

Contribution of Museu Nacional/UFRJ to the development of Brazil's Geology.

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Ever since its foundation (1818) the National Museum (Museu Nacional) has contributed to the development of the Brazilian Geology. Its first collection, composed by minerals, grew considerably during the "Comissão Geológica do Império" (1875-1877) activities, including the "Coleção Mineralógica Werner" (the Werner Collection), with 3.200 samples.

Orville Derby, one of the Comissions' members, was the first director of the Geology Section of the National Museum (the famous third section). Derby was one of Brazil's most prominent geologist, having founded Geological Survey of Brazil, the Geographical and Geological Institute of São Paulo (IGG) and the Bahia Geological Survey. Among other notable geologists of the National Museum were: Ney Vidal, Alberto Betim Paes Leme, Carlos de Paula Couto and Viktor Leinz.

Presently the Departamento de Geologia e Paleontologia (DGP) the third section successor, develops various projects in Geology and Paleontology, such as Dinosaurs Project, Quaternary Project, Meteorites Project, Collections Projects, etc.