presented in a well-structured account. There is, of course, a great deal of
difficulty in pinning down something as elusive as a motif in theological
writings so closely reasoned and often highly apologetic. What is capable of
being described as a motif by reference to specific descriptors may well
originate not in intellectual analysis but in temperament (as psychologists de-
fine it). Nonetheless, Cunningham’s proposal is intriguing and deserves con-
sideration in the study and interpretation of seventeenth-century Christian
theology.

Peter C. Mancall ed. *The Atlantic World and Virginia, 1550-1624*. Chapel Hill:
$65.00 cloth/$27.50 paper. Review by TY M. REESE, UNIVERSITY OF
NORTH DAKOTA.

During the spring of 2007, commemorations occurred that marked that
400th anniversary of Virginia’s founding and the permanent start of English
activity in North America. The anniversary created an opportunity for histo-
rarians of Virginia, colonial America and the Atlantic World to reflect upon the
current state of early American scholarship and how the rise of Atlantic
Studies shapes our understanding of this period. This volume of collected
essays emerged out of a 2004 conference held at Williamsburg that sought to
understand Virginia within the context of cultural interaction within the early
modern Atlantic World.

The volume begins with an introduction by Peter Mancall who works to
bring cohesion, and develop themes, from the collected group of diverse
essays. The work is divided into five sections that each examine different
thematic/temporal areas that either directly or indirectly deal with the Atlantic
World and Virginia. The first section focuses on ‘Native America Settings’ and
includes essays from Daniel K. Richter, Joseph Hall and James D. Rice. This
section is the work’s most cohesive in that each essay explores similar themes
in different contexts. They all deal with interaction from a native perspective
and in doing so explores the relationship between goods and power. Because
of the redistributive nature of Native society and politics, many local
leaders saw in the English and Spanish presence an opportunity to acquire
‘prestige goods’ (32) that increased their power and standing. Thus, from a
native perspective the local elite gained from early interaction and utilized their relationship with Europeans to increase their power. What all three essays make clear is the ability of the local peoples, leaders and societies to understand, incorporate and utilize this new presence. A secondary theme involved a call to move beyond European-Indian interaction as the major type of interaction in this period by investigating the relationships that existed between Powhaten and other Native groups. Section two turns away from the Americas to examine West Africa through essays by E. Ann McDougall, David Northrup, Linda Heywood and John Thornton and James H. Sweet. The essays on Africa, and Africans, are diverse yet they too develop important themes about Africa's place in the early Atlantic. The essays illustrate that when the Europeans arrived in West Africa, and both cultural and economic interaction commenced, that the coastal peoples already had long and important experiences with trade and interaction that they utilized in their dealings with Europeans. The first three essays clearly show that Africans, through a position of power, obtained what they desired from Europeans while the fourth discusses issues of both identity and resistance as Africans arrived in the Americas and directly and indirectly defined their place there. Their ability to define themselves was regulated by the region within which they toiled.

The third section, on European Models, lacks the cohesion of the first two as the essays by Marcy Norton and Daviken Studnicki-Gizbert, Philip P. Boucher, Peter Cook and Philip D. Morgan deal with broad themes/processes within this period. What these essays do show is that European ventures into the Atlantic were not minutely planned; rather, most voyages and ventures involved contacts and reactions. This ranges from the discovery and commodification of tobacco, which was very important to Virginia's development, to a narrative on the French Atlantic that stresses the catalysts and restraints upon French expansion into the Atlantic. The third studies how French descriptions of Native political systems evolved from 16th c. monarchies to 17th c. captaincies, mainly for European not Native reasons, while the final one utilizes English experience in the Caribbean to further understand the events of early Virginia. The next section, on European 'Intellectual Currents,' builds upon the previous one as the essays by Andrew Fitzmaurice, David Harris Sacks, Benjamin Schmidt and David S. Shields examine the intellectual context of colonization. This begins by exploring the role that natural rights, within the Salamanca school, played in justifying the taking of Native lands
and how by 1607 this provided a strong justification for settlement. The next three essays are more cohesive in that they each re-examine the important individuals of early English expansion. One examines the discourses that surround the works and promotions of Richard Hakluyt, the second explores what Sir Walter Ralegh read and how the works of this period were consumed, while the final one works to reconsider John Smith. Each essay looks at these familiar individuals in new ways. The final section, on the Atlantic World and Virginia, contains essays by James Horn, J.H. Elliot and Stuart B. Schwartz that each work to provide an Atlantic context for the events at Virginia. The first explores the role of uncertainty in Virginia by showing that both sides interacted with the other, and often predicted what they might do, based upon either imperfect or insufficient knowledge. The next places Virginia within the context of the Iberian Atlantic and argues that Atlantic history involves both connections and comparisons. The final one, like Mancall's introduction, tries to tie all of the essays together by explaining what they teach us about, and how they shape, our current historical understanding.

Like many edited collections that develop out of conferences, this one has both strengths and weaknesses. Each essay is a solid piece of scholarship that refines our understanding of the subject of each yet the work lacks cohesion. Thus the volume can be read in its entirety, it can be read as individual essays or it can be read as sections. In the end, the editor picked the right title in that the work is much more about the Atlantic World then Virginia. The volume examines the numerous ways in which Atlantic history is done, understood or utilized yet in the end it shows that the dominant interest in these new directions involves an attempt to understand the multiple layers and perspectives of interactions within the Atlantic World.


The story of tulipmania is well known to scholars. The frenzied trading and high prices it engendered constitute a cautionary tale, one that reveals the universal folly of relying on innate human economic rationality.