

Ithaca, New York
12 July 1968

Dear Sérgio,

Thank you very much for your letter of 22 June and all the details and hints you mentioned on the watercraft of the Amazon. Actually I was aware of the main sources you cited. My earlier confusion over the igarité stemmed from the fact that the ~~early~~ nomenclature used by the people in the Amazon in the 18th century was not very precise or systematic. They do refer to small craft as igarité, which is sometime used as a synonym for montaria. I take this information from the various "contas" of ship and canoe construction issued by the ribeira in Belém, and from notices of canoes built in the various fabricas (some owned by João de Souza) on the Madeira river. Igarité was also used for the large sailing vessels, and it seems that this is the definition that has received most publicity. By the time of Bates, Spruce, and other travelers in the 19th century, the earlier use of igarite for small vessels had apparently come to an end.

I would be very interested indeed to see your chapter on the "conquest of the far west", and whatever chapters you may have finished. The first part of my dissertation will treat the very same subject, though I will be stressing the conquest of Mato Grosso and Vila Bela, rather than Cuiabá. Even so, I am writing a brief part on Paulista expansion to the west and I'm sure your treatment of the subject would be extremely helpful to me. I am now in the process of writing the dissertation, and it is very slow ~~ix~~ going. But I hope to produce about 100 pages or so by the beginning of August which will explain how and why the Madeira route was established.

I believe that I neglected to mention in my earlier letter that I ~~have~~ was married in May of this year to a delightful americana whom I met in Madrid last December. She has lived in Brazil, Angola, and in various parts of Spanish America, and ~~ix~~ shares my interests just enough to feel at home in my academic work. I would love for you to meet her if we ever get the chance.

Please let us know if you do come to New York in August. We could probably arrange to go down to the city if you thought there might be some time for us to get together.

My best wishes to Maria Amelia and your family,

Davis