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Agostino Vespucci A Description of All Spain

De situ, longitudine, forma et divisione totius Hispaniae libellus

Critical edition, translation, introduction and notes edited by Gerard González Germain

Agostino Vespucci's *De situ, longitudine, forma et divisione totius Hispaniae libellus* represents one of the first, most thorough and lively Renaissance descriptions of Iberia. Combining the genres of chorography, travel literature and the diplomatic report, the book deals with the country's geography, ethnography, recent history and Roman antiquities, merging the past with the present and having recourse to both literary sources and the author's own investigations. As Vespucci's only extant literary work, it sheds light on his humanist activity and political ideas, and it allows us to assess the influence that figures such as Poliziano and Machiavelli exercised on him. The manuscript treatise, which was dedicated and presented to Cardinal Giulio de' Medici (later Pope Clement VII) in 1520, is edited here for the first time.

Agostino Vespucci (born Nettucci) studied law in Pisa in the 1480s, subsequently moving to Florence and entering the service of Guidantonio Vespucci. In the early 1490s, he attended Angelo Poliziano's courses at the University of Florence. From 1494 to 1517, Vespucci worked at the Florentine chancery as a clerk and as secretary to the ambassadors, which allowed him to establish a close friendship with Niccolò Machiavelli and to mix with statesmen, popes, humanists, and artists. His last diplomatic mission, as secretary to the ambassador Giovanni Corsi at the court of Ferdinand II of Aragon from 1513 to 1516, sparked the writing of this work.

Gerard González Germain received his PhD in Latin Philology from the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona in 2011. His main field of research deals with the rediscovery of Classical Antiquity during the Renaissance, with particular emphasis on the reception and study of Roman antiquities; on this subject, he has written *El despertar epigráfico en el Renacimiento hispánico* (Faenza, 2013).

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