

Clearly, a few anthropologists with interests in Latin America are discovering the value of historical documents for the subjects in which they are interested. Papers by professional historians are conspicuous by their absence in this volume, a contrast to the large sections of papers on history found in the proceedings of some earlier sessions of this congress.

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BRIEF MENTION

Chile: monumentos históricos y arqueológicos. By ROBERTO MONTANDÓN. [Instituto Panamericano de Geografía e Historia, Comisión de Historia, 38.] (Mexico City: Editorial Cultura, 1952. Pp. 36. 39 plates, folding map. Paper. \$12.50 Mex.) A report providing information on legislation in Chile concerning historical monuments together with data on the institutions concerned, plans for future study and preservation, bibliography, etc. The folding map shows the location of 14 pre-conquest and 24 colonial "monuments."

BACKGROUND

(European and American)

A exploração e o comércio do sal de Setúbal. Estudo de história económica, I. By VIRGINIA RAU. [Edição subsidiada pelo Instituto para a Alta Cultura.] (Lisbon: 1951. Pp. 207. Map, appendices, index. Paper.)

This is not a book *per se* on Hispanic-American history, but it is the sort of study in the economic history of late medieval and early modern Europe, and more particularly of Portugal, which is basic for an understanding of the economy and maritime commerce of that occidental Europe which projected itself overseas into the colonial world. As such it eminently deserves notice in this REVIEW.

In the maritime-commercial rise of the colonizing nations of Western Europe, and particularly of Portugal, France, and the Netherlands, the production and refining of sea salt, which powerfully stimulated fishing, shipbuilding, and seaborne commerce, was a factor of prime importance. Yet there have been few intensive, thorough studies in the history of European salt and its trade. This has been especially true for Portugal, historically one of the great salt-producing regions of Europe and indeed of the globe. There the brilliant António Sérgio in 1929 and 1941 gave impetus to the study of salt as a factor in the national history by advancing the unorthodox thesis that from the very beginning of Portugal's rise to power the maritime industries

—salt exploitation, fishing and oceanic commerce—were more important than agriculture. A few years later Dr. Virginia Rau, now professor of medieval and Portuguese history at the University of Lisbon, undertook to test the validity of this assumption by investigating the industrial and commercial history of Portugal's greatest salt center, Setúbal on the Sado estuary. The present volume is the fruit of her labors.

There can be no doubt that this study is a prime contribution not only to our knowledge of salt exploitation in Portugal, its chronology, distribution, and techniques, but also to our understanding of the key role and catalytic effect of salt in the development of both Portuguese and European trade. It is a work solidly based on contemporary documentation, much of it archival, as the numerous footnotes testify. Factually packed, it is not light reading, but the serious student will find its perusal most rewarding.

In barest outline the author's findings are the following: In medieval charters and diplomas of the first half of the tenth century (thus before Portugal existed as a political entity) she encounters the earliest evidence of salt exploitation on the west coast of the Iberian Peninsula between the Minho and Douro rivers. She shows how the industry in the next three centuries moved southward with the Christian reconquest and grew vigorously, particularly near such centers as Pôrto on the Douro, Aveiro on the Vouga, and Lisbon on the Tejo. Concurrently, fishing and coastal shipping developed. With the definitive conquest of Alcácer do Sal from the Moors in 1217 the Sado River was reached, and two decades later the small village of Setúbal begins to be mentioned in the documents, by 1255 as a salt producer and early in the fourteenth century as a salt exporter. As the southern salt centers developed, those of the north, less favorably located geographically and climatically and employing an inferior technology, gradually fell into eclipse. Dr. Rau devotes substantial space to the technology of the salt industry, particularly at Setúbal where the most efficient methods of extraction were utilized. She describes the salt pan, the unit of production, in detail, identifies the steps in the manufacturing process, and distinguishes the types and qualities of salt produced.

As salt making, fishing, and shipping, as well as agricultural production developed, trade, both active and passive, expanded. As early as the thirteenth century Portuguese merchants and merchantmen appeared on the French coast and in North Sea waters, reaching England and the Netherlands. Italian merchants and ships increasingly frequented Portuguese ports, which lay on their route to North-

ern Europe, while North Sea mariners began to call at Setúbal and Lisbon for salt and other Lusitanian products. Yet the latter, notably the Hanseatics and Netherlanders, found their chief source of salt on the west coast of France. Whenever there were obstacles to peaceful trade there, as during the last half of the Hundred Years' War, they sailed southward to Portugal for salt in fleet strength, a navigation which became doubly attractive as Lisbon an entrepôt for exotic products (Madeiran sugar, African pepper, ivory, etc.).

It was in the sixteenth century, however, that the salt industry and trade of Setúbal came to full flower. For this prosperity the Dutch, possessing a great fishing industry and now dominant in the Baltic-Peninsular carrying trade, were heavily responsible. The number of salt works multiplied phenomenally and, with Lisbon now the great spice emporium of Europe, the entire tempo of economic activity increased. The revolt of the Netherlands, followed shortly by the "captivity" of Portugal by Spain in 1580, marked a reverse trend. The closure of the Peninsula to the Dutch carriers forced them into the colonial world (Cape Verde Islands, Venezuela) for salt, and meant hard times at Setúbal. This situation did not change basically until Portugal recovered her independence in 1640, which is as far as Dr. Rau in this first volume (she promises a second) takes the story

In addition to the text this volume has a number of appendices, including ten tables showing ship and cargo movements by nationality in sixteenth-century European trade. Most of these are taken over from, or based upon, other works, but the one showing the Portuguese vessels (296 in all) entering the port of Antwerp between 1535 and 1551 is based upon a great amount of archival work, and hence is original and a real contribution. In checking these tables this reviewer has found all of them statistically accurate except one. Inexplicably, the table showing shipping and goods passing through the Danish Sound, 1557-1657, contains fifty-three errors. The reader should therefore directly consult the work upon which this table is based (Nina Ellinger Bang, ed., *Tabeller over Skibsfart og Varetransport gennem Øresund, 1497-1660* [2 vols., Copenhagen, 1906-1922]). The volume also has a very useful map and a substantial index.

Dr. Rau is to be congratulated upon this fine piece of work. No serious student of the early economic history of Europe can afford to overlook it, and scholarship is deeply in her debt.

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BRIEF MENTION

The School of Salamanca: Readings in Spanish Monetary Theory, 1544-1605. By MARJORIE GRICE-HITCHINSON. (Oxford: University Press, 1952. Pp. xii, 131. Index, plates. \$2.50.) Money and the mysteries of money have intrigued man since the time of Aristotle. Small wonder then that the Spaniards of the sixteenth century found themselves puzzled by the problem of why they had so much and yet so little, and why the more bullion came from America the higher the prices rose. To the merchants and the people in general this was a practical problem. Occasionally to the merchants it was also a moral and legal problem, for the laws concerning usury were difficult to follow in an age of revolutionary economic changes. It was to this mystery that numerous Spanish students addressed themselves; and the discovery that they anticipated the other Europeans, notably Jean Bodin who wrote in 1568, will not surprise the students of things Spanish.

This is revealed in the charmingly written little book under review. The course of money theories is traced from Aristotle to sixteenth-century Spain, and the influence of Spain on later writers is demonstrated. Whether the reader's interest lies in Spanish morals, theology, economics, or thought, this book will be both useful and interesting. B. W. D.

COLONIAL PERIOD

Comercio entre Venezuela y México en los siglos xvii y xviii. By EDUARDO ARCILA FARIÁS. (Mexico City: Fondo de Cultura Económica, 1950. Pp. 324. Paper. \$12.00 Mex.)

Since the publication of his *Economía colonial de Venezuela* (Mexico, 1946), Arcila Farías has been a fellow of the Colegio de México and of the Guggenheim Foundation. The present volume furnishes ample evidence of time well spent and contributes substantially to the author's preëminence among colonial economic historians. *Comercio entre Venezuela y México* might well serve as a model for other studies of inter-colonial trade.

A fresh study of the cacao trade, pushing beyond the limits set by Hussey's work on the Caracas Company, brings to light important quantitative data. From treasury records Arcila Farías has compiled an almost complete record of exports from Caracas (La Guaira) from 1620 to 1824. Price series, the rarest of all desiderata in Hispanic economic history, are presented for nearly as long a period. Unfortunately, the character of the data vitiates their usefulness. If I am not mistaken, all the tabulated prices (pp. 134-135) are official export valuations. These, of course, changed less frequently than market quotations, of which the author gives some samples but no continuous series. Price fluctuations, even in the official values, were wide, reflecting changing crop conditions, shifts in demand, market manipulation by the Caracas Company, and, finally the competition of Guaya-