

brief account of Portuguese naval engagements fought between the years 1640, when the monarchy was restored in Portugal, and 1654, when the Dutch were driven out of North Brazil. Rear-Admiral Sousa has added nothing new to our knowledge of the subject he has chosen, but he has, in fluent language, summarized a long and complicated story. This summary of a crucial period, for students who are not too familiar with its naval side, will prove very useful.

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*Martim Soares Moreno, fundador do Seará, iniciador do Maranhão e do Pará, herói da restauração do Brasil contra franceses e holandeses.* By AFRÂNIO PEIXOTO. (Lisboa: Agência Geral das Colónias, Divisão de Publicações e Biblioteca, 1940. Pp. 55. 5 escudos.)

Martim Soares Moreno founded Seará in 1611 and discovered Maranhão and Pará for the Portuguese. He drove the French from Maranhão in 1615, resisted the Dutch in Seará in 1624, fought them in Recife and Pernambuco in 1633. History loses trace of him in 1648. To this valiant warrior to whom the North of Brazil owes so much Afrânio Peixoto pays grateful tribute on the occasion of the Portuguese double centenary of 1940. In a few pages that show what the Portuguese language can be in the hands of a master, he makes of Moreno a symbolic figure, who devoted his life to Brazil and who created a unity and a nationality out of Indians, Negroes, native-born Brazilians, and Portuguese as they joined to drive the invader from Brazil.

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*La libertad del comercio en la Nueva España en la segunda década del Siglo XIX.* [Publication of the Archivo Histórico de Hacienda.] (Mexico, D.F.: Secretaría de Hacienda y Crédito Público, Dirección de Estudios Financieros, 1943. Pp. 203.)

In connection with the organization of the Archivo Histórico de Hacienda in Mexico an important program of documentary publication has been undertaken. The volume under review is the first of a series which is to consist of three additional volumes in 1943 and one per month in 1944. Particularly impressed with the value of making the documents known, the Ministry has employed the more inexpensive method of offset printing in the publication.

This volume comprises nine documents, two of which were contemporaneously printed, relating to the proposal to open the ports of Mexico to trade of foreign countries and the conversion of Habana into a center for illicit trade with the Spanish Indies. They are dated from 1810 to 1819 and contain interesting information on colonial trade and ideas of the consulado and the merchants regarding these subjects of such great economic significance. They include petitions to the crown from the Consulado of Mexico and the merchants of Cádiz, an opinion of the deputy from Mexico to the Cortes of Cádiz regarding the proposed treaty between England and Spain, statements of members of the Consulado of Mexico and of merchants of Vera Cruz on the effects of establishing freedom of trade, an outline of measures proposed by the consulado to prevent illicit trade, and a lengthy general report of the consulado to the Viceroy of New Spain in reply to a petition of two hundred citizens of Vera Cruz requesting opening of the port to direct trade with foreign countries. There is a brief historical introduction by Luis Chávez Orozco and a foreword by Jesús Silva Herzog.

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*Esteco y Concepción del Bermejo; dos ciudades desaparecidas.* By JOSÉ TORRE REVELLO. [Facultad de Filosofía y Letras, publicaciones del Instituto de Investigaciones Históricas, No. LXXXV.] (Buenos Aires: Talleres Casa Jacobo Peuser, Ltda., 1943. Pp. 180, xxxiii, 27.)

This excellent monograph presents the history of two colonial towns on the northern frontier of what is now the Argentine Republic. The first managed to survive its many vicissitudes for one hundred and twenty-six years. The other perished only forty-six years after it was founded.

Esteco, as it was commonly called after the region in which it was located (if one prefer an official designation, he may use *Nuestra Señora de Talavera* or *Nuestra Señora de Talavera de Madrid*), was founded in 1566 by a band of soldiers in revolt. Its existence was shortly regularized. The town lay on the eastern bank of the Río Salado in the extreme northwestern corner of the present province of Santiago del Estero, which places it on the route that connected northern Argentina, and later Buenos Aires, with Upper Peru. During its existence it protected the trade along this route and served as a buffer between the Indians of the Chaco and the towns of Santa Fe, Santiago del Estero, Jujuy, and Salta. As with other Spanish-