

INCUNABULA

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FERNANDO DE ALMEIDA
ORATIO

[Rome? Johann Besicken and Sigismund
Mayr? ca. 1493?]



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THE TRUSTEES

NEW YORK

1928

HISPANIC NOTES & MONOGRAPHS	
ESSAYS, STUDIES, AND BRIEF BIOGRAPHIES ISSUED BY THE HISPANIC SOCIETY OF AMERICA	

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P R E F A C E	v
BIOGRAPHICAL PREFACE Fernando de Almeida was born at Lisbon about 1459. He was sent to Rome by the King, João the Second, and to France as nuncio. He was successively Bishop of Ceuta and of Nevers. He died about 1500.	

IOANNI SECVNDO PORTV
GALLIE REGI INVICTISSIMO
AC PIENTISSIMO FERD: DE AL
MEIDA ELECTVS SEPTIN: DI
CATISSIMA SVE MAIESTATIS
CREATVRA PERPET. FOELICI
TATEM.



Agnum & mee omnino professioni
inuitatum munus: illudq; ornatiss:
quo me nuper inter alios maiestatis
tue: adsum: Pont. Alexan. vi. clarissi
mos Oratores: exornari placuit: Inuictiss. Rex: ac
piissimā tue celsitudinis mentē: quoad potui: quan
taq; illa temporis patiebat angustia: nō tamen ut
dicebat: inculta mea; hac ieiuna oratione absolui.
Nam obsecro quis est: qui & christi rerum omniū
opificis: summū illud imperiū: & Vicarii eius dig
nitatē: non enarrare solum: uerum etiam mente ipā
concipere posset: Tuas etiam laudes: titulos: hono
res: & merita quis etiam: & disertiss. orator: non di
cam extollere: sed enarrare pro ipsis meritis posset
Igit si hec recte metieris: quod tue nō potuisse ma
iestatis desiderio satisfacerē: spero imbecillitati mee
ueniam largiturā. Nam sepe numero ut apud deū
ipsum animaduertimus: nō tam acuratis adoratiū
precibus: q̄ innocētia: fide: ac uenerationē quadā le

O R A T I O	I
O R A T I O [Rome? Johann Besicken and Sigismund Mayr? <i>ca.</i> 1493?] [Dedication, beginning:] ¶ IOANNI SECVNDO PORTV GALLIE REGI . . . f[1]-v^of[1].—[Oration beginning:] ¶ Ad Alexandrū. vi. Pont. Max. . . . f[2]-v^of[4]. [4] f. 21.8 x 15.2; leaf, 21.2 x 14.6; text, 15 x 9.1 cm. [Unmarked signature]⁴ Roman type, two sizes, 27 lines to a full page; No running title; No catchwords; Initials two sizes (M and S, reproduced); Watermark: column (?) This oration was delivered by Fernando de Almeida, envoy from King John of Portugal, probably on the occasion of pre-	Collation Notes

senting his obedience to the Pope, Alexander the Sixth. At about this same time, Spain presented her obedience through her ambassador, Bernardino de Carvajal in his *Oratio*. The latter mentions the islands newly discovered by Columbus. Harrisse translates from Cancellieri with regard to these two orations and to the controversy between Spain and Portugal, decided by the Pope's Demarcation Line,

“ ‘What mark of gratitude could those two sovereigns give which should have been proportionate to the great benefits divided between them by a trait of the most magnanimous and liberal disinterestedness; the thought even never entering Alexander VI's mind to reserve the least possession in America for the Holy-See, although they had selected him as the umpire in that great controversy? The remembrance has been preserved of the Solemn Obedience sworn to in a public Consistory by Ferdinand d'Almeida, Ambassador of John II, and Bernardin de Carvajal in the name of Ferdinand and Isabella . . . ’ ”

¶ Ad Alexandrū .vi. Pont. Max. Ferd: de
Almeida electi Ecclie Septim: & Sereniss:
Io. II. Regis Portugallie oratoris Oratio.

Socratem sapiētissimū illum hominem
(si homo ille applādus est qui uniuersa
se philosophiæ parens: omnium philoso
phorū deus: atq; mētis diuine interpres: ac nuncius
habitu:) dicere solitū legim⁹ pater Beatiss: ab uno
hoīe unum opus honeste: sane: atq; sceleriter perfici
posse: Plura uero ab uno nec satis recte peragi:
& temerarii esse testatur. Cuius præclaram: & bra
uēteatam sententiā mecū ipse pensitās: uereor ne te
merē: & impudēter: alienæ disciplinæ: ac sacre theo
logiæ studiis adictus perdifficilē: & absolutissimi
Oratoris puinciā aggressus in p̄sentia uidear: Ac
cedebat etiā illud quod uel me solum ab hoc orādi
munere deterrere poterat Augustiss: tui numinis
cōspectus p̄r Sāctiss: atq; huius sacratiss: Senatus
uenerādus cōfessus. Verū has rōnes sola inuictissi
mi nostri Regis uicit: & superauit auctoritas: Cuius
ius imperium omnino renuere: Cuius uoluntati: &
nutui: non obtemperare: nec ego possem: nec ego si
possem uoluerim. Vt igit̃ ad rem ip̄am p̄pius acce
damus: & ne sapientissimas aures ur̄as: nimio fasti
dio afficiamus: Sereniss. Ioannis secūdi Lusitanorū
Regis inuictissimi mādata de diuina ista tua crea

O R A T I O	3
Facsimiles: <i>f</i>[1] and <i>f</i>[2] Good copy In modern vellum binding Manchester. J. Rylands; Munich. *S.B.; Oxford. Bodleian; Paris. B. N. Barbosa Machado knew of a copy, printed on vellum, belonging to Doutor Nicolao Francisco Xavier da Sylva, Aca- demico Real. HARRISSE mentioned one in the possession of Pope Pius the Sixth. Barbosa Machado; <i>Census</i>; <i>Gesamtkat.</i> 1553; Hain *863; HARRISSE 12; °Pellechet 549; Proctor 3986.	Facsimiles Other copies References

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