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History of Brazil

Robert Southey (1774–1843), Romantic poet and friend of Coleridge, was poet laureate from 1813 to 1843. As well as being distinguished in verse, he also produced successful historical works and was a noted scholar of Portuguese. Between 1810 and 1819 he published this influential three-volume history, drawing on his extensive collection of Portuguese and Spanish books. Originally intended to be part of a larger work on the history of Portugal, this project evolved to focus on Brazil, beginning with its discovery and colonisation by the Portuguese in the sixteenth century and concluding with the relocation of the Portuguese court to Brazil during the Peninsular War. Volume 1 begins with the discovery of Brazil by the Portuguese in 1500 and covers the events up to 1639. This includes the attempts of the French and Dutch to colonise Brazil, and the attempts of the Jesuits to convert the indigenous people.

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History of Brazil

VOLUME 1

ROBERT SOUTHEY



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History of Brazil ;

by

Robert Southey.

Part the First.

L O N D O N ;

Printed for Longman, Hurst, Rees, and Orme, Paternoster-row;

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TO
THE REVEREND HERBERT HILL
THIS HISTORY IS INSCRIBED,
BY
HIS NEPHEW
ROBERT SOUTHEY,
AS A MEMORIAL
OF
GRATEFUL AND RESPECTFUL AFFECTION.

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PREFACE,

SOMETHING more than the title promises, is comprized in the present work. It relates the foundation and progress of the adjacent Spanish Provinces, the affairs of which are in latter times inseparably connected with those of Brazil. The subject may therefore be considered as including the whole track of country between the rivers Plata, Paraguay, and Orellana or the Amazons, and extending Eastward towards Peru, as far as the Portugueze have extended their settlements or their discoveries.

The only general History of Brazil is the *America Portugueza* of Sebastian da Rocha Pitta, a meagre and inaccurate work, which has been accounted valuable, merely because there was no other. There are many copious and good accounts of the Dutch war. Earlier information is to be gleaned from books where it occurs rather incidentally,

PREFACE.

than by design. Authorities are still scarcer for the subsequent period, and for the greater part of the last century, printed documents almost entirely fail. A collection of manuscripts not less extensive than curious, and which is not to be equalled in England, enables me to supply this chasm in history. The collection was formed during a residence of more than thirty years in Portugal, by the friend and relation to whom this work is inscribed. Without the assistance which I have received from him, it would have been hopeless to undertake, and impossible to complete it.

A critical account of all the materials which have been consulted, will be appended to the concluding volume. The map also is delayed, for the purpose of rendering it as full, and as little incorrect as possible, though a far better than any which has yet appeared might have been given at present.

Should any person who may see this volume be in possession of any of the books enumerated below, he would greatly oblige and serve me by consigning it to Messrs. Longman and Co. for my use, and he may rely upon its being speedily and carefully returned.

R. S.

Literæ Annuæ Provinciæ Paraguariæ, &c.

Any volumes of the Jesuits' Annual Letters or Relations, except those from 1551 to 1558, and those for the years 1601, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8.

Montoya, Conquista Espiritual de Paraguay.

Lozano, Hist. de Paraguay.

The Latin translation of Charlevoix's Hist. du Paraguay. Venice, 1779.

Fasti Novi Orbis. Venice, 1777. a work published under the name of Cyriacus Morelli, by the Jesuit P. Domingo Muriel.

P. Sim. de Vasconcellos. Vida do P. Joam de Almeida.

O Valeroso Lucideno.

Rel. diaria do sitio do Recife. Lisbon, 1654; or the Italian translation.

Anchieta's Brazilian Grammar.

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CHAPTER XVIII.

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