

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

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649077960

Hispanic notes and monographs; potugues series IV: Luis de Camoes by Aubrey F. G. Bell

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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



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# LUIS DE CAMÕES

BY

AUBREY F. G. BELL



180840.

30.5.23.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS

HUMPHREY MILFORD

1923

PRINTED IN ENGLAND  
AT THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS  
BY FREDERICK HALL.



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## P R E F A C E

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