

the author was indebted for a subvention to enable him to prosecute studies in the United States, will now lend its support to an edition in the English language. By no other means could so much be done to remove the misunderstandings to which the Monroe Doctrine has given rise.

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*Letters of John III, King of Portugal, 1521-1557.* The Portuguese Text Edited with an Introduction by J. D. M. FORD. (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1931. Pp. xxx, 408.)

Among the recent acquisitions of Harvard University is a large part of the library of the Portuguese scholar, Fernando de Palha, who died in 1897. Included in the treasures of the Palha collection are 372 letters of King John III. of Portugal, whose reign covers the years 1521-1557. The text of these letters has been edited with meticulous care by Professor Ford of the Department of Romance Languages of Harvard. Professor Ford is also responsible for the scholarly and engaging introduction.

The vast majority of these letters are addressed to Dom Antonio de Ataide, John's chancellor of the exchequer (*vedor de sua fazenda*), and at various times ambassador to the courts of France and Spain. Owing to the important posts held by this official and the unlimited confidence the king reposed in him, the letters touch upon almost every affair of state in which Portugal was involved during the second quarter of the sixteenth century. The question naturally arises: to what extent do these letters shed new light on the reign of John III.? Most of the information hitherto available on this period is derived from two seventeenth century chronicles, one by Francisco de Andrada, printed in 1613, and the other by Frei Luiz de Souza which, though written during the years 1627-1632, was not published until 1844. Andrada was apparently unfamiliar with the letters in the Palha collection. Souza sought and obtained somewhat of the first-hand information contained in the letters but he did not actually use it in his *Annaes*. Any historian, therefore, who essays to write authoritatively on the reign of John III. will find it necessary to place under requisition the letters assembled by Palha as well as the works of the two chroniclers just mentioned.

The letters cover an immense variety of topics and in their multitudinous details we may acquaint ourselves with the manner in which an absolute monarch of the sixteenth century conducted the affairs of his kingdom. To the specialist in Hispanic American History, however, the letters will prove something of a disappointment. When one considers that the reign of John III. embraced such important events as the reconnaissance of the Brazilian littoral by Affonso de Souza, the foundation of the captaincies, the definite establishment of royal authority in Brazil under Thomé de Souza, the French occupation of the harbor of Rio de Janeiro by Villegagnon, and the amazing activities of the Jesuits, we should expect to find repeated and detailed references to Portuguese America. Such unhappily is not the case. A careful scrutiny of the 372 letters reveals only 16 which contain data on Brazil. Of these only two, or at the most three, yield information of importance. In letter No. 8 dated May 18, 1531, John III. instructs d'Ataide, then his ambassador in France, touching the rumors that Martim Affonso de Souza had fallen in with a number of French ships loaded with brazil-wood and had captured them. D'Ataide is to evince skepticism regarding the veracity of such rumors, but if they are subsequently verified he is to demand pointedly of the French court why these French ships were trespassing upon Portuguese preserves. As a matter of fact de Souza did capture a number of these French interlopers but the matter is not pursued further in the letters. In letter No. 35, dated January 21, 1533, the king sends the gratifying intelligence that Pero Lopes de Souza, the brother of Martim Affonso, while making his way up the coast of Brazil, had captured a French factory which had been set up at Pernambuco. In the remaining letters, the references to Brazil are casual and have little historic interest.

The letters are not easy to read. The Portuguese orthography of the early sixteenth century was in a state of flux and the various royal scribes permitted themselves a wide latitude in transcribing the king's dictation. While these variations in spelling may fill the heart of the phonologist or philologist with joy, they constitute a real stumbling-block to the historical investigator. The difficulty is only partly met by a glossary.

Were the reviewer to venture a criticism of this carefully prepared and handsomely printed book it would be that the interests of the

historian seem at times to be sacrificed to those of the philologist. The value of the letters would for example be considerably enhanced through a judicious use of footnotes explaining the less obvious proper names and historical events with which the letters are replete. Footnotes there are, to be sure, but with two or three exceptions they are confined to departures from the readings of the Palha manuscripts. The task of the historical student would also have been facilitated had each letter been preceded by a line or two indicating its contents. Finally, an index, even if incomplete, would have been a welcome addition.

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*Cartas Jesuíticas.* Tomo I. *Cartas do Brasil, 1549-1560.* By MANOEL DE NOBREGA. Tomo II. *Cartas Avulsas, 1550-1568.* (Rio de Janeiro: Oficina Industrial Graphica, 1931. Pp. 258; 520.)

*Dialogos das Grandezas do Brasil, pela primeira vez tirado em livro.* Introduction by CAPISTRANO DE ABREU and notes by RODOLPHO GARCIA. (Rio de Janeiro: Oficina Industrial Graphica, 1930. Pp. 315.)

*Viagem ao Brazil.* By HANS STADEN. Translated from the Marburg Text of 1557 by ALBERTO LÖFGREN, and revised and annotated by THEODORO SAMPAIO. (Rio de Janeiro: Oficina Industrial Graphica, 1930. Pp. 186.)

The Brazilian Academy of Letters, the outstanding learned society of Brazil, has for a number of years been issuing a series of publications under the general title of "Biblioteca de Cultura Nacional". These works fall into the two major divisions of literature and history. In the latter field thus far only five books have been issued. Four of these, which have appeared during the past two years, are considered in the present review.

Volume I. of the *Cartas Jesuíticas* was originally published in 1886 by Sr. Valle Cabral, the head of the manuscript division of the national library of Rio de Janeiro, in an edition which has now become exceedingly rare. The collection consists of twenty-five letters of Manoel de Nobrega, the intrepid missionary who, as leader of a band of five Jesuits, accompanied Thomé de Souza to Brazil in 1549. Cover-