

International Research Center for Japanese Studies  
International Symposium

**Deciphering the Dutch Factory Documents: New Perspectives on Early 17th Century  
Japan-Netherlands Relations**

**Overview**

Since 2015, the International Research Center for Japanese Studies has been conducting joint research on documents related to the Dutch Factory in Hirado, held at the National Archives of the Netherlands in The Hague, in collaboration with the National Archives of the Netherlands and the Faculty of Humanities at Leiden University. To promote this collaborative research among the three institutions, an academic exchange agreement was signed on December 9, 2016. Based on this agreement, the International Research Center for Japanese Studies and the Faculty of Humanities at Leiden University have been receiving digital data of the documents from the National Archives of the Netherlands, and have been jointly working on their transcription, Japanese translation, and research analysis.

As a result of this research, in 2025, Leiden University and the International Research Center for Japanese Studies plan to publish the first volume of transcriptions and English summaries, and the first volume of Japanese translations, respectively. To mark this publication, an international symposium on the early history of Dutch-Japanese relations is being planned at the reconstructed Dutch Factory in Hirado City, Nagasaki Prefecture. The symposium aims to bring together researchers from both the Dutch and Japanese sides to present new perspectives on the nature of early Dutch-Japanese relations based on the contents of the documents included in this publication. The goal is to elucidate, from an international and interdisciplinary viewpoint, how these activities were specifically carried out.

**Event Details**

Date: March 15, 2025 (Saturday)

Venue: Hirado Dutch Trading Post (2nd floor, Multipurpose Space) (Hirado City, Nagasaki Prefecture)

Organizer: International Research Center for Japanese Studies (Nichibunken)

Co-organizers: Matsura Historical Museum, Hirado Dutch Trading Post

Supported by: Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Japan, Hirado City

Language: English and Japanese

## **Programm**

Morning Session

Chair: Oliver White (Nichibunken)

### 10:00-10:15 Opening Remarks

Naruhiko Kuroda (Mayor of Hirado)

Yoshiharu Okayama (Director, Matsura Historical Museum and Hirado Dutch Trading Post)

### 10:15-10:30 Introduction

Cynthia Vialle (Leiden University), Frederik Cryns (Nichibunken)

### 10:30-11:00 Session 1

- Hideto Maeda (Hirado City Culture and Tourism Department)

About the Trade Restrictions of 1616

- Takashi Kuga (Matsura Historical Museum)

Matsura Takanobu's Return to Hirado and the Dutch and English Trading Posts

### 11:00-11:30 Session 2

- Kiyoshi Matsuda (Professor Emeritus, Kyoto University)

Count Matsura Atsushi and the age of Hirado Dutch trading post

- Masashi Wakamatsu (Kyoto Sangyo University)

The Dutch Trading Post in Hirado and Kyoto, Osaka, and Nagasaki

### 11:30-12:00 Session 3

- Keiko Cryns (SOKENDAI - The Graduate University for Advanced Studies)

Another Battle in the Siege of Osaka: Legal Proceedings of the Dutch

- Fuyuko Matsukata (Historiographical Institute, The University of Tokyo)

Documents with the Shogun's Vermillion Seal (Shuinjō)

Afternoon Session

Chair: Edward Boyle (Nichibunken)

### 13:30-14:00 Session 4

- Noriko Katsumori (Former Director of the Kosetsu Museum of Art)

The 1609 World Map by Petrus Kaerius and Early Japanese Western-style Painting

- Frederik Cryns (Nichibunken)

Water Engineering in the Siege of Osaka: Evidence from Specx's letterbook

### 14:00-14:30 Session 5

- Arjan Agema (National Archives of the Netherlands, The Hague)

Presentation on further unlocking techniques of digitized archives, and the possibilities of applications for modern archival research

- Wim Boot (Leiden University)

*Daimyō* on the Edge: The Matsura Between Two Worlds

### 14:30-15:15 Session 6

- Ivo Smits (Leiden University)

A 1617 Dutch emblem book in Early Modern Japan: Joost van den Vondel's *Vorstelijcke warande der dieren* (Royal Display of Animals, 1617) and its Japanese reception

- Cynthia Vialle (Leiden University)

The annual journeys to the shogunal court: reason and timing

- Leonard Blusse (Leiden University)

Fitting out the junk *Goede Fortuna*, a visit to the local shipyard in Hirado

15:15-15:55 General Discussion

15:55-16:00 Closing Remarks

Leonard Blusse (Leiden University)

17:00-18:00 Public Lecture in Japanese

"About Jacques Specx's letterbook"

- Frederik Cryns (Nichibunken)