

Alcool. Vol. I. *Legislação (1534-1596)*. Vol. II. *Engenho Sergipe do Conde. Livro de Contas (1622-1653)*. Indexes. Pp. xv, 450; xx, 587. Paper.

With the appearance of these two volumes, the Instituto do Açúcar e do Alcool has joined the ranks of those Brazilian institutions which have undertaken the formidable task of publishing the primary materials in their collections. Since 1940, a special division of the I.A.A. has been gathering documentation concerning the historical development of the Brazilian sugar industry from earliest times to the present. The well-organized search continues, and its results will be made available to scholars of Brazil's economic history in due time. Among the contributors to this commendable effort, Dr. Gildo Moura should be singled out for his careful editing, helpful notes, and especially the author-subject index to each work.

Volume one deals with the general legislative framework for the sixteenth-century development of the Brazilian economy and contains documents not only on the sugar industry but on all aspects of colonization, including land tenure, social life, and the human elements that went into the settlement of Brazil. Though most of these documents have appeared in such sets as the *Documentos históricos* (Biblioteca Nacional, Rio de Janeiro) and the *História da colonização portuguesa do Brasil*, this selective compilation should be on all library shelves. Specialists and teachers of Brazilian history particularly will find it a convenient and well-indexed source book. Similar materials for later centuries will be published subsequently.

Intrinsically more important for the scholar, volume two contains the account books of a leading sugar mill in Bahia for the period 1622-1653. Eventually, the complete records of this Jesuit *engenho*—covering two centuries—will be printed, thanks to the cooperation of the noted historian Serafim Leite, S.J. The value of this and subsequent volumes cannot be gainsaid, and the Instituto deserves our congratulations for its publications thus far and our encouragement to keep up the good work. *Parabens!*

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MARIO RODRÍGUEZ

*The Dutch in Brazil 1624-1654*. By C. R. BOXER. Oxford, England, 1957. The Clarendon Press. Appendices. Bibliography. Index. Illustrations. Pp. xiii, 327. \$6.75 through United States distributor: Oxford University Press.

Charles Boxer, Camões Professor of Portuguese at London University, bibliophile, versatile linguist, and keen student of the seven-

teenth century, is perhaps best known for his numerous and authoritative writings on the Portuguese in the Far East. In recent years his interest has shifted to the Atlantic theater of their colonization, with emphasis on Brazil. In 1952 there appeared his *Salvador de Sá and the Struggle for Brazil and Angola, 1602-1686*, now followed by this volume on the "Dutch period" in Brazilian history.

In this book Professor Boxer undertakes to retell and to reinterpret against an international background the story of the Dutch attempt and failure, in the heyday of their expansion and power, to displace the Portuguese as a major colonial power in eastern South America. He does so very largely from printed materials, that is, from the source and scholarly literature available on the subject, much of it handy in his own rich and rare private library. How extensive it has latterly become can be seen by perusing the 488-page special bibliography brought out by José Honório Rodrigues at Rio de Janeiro in 1949, and since then a substantial amount has appeared in print. For the 1645-54 period Professor Boxer did some fresh archival research, and some reading in previously used manuscript collections. His dual aim in writing is to provide an "adequate account in English" (indeed none exists) and to achieve an up-to-date and improved synthesis, especially through the wider and more discriminating use of Portuguese sources without neglecting those of other origin.

Like Netscher (1853), Varnhagen (1871), Wätjen (1921), and Gonsalves de Mello (1947), the chief writers on the theme before him, Professor Boxer in developing the history of the "Dutch in Brazil" takes the founding of the West India Company in 1621 as his effective point of departure. This narrow view of the subject, however much honored by tradition, is basically unsound, as this reviewer pointed out in a paper (still in press) presented at the Pernambuco Historical Congress in 1954. The militant phase of Dutch activity and influence in Brazil (1624-54) was preceded by a long and mainly peaceful one, the rise (in the fifteen-eighties) and large-scale development of their trade and economic penetration in Brazil as an extension of their prime Portuguese (i.e., Baltic-Peninsular) trade in Europe. It is only by giving due and sufficiently detailed consideration to this earlier period that the later can properly be seen. The failure in this new book to do so makes it less than a complete history of the "Dutch in Brazil."

The pre-1621 period aside, this is an excellent book on the subject, in a number of respects the best so far produced. In general, it is a narrative history in which the story unfolds chronologically with emphasis upon military, naval, political, and diplomatic factors but

broadly taking into account economic, social, and cultural effects, the whole neatly placed in an Atlantic and even global setting. On the economic and social side, where the author summarizes and defers to the standard works of Wätjen and Gonsalves de Mello respectively, the treatment is cursory, so that these earlier writers will still have to be consulted. In general, this book through the year 1644 is a resynthesis of the known; beginning with 1645 it breaks new ground; and it is the only work (despite its title) that extends the diplomatic story to 1669.

In his first two chapters (66 pp.) the author moves rapidly over the events (heavily military-naval) of the 1621-36 period: the founding of the West India Company; the Dutch capture and Spanish-Portuguese recapture of Bahia (1624-25); the Company's Atlantic privateering offensive, culminating in Piet Heyn's taking of the Spanish silver fleet; the attack on Pernambuco (1630); and the expansion of the Dutch conquest through 1636. This is a familiar story, but it is here very well told from the best Dutch and Portuguese printed sources. While focusing on Brazil, the author continually keeps before the reader the situation in Europe, signaling the factors, events, and moves affecting the colonial struggle. Key personalities are made to stand out, and their work is reappraised in the light of recent research. If brief and not new, this is deft and freshly flavored synthesis.

The next two chapters (91 pp.) cover the governorship of Count Johan Maurits, 1637-44, the golden period of Dutch Brazil. In Chapter III emphasis is upon his conquests, which extended the Dutch occupation to its maximum limits, and in Chapter IV upon his work as an enlightened administrator, a patron of art and science, and carrier of the north European renaissance to Brazil. This is a magnificent subject, and Professor Boxer does full justice to it, distilling from the mass of printed sources and scholarly literature the best that is known about it. The picture he creates of the man, his career, and his period in Brazil is sympathetic yet judicious. These chapters are models of brief synthesis.

The last three chapters (100 pp.), on the decline and fall of Dutch Brazil, are undoubtedly the freshest part of this book. Utilizing new archival evidence as well as known manuscript and printed sources, and incorporating the results of recent research on the period (notably by W. J. van Hoboken), Professor Boxer substantially recasts, elaborates, and reinterprets the story, greatly improving upon Wätjen's account and for the first time giving this phase the detailed attention it deserves. In Chapter V he takes up the early years (1645-48) of

the Brazilian revolt, showing how it began and developed, was aided and abetted from Bahia, affected by John IV's attitude and diplomacy, and ineffectually resisted by the Dutch. In Chapter VI he carries the revolt to its victorious conclusion (1649-54), stressing the role of sea power. The final chapter briefly traces Dutch-Portuguese relations to the treaties of 1661 and 1669, whereby the Dutch relinquished all claim to Brazil. Professor Boxer concludes that the Dutch lost Brazil not mainly because of the weakness of the West India Company, but rather because of the misuse of sea power and Amsterdam's unwillingness energetically to support suppression of the Brazilian revolt in the critical years, 1645-50. This is perhaps an oversimplified explanation, but it will have to stand until a better one comes along.

A number of appendices (ten biographical sketches, two translated documents, and a bibliographical note), a select list of authorities, a glossary, an index, and maps add to the usefulness of this work. In short, this is a notable addition to the literature on the "Dutch in Brazil," and deserves a place in every Latin American historian's library.

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*La formación de los grandes latifundios en México (Tierra y sociedad en los siglos XVI y XVII)*. By François Chevalier, in *Problemas agrícolas e industriales de México, publicación trimestral*, vol. VIII, No. 1 (1st quarter of 1956). Bibliography, maps, illustrations. Paper. \$7.00 U. S.

The Spanish translation of François Chevalier's impressive treatise on the origins of the system of great estates in colonial Mexico has been issued as one of the quarterly numbers of *Problemas agrícolas e industriales de México*. With a brief foreword and extracts of the major reviews of the French edition, the work fills the entire number. The text is that of the French edition (1952) translated with understanding and felicity by Antonio Alatorre. Beyond the French version, the Mexican edition has been enriched by a very large number of carefully chosen illustrations—photographs of terrain and buildings, additional maps, reproductions of paintings, sketches, and pages of native codices—that add greatly to the text. Paper and printing are the models that we have come to expect as a matter of course in the better Mexican editions. The wrapper is so strikingly handsome that one regrets risking anything so attractive to protect a mere cover. In short, the Mexican edition is unusually appealing and well-done, so much so that many people may well prefer it to the sober product