Unseasonal Winds of Love: Prostitution and the Foreign Community in Early Modern Nagasaki

Is sex a vice or a need? In early modern Japan, it was usually viewed as the latter. Therefore, facilities were provided for the foreign traders who had to conduct business in Japan without the company of their own women. Prostitution took on distinctive characteristics in early modern Nagasaki as a result of its unique clientele, attributes that highlight shogunal attitudes toward sex and foreigners, and reveal the importance of these women in the economy of Nagasaki and as conduits between cultures.

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