

Caroline Dodds Pennock, *On Savage Shores: How Indigenous Americans Discovered Europe* (London: Weidenfeld and Nicolson, 2023), ISBN: 9781474616904, pp.320

Caroline Dodds Pennock is the highly respected author of the excellent *Bonds of Blood: Gender, Lifecycle and Sacrifice in Aztec Culture*. Spanning Spain, Portugal, France and England, as well as both the American continents, *On Savage Shores* is a notably broad-ranging work which challenges assumptions about the conquest of the Americas by taking the Indigenous rather than the European perspective. Dodds Pennock reminds us that the words we use to describe Native populations are important, before setting out to gather a 'mosaic' of fragments into a story of 'how the Americas, and their original inhabitants, made our world' (p.32). The first chapter deals with slavery, demonstrating that from the outset, Indigenous peoples were exploited as commodities. The second investigates the important work of interpreters who attempted to breach language barriers, noting that many accounts of apparently detailed negotiations and eloquent speeches were in fact based on convoluted methods of translation involving several individuals, leaving significant margin for error. Chapter 3 explores the complex kinship networks which developed between Indigenous people and colonists, while Chapter 4 examines Indigenous commodities that changed European lives, and the people that were invested in them. Here, she highlights the role of women in the ceremonially important drinking of chocolate. Chapter 5 on Diplomacy highlights the ways in which Indigenous travellers could exploit patronage in order to act as ambassadors who gradually accumulated privileges for their region. The final chapter examines how Indigenous travellers became objects of curiosity for Europeans, presaging the cultural appropriation which took place during the following centuries. An afterword considers the people and objects that stayed in Europe whether they chose to come here or not.

Dodds Pennock's book is endorsed by Benjamin Zephaniah and Peter Frankopan, but academic reviews have been a little more mixed. Felipe Fernandez-Armesto notes that despite claiming that the archive rarely allows us to hear Indigenous voices, there are in fact many such documents from the early colonial period still awaiting scholarly attention. Some sections rely on critical fabulation – that is, the use of speculation based on the limited known facts to fill in the gaps left by colonial archives. None of this, however, should undermine the importance of Dodds Pennock's book in bringing to mainstream attention the stories of those Indigenous men and women who encountered the wave of Europeans who crossed the Atlantic in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, or indeed made the voyage in the other direction, either by choice or under duress.

Jenni Hyde