

the story of Jacobus Elisa Joannes Captein (ca. 1717-1747), whose portrait graces the cover, so fascinating. Captein was a slave who became a Dutch Reformed minister in the Netherlands and then returned to Ghana to preach. He has been the subject of several books and is probably well known among regional specialists but his fascinating life is not common knowledge. Van der Ham brings in many other lesser-known figures whose portraits reside in the Rijksmuseum, such as the unnamed envoy from the Congo to Dutch Brazil attributed to Albert Eckhout, or chronologically later, Kees Pop and Jan Kooi, nineteenth century African recruits in the Dutch Army. This volume covers the causes of expansion, colonization, Ghanaian connections with Suriname and other parts of the world and the effects these historical Dutch actions have had in the modern world.

Overall, the presentations in these volumes are synthetic rather than ground breaking, using few primary or indigenous-language sources. Some things were not to this reviewer's personal taste, such as the translation for supercargo as a merely an official rather than something more explanatory like "head merchant" in *Silk Thread* or the use of Dejima, the modern pronunciation, instead of Deshima, the historical one, in a *Narrow Bridge*, but these criticisms aren't especially relevant to the public. The imagined target audience of history buffs will probably be more than satisfied with the offerings here. However, given that most readers of *Itinerario* are academics, what use would these books be to us? Judging at least by the regions that this reader has some expertise in, there would be little need for a specialist to acquire them. Once they might have had value to the specialist but online collections databases have almost obviated the need for physical catalogues to find objects for study or reference. However, if one were seeking a clear, manageable introduction into a new region outside of one's own expertise they would be a pleasurable way to go about it. Given the reasonable price one could (depending on the exchange rate) acquire the whole series for about the price of some survey textbooks) in courses on world history, colonialism, maritime trade or the specific region of one title, they have potential as supplementary reading but the slightly disjointed nature and not just Eurocentric, but Dutch, perspective even in their attempts to bring indigenous perspectives into the history of Dutch colonialism make them insufficient as stand-alone texts. They would be of interest in museum studies courses as case studies for examining one approach to teaching through objects. Most importantly, these volumes speak to the need for accessible history produced by professionals. Non-experts should have more than video games to learn about the past.

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Martha Chaiklin, *Zayed University*

Africa

Gérard Chouin. *Colbert et la Guinée: Le voyage en Guinée de Louis de Hally et Louis Ancelin de Gémozac (1670-1671)*. Saint-Maur-Des-Fosses, France: Éditions Sépia, 2011. 160 pp. ISBN: 9782842801861. €19.29.

This slim but exceptionally rich book, published in French and English, presents the fruits of years of meticulous research and analysis by Gérard Chouin on the fascinating topic of French commercial and military schemes on the West African coast during the reign of Louis XIV (seventeenth century). Chouin traces the origins of an "anonymous" travel account and not

only solves the mystery of its author's identity but also uncovers a second account of the same voyage. He artfully compares these two texts in ways that enrich our understanding of West African and French history and offer valuable insights into the very different content and orientation of travel accounts written for publication versus those intended solely for internal government use. Chouin's careful analysis of the two texts as distinct types of primary sources—travel account versus unpublished manuscript—makes the book ideal for teaching historical methods.

Chouin first examined these texts in a 2004 article in the journal *History in Africa* (in English), where he described the historical context of French maritime activity in West Africa in the seventeenth century. Much of that article is summarized in the Introduction to *Colbert et la Guinée* (in French only). As Chouin explains, the history of French trade on the West African coast has been sorely neglected, owing to the scarcity of documentary evidence and its dispersal among numerous libraries and archives. French vessels sailed to what was then known as the Guinea coast from as early as the 1530s. But it was Jean Baptist Colbert, the renowned Minister of Louis XIV, who initiated direct involvement by the French state in the Guinea trade. Colbert took charge of the French Navy, colonies and maritime trade in 1661 and envisioned greater French participation in the gold trade from West Africa as a means of boosting the development of France's colonies in the Caribbean. The immediate obstacle to this plan was the strong Dutch presence, which included several stone fortifications along the so-called Gold Coast of Guinea.

The main body of Chouin's book (36-90) consists of two original accounts of the voyage of the man-of-war *Tourbillon* which was sent by Colbert to assess the Dutch holdings on the West African coast and provide intelligence to facilitate a French takeover of the gold trade. The *Tourbillon* sailed from Senegal to Ghana and then São Tomé between November 1670 and February 1671 under the command of Captain Louis de Hally. The best-known account of this voyage was published anonymously in 1674 as part of a collection of travel accounts marketed to the Parisian intelligentsia who were increasingly interested in distant and exotic parts of the world. Chouin reveals that the author of this account was an officer aboard the *Tourbillon* named Louis Ancelin de Gémozac. His official charge for the voyage was to identify places suitable for constructing French trading posts, to assess the strength of the Dutch fortifications, and to secretly sketch the plans of the existing forts to facilitate a planned military takeover of the Dutch trade. In addition to his official report, de Gémozac also produced the "anonymous" account for publication.

De Gémozac's account reveals much more about the historical moment in which it was created when it is compared to the unpublished account written by the ship's captain, de Hally. Chouin reveals vast differences in the content and language of the two accounts, particularly regarding the ways in which Africa and Africans are described. When de Gémozac's narrative is compared to de Hally's, we see precisely how authors of travel accounts altered and augmented their texts when preparing them for a popular audience in Europe. While de Hally focused strictly on the observable conditions of the Gold Coast and the possibilities for French trade, de Gémozac added numerous exotic details and muted those qualities of maritime trade in Africa that de Hally seemed to find familiar or even impressive. Chouin provides numerous helpful explanatory footnotes throughout the text.

In addition to the two accounts of the voyage, the book includes three useful appendices. The first includes photographs and illustrations, including de Gémozac's drawings. The second reproduces the cenotaph of Louis de Hally from the Eglise de Jouveaux in France. The third is an English translation of the two travel accounts. The book also includes a bibliography and an index.

This beautifully illustrated volume will serve many purposes in the academy. By presenting these two entirely original and hitherto virtually unknown sources, the book provides useful primary sources for research on both French and West African history. Those parts of the texts dealing with West African societies include rare descriptions of flags and umbrellas used by Africans on the Gold Coast and expand our knowledge of the complex commercial and interpersonal relationships between West Africans and Europeans in the seventeenth century. The comparison and analysis of the two texts together illuminate the crucial differences between published and unpublished sources as tools for historical research and contributes to important academic discussions about the value and use of European travel accounts as historical sources.

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Rebecca Shumway, *College of Charleston*

Asia

Jacques M. Downs. *The Golden Ghetto: The American Commercial Community at Canton and the Shaping of American China Policy, 1784-1844 (Reissue Edition)*. Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, 2015. ISBN: 9789888139095. \$69.00.

Aficionados of early US trade relations with Qing China can hardly do without Jacques M. Downs's judicious and multifarious account at their elbows. Yet with the passage of time, the initial prints by Lehigh University Press soon proved to be elusive. Therefore, this fresh reprint under the Hong Kong University Press's "Echoes: Classics of Hong Kong Culture and History" series will be warmly welcome.

The opium trade forms the major thrust of this book. Downs rightly points out its centrality in creating "competencies" for the American merchants. What remains useful, even for the general readers, is the reminder just how much effort had gone into the enforcement against opium, given the deleterious effects opium had on Chinese populace, before the arrival of Commissioner Lin Zexu. After 1821, Downs reports, "this study has turned up no evidence of Hong merchants' participation in narcotics" (120). In a clear case of the "devil besting the priest", official Chinese prohibitions only served to provoke a more effective "Lintin System in smuggling opium. Nonetheless, 1837 marked the year whereby official sanctions to halt opium were finally biting. Vigorous enforcements by Wang Ch'ing-lien and Teng T'ingchen were good examples. Ironically, it was only a year earlier Xu Naiji, a Qing official, has petitioned the Chinese emperor to legalize opium sales since "laws issued against opium are quite inoperative". When Lin Zexu finally appeared on the scene, the American merchants had already come to terms with the impending demise of the opium trade. But all these proved to be moot because the subsequent Opium War devastated the Chinese, and demonstrated that "Western military and naval superiority enabled Britain to get away with it" (135).

The "ghetto" mind-set of the American emigre community is the other companion concern of this book. Downs demonstrates how isolation and arrogance worked, hand-in-glove, to produce a framework whereby Chinese lives were cheap, their culture and customs vile, so this justified the selling of opium to the Chinese. But right on the cusp of the Opium War, even the "American public opinion agreed with most missionaries and their mercantile allies who viewed the [Opium] war as a scandalous attempt to force a noxious product on an unwilling