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978-1-108-00740-5 - Voyage au Tocantins-Araguaya: 31 Decembre 1896-23 Mai 1897

Henri Anatole Coudreau

Frontmatter

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Voyage au Tocantins-Araguaya

In 1897, building on his earlier scientific expedition reports, Henri Coudreau (1859-1899) published this account of his third mission on behalf of the governor of Brazil's Pará state: Voyage au Tocantins-Araguaya. Coudreau continues his practice of including illustrations, statistical tables, indigenous vocabularies, and maps to complement the detailed account of his progress along this Amazonian tributary. His observations reveal his geological background and interests; however, Coudreau also assumes the role of anthropologist as he documents various aspects of indigenous groups, including their customs and beliefs. In addition to his remarks on villages, peoples, and the region's flora and fauna, Coudreau records his thoughts and concerns about increasing industrialization and the potential for urbanization and growth in Pará. His opinion that the people of Pará possess the same bold and enterprising spirit as their 'Yankee' neighbours is characteristic of Coudreau's personal interest in the subjects of his study.

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VOYAGE

AU

TOCANTINS-ARAGUAYA

31 décembre 1896 — 23 mai 1897

OUVRAGE ILLUSTRÉ DE 87 VIGNETTES
ET D'UNE CARTE DES RIVIÈRES « TOCANTINS-ARAGUAYA »

PARIS
A. LAHURE, IMPRIMEUR-ÉDITEUR
9, RUE DE FLEURUS, 9

—
1897

INTRODUCTION

Des trois missions que me confia, à la date du 1^{er} mai 1896, M. Lauro Sodré, Gouverneur de l'État de Pará — *Mission du Xingú*, *Mission du Tocantins-Araguaya*, *Mission de traversée entre le Xingú et l'Araguaya*, — les deux premières sont maintenant accomplies.

La troisième m'est aujourd'hui rendue possible par la connaissance que j'ai acquise de l'Araguaya et du Xingú, et aussi par les voyages récemment faits par le P. Gil Villanova dans la région habitée par les Cayapós Paraenses.

Le P. Gil Villanova, dominicain français, qui est au Brésil depuis une dizaine d'années, est peut-être l'homme du monde connaissant le mieux l'ensemble de la région du Nord Goyaz et des territoires limitrophes, à l'est du Tocantins et à l'ouest de l'Araguaya. Ses supérieurs en lui confiant la direction de la mission de l'Araguaya ont fait un choix dont la science profitera.

En comparant ensemble ce que nous avons de renseignements sur la région située entre Araguaya et Xingú, nous sommes arrivés, le P. Gil et moi, à faire quelque lumière à l'endroit de cette grande province au sujet de laquelle Pará ne possédait jusqu'à ce jour que des notions bien incertaines.

Les « Campos des Cayapós », immenses prairies naturelles qui occupent une

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INTRODUCTION.

bonne partie de cette région, promettent d'être du plus bel avenir aux maïs des éleveurs Paraenses.

Ces Campos des Cayapós et aussi la possibilité de l'établissement de la navigation à vapeur de Pará jusqu'en amont de l'Araguaya Paraense me paraissent les deux questions qui sont de beaucoup les plus importantes parmi celles qui se présentent au voyageur qui remonte de Pará au Tapirapé.

Pará, 24 mai 1897.