interpreter Sai Kaiho, and others to take a despatch and presents and go into your royal presence to deliver them. We shall be very happy if you will accept them with a smile.

Aboard our ship will be some trifling local products, being carried forth to be exchanged with products of foreign lands. We humbly request that you let our men conduct their business and come home as soon as possible. This would be beneficial to us. Let this despatch be given to the addressee.

It follows:

Our presents are:

Satin in various colors	5 bolts	Blue satin	20 bolts
Swords	5	Fans	30
Big blue vases	20	Small blue vases	400
Blue bowls	2,000		

Despatch to the Country of Malacca

Ch'eng-hua 2/[10/2] [November 9, 1466]⁹

Chief Envoy: Takushi

Deputy Envoys: Gibu, Amuru

Interpreter: Sai Kaiho

XXXIX, Doc. No. 4

The King of the Country of Malacca respectfully addresses Your Majesty the King of the Country of Ryukyu.

We have learned that every territory yields something, and every thing thus

⁹ This date has been furnished by reference to the Ryukyuan manuscript, "Sai-uji kafu" [Genealogy of the Sai Clan] (Kogusuku family).

yielded, has its use. And without the multiplication of production, how can one expect self-sufficiency?

We know that the richness of the livelihood of the people and the abundance of products in your country are due to the virtues of you, the Wise King, whose influence extends to all the world, binds the whole world, and is known to the whole world.¹⁰

Although our country is far away from yours, our friendship has grown ever firmer over these past several years. We have been honored to receive your chief envoy, interpreters and others, who came carrying precious goods, together with a despatch, and paid a courtesy call. We are deeply conscious of our obligation to you. Much as we wanted to dispatch men to go to your country, we have not had an opportunity. Having no other recourse,¹¹ we could only receive it [the despatch]. We have not yet been able to respond.

We are now specially having our presents forwarded with our respects to Your Majesty the King. We shall be very happy if you will accept them with a smile. Thus we indicate our feelings in a small way.

Your chief envoy indicated his satisfaction at being able to enjoy social intercourse. Finally he is ready to go back with the wind.

Let this despatch be given to the addressee.

The presents are now listed below:

<i>Hao San-lien ta-pu</i> ¹²	20 bolts	<i>Chiao-ta-pu</i> ¹³	10 bolts
[<i>Hsi</i>]- <i>chiao-ta-qu</i> ¹⁴	9 bolts	<i>Nan-mo-na-pu</i> ¹⁵	11 bolts

¹⁰ The passage beginning with "due to..." is a tentative translation of 仁德之至之天下九天
下知天下也。

¹¹ This phrase is tentatively translated from 如蒙。

¹² See Annex at the end of the work.

¹³ 椒達布。There are other transcriptions in Chinese for the same cloth, like *tso-ta* 左達 and *shao-ta* 紹達。

Duarte Barbosa mentions *chautares* as one of the many woven cloths produced in Bengal (*The Book of Duarte Barbosa*, translated, edited and annotated by Mansel Longworth Dames, London, 1918-21, Vol. II, p. 146), and this *chautares* corresponds to the cloth called *sha-t'a-erh* mentioned above. (See also Gabriel Ferrand, "Poids, mesures et monnaies des mers du sud aux XVI^e et XVII^e siècles," *Journal Asiatique*, Ser. 11, XVI [1920], p. 230.) The cloth known as *chiao-ta-pu* may be this *chautares*.

¹⁴ 細椒達布。The term "hsi," missing here but adduced from other documents, indicates "fine" or "delicately woven."

¹⁵ 南嘆哪布。Also transcribed *nan-mu-na* 南母拿 elsewhere in Chinese records.

Barbosa mentions *mamonas* as one product of Bengal (*The Book*, Vol. II, p. 146). The *Ying-yai sheng-lan* also carries a note, in its article on Bengal, in which it says: "Ma-hei-ma-lo 羈黑羈勒 is a stuff four feet broad and twenty feet long; on the wrong side it is covered with nap half an inch long; it is (our) *tou-lo-chin* 兜羅錦." (Quoted in Rockhill, "Notes on the Relations," *T'oung Pao*, XVI (1915), p. 440) The editor of *The Book of Duarte Barbosa* (Mansel L. Dames) equates *mamonas* with *ma-hei-ma-lo* and regards it as muslin: "Of these, *Mo-hei-mo-leh* may be the *mahmūdīs* alluded to by Barbosa under the name of *mamonas*, or possibly *malmal*, 'muslin.'" (*The Book*, Vol. II, p.

50 bolts all together

Ch'eng-hua 3/3/20 [April 23, 1467]

XLI, Doc. No. 11

The King of the Country of Ryukyu addresses Your Majesty the King of the Country of Malacca in this despatch.

Formerly we were honored to receive liberal presents, for which we felt deep gratitude. We have also learned that you, the Virtuous King, enjoy long life and much good fortune. This is the blessing of Heaven.

There has been intercourse and friendship for many years between our country and yours. Is this not the result of a felicitous exchange of envoys, though it involves but a small number of people and a brief space of time on each occasion?

We are here again dispatching Chief Envoy Shimabuku, Interpreter Sai Kaiho, and others to return your courtesy with presents. We shall be very happy if you will accept them with a smile.

There are some goods aboard their ship, too. We hope that you will grant favors [to our people], and it would be much to our advantage if you would allow them to finish their business and come home as soon as possible. Let this despatch be given to the addressee.

The presents are now listed below:

Dyed satin	5 bolts	Blue satin	20 bolts
Swords	5	Fans	30
Big blue vases	20	Small blue vases	400
Blue bowls	2,000		

Despatch to the Country of Malacca

Ch'eng-hua 3/8/? [-1467]

Dispatched are:

Chief Envoy Shimabuku;
Deputy Envoys Jana Utchi and Ufuzatu;
Interpreters Sai Kaiho and Rin Shō

XLI, Doc. No. 12

The King of the Country of Ryukyu, in reference to the matter of courtesy,

146). In the section of Moslem words (that is, Arabo-Persian or Persian words) in the Chinese work called *Hua-i i-yü* [Glossary of Chinese-Foreign Words], "velvet" is given the transcription of *mo-tu-mo-li* 默讀默力. The *ma-hei-ma-lo* may represent this *mo-tu-mo-li* and, thus, velvet.