

(right) **Santa Maria of Sevilla**, a copperplate etching reproduced by a Japanese student at Ari-e Seminary, Nagasaki Pref., in 1597. The Christianity first introduced into Japan in 1549 was prohibited in early 17th century until the freedom of religion was recovered after the Meiji Restoration (1868). The print discovered in 1869 in Manila, Luzon, together with another one (entitled The Holly Family) was sent to Rome, but the Pope ordered them returned to Nagasaki.

Fr. Francisco Calderon, *Letter from the College, Amakusa 1592*
“I am sending the etchings prepared by Japanese boys basing upon the pictures brought from Spain, so as you may see the level of their skill. Although they are still young, they have learnt how to design and carve so well and print these pictures.”

Fr. Pedro Martinez, *Monthly Report: Visit to Ari-e Seminary 1596*
“Many prints were prepared in the printing room, and young artists were working with carving knives in the etching room”

(From: C. Watanabe <<http://www.webgates.or.jp/~ichbinhy/gakkai/reikaip/9704rp.htm>>)



(left)
An artist's image of seminary at Arima, near Ari-e in Nagasaki Pref.
(From: Michael Cooper, *Rodrigues, the interpreter an early Jesuit in Japan and China*, Hara-Shobo, Tokyo 1991)

