

TALK:

# The Shogun's Silver Telescope: God, Art & Money in the First English Voyages to Japan, 1611-23

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Wednesday, November 2 / 4:00 PM  
SSMS 2135

The English East India Company was founded in 1600 as a spice-importing organization. In 1611, it sent a ship to Japan, which arrived in 1613. This talk will investigate the purpose of that voyage, since at that time Japan produced no spices. Portuguese missionaries and Dutch traders were active in Japan, and the English sought ways to present themselves to the Japanese in order to foster a competitive advantage. These issues will be analyzed via the object presented to Tokugawa Ieyasu (the founding shogun of the Edo period [1600-1867]) in the name of King James I: a silver telescope.

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