1501 - 1550

1501-1800

BALANDIER, Georges


The weaknesses of this attempt by an eminent sociologist to reconstruct 17th and 18th century Bakongo society from the contemporary accounts written by visitors to it have been fully set out by the historian *cum* social-anthropologist Jan Vansina (see *Africa* 39, 1 (1969) 62-67). He shows that Balandier's use of the sources is lacking in rigour, and that his reconstruction is neither synchronic nor diachronic.

c. 1502

al-MAGHILI, Muhammad b. 'Abd al-Karim


1502-03

REM, Lucas

B. GRIEFF, *Tagebuch des Lucas Rems aus dem Jahren 1494-1541...*, Augsburg, 1861

Rem represented the Welsers in Portugal during 1503-08 and so had access to accounts of Vasco da Gama's second voyage to India in 1502-03. His brief account of C. Verde and the C. Verde Isles is available in an annotated English translation:


c. 1505-08

PACHECO PEREIRA, Duarte

*Esmeraldo de situ orbis*, ed. by Rafael Eduardo de AZEVEDO BASTO, Lisbon, 1892,
Augusto Epifanio da SILVA DIAS, Lisbon, 1905; repr. 1975,
Damião PERES, Lisbon, 1954.
Port. text with Fr. trans., annotated, by R. MAUNY, Bissau, 1956.

Pereira's work is renowned as the first comprehensive guide to the coastlands of western Africa (from Morocco to the Great Fish River in South Africa); it is supposed that it was not published at the time it was composed because the Portuguese authorities did not want rivals to have access to its information. Pacheco Pereira was involved with the overseas enterprise of the Portuguese crown throughout his active career. Mauny's edition is to be preferred to Kimble's, but it does not extend south of Gabon. For comment on, and interpretation of, the section on lower Guinea, see J.D. FAGE in *HA*, 7 (1980).
1505-06

SPRINGER (or SPRENGER), Balthasar


Sometimes called Balthasar Sprinngers Indienfahrt, this is an account of the voyage made by the author on a Portuguese fleet to India, touching at Goree and C. Verde (and also at Mozambique). See art. cit. by JONES for other published accounts of Springer's voyage and for relevant literature.

1506-43

AFONSO I. Mani Congo

Correspondance de Dom Afonso, Roi du Congo, 1506-1543.

The translations may not always be depended upon. See also 1492 COLLECTION: PAIVA MANSO.

c. 1506-07

FERNANDES ALEMÃO, Valentim

António BAIÃO, O manuscrito Valentim Fernandes, Lisbon, 1940.

Fernandes was a German or Moravian printer, publisher and courtier living in Lisbon who collected MSS relating to geographical exploration for transmission to the Augsburg savant, Konrad Peutinger. These included MSS of 1441 EANES and of 1457 GOMES, and also an account of the western coastlands of Africa from Ceuta to Cape Mount which he himself had put together from a variety of sources, some of which are clearly first-hand. This last was first published as:


There is an extensively annotated modern edition of the Portuguese text as established by Baião with a parallel Fr. trans; this was published in two parts:

(1) Description de la côte d'Afrique de Ceuta au Sénégal, ed. P. de CENIVAL & Th. MONOD, Paris, 1938.

(2) Description de la côte occidentale d'Afrique (Sénégal au Cap de Monte. Archipels), ed. Th. MONOD, A. TEIXEIRA da MOTA, & R. MAUNY, Bissau, 1951.

The relation of Baião's text to the MSS has been critically examined by P.E.H. HAIR in BIFAN, B, 33, 4 (1969).

(1507)

VOYAGES: PAESI NOVAMENTE RETROVATI

Paesi novamente retrovati et nuovo mondo da Alberico Vesputio..., ed. FRACANZO de MONTALBODDO, Vicenza, 1507.

Subsequent eds include: Vicenza, 1508; Milan, 1508, 1512, & 1519; and Venice, 1513 & 1521.

[cont.]
Translations: Fr. 1516 & 1521; Eng. 1521; Ger. (Strasbourg) 1534.

This was the first published collection of voyages. There are some slight variations of title between the various editions, and the collection is sometimes known (erroneously) as Il Mondo Nuovo. Only the first of the six books concerns western Africa, 'El libro de la prima navigazione per l'oceano a la terre di Nigri de la Bassa Ethiopia...'; i.e. 1455 CADAMOSTO. Books 2 and 3 deal with da Gama, 4 with Columbus, 5 with Vespucci, and 6 with Alvarez. There is sometimes confusion with 1532 VOYAGES: GRYNAEUS. It would seem that the texts which Fracanzano da Montalboddo edited had been put together by Alessandro Zorzi; see 1517 ZORZI.

c. 1509-13

LEO AFRICANUS

Della descrittione dell'Africa... per Giov. Loni Africano,

in G.B. RAMUSIO, Deiie navigationsi e viaggi.... Venice, 1550, Vol. I.

Innumerable translations in many languages, including:


Leo was born al-Hasan b. Muhammad al-Wazzan az-Zayyati at Granada between 1489 and 1495. Following the Spanish conquest, the family moved to Morocco. Between about 1509 and 1513, Leo made two trips to the Sudan. He was captured by a Christian corsair c.1518 and presented to Pope Leo X; it is known that the MS of his great Description was in existence by 1529, and it became the first item in 1550 VOYAGES: RAMUSIO. See also 1641 LEERS.

1514

LISBOA, João de

Livro de marinharia, tratado da agulha de marcar. por João de Lisboa;

roteiros, sondas e outros conhecimentos relativos a navegação, codice do século XVI.... ed. Jacinto Ignacio de BRITO REBELLO, Lisbon, 1903.

There is a collated ed. of the various MSS of the Tratado da agulha de marcar, with full editorial matter and with a Fr. trans., by Luis de ALBUQUERQUE (Rev. Univ. de Coimbra, 29, (1981) 129-62), but this section of the material that was first published by Brito Rebello does not include any topographical information.

1517

[ ZORZI, Alessandro ]


The authors print, with considerable annotation, that part of MS Magl. XIII, 80 in the Biblioteca Nazionale, Florence, which deals with western Africa. There is specific mention of Mina, Labadi, Benin, Udo, Calabar, the Gulf of Guinea islands, and Congo. The information was collected by Alessandro Zorzi in Venice in 1517, apparently in preparation for an up-dating of 1507 VOYAGES: PAESI NOVAMENTE RETROVATI.
1518-1640  COLLECTION: CUVELIER, Mgr Jean, & JADIN, Abbé Louis


Documents in Fr. trans., including many of the letters from the Congo kings and other pieces in Vat. lat. 12516 in the Vatican Library (cf. 1595 VIVES), most of which are to be found in the original languages in 1342 COLLECTION: BRASIO.

ENCISO, Martín Fernandez de

Suma de geographia que trata de todas las partidas y provincias del mundo... Seville, 1519; later eds. 1530 & 1546.
Eng. trans. with some additional material:
P.E.H. HAIR. 'Some minor sources for Guinea, 1519-59'. HA, 3 (1976), has a translation of Enciso's section on Guinea with notes and discussion.

Hair points out that Enciso had never visited Africa but that he must have used unpublished Portuguese sources; however his material, though accurate, is thin and adds little to what is available in, e.g., 1505 PACHECO or 1506 FERNANDES. For the Congo, on the other hand, Enciso has the earliest printed account of Manicongo Afonso's war with his brother, and one which is independent of similar accounts in 1552 BARROS and 1554 RESENDE. See also 1544 FONTENEAU.

1522  SANTA MARIA DA COMÈCEICA


Ryder was the first to print, in Eng. trans., the ship's book of this voyage which ended in the transfer of the cargo to another ship (see 1522 SÃO MIGUEL). The document was later printed in the original by A. BRASIO in Studia (Lisbon), 15 (1965) 155-74. There is also an annotated Fr. trans.:

1522  SÃO MIGUEL


A ship's trading records. An abridged Eng. trans. is the first document in 1522 COLLECTION: RYDER. See also 1522 SANTA MARIA.
1522-1892

COLLECTION: RYDER, Alan Frederick Charles


Eight documents from the 16th, 17th & 19th centuries are printed in an appendix.

1526

NAVIO SANTIAGO


Annotated Eng. trans. of Sierra Leone section by P.E.H. HAIR in ARB, 8, 1 (1978)

The instructions and accounts book of this voyage has useful details of early trading on the coast.

(1532)

VOYAGES: GRYNAEUS, Simon

Novus Orbis regionum ac insularum veteribus incognitarum..., Paris, 1532;
Basel, 1532, 1534, 1555.

Grynaeus, Professor of Greek at Basel, edited this collection from material collected by Joannes HUTTICHIUS. There is sometimes confusion with 1507 VOYAGES: PAESI; the coverage is not dissimilar and both include 1455 CA' DA MOSTO.

c. 1536

ALFONCE, Jean, (or João AFONSO)

Les voyages avanturaux du Capitaine Jan Alfone, Sainctongeois...
Poitiers, 1559; Rouen, 1578 & 1602; La Rochelle, c.1585.

Alfonse/Afonso was a seaman and pilot who sailed first in Portuguese vessels, from possibly as early as 1496 to about 1528, and was then based in France until his death in 1544. The MS of this book, probably composed about 1536, was apparently lost, and was not discovered and published until after his death. It would seem to be based to a considerable extent on Alfonse’s own voyaging, so that the western African material is often different from that in the adaptation of 1519 ENCISO with which his name is also associated (for which see 1544 FONTENEAU). There is original geographical and commercial information for the Congo region. The Guinea material in all three books is translated, annotated and compared by P.E.H. HAIR in HA, 3 (1976).

c. 1540

LAMY, Jehan

David DALBY & P.E.H. HAIR, "Le languege de Guynée": a sixteenth century vocabulary from the Pepper Coast', ALS, 5 (1964) 174-91

The editors argue that the vocabulary relates to one of the dialects of Kru.
c. 1541

BARLOW, Roger


This work, which remained in MS until published by Taylor, is basically a translation of 1519 ENCISO. It has little new material for western Africa.

---

c. 1544

FONTENEAU, Jean (dit ALFONSE)


There is some doubt as to the extent of Jean Alfonse's participation in this work, which is basically a French version of 1519 ENCISO with some additions, and which remained unpublished until 1904. The useful geographical and commercial material concerning Guinea, Gabon and the Congo which it contains is often different from that in 1536 ALFONCE. The Guinea material is translated, annotated, and compared with the texts of 1519 ENCISO, 1536 ALFONCE and 1541 BARLOW by P.E.H. HAIR in *HA*, 3 (1976).

---

(1544)

MÜNSTER, Sebastian

*Cosmographia universalis*, many printings in German, Latin, French etc from 1544 onwards.


Münster's section on Guinea is derived from 1454 CA' DA MOSTO.

---

c. 1545

ANONYMOUS PORTUGUESE PILOT


An important original account.

---

(1550)

VOYAGES: RAMUSIO, Giovanni Battista

*Delle navigazioni et viaggi...*, 3 vols, Venice, 1550-59.

Ramusio's western African material is in Vol. 1 (first pub. 1550; 2nd ed. corrected & enlarged, 1554; 3rd ed. 1563; 4th ed. 1588) - though the First Decade of 1552 BARROS is to be found in Vol. 2.

(cont.)
Thereafter the whole work was republished in 1606 in 3 vols entitled *Delle navigationi e viaggi raccolte da M. Gio. Battista Ramusio*, of which Vol.1 was reprinted in 1613.

_Facs. ed. with intro. by R.A. SKELTON & G.B. PARKS, Amsterdam, 1967-70._
(Vol.1 is from the 1563 ed.; vols 2 & 3 from that of 1606. The same text reset in modern type was pub. in 6 vols from Turin in 1978.)

Ramusio was the first to print 1509 LEO AFRICANUS and 1545 ANONYMOUS PORTUGUESE PILOT. Other substantial African items include 1455 CA' DA MOSTO and the voyages of Hanno and of Vasco da Gama.