

The Auriferous Production of Curitiba Plateau in XVIII Century

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The gold production in the Curitiba Plateau in the period 1730-32 are discussed here. In colonial registers were declared the owner, the amount of gold, and, in some cases, its provenance. The gold declared in September/December 1730 was 1168 octaves (4188,4 g); it was 3156½ octaves (11319 g) in all 1731 and only 20½ octaves (73,5 g) in January 1732. The total gold production for the period was 8793½ octaves (31,533 g). If we could extrapolate these results, we can infer that 1731 gold production - 11 kg - could represent the mean annual production of the Curitiba Plateau, with a gold production of 340 kg for the period 1710-1740. If the non-official production (not declared by the miners) was four times the real production, we would have 1400 kg of gold. There was, however, a very small production – in that time, Minas Gerais produced 15 ton/year.

Mostly of this gold in Curitiba Plateau was declared by salesmen – some of them secular priests – which get the gold sallying facilities to the miners. Local land owners had also declared some gold. These data show that alluvial gold only represent an additional money gain in a subsistence economy like Curitiba Plateau, and the entire São Paulo Capitany at that time. This situation had no changes in the subsequent years of XVIII century.