


Preliminary Notes



When the original directors formed a company in 1830 to work gold mines near the city of São João d'El Rei, they anglicized the spelling of the city to give their enterprise a name: the St. John d'el Rey Mining Company. In the 1850s, with the passage of the Companies Act in England, the directors duly registered the company as a limited liability, joint-stock operation and added "Limited" to the company name. Sometime near the turn of the century, company officials accidentally dropped the apostrophe in the "d'el," only to return it to its proper place a few years later. This accounts for the varied spellings of the company name in English. In Brazil the company was often called the "Companhia do Morro Velho" in popular speech and the press.

For most of the period of this study the common unit of currency in Brazil was the milreis (written 1\$000). One thousand milreis was known as a *conto de reis*. In December 1942 the milreis became the cruzeiro (written Cr\$1).

As is customary, the titles of works in Portuguese are spelled as they appeared on the original title page. The spelling of names has been modernized in the text.