



## CASE STUDY:

## MICROFILM SCANNING



Images available from Portuguese Literary and Cultural Studies, University of Massachusetts - Dartmouth

*"The comparative study of the first edition of Camões epic poem, The Lusids, could never have been completed without the cooperation and fine work of Northern Micrographics. Thanks to their expertise in converting microfilm and microfiche, readers of all ages will have the opportunity to read the famous epic in its first edition. Many almost unknown copies of the first edition are now available for scholars for the first time."*

K. David Jackson, Ph.D.

*Northern Micrographics' experience with microforms goes back to our early years as the first microfiche production facility in the United States. Since then, we've filmed bound and disbound books, maps, engineering drawings, corporate manuals, academic journals, and much more.*

*Our understanding of the filming process gives us unique insight and knowledge when it comes to scanning microfilm and creating digital texts from film.*

### The Lusids of Camões

How do scholars analyze a text that has multiple first editions, each one differing in small yet important ways? For many years, scholars had to look at microfilm and microfiche of the great Portuguese epic *Los Lusids* to answer critical questions concerning the work.

Now, however, with the assistance of Northern Micrographics, scholars can view the various first editions by opening digital files on one CD-Rom.

In the Fall of 2000, Professor David Jackson of Yale University contacted Northern Micrographics to ask if we could digitize some microfilm. Actually, he wanted us to scan 24 different microfilms and 1 microfiche of the first edition of *Los Lusids* by Camões, originally printed in 1572

According to Professor Jackson, "There are variants in the printing of the classic epic poem "Os Lusidas" by Camões, dated 1572, which have resulted in different theories about "true" and "pirated" editions with that date." These variants include "errors in pagination, textual variants, and mistakes in Canto numbers in the running headers . . . Some of the individual volumes have unusual and different variants—the question is why."

To answer that question, Professor Jackson realized that digital copies of the various volumes would allow them to be viewed simultaneously. Same or similar pages could be viewed and compared from any of the 27 source volumes. So he came to Northern Micrographics.

Northern Micrographics scanned the submitted microfilm and microfiche into TIFFs and then organized and converted them into multipage, image + text PDF files. Now, scholars can more easily conduct comprehensive analyses of copies of the first edition and their variants.

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