

História dos descobrimentos portugueses. By DAMIÃO PERES. (Porto: Portucalense Editora, 1946. Pp. 515.)

This comprehensive study by Professor Peres, the well-known historian of Coimbra University, is welcome inasmuch as it offers a useful synthesis of the history of Portuguese discoveries. In recent years several bulky works have been published in Portugal on the matter. But they were collective, and though there were some excellent chapters in them, such undertakings always lack unity. Professor Peres' book has the advantage of this unity.

Chapters XIV to XVI (pp. 337-456) are of particular interest for Americanists. In the first the author studies the travels of João Fernandes Lavrador and Pedro de Barcelos to Labrador and Greenland, the discovery of Newfoundland by the Córte-Real brothers, the supposed voyage of Duarte Pacheco to the American coasts (1498). Of more direct interest for Hispanic-American history are the study of the discovery of Florida and that of Brazil by Cabral. Chapter XV deals with the reconnoitering of the Brazilian coasts, Chapter XVI with the discovery of the South Atlantic islands.

By discussing objectively, on every question, the diverse points of view of successive authors—up to the most recent ones—Professor Peres' work constitutes a valuable tool for the historian interested in Portuguese discoveries, since it affords him a consistent and useful summary of the present state of investigation in this field.

There is no index in this work—a much regretted lack.

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Les français en Amérique pendant la première moitié du XVI^e siècle. Introduction par CH.-A. JULIEN. Textes des Voyages de Gonneville, Verrazano, J. Cartier et Roberval, edites par CH.-A JULIEN, RENÉ HERVAL, TH. BEAUCHESNE. [Colonies et Empires, Collection internationale de documentation coloniale.] (Paris: Presses Universitaires de France, 1946. Pp. 223.)

Of the several texts this book contains, only one (pp. 25-49) deals with Iberic-America: the relation of the voyage made by Paulmier de Gonneville in 1503-1505 to the coast of Brazil. This text, already published and commented by d'Avezac in 1869, describes the navigation of the ship *L'Espoir d'Honfleur*, India-bound but diverted by a gale to the South American coasts.

The idea of the expedition came to Paulmier de Gonneville when, being at Lisbon, he saw the incredible treasures Portuguese ships were

bringing to the mother country from distant and mysterious India, "empuis aucunes années découverte" by the Lusitanians. There Gonneville hired two of these able Portuguese sailors to serve as pilots in such a risky navigation, through seas that no French mariner had ever viewed. And then there they were, harassed and forlorn, driven by a tempest to the coast of Brazil.

The navigators visited three points on this coast. It is not easy to spot them. All we know is that on the first (perhaps the littoral of Santa Catarina and Paraná) they met rather civilized Indians; that on the second (after almost three months navigating northwards) the inhabitants were naked cannibals who had already seen European navigators; finally, that a hundred leagues beyond the second spot the savages did not seem so ferocious.

This is the oldest record of any French navigation to South America and one of the most remote known travels of Europeans to the Brazilian coasts. It is noteworthy that in the second of the mentioned spots the Indians had already seen "des Chrestiens, comme estoit apparent par les denrées de Chrestieneté que lesdits Indiens avoient," as the account says—apparently Portuguese who had preceded the French.

Notwithstanding the fact that this short relation had been already published, it is stimulating to see that French historians are taking some interest in the history of the Americas, for such literature is extremely scarce among the otherwise abundant and frequently excellent French historical literature. It is to be hoped that this example will be followed and that French scholars will take in the future more interest in Ibero-American history.

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Derecho natural y de gentes. By FRANCISCO DE VITORIA. Traducción del latín por LUIS GETINO. Introducción por EDUARDO DE HINOJOSA. [Biblioteca de filosofía e historia, Colección "Sophia."] (Buenos Aires: Emecé Editores, S. A. [Imp. Argentina, S. A.], 1946. Pp. 293. \$9.00 m/n.)

The four-hundredth anniversary of the death of Francisco de Vitoria has brought forth monographs, congresses, and other tributes in Spain and America. The present commemorative volume reprints the Spanish translation, by the late Luis Getino, of five of Vitoria's studies: "De la potestad de la iglesia," "De la potestad civil," "De los indios recientemente descubiertos," "De los indios o del derecho de guerra," and "Del matrimonio." As an introduction there is also reprinted the