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The Anglo-Portuguese Alliance and the English Merchants in Portugal, 1654-1810. By L. M. E. Shaw. (Brookfield, VT: Ashgate Publishing, 1998. xii + 233 pp. Illustrations, map, notes, bibliography, index. Price not available.)

The negotiation and implementation of the Anglo-Portuguese treaty of 1654 occupied a central place in L. M. E. Shaw's earlier volume, *Trade, Inquisition and the English Nation in Portugal, 1650-1690* (Manchester: Carcanet Press Limited, 1989). While Lusitanian abuses of that treaty represent a primary theme in the volume under review, it is certainly mistitled, for it contributes little to our understanding of Anglo-Portuguese diplomatic relations during this period. Indeed, the careers of British diplomats in Portugal are of less concern to the author than the role of British consuls whose activities interested her before. Furthermore, she fails to make clear why the treaty of 1654 exceeded in importance that of the better known treaties of 1661 and 1703.

The book's thirteen chapters are divided into four sections. The first is a broad, but unoriginal, survey of Anglo-Portuguese diplomatic and

commercial relations during the period. The second focuses on "the British Community," primarily the British Factory in Lisbon, most of whose records have vanished. The third examines the vexations of British merchants with Portuguese customs and judicial authorities, particularly with respect to three branches of commerce: wheat imports, port wine exports, and the Brazil trade. The book ends with a rather superficial conclusion that fails to present an arresting thesis that might unite and sustain this diffuse volume.

The book replicates the strengths and faults of its predecessor. Seemingly, it is based upon an impressive array of archival sources in both Britain and Portugal and upon an extensive published literature. However, the author fails to demonstrate familiarity with the contributions of many scholars in Brazil and the United States. As before, the text is replete with erroneous statements, of which the following are examples: The Lisbon earthquake (1755) did *not* destroy "most of the Portuguese government's records" (pp. [vi], xi, and 33); the *mesa da consciência* was *not* an agency of the Inquisition (p. 97); and Cabral did *not* land "near the present town of Santos (read Porto Seguro)" (p. 113). Throughout, dates are unreliable, in part because the volume was not carefully proofed, and the literary style is often pedestrian.

As in her previous volume, it is clear that the author's sympathies lie with British merchants rather than with their adversaries who, in her view, consisted of rival, largely New Christian merchants and a priest-ridden bureaucracy. Unfortunately, despite the author's undeniable industry, there is little in this volume to recommend it.

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