

## COLONIAL PERIOD

*Caminhos e fronteiras.* By SÉRGIO BUARQUE DE HOLANDA. Rio de Janeiro, 1957. Livraria José Olympio Editôra. Coleção Documentos Brasileiros, 89. Editor's note. Illustrations. Name index. Place index. Pp. 334. Paper.

In this volume, which might well bear the subtitle Colonial Technology in São Paulo, Sérgio Buarque de Holanda has brought together under one cover and in revised and expanded form an impressive collection of items with which he has previously dealt separately. Included are entire chapters from his 1945 study, *Monções*, articles published in various Brazilian newspapers and periodicals during the past fifteen years, and papers presented at conferences in Brazil (1946), at the Ecole Pratique des Hautes Études in Paris (1949), and at the first International Colloquium of Luso-Brazilian Studies in Washington (1950).

This study, like several earlier works by the author, deals with the efforts of the Portuguese colonists and their descendants in São Paulo to establish in the Brazilian hinterland a culture compatible with their European heritage. In the process, the author suggests, the newcomers were obliged to adapt themselves to the ways of the migratory Brazilian Indian society and to adopt many of the habits, utensils, and techniques of the aboriginal population in order to survive and to create eventually a culture in which European institutions and outlook predominated. The author sees this slow development taking place in three overlapping, sometimes simultaneous, stages. The slow processes of adjustment to the Brazilian environment, the gradual blending of Indian and European contributions to Paulista society, and the final establishment of a settled, more or less urban society oriented toward Europe are treated in separate sections of the book. In each the author stresses the transfer of techniques and technology rather than the intangible factors involved in the cultural interchange between Indians and Portuguese in colonial São Paulo.

While there is little new or surprising in Buarque de Holanda's latest volume, it is a welcome addition to the *Coleção Documentos Brasileiros*, for it makes readily available in a single monograph significant items on a relatively neglected field of colonial Brazilian studies that previously were scattered throughout various works not easily accessible to scholars in the United States. The value of the monograph is considerably enhanced by the thirty-odd illustrations.

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