# CONTENTS

Preface  
A Note on Translation  
A Note on Portuguese Currency, Weights, and Measures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. The “Discovery” and First Encounters with Brazil</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. The Letter of Pero Vaz de Caminha</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. An Early Report of Brazil</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. The Donatarial System</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. A Royal Charter for the Captaincy of Pernambuco, Issued to Duarte Coelho on 24 September 1534</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Three Letters from Duarte Coelho to King John III</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. A Letter from Felipe Guillén to Queen Catarina, Giving News of Porto Seguro and of Mem de Sá’s Victory at Rio de Janeiro</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Royal Government</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Instructions Issued to the First Governor-General of Brazil, Tomé de Sousa, on 17 December 1548</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. The Capital: The City of Salvador and the Captaincy of Bahia. The Treatise of Gabriel Soares de Souza</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. A Letter from the Governor-General of Brazil, Tomé de Sousa, to King John III, with Information about the Towns and Settlements That He Had Visited on the Coast of Brazil</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. The Governorship of Mem de Sá</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(a) Letter from the Governor-General, Mem de Sá, to the Regent, Queen Catarina, Concerning the State of Affairs in Brazil, with Particular Reference to Rio de Janeiro and Espírito Santo</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
(b) A Letter from the Governor-General, Mem de Sá, to the
Regent, Queen Catarina, Concerning the State of Affairs
in Brazil 90
(c) Depositions on the Rule of Mem de Sá as
Governor-General of Brazil, Written in Salvador,
September to December 1570 93

4. The French Interlude 101
   1. Letter from Francisco Portocarrero to King John III
      Concerning the Abuses Committed by the French in Bahia,
      the Maladministration of the Governor-General, Dom
      Duarte da Costa, and the Presence of Pirates at Rio de Janeiro
      101
   2. Jean de Léry: Excerpts from History of a Voyage to the Land
      of Brazil 103
   3. Corsairs: French Interlopers at Bahia (1614) 113

5. Indians, Jesuits, and Colonists 117
   1. The Tupinambás 117
   2. Jesuits and Go-Betweens 140
      (a) Letter from Father Manoel da Nóbrega to Father Luís
          Gonçalves da Câmara (31 August 1553) 140
      (b) A Jesuit Report: A Letter from Manuel da Nóbrega S.J., in
          São Vicente, to the Inquisitor-General, Simão Rodrigues
          S.J., in Lisbon (10? March 1553) 142
   3. The Jesuit Establishment 147
   4. A Colonist’s Critique of the Jesuits: Gabriel Soares de Sousa,
      “Os capitulos” (1592) 160
   5. The Will and Testament of a Bandeirante 192

6. The World of the Engenhos 198
   1. Excerpt from a Letter from the Administrator of Engenho,
      São Jorge de Erasmo 198
   2. Cane Farmer Contracts 202
   3. Opportunity for Success: Ambrósio Fernandes Brandão,
      Great Things of Brazil 204
   4. Instructions on How to Manage a Sugar Mill and Estate 224
   5. The Commerce of Brazil 229
   6. The Crisis of Brazilian Sugar 230
## Contents

7. Government and Society in Dutch Brazil 234  
   1. A Brief Report on the State That Is Composed of the Four  
      Conquered Captaincies, Pernambuco, Itamaracá, Paraíba,  
      and Rio Grande, Situated in the North of Brazil 234  

8. Burdens of Slavery and Race 264  
   1. The War against Palmares: Letter from the Governor of  
      Pernambuco, Ferão de Sousa Coutinho (1 June 1671) on the  
      Increasing Number of Insurgent Slaves Present in Palmares 264  
   2. Combating Palmares (c. 1680) 265  
   3. Excerpts from the Will and Testament of Paulo de Almeida,  
      a Former Slave (1752) 267  

   1. Arguments of the Inhabitants of Bahia against the  
      Suppression of the High Court (1626) 271  

10. Religion and Society 279  
    1. Jesuit Missions: Information for the Lisbon Committee on  
       the Missions, 1702, on General and Economic Matters 279  
    2. The Inquisition in Brazil: Two Cases 285  

11. Frontiers 289  
    1. The State of Maranhão: A Letter from Father António Vieira  
       S.J. (1653) 290  
    2. The Ranching Frontier 296  
    3. The Discovery of Gold 298  

Index 305  

Maps begin on page xxii