

**NARRATIVES OF THE
CAREER OF HERNANDO
DE SOTO; VOL. I**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649141173

Narratives of the career of Hernando de Soto; Vol. I by Edward Gaylord Bourne

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

EDWARD GAYLORD BOURNE

**NARRATIVES OF THE
CAREER OF HERNANDO
DE SOTO; VOL. I**



S. de S. P. to

11001
B7756n

NARRATIVES *of the career*
of HERNANDO DE SOTO

IN THE
CONQUEST OF FLORIDA *as told by a KNIGHT*
OF ELVAS and in a Relation by LUY'S HERNAN-
DEZ DE BIEDMA, Factor of the Expedition

TRANSLATED BY BUCKINGHAM SMITH
TOGETHER WITH A ACCOUNT OF

DE SOTO'S EXPEDITION

BASED ON THE DIARY OF
RODRIGO RANJEL, HIS PRIVATE SECRETARY
TRANSLATED FROM OVIEDO'S HISTORIA GENERAL
Y NATURAL DE LAS INDIAS

EDITED WITH AN INTRODUCTION

By

EDWARD GAYLORD BOURNE

PROFESSOR OF HISTORY IN YALE UNIVERSITY

ILLUSTRATED

VOLUME I

375318
14.2.40

NEW YORK
A. S. BARNES AND COMPANY

1904

Copyright, 1904,
BY
A. S. BARNES & Co.

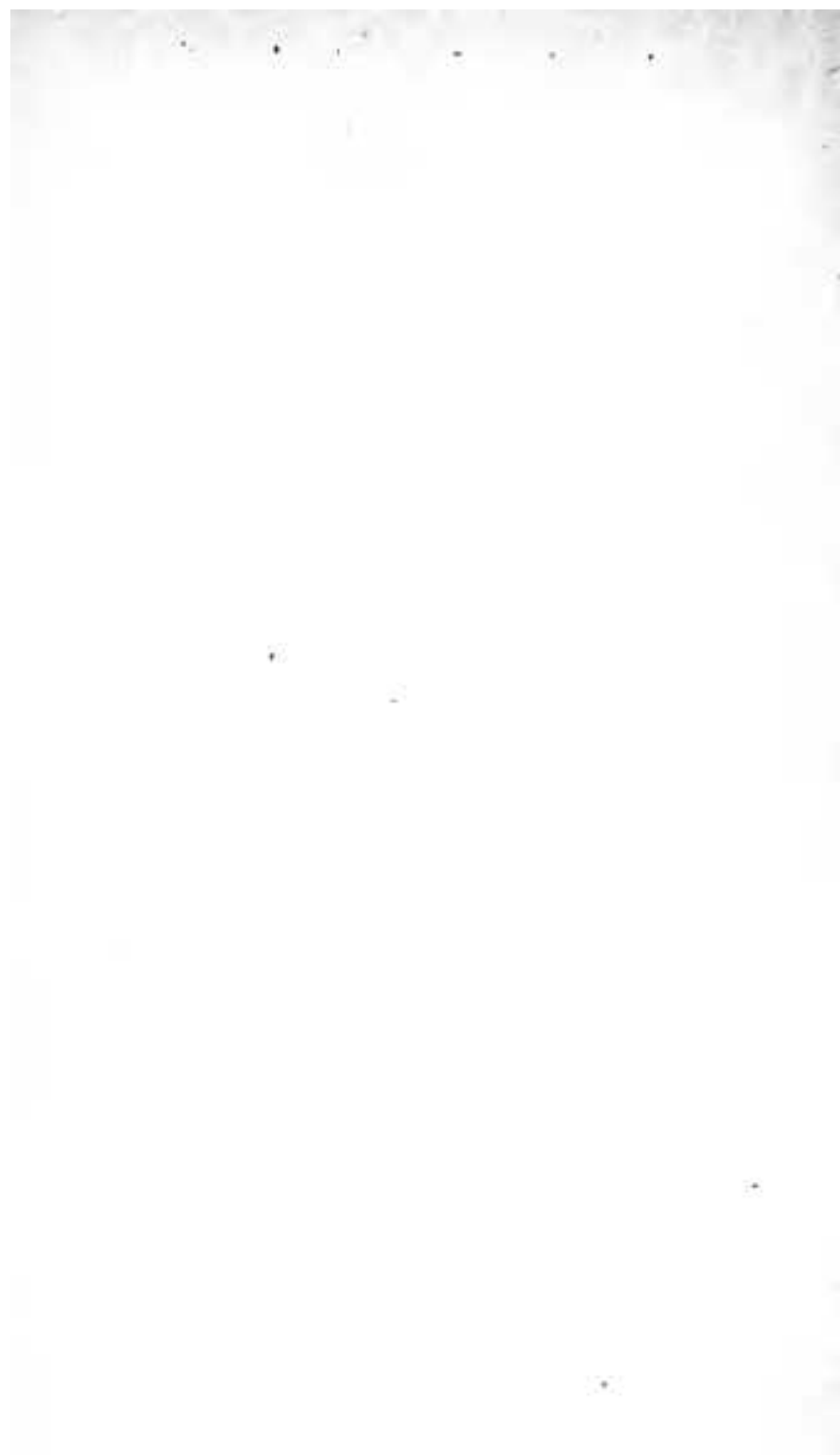
November

CONTENTS

(VOL. I)

	PAGE
INTRODUCTION, EDWARD GAY- LORD BOURNE	v
TITLE PAGE OF A TRUE RELATION GIVEN BY A FIDALGO OF ELVAS	xxiii
INDEX OF CHAPTERS	xxv
EPIGRAM	1
DISCOVERY OF FLORIDA, THE TRUE RELATION BY A FIDALGO OF ELVAS*	3

*Originally published by the Bradford Club in 1866.



EDITOR'S INTRODUCTION

THE expeditions of De Soto and Coronado were the most elaborate efforts made by the Spaniards to explore the interior of North America, and in some respects they have never been surpassed in the later history of the country. Between them they nearly spanned the continent from Georgia to the Gulf of California. Of the two, that of De Soto excited the most interest at the time, and this distinction it still retains. It was the first extensive exploration of at least six of our Southern States, and their written history opens with the narratives which tell its story; these same narratives contain the earliest descriptions which we possess of the life and manners of the southern Indians so famous in literature and history—the Choctaws, the Cherokees, the Creeks, and the Seminoles; these narratives also record the discovery of the Mississippi River and the story of the first voyage upon it by Europeans.

Nor are these narratives less interesting in literary history. One of them—that accorded the first place in this edition—is the only considerable contribution in the Portu-

EDITOR'S INTRODUCTION

guese language, and by a Portuguese, to the early history of the United States. In making another, a descendant of the Incas of Peru transmuted the tale of hardships and meetings with the Indians, friendly and hostile, into an old romance of chivalry,—the first and certainly the most celebrated one dealing with an American theme,—in which a groundwork of fact is richly embroidered by the author's imagination with romantic details into a whole so full of charm as to have beguiled even professed historians. Finally, in contrast to this quaint compound of knight-errantry and Indian fighting, we have a plain, unvarnished account of what actually took place from day to day from the hand of De Soto's private secretary, Rodrigo Ranjel. This last is now made accessible, in English, for the first time in this edition.

The earliest narrative of De Soto's expedition to be published was drawn up by one of the Portuguese gentlemen who joined it from the town of Elvas, which lies just across the boundary from the Spanish city of Badajoz, where De Soto was well known. The writer did not reveal his name, and his identity has never been discovered. His *True Relation*, as he entitled it, was published in Evora, Portugal, in 1557. It was brought to the attention of a wider public by the ever