THE NORTHEAST COAST OF BRAZIL IN ANCIENT CARTOGRAPHY.*

The publication of the great atlas containing reproductions of almost all the known old maps of Brazil that accompanies the exposition of the Brazilian representative, Baron Rio Branco, to the arbitrator in the question of the limits of Guyana, makes possible, for the first time in Brazil, the study of the ancient cartography of that country. Having applied myself to this study in a recent paper entitled ‘Os Mapas mais antigos do Brasil’ published in Vol. VII. of the Revista do Instituto Histórico de São Paulo, I verified the possibility of amplifying and correcting the scanty written documents relative to the first epoch of Brazilian history, and being invited by Baron Studart to contribute to the commemoration of the first settlement of the state of Ceará, it seemed to me that I could best respond to his intentions by making a similar study of the portion of the coast to which that state belongs. Both geographically and historically this portion is limited on the south by Cape Santo Agostinho and on the north by the mouth of the Amazonas, and to this section the present study will be exclusively devoted.

In the above-mentioned paper I treated summarily of this section in the analysis of the map of Juan de la Cosa of 1500 in which it was for the first time represented on the basis of the data furnished by the explorations of Vicente Yanez Pinzon and...