



Antoine Faivre
Lettres des missions du Japon,
ou supplément aux lettres de S. François Xavier
Lyon, Paris, 1830

After Francisco Xavier (1506-1552) first preached Christianity in Japan, he was followed by a large number of Jesuit missionaries who also undertook missionary work. This book contains a total of 50 letters written by 21 missionaries over a 24-year period in chronological order from 1549 to 1573.

The most prolific missionary featured in the book is Luis Frois (1532-1597), whose letters account for 10 of the 50 letters. Frois came to Japan in 1563. He managed to get an audience with Nobunaga Oda and undertook missionary work under Nobunaga's patronage. He is also known as the author of *History of Japan*, a history of Christian missions in Japan.

This book is a record of the era when the path to proselytizing in Japan opened. Through the missionaries' observations and descriptions, it is possible to grasp the atmosphere of Japanese society at this time. It was published in France in 1830.