

a pioneer work in a simple yet scholarly style.

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The Perfect Prince. A Biography of the King Dom João II. By ELAINE SANCEAU. Pôrto, 1959. Livraria Civilização. Illustrations. Note. Bibliography. Index. Pp. xvi, 446. Paper.

João II (1491-1495), the "Príncipe Perfeito" of this narrative, was probably the ablest man ever to rule Portugal. Elaine Sanceau provides the first full-length biography of this remarkable sovereign to appear in English. Historians remember him principally as the king under whom the discovery of the Congo and the Cape of Good Hope took place, as well as the negotiation of the Treaty of Tordesillas: they are not so well acquainted with his home policy, which saw the crushing of the mischievous Portuguese nobility and the restoration of national prosperity after the disastrous reign of the king's father, Afonso V. The authoress has stressed all sides of the brief but brilliant career, and the result is a many-sided picture.

From the style and light touch employed here, many will take this to be a merely popular biography. Such is not entirely the case for, despite some descriptions of scenes and conversations that are fanciful, the writer has used all the contemporary Portuguese narrative sources regarding João and has been through the manuscripts of the Torre do Tombo Archive. It is not a definitive biography, for much work will still be performed on the economic side of the administration, and some of the remarks here offered on geographical discovery are either overhasty or else verge on the picturesque rather than the scientific. Yet this latest of Miss Sanceau's contributions to Portuguese achievement will afford good reading to many and instruction to all but a handful of specialists.

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El nombre América: libros y mapas que lo impusieron (descripción y crítica histórica). By CARLOS SANZ. Madrid, 1959. Librería General Victoriano Suárez. Maps. Illustrations. Pp. 244. Paper.

Following a prologue devoted to praise of the Franco regime, Carlos Sanz restudies the work of Martin Waldseemüller and his colleagues of the "Gymnase Vosgien" of St. Dié in Lorraine which led to the *Cosmographie Introductio* of 1507 and the suggestion to bestow the name America upon the southern continent of the new World. The verdict is the familiar and incontestable one that America was named for the Florentine navigator and cosmographer Amerigo Vespucci.

While there is nothing new or startling in his main conclusion, Sanz has provided a useful reconstruction of the thought process by which Waldseemüller and the other members of the gymnasium reached their judgment. This is based on the evidence of maps and documents, particularly the letter of Vespucci to Pier Soderini, Gonfalonier of Florence. Many maps and facsimiles of documents are included. As the Waldseemüller map of the New World was printed as an extension of the ancient one attributed to Claudius Ptolemy, Sanz provides all the data, cartographical and otherwise, throwing light on the career of the second-century Alexandrian geographer.

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Santiago de España. By AMÉRICO CASTRO. Buenos Aires, 1958. Emecé Editores. Illustrations. Pp. 152. Paper.

Once again the Spanish scholar and historian, Américo Castro, interprets the "vivir hispano" in what is essentially a polemical work. Wielding the sword of Santiago against his critics, Castro defends and reaffirms the main theses of his controversial *Realidad histórica de España*. To Castro the cult of Santiago is the pivot around