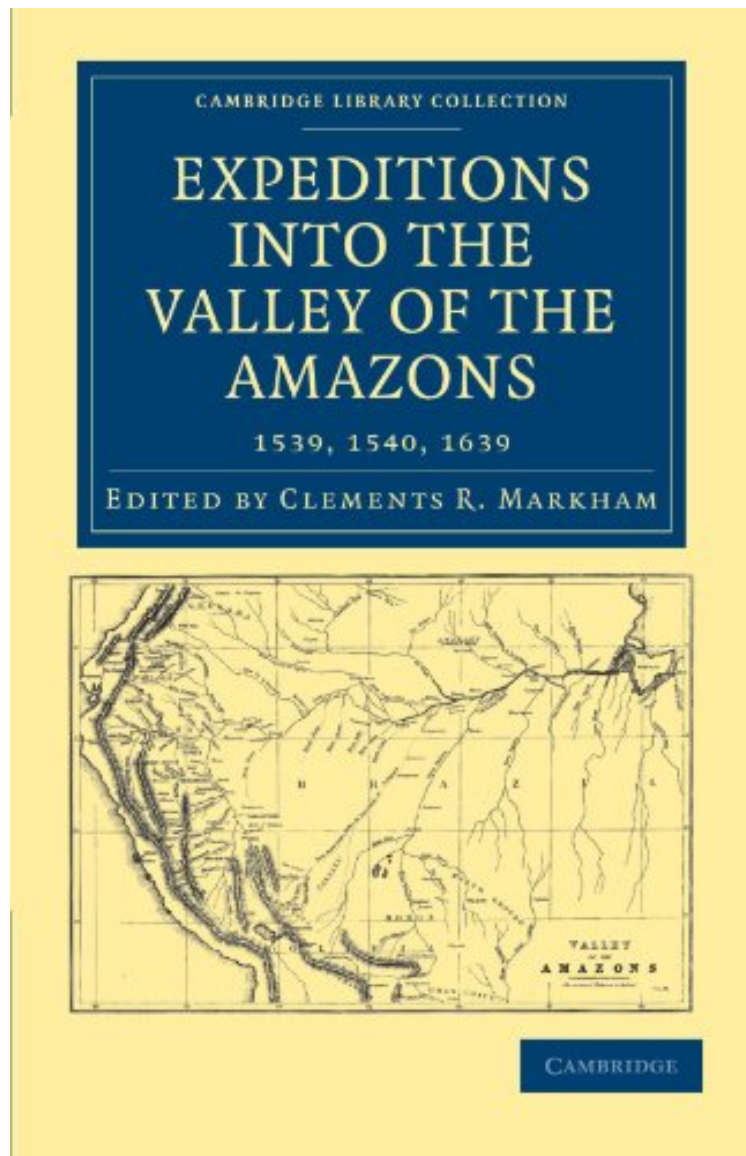


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The publications of the Hakluyt Society (founded in 1846) made available edited (and sometimes translated) early accounts of exploration. The first series, which ran from 1847 to 1899, consists of 100 books containing published or previously unpublished works by authors from Christopher Columbus to Sir Francis Drake, and covering voyages to the New World, to China and Japan, to Russia and to Africa and India. This 1859 volume contains three accounts of the Amazon region, all translated from the Spanish and covering the century 1539-1639: The Expedition of Gonzalo Pizarro to the Land of Cinnamon; The Voyage of Francisco de Orellana down the River of the Amazons; and the New Discovery of the Great River of the Amazons, by Cristoval de Acua. An editorial introduction provides a context for the narratives, and an appendix lists the principal tribes of the Amazon, and the sources of this information.

About the Author Garcilaso de la Vega (Toledo, 1501-Niza, 1536). Espaa. Miembro de la nobleza, intervino desde joven en la poltica de Castilla y en 1519 entr en el ejrcito de Carlos V. Combati contra los comuneros en la batalla de Olas (1521) y particip, junto con su amigo Juan Bosc n, en una fracasada expedici n contra los turcos (1522) a Rodas. Tras enfrentarse en Navarra a los franceses, fue nombrado caballero de Santiago y se cas con Elena de Ziga. Poco despu s conoci a la portuguesa Isabel Freyre, su gran amor imposible, quien inspir la mayor parte de sus poemas, y cuyo matrimonio con otro hombre lo deprimi . Viaj a Italia por primera vez en 1529, recorri varios pa ses europeos y fue desterrado a una isla del Danubio por asistir a la boda secreta de su sobrino, no autorizada por el rey. (Este episodio es referido en su Canci n III .) Fue perdonado gracias al duque de Alba, entonces vivi en N poles y particip en la expedici n imperial contra los turcos de T nez.
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