

## **Geology in Rio de Janeiro county: the first years**

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During the first two hundred years of its history, Brazil was condemned to isolation as king John VI imposed a limit on the entrance of curious foreigners who would have liked to discover the natural resources of the new territory. In the beginning, exploitation of natural and mineral resources was not carried out based on any kind of scientific research. The opening of the Brazilian harbours, in 1808, to the commerce of all friendly nations supported commercial, cultural and scientific expeditions and attracted the interest of important scientists such as Agassiz, Eshwege and Darwin. By that time, geological research consisted of data collection and observation and description of geomorphological features of Rio de Janeiro county and surroundings. At first, some authors contributed with relevant geological researches such as: Guanabara Bay - Uberaba cross section, carried out by the Baron Von Eschwege in 1831; and the description of granitic and gneissic rocks from Rio de Janeiro peaks which was made by Caldcleugh. Treaties such as those improved the study of the geology of Rio de Janeiro. This period of irregular expeditions came to an end with that guided by Agassiz, which aimed to study the fluvial fauna of the Amazon River and the geological features of Rio de Janeiro county, as well as with the birth of different institutions dedicated to the study of geology in Brazil.