

Reviews & Notices

Paolo Giulietti – Olimpia Niglio – Carlo Pelliccia (a cura di). *TENSHŌ 天正, Diario di un pellegrinaggio giapponese alla Curia romana (1585). Fonti manoscritte e a stampa. Todi: Editrice Tau, 2025. pp. 530. ISBN 97912597754974.*
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.55997/2008pslx182br1>

This book analyses the journey to the Italian peninsula of four young Japanese delegates in 1585, who were taken to Europe by Jesuits to visit the papal court of Gregory XIII and the Habsburg court of Philip II. In fact, they were also taken to Spain and Portugal. The mission, which went down in history as *Tenshō shōnen shisetsu* (1582-1590), was organised by Alessandro Valignano and was supported by three feudal lords who converted to Catholic doctrine.

This text was edited by Msgr. Paolo Giulietti, Archbishop of Lucca, Olimpia Niglio of the University of Pavia and Carlo Pelliccia of the University of International Studies in Rome, and was produced as part of the project entitled *Thesaurum Fidei. Missionari martiri e cristiani nascosti in Giappone. Trecento anni di eroica fedeltà a Cristo*, promoted by the Archdiocese of Lucca.

This volume commemorates the 440th anniversary of the arrival of the delegation in Italy, which disembarked on 1 March 1585 in the port of Livorno, thus entering the Grand Duchy of Tuscany, and is part of the initiatives to celebrate the ordinary jubilee, *Pilgrims in Hope*, called by Pope Francis with the bull *Spes non confundit* (9 May 2024).

This *Diario* is an important and valuable contribution that describes the Italian itinerary of the ambassadors using manuscript and printed sources held in State and ecclesiastical archives, as well as libraries in the cities where the four young men passed through and where they visited the main sites and met some civil and religious personalities. The authors are mostly directors and members of archives and libraries, as well as academics and young scholars dealing with the history of missions in the overseas territories in the early modern age.

This work is composed of an introductory part in which there are greetings from some ecclesiastical officials of the Roman Curia and the Japanese Ambassador to the Holy See, Akira Chiba and a foreword and an interesting introduction written by the three editors, through which they deal with all the stages the young legates went through in Italian cities and the particular publishing phenomenon that arose from this event. The first entry recounts the group's disembarkation in the port of Livorno, already mentioned above, and the last recounts the stop in Genoa, as guests of the Republic. The dignitaries embarked from the port of this city on 8 August 1585 to go to Spain and then Portugal, where they sailed aboard the *São Filipe* to Asia. It concludes with an appendix illustrating the relations and interconnections between the city of Lucca and the Japanese Catholic mission in the 'Christian century' (1549-1650). Carlo Pelliccia outlines the main biographical information about the two priests from Lucca, Guglielmo Portico and Angelo Orsucci, both missionaries in the Japanese archipelago. The former was a Jesuit who died the year after his arrival in the country, in 1604, due to a sea voyage; the latter was a preacher friar who arrived in Nagasaki during the Tokugawa persecution, in 1618, and was martyred a few years later in the same city. At the end is a *Bibliografia selecta*.

The entire volume is unique in its genre and is an important book that intends to retrace a singular and particular event in the history of the Jesuit mission in the Land of the Rising Sun. The Tenshō embassy contributed to the phenomenon of mutual acquaintance and cultural interaction that was the basis of Alessandro Valignano's missionary action. This legation led to a dialogue between two cultures that generated an interest in the historical and historiographical field that still today has repercussions and attention from the scientific community.

Michele Peretti

Tullius, William. *On the Ethical Philosophy of Edith Stein Outlines of Morality*. New York: Lexington Books, 2024. p. 244. ISBN: 978-1-66692-367-4. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.55997/2009pslx182br2>

This work is a breakthrough!

Most Steinian scholars agree that Edith Stein's contributions to philosophy are primarily in the areas of Phenomenology, Philosophy of the Human Person and Community, Socio-Political Thought, Metaphysics, Faith and Reason Discourse, and Natural Theology. Added to these are her insights on Christian Spirituality in particular the Carmelite Tradition. We do not however see in the Steinian epistemic community those that claim she has something to say about Ethics and Morality. Tullius' book is a breakthrough in this sense especially in the Anglophone world for he strongly argues that Edith Stein can also be a Moral Philosopher and significantly contributes to this area. Tullius is acutely aware that Stein did not write any treatise on Ethics and yet his thesis is quite straightforward: if the main thrust of Stein's philosophy is what it means to be a human being and how does one live