

BOOKS IN REVIEW

PORTUGALIAE MONUMENTA CARTOGRAPHICA

(Comemorações do V centenário da morte do Infante D. Henrique)
(Commemoration of the 5th centenary of the death of Prince Henry)

by Armando CORTESÃO and Avelino TEIXEIRA da MOTA

5 volumes, illustrations; 48.5 × 62 cm; Lisbon, 1960-61

In honour of the fifth centenary of the death of Prince Henry the Navigator, the Portuguese Government has had published a magnificent atlas in five volumes presenting as complete a collection as possible of early manuscript Portuguese charts from the year 1500 up to the 17th century. A number of these are reproduced in colour. Each chart reproduced in these volumes is accompanied by a very comprehensive note in Portuguese and in English. To date, the Bureau has received as a gift the first four volumes of this monumental work.

Volume I contains the reproduction of the famous Cantino chart of 1502, as well as those of the charts and roteiros by Pedro and Jorge REINEL, Lopo HOMEM and Diogo RIBEIRO.

Volume II contains, apart from the planisphere of André HOMEM, the charts of Diogo HOMEM.

Volume III is largely devoted to charts by Fernão Vaz DOURADO.

Finally, volume IV contains various charts including those by João TEIXEIRA, who was considered the greatest cartographer of the period.

LES MAREES

(Tides)

by J. ROUCH

230 pages; 15 × 22 cm; 1 vol.; 27 illustrations; Librairie Payot, Paris, 1961.

This book is intended for cultured readers; it is not a manual or a treatise proper for the use of specialists. Presented in simple form, easy to read and without complicated mathematical formulae, it contains nevertheless all the essential facts for a good knowledge of the phenomenon of the tide: the sea level and its variations, the methods of observation of the tide, its different types, the influence of the sun and the moon. It also gives an outline of the theory of tides and the various methods of prediction, tidal streams, river tides, etc. The volume includes some chapters, which are not the least interesting, on the utilization of tidal phenomena in various scientific techniques and branches of instruction: industrial production of energy by the tide, relationship between the tide and the formation of coast-lines and marine biology, etc. The book ends

in a review presented very humourously on current opinions on the influence of the moon on the weather. In short, it is a popular book which has a place in the library of the sailor and of every cultured person.

THE JOURNALS OF CAPTAIN JAMES COOK

Edited by J. C. BEAGLEHOLE

clxx + 1 021 pages; 82 illustrations and maps; 44.5 × 15 cm
published by the Syndics of the Cambridge University Press,
Bentley House, 200 Euston Road, London, N.W. 1, 1961.

This volume is devoted to Cook's journal of his second voyage and to supplementary material which casts light from other sources on the history of the voyages. The plan of the volume follows very closely that of the first, and the principles followed in printing are virtually the same as those of the earlier volume.

On his second expedition to the Pacific, in the years 1772-5, Captain James Cook made a voyage which, in the annals of exploration, is unsurpassed for grandeur of design and execution and for variety of experience. From start to finish, he sailed almost 25 000 leagues.

Following the plan drawn up by him after the first voyage, Cook traversed the Indian and Pacific Oceans in high latitudes, demonstrating that the supposed Southern Continent could not extend north of 60°. This may well be called the earliest voyage of exploration near the Antarctic Circle. Cook crossed the Antarctic Circle three times (never before passed by a European ship), reaching his furthest south in 71°10', and he proved himself a master of navigation in ice. In the Pacific he made three great sweeps which left a mere handful of Polynesian islands undiscovered. His discoveries or rediscoveries included the Tonga Islands, Easter Island, the Marquesas, the New Hebrides and New Caledonia, with the sub-antarctic islands of South Georgia and the South Sandwich group. Captain FOURNEAUX, commanding the consort ship, examined the coasts of Tasmania.

This voyage reveals Cook at the height of his powers, not only as a navigator and explorer, but also as a practical scientist and a leader. In the course of over three years, not one man of his crew died from scurvy. The scientific observations made on the voyage — in hydrography, meteorology, glaciology, natural history, ethnology — were of unprecedented range and variety.

The illustrations (mainly in collotype) reproduce original drawings and paintings (many now published for the first time), portraits, documents and charts.