From the extant historical materials, we can at best generally trace the relationship between Satsuma and Ming China. On Hideyoshi’s military expeditions to Korea, and particularly the movements of the Satsuma army at that time, these traces can be found in Shimazu Hisatoshi’s *Sei-Kan roku*. I first examined the copy of this text held in the Naikaku Bunko (originally held in the Asakusa Bunko). I later learned that it was included in the *Shimazu shiryō shū* (Collection of Historical Documents on Shimazu) and printed with annotations based on the manuscripts held in the collection of Shimazu Hisamitsu.

In an introduction to the *Sei-Kan roku* provided by Hayashi Shunsai, we learn that Shimazu Hisamitsu, grandfather of Shimazu Hisatoshi, the compiler of this work, joined in the Korean Expedition in the army of Shimazu Yoshihiro: ‘How could the veracity of this work, the truth of this chronicle, ever be compared to common street chatter!’ In other words, *Sei-Kan roku* should be regarded as historical material with a high degree of reliability, and it contains much information concerning the relationship between Satsuma and Ming China.

Does this then mean that the events recorded in the *Sei-Kan roku* (and, for that matter, Tokunō Michiaki’s *Seihan yashi*), such as Shimabara Kiuemon’s escorting of two large vessels, the repatriation of Mao Guoke who had been taken as a hostage during the Korean Expedition and brought back to Japan, and Shimabara’s audience with Ming Emperor Shenzong and the extravagant banquet held in his honor in Beijing, are all true? I have attempted to find confirmation in the *Ming shilu* (Veritable Records of the Ming Dynasty), but was unable to locate any record of Shenzong’s holding an audience for Shimabara. Yet, in the *Liangchao pingrang tu* (The Record of Level Land over Two Eras) by Zhuge Yuansheng (preface dated Wanli 34 [1606]), we read:

On [Wanli] 28/4/18 a Japanese vessel carrying Mao Guoke arrived from Changguo in Ningbo. By imperial command it was soon sent home. It bore aloft a large banner on which was written: ‘Pacify the barbarians and sing
triumphantly.' The king of Japan sent one letter to Xing Jinglüe and another to the Fujian Governor Jin Xueceng. With each he included a present of [Japanese] weaponry, horses’ armor, and a golden helmet. They were placed in a box together. On board ship was one Japanese commander, 50 to 60 Japanese soldiers, and an additional twenty to 30 persons outside the imperial command from Zhangzhou and elsewhere who were repatriated. On that day a wind from Jiushan blew and burst into Dinghaiguan that night. The area was terrified and doors were shut. Brigade Commander Lu was sent to investigate and went to see the Zhejiang provincial military commander. A military officer wanted to kill the Japanese to acquire [military] merit, but he was not allowed to do so. Ultimately, a banquet was held with entertainment. The provincial military commander ordered that they be rewarded with silver medals, woven caps, and oxen and lambs…. The provincial military commander dispatched people to go to the Meihuasuo in Fujian. Together with Jin Shengwu, they set sail from their home village. In the eighth lunar month they were able to set off and departed for home.

As we see here, the escort party for Mao Guoke passed through Dinghai from Ningbo en route to Meihuasuo in Fujian. From there they retraced their steps to Japan. Thus, they were received not by Emperor Shenzong but by the Zhejiang provincial military commander. Perhaps the report of their traveling as far as Beijing and being received by the emperor was embellishment passed along by Shimabara Kiuemon.

When the army of Shimazu Yoshihiro and that of Ming General Mao Guoqi confronted one another, a woman from Yoshihiro’s camp appeared with a letter. She was captured by a patrol and brought before General Mao. The letter was from Guo Guoan. Mao then had it sent on to Counselor Shi Shiyong. The Sei-Kan roku records:

[Shi] Shiyong was overjoyed and said: ‘Guo Guoan is a Chinese. When I once sailed to Japan, I met with Guoan at a place called Bōnotsu in Satsuma domain and had an intimate conversation. Now, he is happily in Yoshihiro’s camp. Our troops think that Guoan is a spy, and they are more than willing to destroy the Japanese camp.’ However, because of the details of what Guoan had said, Shiyong wrote up a letter and relied on a Korean merchant to deliver it to Guoan. Soon thereafter, Guoan himself replied in writing. His general point was that he was now in Korea, in the camp of Shimazu Yoshihiro [emphasis Masuda’s].

Shi Shiyong reported that he had conspired with Guo Guoan in the Satsuma army and had wanted to destroy that army, but in the Sei-Kan roku Guo ultimately helped Satsuma with military strategy and won great victory.

The point that a woman had arrived at the military camp of General Mao Guoqi with Guo Guoan’s letter from the Shimazu camp is recorded as well in the