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CONQUISTA

TEMPORAL, E ESPIRITUAL

DE CEYLAÕ,

ORDENADA PELO

PADRE FERNAÕ DE QUEYROZ,

*Da Companhia de Jesus, da Provincia de Goa.*

COM MUYTAS OUTRAS PROUEYTOZAS NOTICIAS PERTENCENTES  
Â DISPOSIÇÃO, E GOVERNO DO ESTADO DE INDIA.

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EM LISBOA NO ANO . . . .

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COLOMBO:

H. C. COTTLE, GOVERNMENT PRINTER, CEYLON.

1916.

*To be purchased at the Government Record Office, Colombo, price Rs. 21*



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## INTRODUCTION.

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LITTLE is known of the personal history of the author of the CONQUISTA, and that little has been already published by me in another work. Fernão de Queiroz was born at Canaveres, in Portugal, in 1617, and he arrived at Cochin as a member of the Society of Jesus in 1635, or twenty-three years before the extinction of the Portuguese authority in Ceylon. He rose to be the Provincial of his Order, and died at Goa on 10th April, 1688; the dedication of his work to the Conde de Alvor, Viceroy of India, is dated the first day of the previous October. De Queiroz was the author of numerous other works, none of which are extant.

It is, perhaps, no exaggeration to say that to the student of the history of Ceylon the "Conquista" is surpassed in value only by the great Sinhalese chronicle, the *Mahawansa*. The story which it narrates—the death-agony of a small but cultured and attractive race, with a history of twenty centuries behind it, which was the fruit of the first clash of the West with the East—is of more than local interest. De Queiroz alone of the Portuguese historians has dealt with the entire period of the influence of his countrymen in Ceylon; he brought to his task not only the skill of the trained scholar, but also a point of view which was not common among the writers of his age and country. The glory of Portugal had departed; her pride was humbled in the dust; her failure in its magnitude was almost unique in the history of the nations; and the task which de Queiroz set before himself was to illustrate, from the story of her dealings in Ceylon, the reasons for that terrible failure. With this end in view he earnestly strove to arrive at the truth, however painful that truth might be; and the reader will not lay down his book without the feeling

that, after making allowance for certain defects which were the outcome of his birth and training, de Queiroz conscientiously related what he believed to be the truth. It will also appear from the text that he had more opportunity for arriving at the truth than was available to those other writers whose books are accessible to the public.

The kindness of the Very Reverend Father J. COOREMAN, S.J., Vicar-General of Galle, first made me acquainted with the existence of the "Conquista," and I was able, with the assistance of the late Mr. Bernard Quaritch, to purchase a copy made in 1844, which belonged to the *Instituto Historico* of Rio de Janeiro. It is from this copy, which is now the property of the Government of Ceylon, that the present issue is printed, the number of its folios being shown marginally. No attempt has been made to amend errors, even of punctuation, however obvious. The original manuscript was at Rio in 1844, but it is not possible to state definitely where it is now; however, what purports to be the original manuscript of Book I. and of part of Book II. of a *Historia de Ceylão*, composed by Fernão de Queiroz, is at present at the *Bibliotheca da Ajuda*, in Portugal.

This new source of knowledge has been rendered accessible through the interest taken in the study of the history of Ceylon by Sir HUGH CLIFFORD, K.C.M.G., during his residence in the Island, and by His Excellency Mr. R. E. STUBBS, C.M.G., presently administering the Government.

It is right that I should place on record my personal sense of gratitude to Mr. H. C. COTTLE, the Government Printer of Ceylon, for the helpfulness which he has throughout shown in the difficult task of printing a long manuscript in an unknown tongue.

*Jaffna, Ceylon,*  
*December 25, 1915.*

P. E. PIERIS.

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GASPAR AFFONSO, da Companhia de Jesu, Prouincial da Prouincia de Goa, por particular comissão que tenho de nosso M. R. P. Prepozito geral, deu Licença, pera q.' se imprima este Liuro, intitulado, Conquista temporal, e espiritual de Ceylaõ, ordenada pello P.<sup>o</sup> Fernão de Queyros da mesma Companhia Prouincial que foi desta Prouincia; reuisto, e approuado por religiosos doutos da mesma Companhia. E por verdade dey esta, por mim assinada, e sellada com o sello de meu officio. Goa 6 de Janeiro de 1688.

GPAR AFFONSO.

(Lugar do Sello.)

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*ADVERTENCIA.*

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AGOSTINHO MARQUES PERDIGAO MALHEIRO.