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\* During her correspondence with Kino, the Duchess resided in Madrid.

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## INTRODUCTION

Eusebio Francisco Kino, S. J., is too well known to readers to demand more than the briefest biographical outline. In this Introduction we summarize the letters and reports which he wrote to María Guadalupe de Lencastre, sixth Duchess of Aveiro, resident in Madrid, or which others sent to her concerning him; in the body of the volume we give an English translation in full of these messages — thirty-seven in all. A biographical sketch of the Duchess is given in the Introduction. Then some important references in contemporary sources to her and her family are mentioned. In conclusion a word is said about the original manuscripts of the correspondence we are editing.<sup>1</sup>

### I. A Biographical Sketch of Eusebio Francisco Kino (1645-1711)

Eusebio Kino was born on August 10, 1645, in Segno near Trent, in northern Italy, and was christened on the same day. It was not until the recent identification of his baptismal certificate that the date of his birth was known to be in 1645.<sup>2</sup> All biographers and bibliographers had unanimously said that Kino was born in 1644, and undoubtedly Kino himself thought so all his life. Not only

<sup>1</sup> Besides the present edition in English of Kino's letters to the Duchess, another is being published in Madrid by José Porrúa Turanzas, in which my introduction and commentary are translated into Spanish, as also my English version of the the non-Spanish documents.

<sup>2</sup> See the excellent biography of Kino: BOLTON, *Rim of Christendom*, p. 28; facsimile of the entry of Kino's baptism in the parish register; in RICCI, *Chini*, p. 16 (date of entry lacking); BOLOGNANI, *Chini*, p. 45 (with date of entry).