

A NOTE ON BRAZILIAN CURRENCY AND ORTHOGRAPHY



The basic currency unit in use in Brazil throughout the period on which this book focuses was the *milreis*, which Brazil adopted in 1846. One milreis, written as 1\$000, was the equivalent of one thousand *reis* (the plural of *real*), an older monetary unit that had diminished radically in value by the mid-nineteenth century. One thousand milreis equals one *conto*. In 1942, the *cruzeiro* replaced the milreis and the conto. Dollar equivalents cited in this book are based on an annual average of the month-end closing quotations. Sources of historical exchange rate and cost of living data are cited in the endnotes.

The Brazilian Portuguese language had not yet been orthographically standardized in the late nineteenth century and early twentieth. For all proper names of persons I used the spelling that most frequently appeared in the contemporaneous documentation. I spelled all proper names of places according to present-day conventions. All other words are spelled according to today's standard. Documents from the late nineteenth century and early twentieth variously call the animal lottery that is the subject of this book the *jogo dos bichos*, the *jogo do bicho*, and the *jogo de bicho*. I use today's standard name, *jogo do bicho*, except in some direct quotations.