

Tempo dos flamengos: Influência da ocupação holandesa na vida e na cultura do norte do Brasil. By JOSÉ ANTONIO GONSALVES DE MELLO, NETO. Prefacio de GILBERTO FREYRE. [Coleção documentos brasileiros, 54.] (Rio de Janeiro: Livraria José Olympio Editora, 1947. Pp. 335. Paper.)

Only once during the three centuries of the colonial period did a North-European power conquer and threaten permanently to divorce a major part of South America from Iberian control. The menaced area was northern Brazil; the time the second quarter of the seventeenth century; and the invaders the Dutch. This chapter in European expansion and rivalry, or, viewed more narrowly, in the history of colonial Brazil, has not suffered from a lack of interest on the part of scholarly investigators. In the last hundred years half a dozen books and scores of articles have been written on the subject. Prominent among the historians who have given it special attention are Pieter Marinus Netscher (1853), Francisco Adolpho Varnhagen (1871, 1872), Pedro Souto Major (1913), Hermann Wätjen (1921), and José Honório Rodrigues (1940). Now we add to name of José Antonio Gonsalves de Mello, Neto, whose *Tempo dos flamengos* is here under review.

With the appearance of this volume, the literature on the "Dutch period" in Brazilian history has been enriched by a work fresh in its point of view, sound in its research, objective in its presentation, and delightfully terse in its style. It is best characterized as a social history, primarily of Pernambuco and incidentally of the rest of northern Brazil, during the quarter century (1630-1654) that it was under the Dutch. The author, who is a protégé and disciple of Gilberto Freyre, uses the sociological approach, and his aim, as the title indicates, is to measure the influence of the Dutch occupation upon the life and culture of the designated area. This specific and limited goal he has more nearly achieved than any man who has written before him.

This study rests squarely upon the best sources available in Brazil on the subject, as the author's preface (pp. 19-34), his bibliography (pp. 317-323), and especially his voluminous footnotes make amply clear. Although he has made wide use of the standard chronicles and pamphlets of the period, both Dutch and Portuguese, the great core of his documentation is the large José Hygino Duarte Pereira collection of transcripts from Dutch archives (chiefly Old West India Company papers), possessed by the Instituto Arqueológico Histórico e Geográfico Pernambucano at Recife. José Antonio Gonsalves de Mello, Neto, is the first Brazilian who has combined the linguistic qualifications and the tenacity of purpose necessary to exploit this rich collection thorough-

ly, and it is in no small measure owing to this fact that this book is as meaty and as good as it is.

The author divides the body of his text into five chapters, or, more correctly, sections. The first, dealing with the "Dutch and urban life," is the longest, comprising 115 pages or some 40 per cent of his exposition proper. It confines itself essentially to tracing the evolution—architectural, demographic, and social—of the capital of Pernambuco under the Dutch, which is beautifully done, but which points up the fact, perhaps unfortunate, of the author's overwhelming emphasis upon this single, albeit important, captaincy. The second chapter (thirty-five pages) takes up the "Dutch and rural life"; the third (fifty-four pages), the "Attitude of the Dutch towards the Negro and slavery"; the fourth (twenty-seven pages), the "Attitude of the Dutch towards the Indians and education"; and the last (thirty-five pages), the "Attitude of the Dutch towards the Portuguese and Jews, and the Catholic and Jewish religions."

Each of these chapters is full of interesting, well-selected information, masterfully synthesized, from which the author has distilled many meaningful generalizations. A composite picture of society in Dutch Brazil results which is a distinct contribution to our knowledge of the period and the area. This is social history at its best, and this reviewer strongly recommends that all serious students of colonial history read this volume. Gilberto Freyre has written a delightful and enthusiastic preface to it. It has a useful index, and several interesting illustrations.

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Relatório sobre as capitanias conquistadas no Brasil pelos holandeses (1639): Suas condições econômicas e sociais: Adriaen van der Dussen. Translated and edited by JOSÉ ANTONIO GONSALVES DE MELLO, NETO. [Instituto do Açúcar e do Alcool, Série História, III.] (Rio de Janeiro: Ind. Graf. J. Lucena S. A., 1947. Pp. 168. Paper.)

The body of this work (pp. 25-148) is a Portuguese translation of the famous report by Adriaen van der Dussen to the Dutch West India Company in 1639 on the economic and social conditions in the six captaincies of northern Brazil then under the Dutch. José Antonio Gonsalves de Mello, Neto, author of *Tempo dos flamengos* (Rio de Janeiro, 1947), is one of the few Brazilians linguistically qualified and sufficiently conversant with the subject to translate this important document and to comment critically upon it. Given the copy from which he had to work (i.e., the transcription preserved in the José Hygino