

## **CONCEPTS ABOUT THE BRAZILIAN GOLD DEPOSITS IN THE 16TH AND 17TH CENTURIES**

1PINTO, MANUEL S., 1UNIVERSIDADE DE AVEIRO, PORTUGAL

Based on published and unpublished papers dated from the sixteenth and the seventeenth centuries written by naturalists and by miners, concepts are presented about the origin of Brazilian alluvial and lode gold deposits and how to prospect for and to exploit them. The influence of ancient mining activities in Iberia and in Portuguese colonies in Africa on such mining operations is discussed. The technical causes of the decline of gold mining in colonial Brazil in the eighteenth century as seen by such authors are also discussed.