

introductory unfolding of Pacific historiography and its “institutional genealogies,” which supports the need for this collection. Sketching the development of unique kinds of “Pacific history” from the cultural vantage points of California, Canberra, and Honolulu does indeed “illustrate the diversity and fertility of the field” as well as its “disaggregation.” If researching the history of the Pacific is your aim then this book should offer many fresh and stimulating insights.

### ***The Visitor: André Palmeiro and the Jesuits in Asia***

By Liam Matthew BROCKEY

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Historical studies can be classified into two basic groups. One group attempts to reinterpret popular topics for further historical truths, while the other tries to bring to light those incidents or persons that would remain in oblivion without the help of dedicated scholars. *The Visitor* by Liam Brockey belongs to the second category. This monograph is a biographical account of Father André Palmeiro, Padre Visitador, or Visiting Father, of the Society of Jesus. Father Palmeiro’s missionary predecessors like Visiting Father Alessandro Valignano and Father Matteo Ricci are well-known figures in history. And yet Palmeiro has hitherto been given fewer opportunities for historical investigation.

Father Palmeiro was a key administrator of the Asian mission in the first half of the seventeenth century. He was born in 1569 in Lisbon, Portugal, and died in April 1635 in Macau. At the age of fifteen he joined the Society of Jesus and began his ecclesiastical career as a preacher and university professor. In 1617 he sailed to India, and in the following year he was appointed as Visiting Father, becoming what the author calls “the Visitor.” After remaining in India until 1626, he moved further eastwards to Macau, where he spent the final decade of his life overseeing the mission of Southeast Asia and East Asia.

The chapters proceed in the same chronological order. The introduction begins with the circumstances of Nagasaki in the year of Father Palmeiro’s death, followed by a brief sketch of the Visiting Father as a Jesuit missionary. The main body comprises two parts. The first part or the first five chapters describe Father Palmeiro’s missionary training in Portugal and administrative work in India. The second part, consisting of seven chapters, deals with his last ten years in Macau focused on the missions in Southeast Asia, China, and Japan. The biography is full of administrative difficulties that he encountered in a multi-national organisation consisting of Portuguese, Spaniards, Italians, and local Asians.

This academic book has four main characteristics. First, it is carefully researched with primary sources. The main sources are correspondence of Jesuit missionaries, including Father Palmeiro, which are now preserved mainly in archives in European cities, such as Rome and Lisbon. Most, though not all, citations and quotations have source references.

Second, this monograph is a fully descriptive work with only a few analytical discussions, probably because of the biographical framework and the author’s classical writing style. The author persists in his descriptive chronology of Father Palmeiro from his birth to his death throughout the text. This narrative style is similar to the classical work of Father Pierre-François-Xavier de Charlevoix, a Jesuit procurator of the New France mission, who reconstructed his eighteenth century historical account by faithfully reading and editing the correspondence of numerous