

Small blue bowls 2,000
 Sulphur 2,500 *chin* (*Tz'u-ch'eng*: 3,000 *chin*)
 Despatch to the Country of Siam
 Cheng-t'ung 7/10/5 [November 7, 1442]²¹
 Interpreter: Chin Shiryō
 Courtesy Despatch

XLI, Doc. No. 4

The King of the Country of Ryukyu, with reference to the matter of courtesy, respectfully communicates with Your Majesty the King of the Country of Siam.

We are aware that neighborly relations are to be maintained according to right principles, and gifts to be exchanged according to rules of ceremony. We are pleased to have learned recently that you the wise king walk in the path of virtue and enjoy every blessing. Although we consider ourselves rulers of separate countries, we follow one and the same principle of looking after the welfare of the people.

We are now dispatching Chief Envoy Takushi and others to proceed to present our humble goods to you and to inquire after you. We would like to have local products of our respective countries exchanged in trade. We would like you to have your officials arrange matters according to your instructions so that our people can come home as soon as possible. This would benefit us greatly.

Let this despatch be given to the addressee.

We now list our presents:

Lustrous [?] green satin	1 bolt	Green and white satin	1 bolt
Lustrous white satin	1 bolt	Lustrous brown satin [?]	1 bolt
[Lustrous] blue satin	1 bolt	Blue satin	20 bolts
Swords	5	Fans	30
Big blue vases	20	Small blue vases	400
Sulphur	2,500 <i>chin</i>		

Despatch to the Country of Siam

T'ien-shun 8/8/9 [September 10, 1464]

²¹ The *Rekidai hōan* also lacks despatches to Siam for the years 1443-1463, and thus details regarding Ryukyuan-Siamese relations during this period cannot be obtained. We assume that one or two Ryukyuan ships were fitted out each year. Interpreter Tei Hō who went on a tributary mission to China in 1450 is reported to have mentioned that he was scheduled to go to Siam after he came back from China to Ryukyu. The Ryukyuan mission at that time requested the Chinese to allow purchase of materials and employment of Chinese artisans for the purpose of building a ship to replace the one in which they had come to China and which had been damaged during the voyage. See *Huang-Ming shih-lu*, under the date Ching-t'ai 1/5/day of *ting-mao* (-1450).

Commissioned Interpreter: Kō Ei

Matter of Courtesy

XLI, Doc. No. 6

King Shō Toku of the Country of Ryukyu respectfully communicates with Your Majesty the King of the Country of Siam.

We have heard it said that the principle of the presentation of gifts emanates from neighborly relations, and that the essence of conducting trade is to regulate to ensure adequate supply.

We have learned with reverence that your grace is exalted and your influence is great. We have been repeatedly honored to receive liberal gifts from you, and we are deeply touched by your favors for our people.

For these reasons, we are specially dispatching Chief Envoy Tsikazan, Interpreter Den Tai and others to take men and a ship in proceeding to your country to present a despatch and presents to Your Majesty the Virtuous King, in order to convey [tokens of] our sentiments to you from afar. We should be very happy if you would accept them.

In a previous year, we dispatched Chief Envoy Takushi and Chief Envoy Ashinmī and their parties aboard two seagoing ships, to proceed to offer presents to you, hoping to consolidate our former association for ever. We have not yet been informed as to whether or not these two ships may still be there [in Siam] because of a delay in their business. We wonder what has caused their delay in returning to this country until now. Therefore, we humbly request that Your Majesty the Virtuous King, esteeming the righteousness of your successive royal forefathers and considering the intimate relations they maintained [with other countries], would allow the remission of prohibitory regulations and grant tender treatment [to our envoys]. We would like you to have your officials arrange the business as soon as possible and let our people come back to the country speedily with the wind. It would be much to our advantage if all within the four seas could be regarded as brothers and intercourse maintained for ever.

We list our presents below. We hope that you will accept them after examination. Let this despatch be given to the addressee.

The following:

Lustrous green satin	1 bolt	Lustrous pink satin	1 bolt
Lustrous white satin	1 bolt	Lustrous blue satin	1 bolt
Lustrous light blue satin	1 bolt	White-blue satin	20 bolts
Swords	5	Fans	30