## HISPANIC NOTES AND MONOGRAPHS; POTUGUES SERIES IV: LUIS DE CAMOES

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### **AUBREY F. G. BELL**

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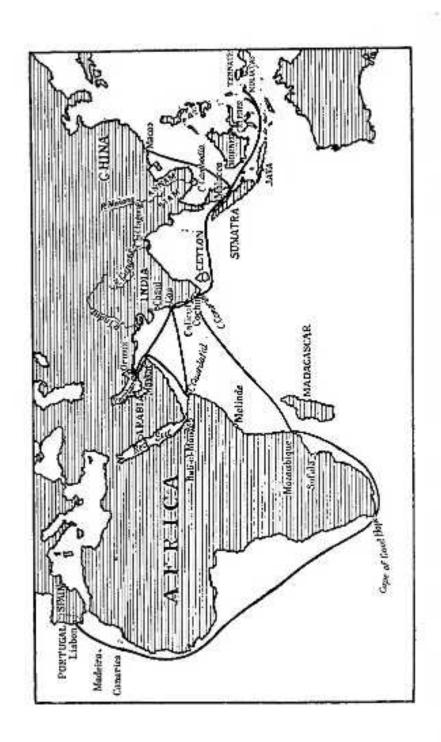


## HISPANIC NOTES & MONOGRAPHS

ESSAYS, STUDIES, AND BRIEF BIOGRAPHIES ISSUED BY THE HISPANIC SOCIETY OF AMERICA

PORTUGUESE SERIES

IV



# LUIS DE CAMÕES

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### AUBREY F. C. BELL



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## CONTENTS

					I	AGE
	BIBLIOGRAPHI	CAL I	PREF	ACE	1	vii
I.	EARLY YEARS	š .	40	\$3		1
11.	AT LISBON.	250	50.	•		14
ш.	IN INDIA .	**	60	63		33
IV.	LAST YEARS	(1.00) (1.00)	30	80	30	59
v.	CHARACTER			*	27	67
vI.	THE LUSIADS	•33	80	*	*	75
VII.	CAMÕES AS L	VRIC.		Drab	JA:	96
	Notes .	123	20	•	9	107
	INDEX .	20	25	<b>S</b> )	×	151
	MAP	26	Ŷ.	Fro	ntis	piece

### PREFACE

ALTHOUGH Camões is the Portuguese poet best known to fame, it is doubtful if he has been widely read outside Portugal. Englishmen know, of course, that he was praised by Byron, and that he soothed an exile's grief with sonnets (1). To most lovers of literature he is a splendid name, but they perhaps suspect that his poetry is rather dull and that he is a second-rate Petrarca or Garci Lasso, who attempted an academic exercise in epic poetry out of its due time. If Virgil as an epic poet is so greatly inferior to Homer, what can we expect of an epic in the sixteenth century, in full Renaissance? Curious as these views may seem to those who have read Camões in the original, it must be admitted that there are a good many

HISPANIC NOTES

IV