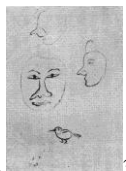


Figures for Akutagawa's Kirishitan Novels (2): "The Smiles of Gods"



The folding screen of the arrival of a Namban ship (1 pair/ 6 folds), Anonymous. ca. 1620-1625, (Rijksmuseum). 3 is a part of 2.



1: The bell of Namban Temple (Myoshinji Temple), 2: Namban Temple Monument (web), 3: Sketch portrait of Organtino (Matsuda), Seminario at Azuchi (Ciappi 1596).



The origin of Ama-no-Iwato Myth (The Dawn of Japan), by The 3rd Toyokuni, 1856 (Kokugakuin Univ.).

Season's Greetings and a Happy New Year

December 2020

Dear friends,

At this season of exchanging greetings, I wish you have been well during this year, safe from the pandemic of the nasty corona virus, which I imagine may be the wrath of God against today's people who have had abandoned the traditional virtue and sense of values.

In February I have received a major surgery for the first time in my life to insert a graft for aortic aneurysm but, thanks to the skill of the surgeon, I have recovered from it to such an extent that I have almost forgotten the disease and the operation as well.

For this year's Christmas reading, I wish to present a summary of another novel by Ryunosuke Akutagawa, "Smiles of Gods (1922)", i.e., a unique piece among his Kirishitan-Series novels. Whilst most of others wrote about the life and events of saints or followers of occidental or oriental origin, this novel told of a story in which a Portuguese father debated with an old man (a disguise of a Japanese spirit) about the difference between the Christian God and Japanese deities with reference to the Bible, sutras and many classic books from both Europe and Japan (See overleaf), ensuring that the author was a phenomenal talent, as reputed. The original text of the novel and its English translation by me has been uploaded in my website, <http://www.maiguch.sakura.ne.jp/>→Essays etc.→Literature Perusal.

Wishing that 2021 will be a peaceful year for you and everyone,

Yours sincerely,

Toshi

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