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SOCIETY. AN EARLY ACCOUNT
OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF
JESUIT MISSIONS IN AMERICA.
[WORCESTER]**

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of Jesuit Missions in America

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AN EARLY ACCOUNT
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BY HENRY F. DEPUY

FEW subjects in American history have had more careful study from eminent scholars both historically and bibliographically than the Jesuit missions in North America. The Jesuits were by no means the first missionaries to the new world, but they had a system of reports to the head of the order and many of these reports were printed for public distribution. These reports from the fact that they contain descriptions of the country and its inhabitants are among the most important sources of our early history. It is therefore with good reason that these books and anything relating to the Jesuit missions have been sought with avidity by historians, libraries and collectors. The discovery of hitherto unknown books or manuscripts relating to these Missions is today an event of importance both historically and bibliographically. It is the purpose of this paper to call attention to an authoritative source of information as to the Jesuit missions till now almost entirely unknown to American investigators—the Life of Francisco de Borja, the third General of the Jesuits, written by Father Ribadeneyra and printed in Madrid in 1592. The complete title and collation of this book is:

Vida del P. Francisco de Borja, que fue Duque de Gandia, y despues Religioso y III. General dela Compañia de Iesus. Escrita por el P. Pedro de Ribadeneyra de la misma Compañia Dirigida al Catolico Rey Don Felipe II nuestro Senor. [cut]

Con privilegio real En Madrid, En Casa de P. Madrigal. Año de 1592. Esta tassada en papel en cinco Reales, y 19 mrs.

Quarto; ff [12], 237 [3]; 193 x 140 mm.

Father Pedro de Ribadeneyra, the author, was born in Toledo, November the first, 1527, and died at Madrid on the twenty-second of September, 1611. He served in several important posts in the Company of Jesus, and besides other works was the author of the Lives of Loyola, Laynez, and Borgia the first three Generals of the Order.

The "Vida de Borja" was first printed in Madrid in 1592, the foregoing being the title to the first edition. The other editions that I have been able to trace are: Verdun, 1596, in French; Douai, 1596 and 1603, in French; Florence, 1600, in Italian; Ingolstadt, 1613, in German; Mentz, 1603, in Latin; Rome, 1616, in Italian, cited by Backer; and Antwerp, 1598; Mayence, 1613; Douai, 1603; Lyons, 1609, cited by Nicolas Antonio. These are all separate editions of the Life of Borgia. The three "Vidas" of Loyola, Laynez and Borgia appear together in several editions, the earliest being 1594. Pérez Pastor in *Bibliografía Madrileña*, Madrid, 1891, gives the interesting information about this edition of 1594, that the Duke of Gandia, son of Francisco de Borgia, gave 1500 reals to assist the printing "de ce livre." This sums up the bibliographical information that I have found in regard to the book. As to the book itself, I have not been able to locate a copy of any edition in any public library in America. The British Museum catalogue has two editions, Madrid 1592 (imperfect) and Mentz 1603.

The copy which I owned and from which the chapters quoted in this article are taken is now in the library of Mr. Henry E. Huntington. I obtained it through Mr. Robert Dodd, and a name on the title indicates that in the early part of the 19th century it was the property of Alfred Hennen of New Orleans.

La Licencia de esta Obra es de los Señores de la Real Audiencia de Madrid.

V I D A
DEL .P. FRANCISCO
de Borja , que fue Duque de
Gádia, y despues Religioso y .III.
General de la Compañia de
I E S U S.

*Escrita por el P. Pedro, de Ribadeneyra
de la misma Compañia.*

Dirigida al Catolico Rey Don Felipe .II.
nuestro Señor.



CON PRIVILEGIO REAL.

EN MADRID,
En casa de P. Madrigal. Año de 1592.

Està tassado en papel en cinco Reales, y 19. mrs.

It contains four chapters on the establishment of Jesuit missions in America. They are as follows:

"The Entrance of the Company into the West Indies, and the death of nine of them in Florida, Chapter VI.

"Our men go to Peru and to New Spain, Chapter VII.

"The Death which the heretics gave to thirty-nine of the company who were going to Brazil. Chapter X.

"Concerning twelve others of the Company who likewise died at the hands of the heretics." Chapter XI.

These chapters are, as far as I know, the earliest printed accounts of the Florida mission. There are earlier accounts of the South American missions; and in this connection it is worthy of remark that although Ribadeneyra distinctly says in Chapter VI: "When Father Francisco was first General of the Company none of the Company had entered the West Indies which were subject to the Crown of Castile. They had only sent forth and scattered our men through the East Indies" etc. Yet it is undoubtedly a fact that there were Jesuit missionaries in South America prior to 1550. I am indebted to Mr. Eames for the three titles as follows:

(1) *Avisi Particolari delle Indiedi Portugallo*, Roma, 1552, (This contains seven letters from Jesuit missionaries in Brazil. 1549-1551.)

(2) *Novi Avisi di piu lochi de l'India et massime de Brasil* receuti quest' anno del M. D. LIII, Roma, 1553. (Contains eleven letters from Jesuit missionaries in Brazil, 1551-1552.)

(3) *Copia de unas Cartas de algunos padres y hermanos dela compania de Jesus que escrivieron dela India, Japon, y Brasil*, [Lisbon,] 1555. (Contains four letters from Jesuit missionaries in Brazil written in 1555.)

All three are in the Lenox collection of the New York Public Library, and all were printed before Francisco de Borgia became General of the Company in 1565.

It is remarkable that in studying the history of the Jesuit missions scholars should have failed to consult the life of the General of the Order under whom they were established. It seems hardly credible that a

book of that character, which went through at least ten editions in twenty-four years, should be extremely rare. Yet no reference is made to it by Shea or O'Callaghan, who were both intensely interested in the subject, and who were both members of the Order. Buckingham Smith is supposed to have ransacked Madrid for early books and documents relating to Florida and evidently did not discover it. The facts given in the chapter on Florida are simply confirmatory, though in more detail, of the account given by Shea in his chapter on Ancient Florida in Winsor's *Narrative and Critical History*, Volume 2. Shea cites as his authority a letter of Menendez dated in October 1566, and printed in Madrid, 1710 [Winsor II, 279.] In fact, I have been able to learn of but one American reference to this book. This morning, our associate Mr. George Parker Winship, has called my attention to the fact that it was cited in 1905 in a footnote on p. 266 of Woodbury Lowery: "Spanish Settlements within the limits of the United States; Florida, 1562-1574."

The story of the attempt to establish the mission in Florida as told by Father Ribadeneyra is well worth reprinting. I have had it translated by a well-known student of Spanish literature and give it entire.

THE ENTRANCE OF THE COMPANY INTO THE WEST INDIES,
AND THE DEATH OF NINE OF THEM IN FLORIDA

Chapter VI

When Father Francisco was first General (of the Company) none of the Company had entered the West Indies, (which were) subject to the crown of Castile. They had only sent forth and scattered our men through the East Indies, and arrived at the gates of China, and founded houses and churches in Japan, with the result that is known. There were many in the Company to whom our Lord had given an ardent desire to die for him, and a particular aptitude to labor in (fol. 140a) the West Indies, in the same manner in which their other companions and brethren labored in the East Indies. And

they implored our Lord that he might open the gates for them and fulfil in them his desires. And the charity and zeal for the glory of God our Lord, with which Father Francisco was burning, was so great that he had, even before he became General, offered up many prayers, sacrifices and penances for this purpose. The Lord heard them and waited (for the most opportune time) until the Father was appointed General, in order that by his hand and to his contentment he might send, for this enterprise, the fathers and brethren who should seem best to him. Almost at the same time or a little later, which was on May 3, 1566, he induced the Catholic King don Felipe to write a letter, in which, among other things, he said: on account of the good reports which we have of persons in the Company, and of the good they have done and are doing in these Kingdoms, I have desired that an order be given that some of the Company be sent to our Indies of the Atlantic Ocean. And in order that the necessity for such persons shall constantly be increased and that our Lord may be served by the said father's going to those parts, on account of the Christianity and kindness they have and because they are persons fit for the conversion of those natives, and on account of the devotion I have to the said company (fol. 141) I desire that some of them go to those regions. I therefore beg you and charge you to appoint and command 24 persons of the Company to go to our said Indies to wherever our Council shall indicate to them. That they shall be learned persons of good life and example and such as you may judge fitting for such an undertaking. For besides the service which you will do to the Lord in this matter, I shall receive great satisfaction and I shall command that they be provided with everything necessary. In addition, that country to which they may go will receive great happiness and benefit through their arrival.

In fulfillment of what the King commanded, father Francisco chose some fathers of the Company for this mission. The first were the fathers Maestro Pedro Martinez (who was an Aragonese from the town of Teurel) and Juan Rogel, and the brother Francisco de Villareal, who left in that same year on July 28th for Florida, where they arrived on September 24th of the said year. And our Lord was pleased to receive as the first fruits of the Company the first one of the Company who set his foot on that new world. For Father Martinez in leaping ashore in the Floridas in order to preach and to give news of the Gospel to the barbarous natives who were (fol. 141a) on the sea-shore, was beaten to the ground with the clubs they carried, and seizing him, half dead, they threw him into the sea, our Lord thus giving him as a reward for the hardships he had suffered in the Company in his religious and