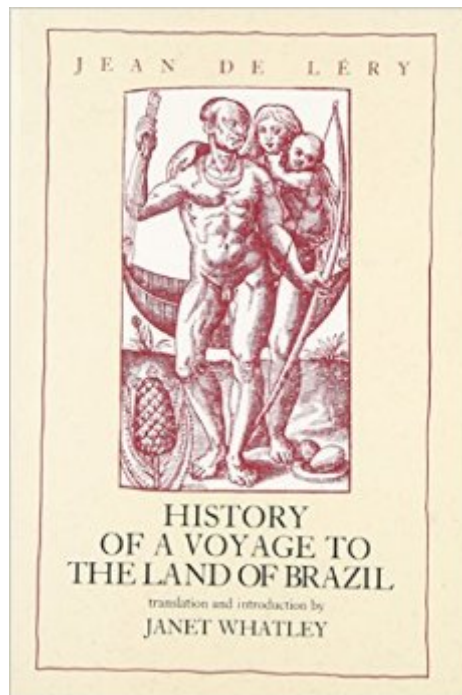


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# History Of A Voyage To The Land Of Brazil (Latin American Literature And Culture)



## Synopsis

When the famous anthropologist Claude Lévi-Strauss arrived in Rio de Janeiro, he had one book in his pocket: Jean de Léry's *History of a Voyage to the Land of Brazil*. Léry had undertaken his fascinating and arduous voyage in 1556, as a youthful member of the first Protestant mission to the New World. Janet Whatley presents the first complete English translation of one of the most vivid early European accounts of life in the New World.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is a very important first hand account of the French expedition to Brazil in 1555, sent by King Henry II to counter Portuguese hegemony over Brazil. DeLery gave a detailed account of the geography, flora-fauna, anthropology, and culture of the savage Americans of Rio de Janeiro bay he observed. As a writer in Christian missions, I find it fascinating because it shows the error of the misrepresentations of this expedition as a Huguenot missionary venture. There were a few Huguenot refugees among the hundreds of soldiers and workers building a fort for Admiral Villegaignon on Guanabara island in the bay. Most fled back to France because of his treachery, but three Protestants were executed as heretics by the Admiral. It is important to read history first hand!

Masterpiece and it should be read by all. Not enough history teachers add this text to their syllabus, and they should! Original and insightful ideas and observations and to think it was one of the first books about first contact. Interesting also in terms of the how Lery approached his subject with a

great dosage of admiration and respect not common to ethnographic writing for the centuries to come...

The one thing I found really frustrating is that this translation doesn't contain Lery's transcriptions of Tupinamba melodies. I mean, what a fascinating thing that is for musicians, and for non-musicians, well, they only take up a few pages, so I can't understand why they were left out. Otherwise a great translation of a fascinating book.

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