A note on translations and annotations:

The act of translating requires a series of interpretive decisions. I have tried to be as transparent as possible about these decisions and have been consistent in the conventions adopted:

1. I have noted, in parentheses, the original terms in Portuguese or indigenous languages when no adequate equivalent exists in English.
2. Explanatory annotations have been provided for various words, passages, historical figures, and events, in order to clarify meaning, provide context, or indicate ambiguity or illegible words in the document.
3. Punctuation and sentence breaks have been inserted and tense usage has been rendered more consistent.
4. Words have been added [enclosed in square brackets] to clarify meaning or make referents in a passage more clear.
5. Repetitive, archaic words often featured throughout colonial documents – in particular, the ubiquitous “said” and “aforesaid” – have been dropped.

In general, I have followed the Modern Language Association’s Guidelines for Editors of Scholarly Editions <http://www.mla.org/cse_guidelines>.