In a like manner, the excellent study of the little village of El Cerrito by Leonard and Loomis in 1941 cannot be taken to characterize village life in New Mexico now—may be not even life in El Cerrito.

Particularly disappointing is this book's lack of historical perspective. The "here and now" of these minority groups often has meaning only in the light of their historical foundations. The origins of these peoples—Spain, Puerto Rico, the Philippines, and New Spain—go virtually unmentioned.

GEORGE I. SÁNCHEZ

University of Texas


The title of this book will mislead historians, for the social systems studied are institutions such as families and farm groups rather than national societies, and the social change is far more limited than historical change. The change to be introduced, the method of which is the aim of this research, is limited by the existing power structure, social organization, and prevailing norms and customs. It is change among just these larger things which the historian studies rather than, for example, poultry raising. The vexing problem of whether outsiders should try to change people and societies, therefore, is not raised.

The study presents detailed information about this Costa Rican community of some 20,000 inhabitants—about their social and economic organization, demography, health, education, and so on. The information is probably too detailed even for its intended purpose: the historian's weakness of quoting every document he has seen is matched by that of the sociologist who publishes every table he made in his research.

MILLARD HANSEN

University of Puerto Rico

COLONIAL

PORTUGUESE AMERICA*


In the preparation of this book, the author used the notes taken in the course of several years from hitherto unknown sources while he was engaged on the research that led to the appearance of his magnificent História da Companhia de Jesus no Brasil. As indicated by the title itself, the author provides in this work a splendid chapter in the history of craftsmanship and labor in colonial Brazil.


Carefully prepared edition of this treatise, the earliest literary work written in Brazil. Probably composed in 1557, it set forth the basic doctrine of Nobrega, which was to bring the natives to Christianity by peaceful means. This doctrine was put into effect almost immediately in the village of Espírito Santo near Bahia. Both the theory and the practice may be compared with the work of Las Casas in Vera Paz. (L. H.)


*The comments on items in this section have been supplied by Virginia Rau of the Universidade de Lisboa, unless otherwise noted.