

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.

PERCY ALVIN MARTIN.

Stanford University.

*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-

ing, as they do, the critical period from 1549 to 1560, the letters are an invaluable source for the period of which they treat. The careful annotations of Sr. Valle Cabral have been brought up to date by Sr. Rodolpho Garcia. The letters are preceded by the classic life of Nobrega written in 1719 by Padre Antonio Franco.

Volume II. of the *Cartas Jesuiticas*, known as *Cartas Avulsas* (i.e., "Random Letters") is of even greater importance. It consists of sixty-three letters written by twenty-seven different Jesuits, and embracing the years 1550-1568. The history of this work is not without interest. In 1887, under the auspices of the minister of finance, the *Cartas Avulsas* were set up in type and printed. The publication of the letters, however, was held up until explanatory notes by Sr. Valle Cabral could be prepared. Shortly afterward, a fire in the national printing office destroyed apparently all of the printed copies and for years the work was regarded as irretrievably lost. Though the original manuscript still existed in the national library, it was in such poor condition as to be in large part illegible. But recently a copy of the printed work was discovered—the editor does not tell us how—and this exceedingly important source was saved for posterity as a brand from the burning.

The explanatory notes by Sr. Valle Cabral apparently were never prepared and in their present form the *Cartas Avulsas* owe much to their editor Dr. Afranio Peixoto, President of the Brazilian Academy of Letters and professor at the University of Rio de Janeiro. In the abundant annotation the editor has revealed much ingenuity and erudition in clearing up obscure points and in identifying proper names. As Dr. Peixoto makes clear in his excellent introduction, the letters constitute one of the most important sources for the history of sixteenth century Brazil which we possess. "In the first letters," to quote the editor,

we are carried back to the very dawn of Brazil; when we come to the end, though only a score of years have elapsed, the sun is already high.

The *Dialogos das Grandezas do Brasil* is not strictly speaking a new publication, but like the *Cartas Avulsas* it has had many vicissitudes and was rescued from oblivion by only a narrow margin. The original apparently existed in one manuscript in the national library of Lisbon. Subsequently it disappeared, though not before one of the six dialogues was copied and published in an obscure literary magazine

of Rio in 1848-1849. Thanks, however, to the indefatigable labors of the historian Varnhagen another manuscript was found in Leyden, and was published over a period of four years in the *Revista do Instituto Archaeologico* of Pernambuco. So inaccessible and rare was this publication that the well-known historian, Capistrano de Abreu, arranged for its appearance in the *Diario Oficial* at Rio de Janeiro during February and March, 1900. Thirty years later the Brazilian Academy undertook to render the "Dialogues" available in permanent book form. This new and, it is hoped, definitive edition is based on the text as published by Capistrano and has as its introduction a scholarly article which this same authority prepared for the *Jornal do Commercio* in 1900. The extensive critical notes have been supplied by one of Capistrano's most brilliant disciples, Sr. Rodolpho Garcia.

The "Dialogues," written according to Capistrano in 1616, present an unrivaled picture of conditions in Brazil in the first decades of the seventeenth century. The unknown author was a Portuguese of very real parts. He was acquainted with Latin and had read the works of the leading geographers and scientists of his time. He was familiar with the products of Portugal and its colonists, was a keen student of the fauna and flora of Brazil, and concerned himself with such practical problems as the possible utilization of the Amazon River as a means of establishing communications with Peru. The *dramatis personae* of the book are not real characters; the dialogue is simply a conventional device to sustain the interest of the reader. The six "Dialogues" take up in succession: (1) a summary description of the various captaincies from the Amazon to São Vicente; (2) the origin of the American races and the excellence of the climate of Brazil; (3) the four sources of the wealth of Brazil, namely sugar, brazilwood, cotton, timber; (4) the wealth which might accrue to Portugal and its colony from trade in such commodities as wine, oil, honey, etc.; (5) the fauna and flora of Brazil; (6) the customs of the Portuguese colonists, and a description of the Indians. In fact, there is almost no phase of colonial life which is not touched upon by this shrewd and intelligent observer. The book is supplied with an excellent index.

All students of colonial Brazil have heard of Hans Staden, the enterprising German who went to Brazil in 1548, was captured by anthropophagous Indians, and after a series of almost incredible ad-

ventures and hardships returned to Europe in 1555. His account, which lost nothing in the telling, has become a classic of Brazilian historical literature. Prior to the publication of the book under review no less than twenty-five editions had appeared of which that by Sir Richard Burton published by the Hakluyt Society in 1874 was the most important. The present work is a translation from the original Marburg edition of 1557 prepared in 1900 by Alberto Löfgren and now published with critical notes by Theodore Sampaio. The value of the book is enhanced by the quaint woodcuts and title page taken from the recent facsimile edition of Frankfort (1927).

In rendering available to the scholarly world these classics of Brazilian colonial history, printed in an attractive format, equipped with scholarly introductions and adequate explanatory data, the Brazilian Academy has placed all students of Hispanic American History under a permanent obligation. The appearance of further volumes of the "Biblioteca de Cultura Nacional" will be awaited with eager interest.

PERCY ALVIN MARTIN.

Stanford University.

*Historia documentada de San Cristóbal de la Habana en el Siglo XVI.*

By IRENE A. WRIGHT. 2 vols. (Habana: Imprenta "El Siglo XX", 1927. Pp. xxiv, 314; 263; 8 plans.)

*Historia documentada de San Cristóbal de la Habana en la primera Mitad del Siglo XVII.* By IRENE A. WRIGHT. (Habana: Imprenta "El Siglo XX", 1930. Pp. viii, 190. 7 plans.)

In 1919, the Academia de la Historia of Havana, Cuba, offered prizes for the two best historical monographs to be presented to that body on "The Founding, Removal, and Development of the City of San Cristóbal de la Habana during the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries". The motive for the contest was the celebration of the fourth centenary of the removal of the city of Havana from its first site on the south coast to the north side of the port then called Carenas. Although the two works presented did not exactly conform to the conditions governing the contest, the prizes were awarded to their authors, the first award being made to the author and editor of the two works noted above.