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978-1-108-00741-2 - Voyage au Xingu: 30 Mai 1896-26 Octobre 1896

Henri Anatole Coudreau

Frontmatter

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Voyage au Xingú

First published in Paris in 1897, this book describes the expedition to the Xingú River in the Amazon region of Brazil by the French scientist and explorer Henri Coudreau. Coudreau spent five months from May to October 1896 travelling down the Xingú by boat, beginning at the river's southern origin at Vitória and finishing in Pará, where it joins the Amazon. He carried out the most detailed explorations of the region up to that time, and is deservedly regarded as one of the great early anthropologists of the Amazon. This book describes the region's distinct eco-system and its warrior-like indigenous peoples. The book, which Coudreau wrote in less than a month, is characteristic of his strongly opinionated writing. It contains 68 illustrations and a map of the Xingú River.

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Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore,
São Paulo, Delhi, Dubai, Tokyo

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781108007412

© in this compilation Cambridge University Press 2009

This edition first published 1897

This digitally printed version 2009

ISBN 978-1-108-00741-2 Paperback

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HENRI COUDREAU

VOYAGE
AU XINGÚ

30 mai 1896 — 26 octobre 1896

OUVRAGE ILLUSTRÉ DE 68 VIGNETTES
ET D'UNE CARTE DE LA RIVIÈRE « LE XINGÚ »

PARIS
A. LAHURE, IMPRIMEUR-ÉDITEUR

9, RUE DE FLEURUS, 9

—
1897

INTRODUCTION

Il me faut tout d'abord solliciter toute l'indulgence du lecteur pour ce livre écrit avec quelque hâte : — commencé le 1^{er} novembre, terminé le 26 du même mois.

Du 30 mai au 26 novembre, en moins de six mois, faire le voyage du Xingú jusqu'à la Pedra Secca, remettre une carte au 100 000^e, 68 photographies, un livre : — on conviendra que c'est là du reportage un peu rapide et on voudra bien excuser l'auteur si son livre est écrit dans le style ordinaire de la littérature d'informations.

Les fatigues du voyage accompli, les préoccupations inhérentes à la préparation d'un autre voyage à entreprendre immédiatement, sont choses de nature à laisser paraître, peut-être, quelque nervosité que ne devrait pas comporter un récit dont la première qualité devrait être l'absolue rigueur scientifique. Toutefois, en s'américanisant, on s'apprend, peu à peu, à rester de plus en plus calme tout en devenant de plus en plus actif.

En attendant l'évolution complète et définitive vers le mieux à réaliser,

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qu'il me soit permis de porter témoignage en faveur du climat du Pará, dont l'excellence, quoi qu'on en ait dit, vient de me permettre, en moins de quinze mois, de parcourir deux immenses cours d'eau, d'établir deux cartes à grande échelle, d'écrire deux livres, — et d'être prêt à repartir, avec la même joie, avec la même confiance dans le succès.

HENRI COUDREAU.

Pará, 26 novembre 1896.