

AMERICUS VESPUCCIUS. A CRITICAL AND DOCUMENTARY REVIEW OF TWO RECENT ENGLISH BOOKS CONCERNING THAT NAVIGATOR. BY HENRY HARRISSE.

Handmade paper, foolscap 4to, parchment backs and paper sides, pp. 68, price 12s. nett. Two hundred and fifty copies only printed and numbered.

This is the controversial twin volume mentioned on page 8.

Mr. Coote discovered in the Library of the British Museum one of the only two known copies in Flemish (Antwerp, 1508) of the book he so ably edited, and in which the name of Albericus as the author is definitely mentioned. It bears as its title, "*The Voyage from Lisbon to sail unto the island of Nagore which lieth in Great India, beyond Calicut and Cochin, wherein is the staple of the spices. Wondrous things befell us therein, and we beheld much, as hereinafter is described. This said voyage was undertaken by the will and command of Emanuel, the most serene King of Portugal.*"

Mr. HARRISSE discovered in the Bavarian Library at Munich the unique copy in German (Augsburg, 1509) of the sea voyage by Balthasar Sprenger. Its full title is, "*The Sea Voyage, new navigation and ascertained route towards many unknown Islands and Kingdoms of the Mighty Portuguese King Emanuel, explored, found, warred against and conquered. Also, the astonishing fights, organization, life customs and wonderful works of the people of Thyre thou wilt find in this little book, truly described and reproduced, such as I, myself Balthasar Sprenger, have seen and ascertained, etc.*"

As Publisher, I have only to present both sides of the question and leave the reader to judge for himself. Meanwhile, it will be readily granted that these two publications possess the merit of reviving, in one form or another, the fullest and most authentic account, long since forgotten, of one of the greatest achievements in the history of maritime enterprise. This, of itself, would suffice to enlist the goodwill of the historical student.

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