

***The 'daily life' in the Colégio das Artes in an unedited, comprehensive Flemish description of 1655 (Ignatius Hartoghvelt, SJ)***

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The Colégio das Artes received in the 17th century many 'foreign' Jesuits on their way to the (East) Indian missions ("Indipetae) [for the names see U. BALDINI; N. GOLVERS]. Among them was the Dutch – Flemish Jesuit Ignatius Hartoghveldt, who stayed in the Colégio– together with François de Rougemont – in 1655, and described, in a very long and detailed report, addressed to his father (the Catholic printer of the same name in Amsterdam) all possible aspects of the life in the same college: rooms, food, external missions, courses, library, professors, organization of the college life, etc., all in a humoristic way. Particularly interesting is the description of the 'intellectual climate' in the college, including the failed introduction of Descartes's ideas by the Flemish fathers (quite ironically called on the spot: "French fathers"), all revealed in comparison with the corresponding conditions in the Jesuit college in Leuven (Lovaina; Belgium). It looks to me a unique and very well observed 'snapshot' of a particular interesting milieu, one year before the Jesuit Ferdinand Verbiest stayed here as a professor of mathematics, adding his own experiences on the spot.