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Série Livros Digital 20

NATIONAL MUSEUM

Overview of the Collections:
Past, Present and Future

Editor: Cristiana S. Serejo



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Rio de Janeiro, 2020



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Museu Nacional Mission

As the first museum and research institution in Brazil, the Museu Nacional (henceforth “Museum”) was created by decree by Dom João VI on June 6th, 1818, stating:

“Wanting to propagate the knowledge and studies of natural sciences in the Kingdom of Brazil, which holds in itself thousands of objects worthy of observation and examination, which may be employed to the benefit of commerce, industry and arts [all of] which I desire to favor, as large sources of wealth: I have decided to establish a Royal Museum in this Court, to where the instruments, machines and cabinets which are currently dispersed in other places shall be transferred, all becoming

the responsibility of the persons whom I shall nominate in the future.”

At present the mission of the Museum is to discover and interpret the phenomena of the natural world and of human cultures, disseminating knowledge based on research, organizing collections, training of human resources and scientific education, preserving scientific, historic, natural and cultural heritage for the benefit of society.

Hence the Museum was founded at the end of the Brazilian colonial era, during which the Royal Portuguese Court along with their scientific committee were among the

first [people] engaged in Brazilian scientific nature collections, making clear the need for a storage space for the thousands of specimens brought from Lisabon or collected here. Those collections were central to the beginning of the [Museum], conferring it the identity of a Natural History and Anthropology Museum, and becoming fundamental assets for research, education and public exhibits during subsequent years. Expanding, safekeeping and managing the holdings is a constant obligation of curators and specialized technical staff of the Museum.

Over time the Museum’s mission has been adapting to the modern world and to the new demands of society. The ICOM (International Council of Museums) and IBRAM (Instituto Brasileiro de Museus) are key organizations which have been contributing directly to the contemporary life of museums and to their relations with society. Museums activate our memories, connect us with the environment and with our society, reminding us who we really are as human and social beings and what our values are in time and space. We want the new Museum to belong to all, to be for everyone, not discriminating social classes or ethnic groups. If we manage to awaken a sense of belonging and identity, connecting the Brazilian people to their biodiversity and

culture, we shall be fulfilling our mission. Another key fact is that, as a part of the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ), the Museum, in addition to conducting research and keeping collections, also trains human resources in Botany, Zoology, Geology, Paleontology, Archeology, Linguistics and Social Anthropology. From one of the six *stricto sensu* post-graduate programs of the Museu, over 2,500 people were awarded MSc or PhD degrees since 1968, when the first program was founded.

In the current context – and after the terrible fire of September 2nd, 2018, - the Museum faces the great challenge of recomposing and restructuring itself as a Natural History and Anthropology museum of reference in the Americas, with modern patterns of sustainability, safety, accessibility, research, education and museum communication. This is our purpose, this is our mission, the Museum lives in all of us!

Cristiana S. Serejo
Deputy Director, Museu Nacional/UFRJ

General overview of the collections

This year the Museum (MN) reached its 202nd official year, carrying a long history of curating historic, artistic, cultural objects, natural history specimens and anthropologic artefacts. The first collections were brought from the Casa dos Pássaros, instituted near the end of the 18th Century, which had a curiosity-cabinet format, common during that period. In the 19th Century, illustrious figures of the monarchy donated and supported the acquisition of further important collections, which became emblematic within the Museum. The Werner mineral collection, brought from Portugal by the royal committee, became the first officially registered acquisition. The Empress Leopoldina was a scholar with interests in geology and mineralogy. On her bridal delegation she brought a team of naturalists which contributed immensely to the knowledge of Brazilian nature. The Empress Teresa Cristina de Bourbon Duas-Sicílias brought items from the Museum of Naples as part of her endowment, and fostered the arrival of archeological artefacts, the excavation of which



D. Pedro II (1825-1891) - Monarch who reigned in Brazil for 59 years and was the great promoter of the expansion of the MN collections in the Century. This painting, *The Portrait of the Emperor*, oil on canvas, 2.20 x 1.64 m, by the Portuguese artist Joaquim Augusto M. Guimarães was inside the palace on the day of the fire of 02/09/18.



Empress Teresa Cristina (1822 - 1889) - Fostered the coming of important archaeological collections from Italy to the MN. Artist: Modesto Brocos - National Museum of Fine Arts buril, 12x8 cm.



Charles Frederick Hartt (1840 - 1878) - Head of the Geological Commission of the Empire (CGI - 1876-77). In 1876 he took over the Geology Section of the MN, where the entire CGI collection was deposited.

she sponsored in Italy. The Emperor Pedro II was a born intellectual and collector; during his rule, he greatly promoted the Museum by acquisition of botanical, archeological, geological collections and literature. The articulation of the transport of the Bendegó meteorite to the Museu, in 1888, was also his accomplishment. Apart from the royal family, several further notable characters contributed to the construction of the Museum heritage and to the research which granted a prestigious recognition of the institution in scientific circles; among them Ludwig Riedel who founded the Museum herbarium in 1831; Francisco Freire Allemão e Cysneiros who directed the Scientific Exploration Committee in 1859; Charles Frederick Hartt headed the Imperial Geological Committee from 1875 to 1877 and last but not least, Ladislau Netto founded the periodical *Archivos do Museu* which, due to bibliographic exchange, significantly promoted the growth of the library. He also organized the Anthropological exhibit of 1882 for which he had supervised the collections of specimens.



Egyptian collection of Emperors D. Pedro I and D. Pedro II. Detail of the face of SHA-AMUN-EN-SU coffin. Western Thebes, Ancient Egypt, about 750 BC. This piece was lost in the fire, however, researchers from the MN and collaborators had performed computed tomography of it, which guarantees 3D visualization for future studies.

In 1946 the Museum was added to the University of Brasil. When the latter became the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro due to a University Reform in 1960, Museum departments were established, the growth of collections was further intensified by the expansion of research lines of the curators and the successive establishment of six post-graduate programs.

Currently, the Museum registers 36 different collections adding up to an estimated 20 Million items. It is considered one of the largest and most important collections in Latin America. There are 29 scientific collections kept by six departments: Anthropology (4); Botany (1); Entomology (1); Geology and Paleontology (10); Invertebrates [excluding insects] (8) and Vertebrates (5). Furthermore, there are two archival collections: the Indigenous Language Documentation Center and the Francisca Keller Library, both belonging to the Anthropology Department. The remaining five collections are run by the board of directors: the Central Library; the didactic-scientific collection of the Teaching Assistance Section; the collection of the Memory and Archival Section; the historic/artistic collection of the Museology Section, and the Safe of the board of directors. It is worth mentioning that the Museum has a strong tradition of contributing

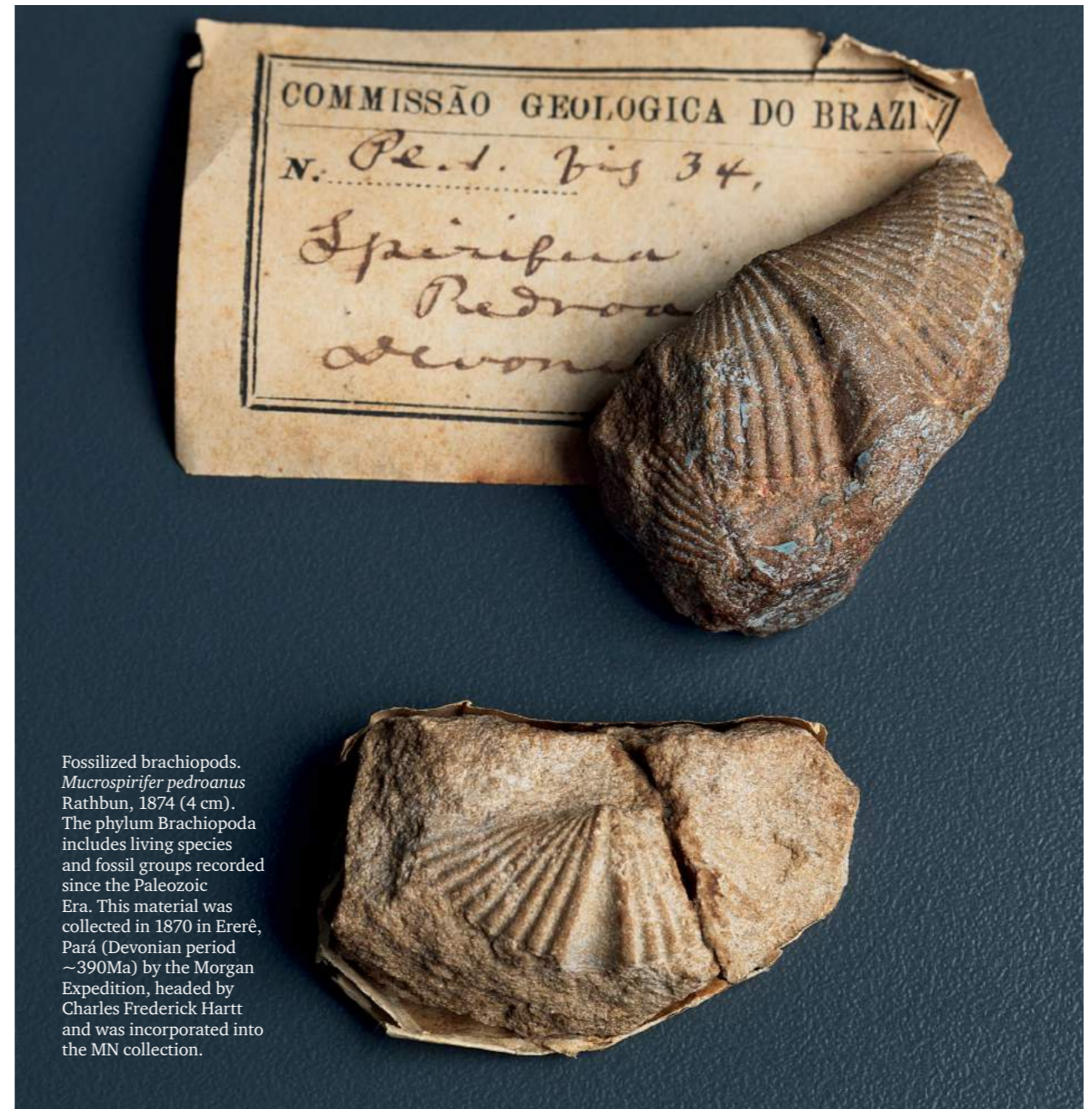
to the knowledge of biodiversity, for which taxonomists designate nomenclatural types, which substantiate the published names of species, being an activity of great scientific value. The Museum holds ca. 19,500 series and or specimens which are primary or secondary nomenclatural types.

In the tragic Museum fire of September 2nd, 2018, approximately 80% of the aforementioned collections were either affected or destroyed. It was a profoundly serious and hard loss for all of us. However, entire collections were preserved, pertaining to botany, vertebrates, some invertebrates and archeology. A task force of the Museum was quickly assembled, and the rescue of collections from the burnt palace, and ca. 5,000 lots/samples were removed and cataloged. Collections which were least affected by the fire pertained to Geology/Paleontology, Archeology (especially ceramics, iron and bones) and shells of the Phylum Mollusca. A phase of inventory of those objects is currently being initiated. Meanwhile, on several fronts, the curators and staff involved in curation are involved in the reconstruction of collections. Research continues and not all is lost! It is important to emphasize that digitization of collections had begun in the 1980s, using Excel spreadsheets and/or dedicated collection management

software. A large part of the data was saved in digital format. Those data include the name of the animal/object, locality, identifier/qualifier, date and, in some cases, image and sound files. Digitization of the collections is essential for efficient curatorial management and allows the size and importance of collections to be extrapolated to society, perpetuating information for future generations. This year when we experience an unprecedented pandemic by the virus COVID-19, the digital universe has taken on an even more crucial role for society. Part of the Museum collections is freely accessible online, such as the Sistema de Informações sobre a Biodiversidade Brasileira, (<https://ipt.sibbr.gov.br/mnrj/>); the Global Biodiversity Facility (<https://www.gbif.org>) and SpeciesLink (<http://splink.cria.org.br/>). We are working in order to improve the data flow on these platforms and to update the data on the Museum website. Another punctual initiative in providing data online is exemplified by the holotypes of Cerambycidae (Hexapoda_Coleoptera) <http://www.cerambycids.com/brazil/mnrj/>.



Vault cup "Battle of Constantine" (ca. 1818) 24x13 cm; base 9x12 cm. Piece given by D. João VI on the occasion of the creation of the National Museum. Made of gilded silver in neoclassical style adorned at the top with coral sculpture representing the Battle of Constantine.



Fossilized brachiopods. *Mucrospirifer pedroanus* Rathbun, 1874 (4 cm). The phylum Brachiopoda includes living species and fossil groups recorded since the Paleozoic Era. This material was collected in 1870 in Ererê, Pará (Devonian period ~390Ma) by the Morgan Expedition, headed by Charles Frederick Hartt and was incorporated into the MN collection.



Frescoes of Pompeii, first century AC (1.48x0.46 m and 1.48x0.51 m). Pair of frescoes from the Temple of Isis, Pompeii, Italy. Both with maritime themes, respectively griffin and sea dragon with snake body – flanked by two dolphins. It is part of the Greco-Roman Collection of Empress Teresa Cristina originally composed of about 770 archaeological pieces. Part of this collection was recovered during the rescue work of the MN. Photo: Pre-fire.



Throughout this book the reader will be able to learn a little more about the history and the importance of the collections of the National Museum in an institutional context. Great tragedies make us reflect on the meaning of our treasures and how we can best preserve and share them with society. With that in mind, we are planning new buildings designed for sustainably and safely keeping collections, attending an institutional collection policy, currently under way. The National Museum remains a home for making and disseminating science and culture of excellence. In this moment of reconstruction, we need support from all!

Cristiana S. Serejo
Deputy Director, Museu Nacional/UFRJ
Associate Director of Collections, Museu Nacional/UFRJ

Female sculpture (headless), 5th Century AC, Veio, Italy (19x60 cm). Kore statue of archaic style, possibly copy of roman epoch. White marble and feet of pink marble. Empress Teresa Cristina Collection.

libraries

bibliographic collection



Central Library

Established on July 11th, 1863 by the ministerial notice of Manoel de Araújo Lima, Marquês de Olinda, the Central Library (BC) consists of books, leaflets, folios, serial publications, rare works, e-books, cartographic and iconographic materials, CDs and DVDs



Ex libris of the Scientific Committee on Exploration.
Photo: Central Library Collection.

and theses and dissertations defended by the institution's postgraduate programs. In 2019 the library had ca. 507,013 volumes available in the online catalog of the University (UFRJ).

Dedicated mainly to Natural History and Anthropology, it was originally formed by bibliographic materials purchased for use in the Scientific Exploration Commission. The library holds works donated by institutions and prominent personalities in the history of Brazil and the world, such as: José Bonifácio and Wilhelm Ludwig von Eschwege. When Brazil became a Republic, the library incorporated important works belonging from the library of Emperor Dom Pedro II, and a great supporter of science and culture in Brazil. In the rare titles collection, with over 1,500 items, the Torah (1300 AD) and the *Incunabulum, Historia naturalis*, The Natural History, by Pliny the Elder (1481) stand out.

In 1876 the Museum published its first periodical, the *Arquivos do Museu Nacional* (AMN), currently available online. Since the AMN publication, the material exchange program was officially established resulting in a considerable increase of the collection through bibliographic exchange, which is maintained until the present day.



Frontispiece in *Locupletissimi rerum naturalium thesauri accurata descriptio, et iconibus artificiosissimus expressio, per Universam Physices Historiam*, by Albertus Seba, published between 1734 and 1765. Photo: Central Library Collection.



Plate - Trinkfest der Coroados in *Atlas zur Reise in Brasilien* from Spix and Martius, published between 1823 and 1831. Photo: Central Library Collection.

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Francisca Keller Library

The Francisca Keller Library (BFK) is part of the Postgraduate Program in Social Anthropology (PPGAS) of the National Museum/UFRJ. Before being entirely destroyed in the September 2018 fire, it was considered one of the most important social science libraries in Brazil and Latin America, housing a precious collection of ca. 37,000 volumes, built since its foundation in 1968.

After the fire, a large solidarity network was mobilized involving teachers, technicians, librarians and students from UFRJ and from other national and international institutions to rebuild BFK. Thus, numerous actions were initiated, such as donations and book transport, a campaign to donate resources and elaborate an architectural project to accommodate the new BFK.

This project was developed by the architect and Professor at the Faculty of Architecture and Urbanism (FAU/UFRJ) Marina Correia and undergraduate students, who propose an architectural and landscape intervention in a 350m² space, located inside the Central Library Building and botanical orchard of the Museum.

The new BFK collection will feature the collections of the following donors: Alba Zaluar (anthropologist), Antônio Barros de Castro (economist), Gilberto Velho (anthropologist), Clara Mafra (anthropologist), Maura Soares (medical doctor), Richard Price and Sally Price (anthropologists), José Artur Rios (sociologist), Terence Turner (anthropologist) and the collection of the Instituto Socioambiental.



Book donation ceremony for Francisca Keller Library.



Donation of books from Richard and Sally Price's personal library.



Architectural project for the new Francisca Keller Library to be built in the Botanical Garden of the National Museum.





Photo of the National Museum (lateral view) for the recomposition campaign of the Francisca Keller Library - "Living Books in the Museum". Photo: Carlos Fausto.

The BFK has also received numerous donations from national and international publishers, notably from more than 20 American university publishers. With these and other donations, BFK already received more than 18,000 books to recompose its collection.

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archives

archival collections



SEMEAR

Memory and Archive Section

The Memory and Archive Section (SEMEAR), part of the National Museum/UFRJ, keeps historical documentation of the institution, a reminder of the beginnings of the practice of science, and provides an understanding of scientific activity since the first decades of the 19th century in Brazil. Before the 2018 fire, its collection consisted of approximately 3.5 million items, comprising 550 linear meters



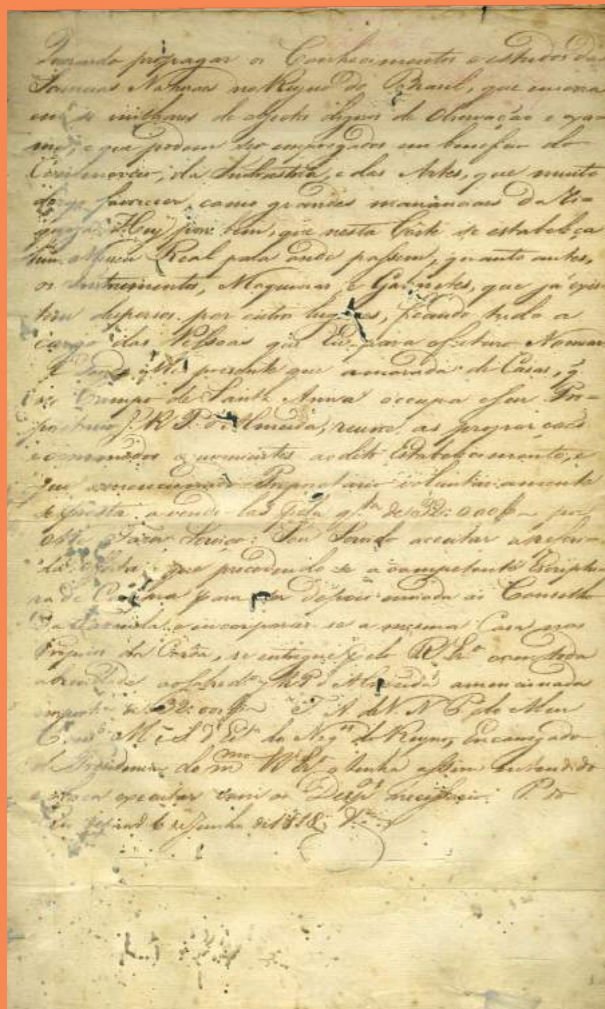
Bertha Lutz (1894 - 1976). Biologist, suffragist and forerunner of the feminist movement in Brazil. Professor emeritus and specialist in amphibians (Order Anura) of the National Museum. The Bertha Lutz fund lost in the fire of September 2018, was considered in an unprecedented way as a lost or disappeared Documentary Heritage by the National Committee of Brazil for the Memory of the World Program of UNESCO.

of textual documents, about 20 thousand iconographic pieces distributed over 57 archival backgrounds, 416 items including maps, pictures, drawings and prints, 822 publications (books, theses and dissertations) and 70 three-dimensional objects. A portion of this heritage, more precisely the official notices and letters subsection of the Board of Directors from 1810 to 1875, survived due to a previous microfilming initiative. Among the destroyed documentation, the Decree of creation of the National Museum, dated June 6, 1818 and signed by D. João VI; the Bertha Lutz fund, awarded by UNESCO as Brazil's National Registry of Lost or Missing Documentary Heritage; the Imperatriz Leopoldina fund, comprising 32 study books written in Gothic German, two of which are available online on the Digital Library of Rare Works of the National Museum, which aims to digitize and make available the collection of rare works from the National Museum Library (<http://www.museunacional.ufrj.br/obrasraras/>).

The remaining physical collection includes photographic documents and magnetic video tapes, which record the institution's varied activities. Furthermore, there is cinematographic and photographic laboratory equipment dating from the 19th to the 21st centuries, testifying to



Poster for the visitation of the National Museum illustrated by Helios Aristides Seelinger (1878-1965) Brazilian painter and designer.



Decree of the creation of the Royal Museum (current National Museum) signed by King D. João VI on 6th of June, 1818.

the investment of the National Museum in updating the use of images. This material was not lost because it was in the Central Library building, located in the botanical orchard. In addition to this material, the documentation removed from the rubble of the Palace is undergoing phases of specialized studies in Brazil and abroad in order to rescue, even if partially, the information it beholds.

SEMEAR/MN participates in the Junior Scientific Initiation Program (PicJr) in collaboration with Colégio Pedro II; the Youth Talent for Science Program (JT), maintained by the Research Support Foundation of the State of Rio de Janeiro (FAPERJ); the Foundation Center for Science and Higher Education at Distance from the State of Rio de Janeiro (CECIERJ), and the Program for the Single Registration of Extension Actions (RUA), of the Dean of Extension of UFRJ. Scholarship holders in these projects develop scientific initiation and extension work with historic archival documentation.



Prof. José Candido de Melo Carvalho (1914–1994), entomologist and director of the MN between 1955–1961, wearing glasses in the center and receiving the president of republica Exmo. Juscelino Kubitschek (JK - 1902–1976), to the right in a dark suit, on the steps of the National Museum in 1958. JK was the last Brazilian president to visit the MN.



In the photo, from left to right: Edison Carneiro, Raimundo Lopes da Cunha, Charles Walter Wagley, Heloísa Alberto Torres, Claude Levi Strauss, Ruth Landes, Luís de Castro Faria.

REFERENCE: National Museum (Brazil). Memory and Archive section. Claude Levi-Strauss at the National Museum in the Princess' Garden.

Following the fire of September 2, 2018, SEMEAR's staff formed a working group for the Rescue of Memory and Reconfiguration of the Historical Archive of the National Museum, in partnership with other institutions such as the National Archives and the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation and IBICT. The staff has been working on the identification and primary description of the digital collection through contacts with numerous researchers from Brazil and abroad who were consulted in their documentation consultations, on site or at a distance, aiming to recover digital reproductions of the physically destroyed documentation. The digital data from these consultations will be compiled into a large database, hence a part of SEMEAR's valuable collection will be available again to society in digital format.

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CELIN

Indigenous Language Documentation Center

Indigenous Language Documentation Center - CELIN - MN/UFRJ is specialized in the documentation of textual and sound linguistic materials referring to indigenous languages and varieties of Brazilian Portuguese, with the inclusion of visual material and bibliographic production. Located in the Linguistics Sector, Department of Anthropology of the National Museum, it gathers materials which precede the creation of the Linguistics Sector (in 1958). In 2004 it became part of the Minerva Base of the UFRJ Library and Information System (SIBI - <https://www.sibi.ufrj.br/>). The entire collection of CELIN was produced by scholars linked to research on indigenous languages in Brazil and the rest of South America. Among these, the following stand out: Documentary Collection - documents, mostly related to primary data and research results about indigenous languages from the lowlands of South America - vocabularies, forms, phonetics, phonological and grammatical

analyses, phonetic transcriptions, orthographic transcriptions and cartographic documents. These documents, which allow researchers and Postgraduate students first access to data on indigenous South American languages, especially those located in Brazil, cover a wide range of languages belonging to different families and linguistic branches. The Documentary Collection also houses educational material about indigenous languages in Brazil and the world. Sound Collection - consisting of cassette tapes, roll tapes and discs, as well as CDs and DVDs, digital / digitized recordings, replicas of productions with speech production audio, also relating to indigenous South American languages, allows direct access of researchers to primary data in these languages. Sound materials include narrative speeches, interviews / testimonies in the indigenous language, songs, sounds in vocabularies and forms referring to indigenous languages, and sound material corresponding to contact Portuguese and indigenous Portuguese. Image Collection - gathers iconographic materials, with emphasis on photographic materials, videos / films aimed at Brazilian indigenous groups. The imagery collection is highly relevant to the triggering and registration of linguistic productions by native speakers of indigenous languages, in addition to playing a fundamental role in processes of revitalization and linguistic resumption. As



A27 0002

Lip piercing

683059

Photographic archive Curt Nimuendajú
 Indigenous Language Documentation Center
 - CELIN Museu Nacional/UFRJ



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Market in front of the church

691582

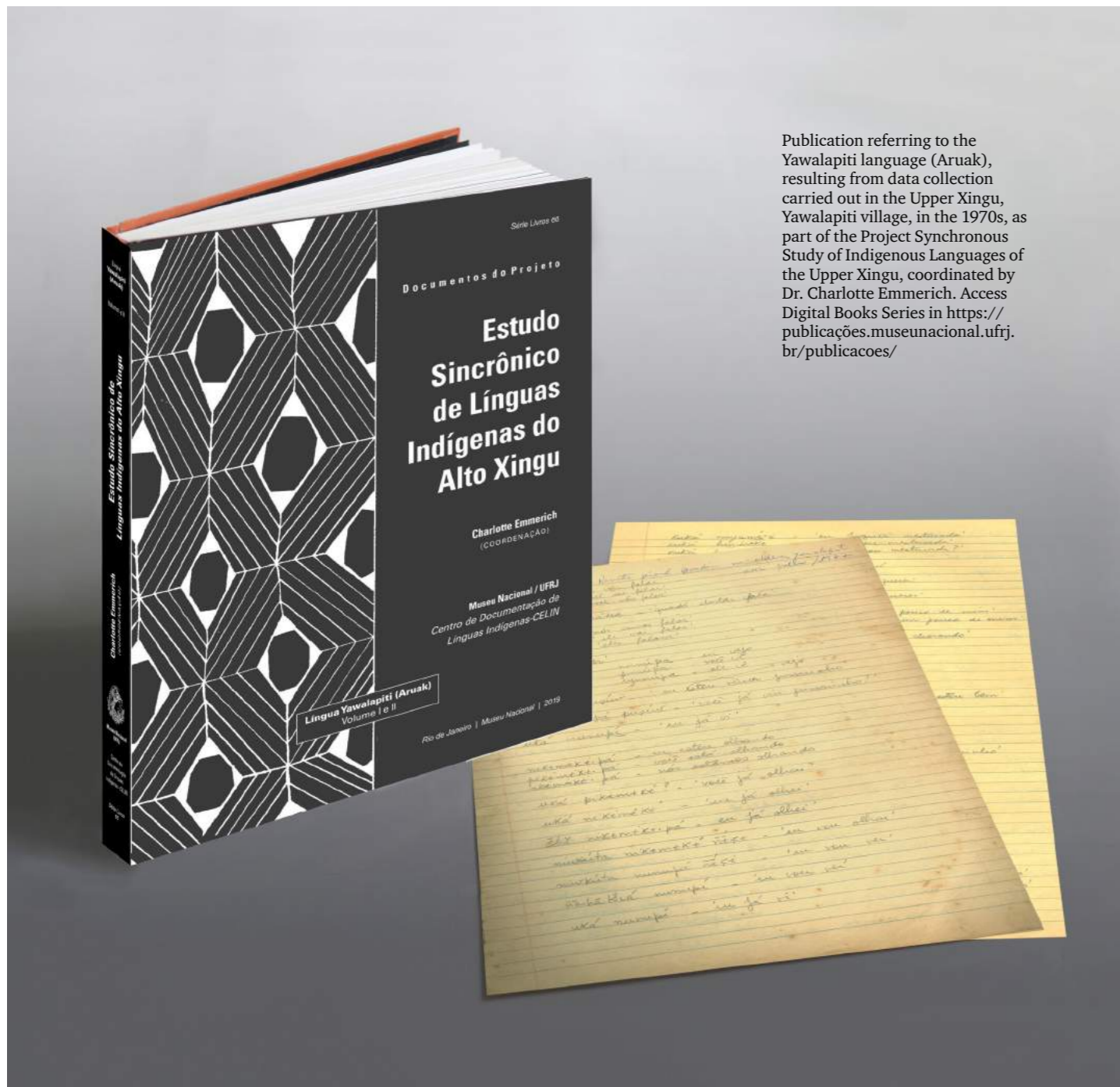
Photographic archive Curt Nimuendajú
Indigenous language Documentation Center -
CELIN Museu Nacional/UFRJ

with any other Documentation Center, the distinctive mark of CELIN is materialized through the diversity of the material gathered and the thematic specialization, which is visible in its referencing activities. As a repository of memory, it is not just a place of guard, being characterized mainly as a place for organizing documentary funds and as a pole for the production of knowledge and dissemination of information about indigenous languages and their linguistic varieties.

Total materials inventoried prior to the fire: **11,093**. Quantity of archival material not yet indexed and digitized in the UFRJ the database: **5,000**, which includes the Yonne Leite's collection and that of other researchers, original recordings of indigenous languages and photos. Estimated total: **16,093** items. In the post-fire situation, approximately 600 items related to the image collection have been digitally recovered. Several items related to the documentary collection were digitally recovered through the investigation of the user circuit, with items related to the documentary collection and sound collection which were not affected by the fire because they were stored outside the Palace. To date, around 6,000 copies among books and periodicals have been donated to CELIN.

There are over 190 languages/varieties registered on the Minerva database:

Achagua, Akroá-mirim (Acroa Mirim), Aguaruna, Akuntsú, Amanayé, Apiaká, Apinajé, Aponegicram, Arara, Araribá, Arawak, Araweté, Arikém, Asheninca, Asuriní, Atroari, Ava-Canoeiro, Awetí, Aymara, Bakairi, Baniwa, Barasana, Baré, Betoya, Bororo, Botocudo, Bugre(), Kayapó (Caiapó), Camaça, Kanamari (Canamari), Canela, Capanahua, Karajá (Carajá), Carapaná, Cáua-Tapuya, Kaxinawa/Kaxinawá (Caxinauá), Chaná, Chapakúra (Txapakúra), Xakriabá (Chacriabá), Chiquitano, Cinta-Larga, Coeruna, Colorado, Conibo, Corina-Jamamadi, Coton, Cotoxó, Cuicas, Culina, Deni, Desano, Enimaga, Fulniô, Galibi, Gavião-Jê, Gavião-Pykobjê, Geicó, Guajá, Guajajara, Guaná, Guaque, Guarani, Guaranoca, Guarayo, Guató, Hixkaryana, Huichol, Hupdá, Ikpeng, Ingain, Ingarikó, Jamamadi, Jaminawa, Jarawara, Javaé, Jeoromitxi (Jabuti), Juruna, Kabisi, Kadiwéu, Kagwahiva, Kaingang, Kaiowá, Kamaiurá, Kanoê, Karani, Karipuna, Kariri, Kateye, Katukina, Kaxuyâna, Kayabi, Kiriri, Kokama, Kraô, Kreapímkateye, Krenak, Kre-Yé, Kuikuro, Kuníba, Kwaza, Macarú, Makiré, Maku, Makuxi, Malali, Mamainde, Manitenéri, Marawá, Marubo, Masacará, Mascoco, Matipu, Matis, Mbyá Guarani, Mebengokre, Meniens, Mochica, Moré, Motilon, Mundurukú, Mura-*



Publication referring to the Yawalapiti language (Aruak), resulting from data collection carried out in the Upper Xingu, Yawalapiti village, in the 1970s, as part of the Project Synchronous Study of Indigenous Languages of the Upper Xingu, coordinated by Dr. Charlotte Emmerich. Access Digital Books Series in <https://publicacoes.museunacional.ufrj.br/publicacoes/>

Pirahã, Myky, Nadeb, Nahuatl, Naknyanúk, Nambikwára, Nhandéva, Oiampi, Orejón, Palikur, Panara, Pareci, Parintintim, Pataxó, Pauatê, Paumari, Pirahã, Piratapuaia, Piro, Puinave, Pukóbye, Puri, Puruborá, Quechua, Ramkokamekra, Rikbaktsa, Sabuja, Saluma, Sateré-Mawé, Shanenawa, Shipibo-Konibo, Suruí, Tamanaca, Tapirapé, Tapuya, Taurepáng, Tembê, Tenetehára, Terena, Ticuna (Tikuna), Timbira, Tiryó, Toba, Toba-Batak, Torá, Trumai, Tupari, [línguas da família]Tupi-Guarani, Tupinambá, Turiwára, Tuyuca, Umutina, Urubu-Kaapor, Urupá, Waimiri-Atroari, Waiwai, Wapixana, Warao, Warau, Wari-More, Wayana, Wayoró, Witoto, Xakriabá, Xavante, Xerente, Xetá, Xokleng, Yagua, Yanomami, Yaqui, Yawalapiti and Zamuco.

(*) Vocabulary of the Bugre language, dated de 1852.

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museology

historical-artistic collections



SEMU

Museology Section

The Museology Section (SEMU) aims to plan, assemble and preserve the National Museum's long-term, temporary and itinerant exhibitions. It should also provide and monitor the appropriate conditions for the conservation of the Museum collections presented in the exhibitions, coming from the various departments. Museology, in line with the National Museum's Revitalization Program, had been developing, until the 2018 fire, in partnership with the departments, exhibition projects with the support of sponsors such as Petrobras, Banco do Brasil, Fundação Vitae, CNPq and Caixa Cultural. At the time, Museology kept under its guard, in the exhibition circuit, about 5,000 items representative of the following collections: Ancient Egypt, Mediterranean and Pre-Columbian Cultures, Hunters and Collectors, Luzia (The oldest woman from Brazil), Indigenous Ethnology, Paleontology, Karajá and Afro-Brazilian cultures, Invertebrates and Entomology, among others.



Plaque with the silhouette of the Danish scientist Peter Wilhelm Lund (1801 – 1880), previously located on the main staircase of the palace of the National Museum. Considered the father of Brazilian paleontology, Peter Lund made important discoveries about pleistocene fauna in the Region of Lagoa Santa (MG), as well as human remnants of prehistoric populations of the same region.



Detail of the entrance door of the National Museum in iron with the symbol of D Pedro II - Exhibition National Museum Lives – Archeology of Rescue, Centro Cultural Banco do Brasil, 02/2019 (Photo: Cristiana Serejo)

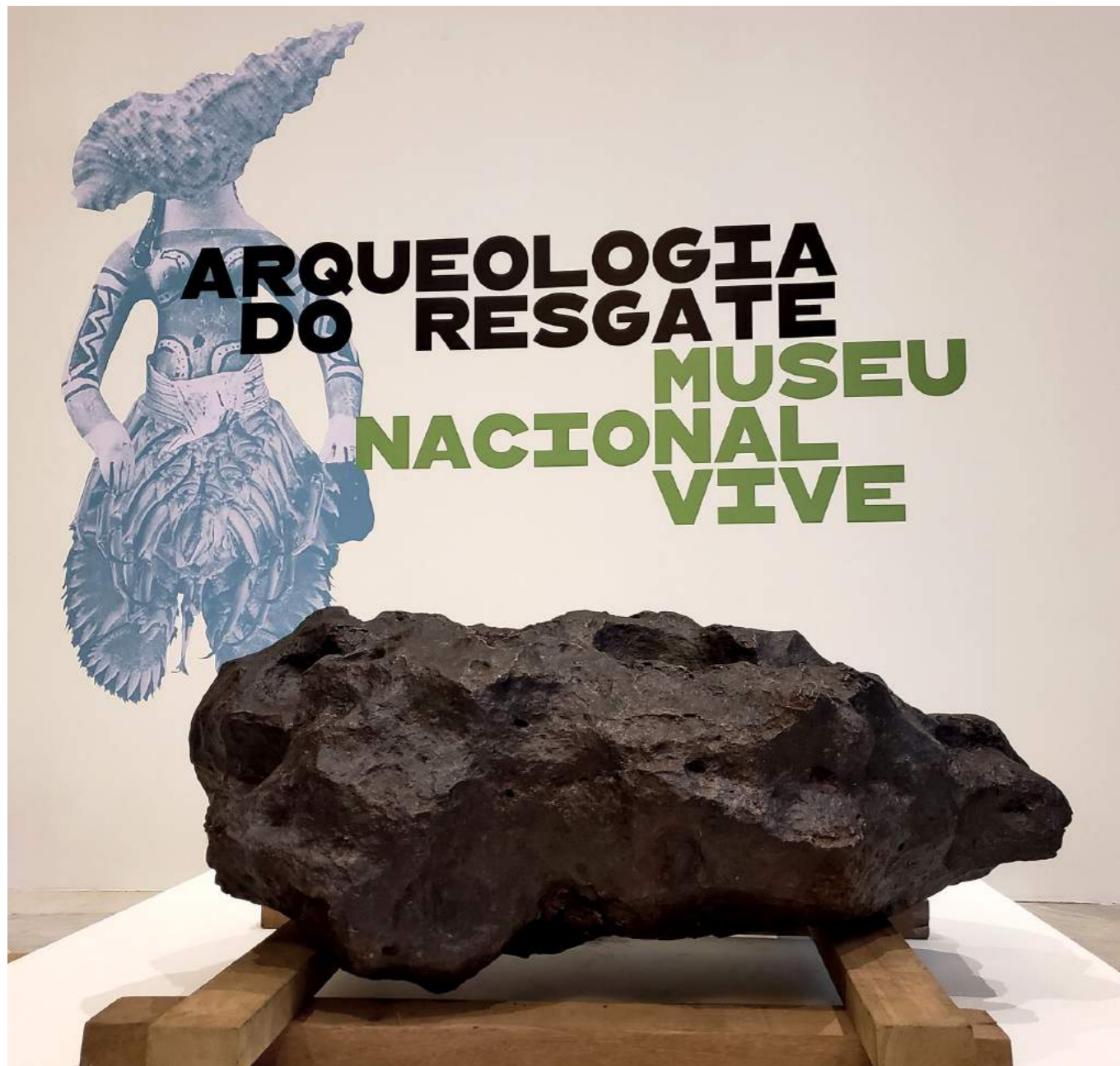


The Museology also maintained the collection (panels, replicas and original pieces without an inventory number) of *Treasures from the National Museum*, an itinerant exhibition planned by SEMU and assembled with resources from CNPq and FAPERJ. In addition, Museology was also responsible for the management, conservation and storage of historical-artistic collections, consisting of: historic furniture; miscellaneous objects, such as the cup-donated by D. João VI and the *châtelaine* by D. Pedro II, among others; collections representative of the history of the scientific production of the Museum, such as instruments of the 19th century: (the light cannon, the clinometer, microscopes, scales, laboratory tables); architectural elements, sculptures and ornaments from the Palace and other objects; an iconographic collection of great documental value, composed of prints, watercolors, oil paintings by artists, such as Taunay, Portinari, Décio Villares, Dimitri Ismailovitch, Henrique Bernadelli, Rugendas and others.

At the time of the fire, Museology had been conducting a thorough inventory, photography and documentation of these collections, complementing the *Historical and Artistic Survey* catalog, prepared by the art historian Zuzana Paternostro, during the management of

Director Leda Dau (1980-82). Thanks to these documentary and iconographic testimonies, the collection can now be accessed digitally, allowing the identification of pieces remaining after the fire and the 3D reconstruction of some of the most significant pieces from the historical-artistic collection of the National Museum. In 2019, despite the difficulties resulting from the fire, the Museology organized and assembled, with the Museum's remaining collections or pieces rescued from the fire, six exhibitions in spaces provided by other institutions: 1. *When Not Everything Was Ice: New discoveries in the Antarctic Continent* (Casa da Moeda Museum Cultural Center, RJ); 2. *Archeology of Rescue* (Centro Cultural Banco do Brasil, RJ); 3. *Santo Antônio de Sá: First Village of the Recôncavo da Guanabara* (Caixa Cultural, RJ); 4. *The National Museum Lives! Memories and Perspectives* (Plenary gallery at the National Congress, Brasília); 5. *The First Brazilians* (National Archives, RJ); 6. *Rising from the Ashes* (Museum of Astronomy and Related Sciences, RJ).

Currently, SEMU coordinates, together with the UNESCO cooperation staff for the Reconstruction of the National Museum/UFRJ, the Museography Project of the New Exhibitions of the Museum, aiming to return to society experiences with the now safeguarded scientific, historical, natural



Santa Luzia Meteorite. C: 130 cm; A: 80 cm; weight 1,980 kg. – Second largest known meteorite in Brazil, identified in Santa Luzia de Goiás, present-day Luziânia (GO), in 1922. Exhibition National Museum Lives – Archeology of Rescue, Centro Cultural Banco do Brasil, 02/2019 (Photo: Cristiana Serejo).

and cultural heritage, which will be housed mostly in the restored São Cristóvão Palace. In addition to the efforts of civilian workers to recompose the collection and to reopen exhibition spaces, the Museum has been articulating the acquisition of new collections through donations from individuals and national and international institutions. The rebirth of the Museum - its survival as an institution historically inserted in the process of the emergence of the Brazilian nation - translates the prospects of restoring its historic building and symbolic recovery of its collection to project its perennial vocation of search, renovation, research on the future and dissemination of knowledge as instruments of social inclusion through the sharing of memory as a universal common good.

SUBTITLES P.46

1. Replica of Throne of Daomé, Africa. Produced by a 13 years old student from Américo de Oliveira School, RJ, in honor of the MN in consequence of the September, 2018 fire.
2. Santo Antônio de Sá Exhibition: First Village of the Recôncavo da Guanabara, Caixa Cultural, RJ, 09/2019 marked the first year of the fire at Quinta da Boa Vista displaying preserved pieces that were outside the palace (Photo: Diogo Vasconcellos).
3. Exhibition When Not Everything Was Ice – New Discoveries in the Antarctic Continent, at the Centro Cultural Museu Casa da Moeda do Brasil, RJ, 01/2019 (Photo: Diogo Vasconcellos).
4. Exhibition The First Brazilians, National Archives, RJ, 10/2019. Ethnographic pieces of the MN preserved as they were exposed in the Federal District at the time of the fire (Photo: Diogo Vasconcellos).

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education

didactic-scientific collections



SAE

Teaching Assistance Section

Teaching Assistance Section of the National Museum-UFRJ (SAE), created in 1927 by Edgar Roquette-Pinto, is a landmark as the first educational sector of a Brazilian Museum. Understanding the educational function of museums, SAE promotes Museum Education among the general public, including schools, universities, people with disabilities and in situations of social vulnerability. Thus, SAE meets the principles of UFRJ (contained in the document PDI-03/2006) by providing scientific knowledge and cultural heritage to the general public.



The SAE Didactic-Scientific Collections, founded ca. 60 years ago, promote the dialogue between Museum and Society through the exhibition and loans of samples. This collection, which includes rocks, fossils and biological material, has been constituted by collections and acquisitions carried out by the National Museum, as well as by external donations (e.g. the Stawiarski Collection). The largest SAE collection pertains to Zoology, with approximately 2,000 lots ranging from sponges to mammals from most regions of Brazil. The lots, collected from 1903 and preserved in 70% alcohol, entomological and taxidermized boxes, and are listed and computerized in Excel spreadsheets (19 groups), with 70% photographed and organized in an Image Bank in *Adobe Lightroom*. The material has been identified in collaboration with professors, students and technicians from MN/UFRJ, revealing common, rare, endemic, exotic species, with high economic value and potentially dangerous, which allow for multi-referential approaches. This material is lent to schools and scientific and cultural institutions, being used for teaching in classrooms and exhibitions (contact <https://saemuseunacional.com/>). In the projects “Museu Nacional Vive nas Escolas” and “O Museu na Quinta: meetings with the community”, for example, SAE uses its collection in actions developed through human mediation, with the objective of





promoting intrinsic motivation, provoking a critical view which values the public's prior knowledge. Between 2011 and 2019, there was an annual increase from 34 to 315 loan applications, moving an average of approximately 1,000 lots/year and serving hundreds of schools in 11 municipalities in Rio de Janeiro, in addition to partnerships with some institutions in Bahia and Brasília, which shows the ability to disseminate knowledge both at local, regional and national events. The loan service overcomes public access barriers to the National Museum, which became an even more relevant function after the fire in 2018. Direct contact with specimens arouses sensations and feelings, provoking curiosity and fascination by raising a plurality of questions.

SAE's Didactic-Scientific collections are differentiated threads for exploring diverse contents in a transversal, playful and didactic way, including the areas of systematics, ecology, evolution, biogeography, arts, literature, history, geology, mathematics, sports and sustainable development. They are strategic bridges between the National Museum and the public, based on the tripod which represents our institutional identity: research, teaching and extension. For this reason, SAE works for the constant preservation, expansion and modernization of this valuable collection, popularizing science and democratizing access to institutions of culture.

Mero - *Epinephelus itajara* (132cm)
 Critically Endangered
 Donation - Instituto Meros do Brasil
 Accessible Collection (SAE-Pe295)
 Taxidermized MNRJ-UFRJ (2019)



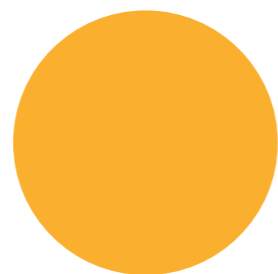


SUBTITLES

P.53. SAE Collection - Lots in 70% alcohol. A, Sponge (Pf31 *Petromica citrina*); B, Octocoral (Cn71 *Leptogorgia punicea*); C, Cavaquinha (Cr171 *Scyllarides deceptor*); D, Musselfan (Ml56 *Pinna carnea*); E, Cricket (In56 Orthoptera); F, Lacaia (Ch06 *Scolopendra* sp.); G, African Scorpion (Ar98 *Pandinus imperator*); H, Lilac sea urchin (Eq103 *Lytechinus variegatus*); I, Lesser guitarfish (Pe244 *Zapteryx brevirostris*); J, Head of Sucuri (Rp39 *Eunectes murinus*).

P.54. SAE Collection - Dry and taxidermized lots. A, Sponge (Pf84 *Clathria nicoleae*); B, Coral-brain (Cn109 *Mussismilia hispida*); C, Isopoda (Cr303 *Bathynomus giganteus*); D, Eggcase (Ml117 *Argonauta nodosus*); E, Starfish (*Oreaster reticulata*); F, Broad-snouted caiman (*Caiman latirostris*); G, Magellanic penguin (Av34 *Spheniscus magellanicus*); H, Common sloth (Ma27 *Bradypus variegatus*).

p.56. SAE Collection - Historical lot (SAE-Ad20), rare polichete (*Aphrodita echidna*), collected on 17/01/1903 by Prof. Carlos Moreira (MNRJ), during the *Hiate Annie Fishing Campaign*, off Rasa Island, RJ, 60-80 m deep.



Club of Young Scientists of the National Museum: Museal education project for students of elementary school.

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research

scientific collections: anthropology

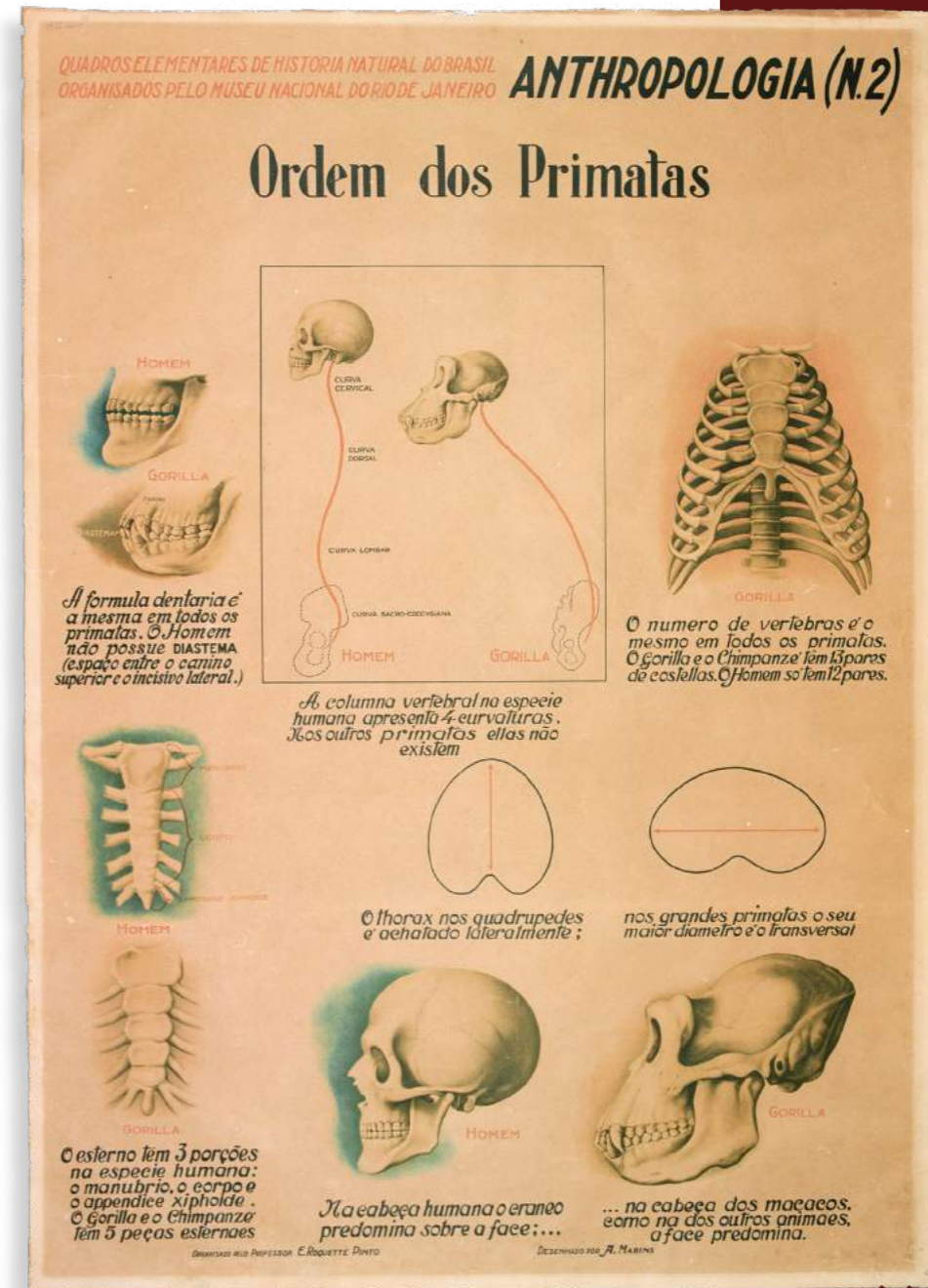


Department of Anthropology

BIOLOGICAL ANTHROPOLOGY SECTOR

The collections under the custody of the Department of Anthropology (DA) reflect the trajectory of construction of Anthropology as a science, culminating in the perspective of four fields of activity in the National Museum: Biological Anthropology, Archeology, Ethnology/Social and Linguistic Anthropology. Anthropological collections are mainly composed of material culture, but also have records of immaterial culture. The Linguistics sector holds documentary, sound and image collections, which make up the Center for Documentation of Indigenous Languages (CELIN), was presented here in the section of archival collections. The Francisca Keller Library, which is part of the Graduate Program in Social Anthropology, was covered in this book in the bibliographic collections.

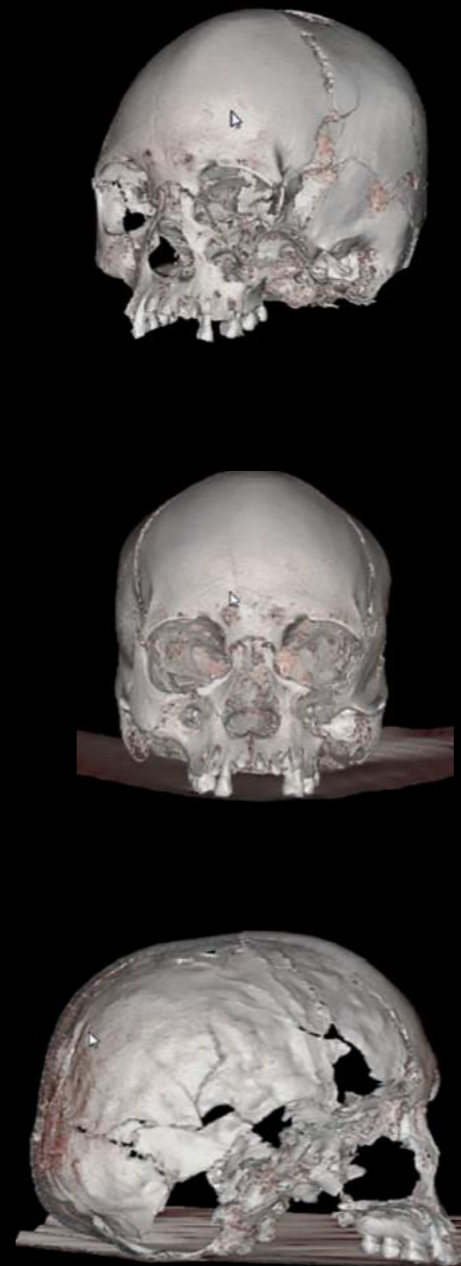
The collections of the Biological Anthropology Sector are characterized by their typology and/or provenance. Thus, it has collections of human remnants from different places and different moments of the Brazilian territory, mainly from the archeological area of Lagoa Santa, as the oldest individual found, Luzia (found in the Municipality of Pedro Leopoldo), from about 11,500 years ago, and from different shell middens on the Atlantic coast. It also has an expressive and important collection of scientific instruments, such as five Bertillon cases, acquired in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Biological Anthropology also had a collection of documents dedicated to the trajectory of this field at the Museum, lost during the fire. In recent years, the reference didactic collection for training new professionals was being expanded. The entire collection was kept inside the Museum's palace and was affected, being currently the target of rescue actions.



Didactic poster on the order of primates, prepared by Edgard Roquette-Pinto, early twentieth century (Archive of Physical Anthropology of the National Museum /UFRJ).



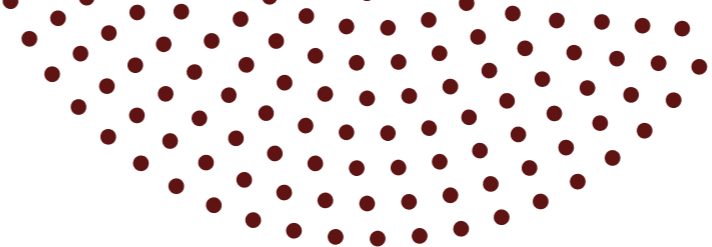
Skull of "Luzia", one of the oldest skeletons in America, estimated to be 11,500 years old, found in the municipality of Pedro Leopoldo, Minas Gerais.



Skull of "Luzia", virtual record. Images generated from tomographies expand the possibilities of study of the human osteological collection, the sharing of information and 3D impressions.



Cluster with bone elements of different individuals incorporated into the collection from the studies of Padberg-Drenkpol in the archaeological region of Lagoa Santa, Minas Gerais, 1920s. This was the first expedition of the National Museum to investigate the antiquity of human groups in the Americas.



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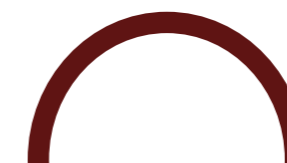
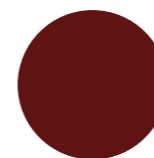
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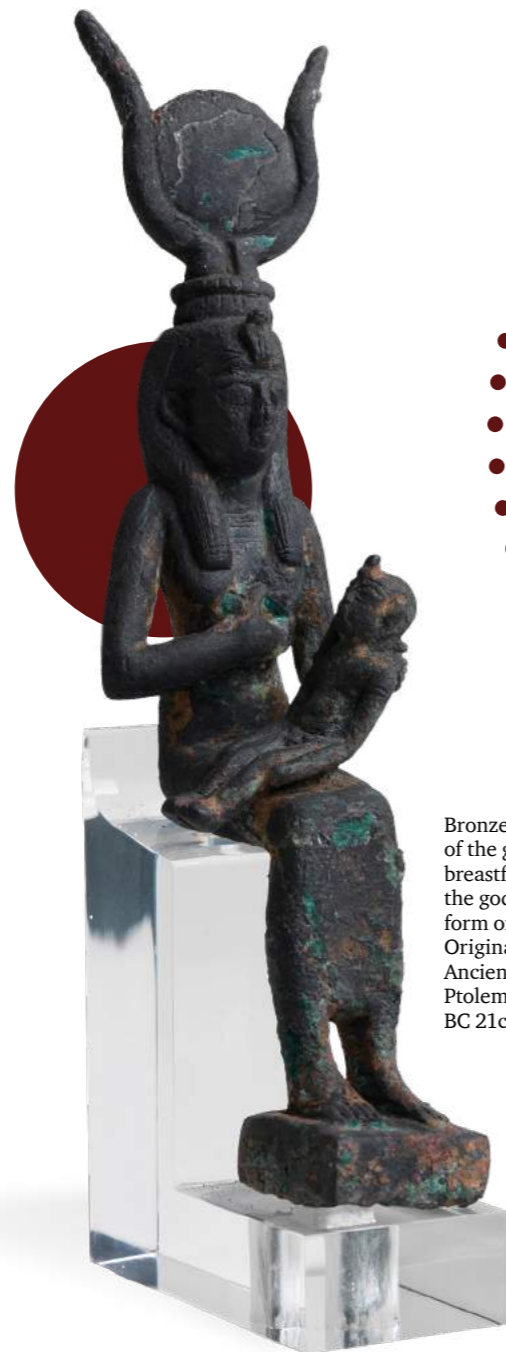
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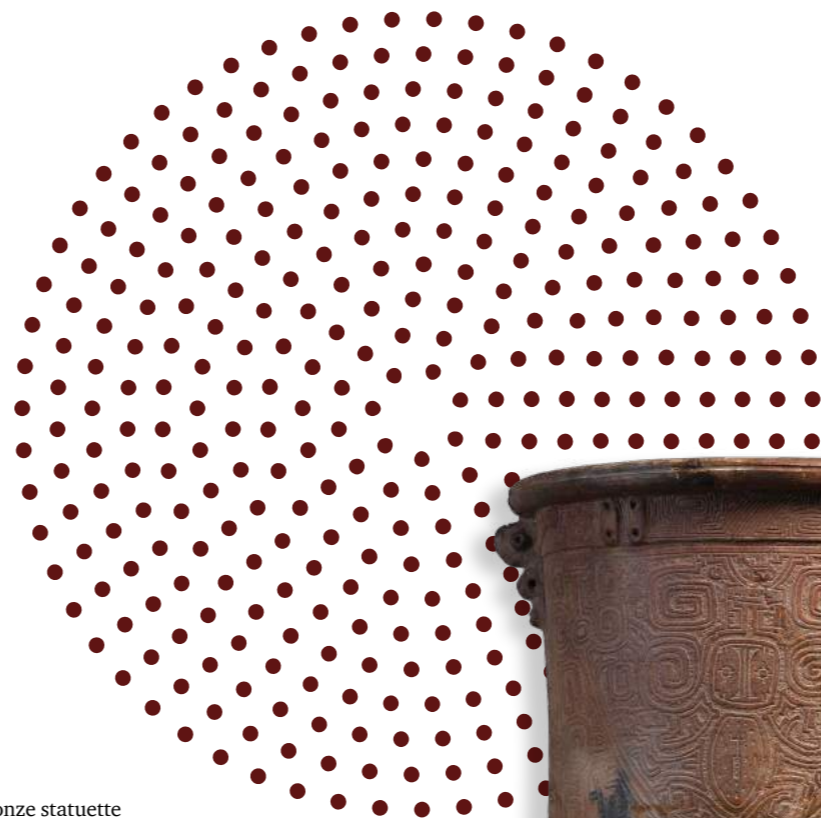


Archeology Sector

The National Museum's Archeology Sector comprises the Archeology and Archeobotany collections. The formation of the archaeological collection dates back to the 19th century and extends to the present day, including collections resulting from research by teachers of the house and research carried out within the scope of Environmental Licensing, with the endorsement of the institution. The Archeology collection is characterized by a high diversity of artifacts, representative of archeological cultures from different parts of the world, ranging from the Upper European Paleolithic to 19th-century Historical Brazil, through important collections of Classical Archeology (Ancient Egypt and Mediterranean) and Pre-Colombian, highlighting an unparalleled collection of Brazilian Archeology that represents from the south of the country to the Amazon, in multimillennial time intervals.



Bronze statuette of the goddess Isis, breastfeeding her son, the god Horus, in the form of a royal prince. Originating from Ancient Egypt, early Ptolemaic period, 310 BC 21cm high.

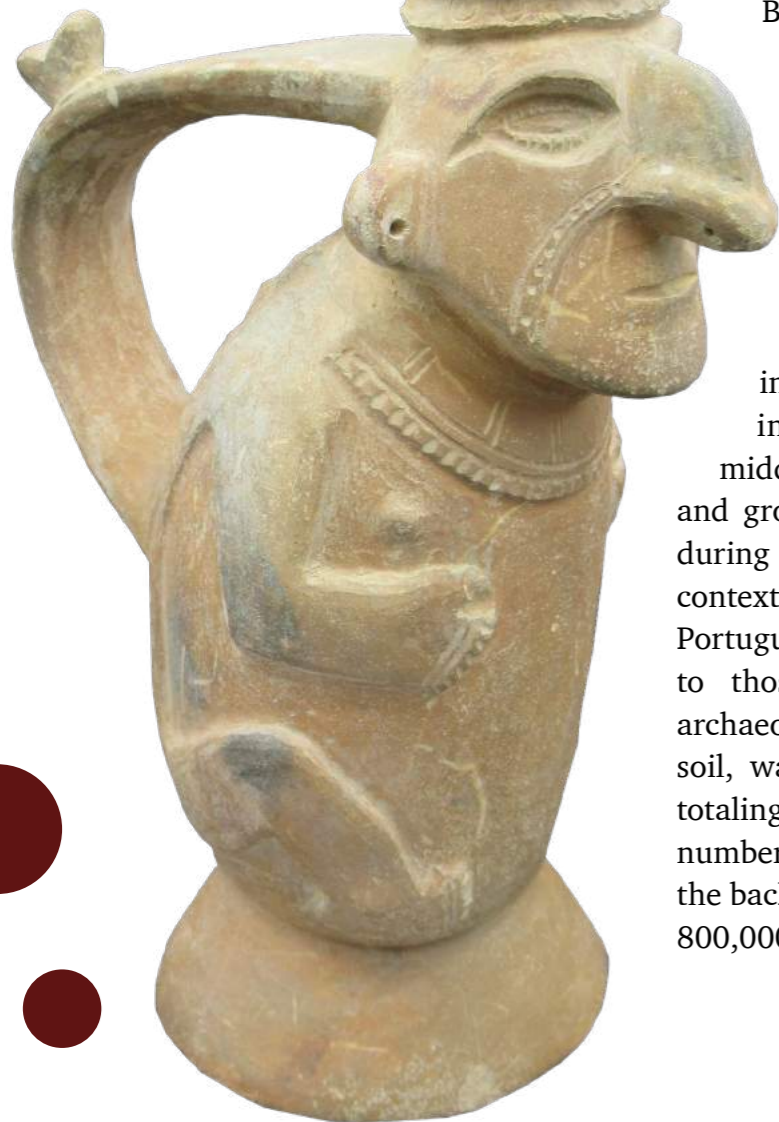


Urn, 400 to 1400 AD Marajoara Pottery, Marajó Island, 81 cm.



The main Archeology Technical Reserve, located in the Quinta da Boa Vista Palace, was severely affected by the fire in September 2018, but a good part of the material stored there is being recovered (especially more resistant pieces, such as ceramics, stones and metals). Representative artifacts from the Egyptian Collection, the composition of which was made by Emperors Dom Pedro I and Dom Pedro II, and that before the fire made up the largest collection of its kind in Latin America, are being recovered, and estimates are that, even after the fire, it shall continue to occupy that position. The rescue is also allowing the recovery of other collections, such as Classical Archeology for the Mediterranean (Italic, Etruscan and Greco-Roman collections), which included everything from bronzes and frescoes from Pompeii to items the importance of which goes beyond the period, as is the case of materials from archaeological excavations promoted by Empress Teresa Cristina herself. The same is true for the Pre-Colombian Collection, which brings together materials related to the most different peoples and periods, from different countries - among them Mexico, Venezuela, Peru, Bolivia, Chile and Uruguay, the constitution of which was, to a large extent, through interinstitutional articulations developed throughout the 20th century. Artifacts relevant to the history of

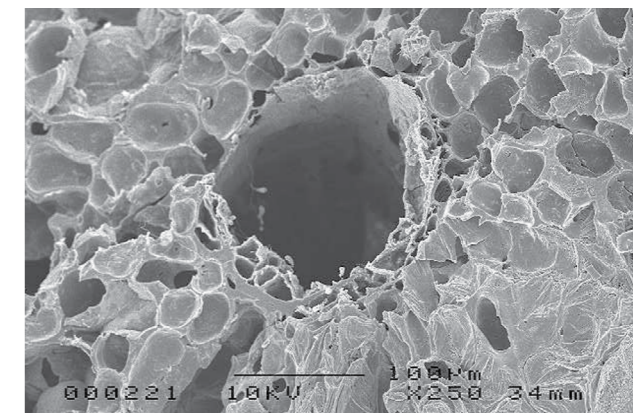
Anthropomorphic vase from Peru Pre-Columbian Collection of the National Museum. Piece found in great condition and removed from the palace after the fire.



Archeology in Brazil have also been recovered. This is the case of the collection donated by Betty Meggers and Clifford Evans after their research in Foz do Amazonas, the collection constituted on the occasion of the Rondon Commission and the the Balbino de Freitas Collection, one of the few archaeological assemblages in the country that has been listed at the federal level, by IPHAN.

In addition, the National Museum has important collections of Brazilian Archeology unaffected by the fire because they are stored in different buildings. These mainly include materials related to shell midden culture, coastal ceramics groups and groups which occupied Rio de Janeiro during the historical period, comprising contexts that go from the beginning of the Portuguese occupation in Rio de Janeiro, to those more recent. This exceptional archaeological collection, unique on Brazilian soil, was composed of 422,136 listed lots, totaling 510,674 pieces in an estimated number of listed materials, which, added to the backlog (non-listed collection), exceeded 800,000 pieces.

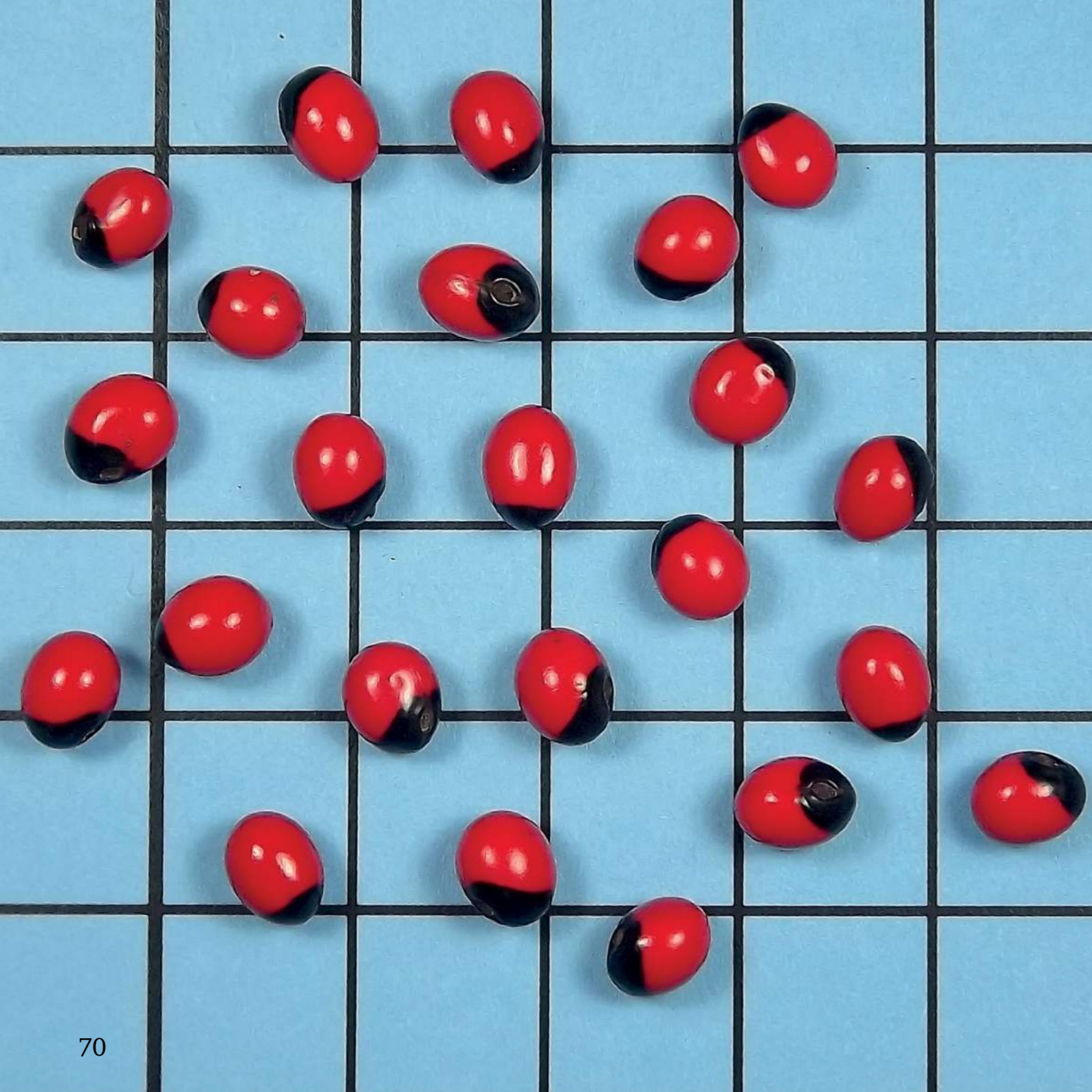
The Archaeobotanical Collections are a set of interrelated collections which include Archaeobotanical Collections (archeological) and Reference Collections (modern). The Archeobotanical Collections gather samples of plant remnants from archaeological sites of various cultural affiliations from the Brazilian territory, from pre-colonial times to the historic period. They consist of botanical materials collected in an archeological context, mainly ecofacts - archaeological remains of biological origin with cultural significance, but not intentionally modified by human action (charcoals, fruits/seeds and others, and microscopic remnants preserved in the sediment or in artifacts, these preserved in slides). The Reference Collections consist of parts of extant plant species which are well taxonomically determined (wood, charcoal, leaves, flowers, fruits, seeds, underground organs, and microvests from them) from field collections or donations from other botanical collections. When collected in the field, several samples are taken from the same plant and a voucher is produced for taxonomic identification, which is deposited in the Museum (R) herbarium. This collection has been organized since the early 1990s and was one of the most complete in archeobotany, including the largest Anthracotheca in tropical areas in the world, but most of its samples



Tubercle of cará (*Dioscorea* sp.) - Internal anatomy in scanning electron microscopy; collected in Sambaqui do Forte (Cabo Frio, RJ) at 240-250 cm depth and dated at 4.910 ± 55 years before the present (5720-5480 years calibrated AP). Archeobotanical Collection of the National Museum



Anthracology collection of the National Museum. This collection remains one of the largest and most important coal collections in the world.



were destroyed in September 2018. The Modern Reference Collections (Charcoals, Woods, Fruits, Phytoliths, Starches and wood anatomic slides) comprised 4,923 listed lots, with an estimate of 5,587 items and another 600 in the backlog (not registered). The Archaeological Botanical Collections (Anthracology and Microarchaeobotany) comprised 5,595 listed lots, with an estimated 522,375 items. Of these, only a batch of Anthracology duplicates were preserved, still being inventoried, which was added by the donation of a collection of coals from Central America. Currently, there are ongoing projects aimed at field collections to reconstruct the reference collections and analyses of archaeological material that will lead to the restoration of the archaeobotanical collections.

Seed of "tento" (*Ormosia arborea*, Leguminosae) from Museu Nacional Herbario (Modern Reference Collection). The identification of fruits and seeds are made by their morphology.

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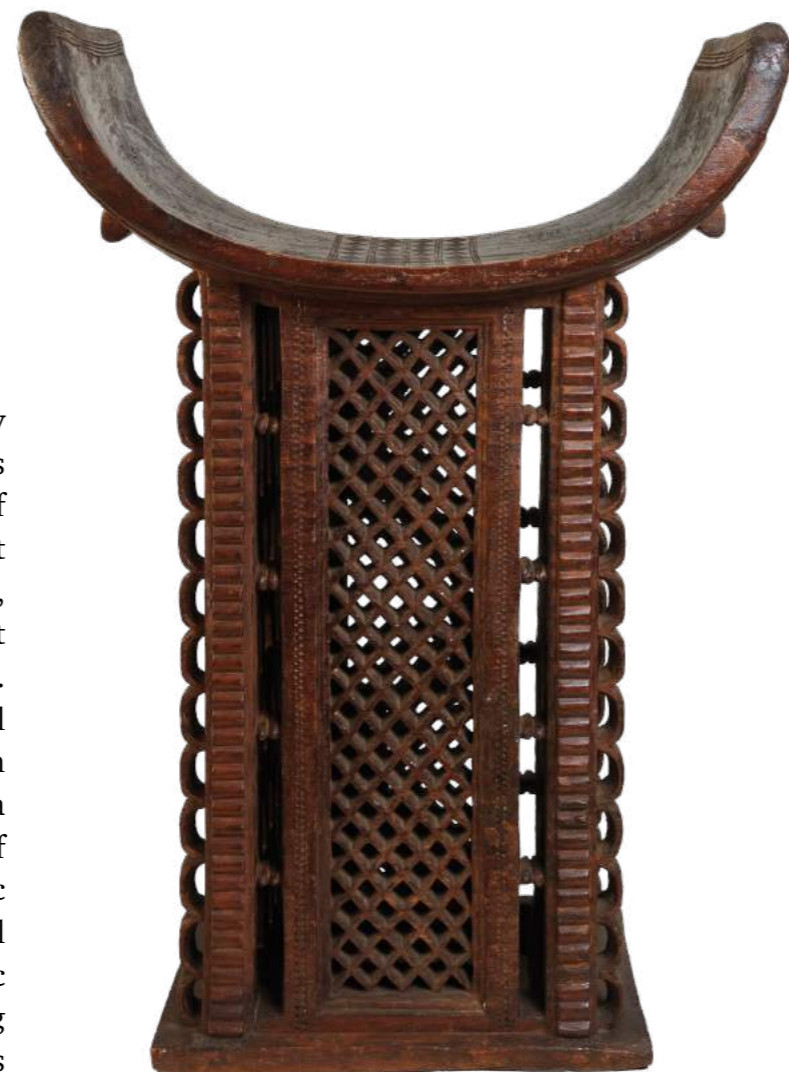
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Ethnology and Ethnography Sector

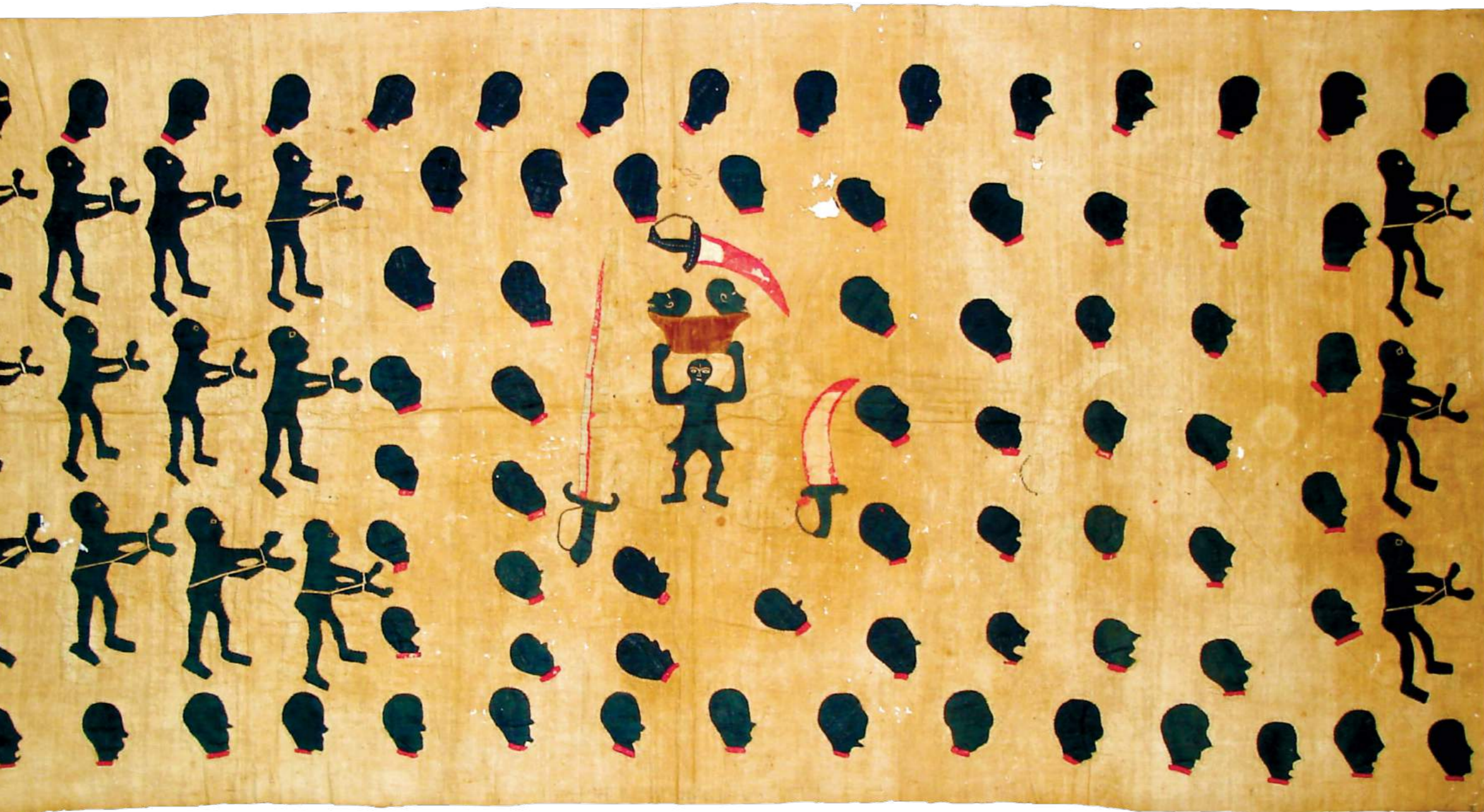
The collection of the Ethnology and Ethnography Sector (SEE) was constituted over the two hundred years of history of the National Museum, the result of multiple meetings between collectors, scientists, leaders, and artisans of different peoples and regions of Brazil and the world. The collections revealed the socio-cultural and historical diversity of national formation in all its complexity and contributed to a better understanding of the intricate game of forces which led to the production of scientific knowledge and the consolidation of national heritage. In them, about 200 indigenous ethnic groups from Brazil were represented, forming the most expressive collection of the SEE, as well as collections of peoples from Africa, Asia, Oceania, Europe and the Americas.



Throne of Daomé, 100x70x40 cm. Gift of King Adandozan (Kingdom of Daomé, present-day Benin) to the prince regent D. João VI, 1811. Probable date passage of the 18th to 19th Centuries. Photo: Crenivaldo Veloso.

Feather crown Karajá, acquired by the National Museum in 1907. Photo: João Maurício, 2017. Digital Collection of the Ethnology and Ethnography Sector, Museu Nacional/UFRJ.





Flag of war. Gift from the King of Daomé (Benin) to the prince regent D. João VI, 1811. Digital collection of the Ethnology and Ethnography Sector, Museu Nacional/UFRJ. Photo: Crenivaldo Veloso, 2013.

Before the fire, the collections were stored in two technical reserves, organized into three categories: typological, geographic and by ethnicity. So, we had cabinets with the “regional collection” (*popular culture, popular art*); and a “foreign collection” with objects organized on the shelves by place of origin. Furthermore, there was the “indigenous collection”, the largest in the SEE, distributed in cupboards and map libraries according to function and support, such as basketry, plumage, musical instruments, ceramics and ornaments.

The reconstruction of the ethnographic collection of the National Museum is an immense task ahead of us. Literally arising from the ashes, in new forms, we are continuing a curatorial directive which had already been motivating us for some decades, receiving indigenous people to know and research our collections and collaborating with cultural initiatives of these peoples, as exemplified by the partnership established with the Maguta Museum, Tikunas (AM) and with Afro-descendant religious communities (RJ).

The SEE is currently formed by a multidisciplinary staff which manage collections, conduct research and extroversion of content produced through exhibitions and educational projects. After the fire, the SEE participated in the Collection

Rescue Center, collaborating in the recovery of scientific heritage. It has also been conducting research on digital repositories and maintaining relations with foreign museological institutions, in order to gather collections of Brazilian indigenous peoples in digital format. For building new physical collections, it is imperative to reflect more deeply on experiences of collection formation which prioritize collaborative and horizontal relationships in the transfer and use of these artifacts. Thus, we intend to create a new collection with the active participation of indigenous peoples and other communities. It is in this sense that the SEE has been establishing partnerships with representatives of some indigenous peoples, which have already resulted in the formation of our first new collections (Tikuna, Karajá and Guarani Kaiowá).



Karajá basket, acquired by the National Museum in 1907. Made of plant fiber, used as a container similar to a gamela, in rounded shape. Digital collection of the Ethnology and Ethnography Sector, Museu Nacional/UFRJ. Photo: João Maurício, 2017.

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Radial feather crown, acquired in 2013, part of the Rafael Pessoa Collection, one of the SEE collections not affected by the fire. Collection of the Ethnology and Ethnography Sector, National Museum/UFRJ. Photo: Paula de Aguiar, 2019.



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research

scientific collections:
geology and paleontology



Department of Geology and Paleontology

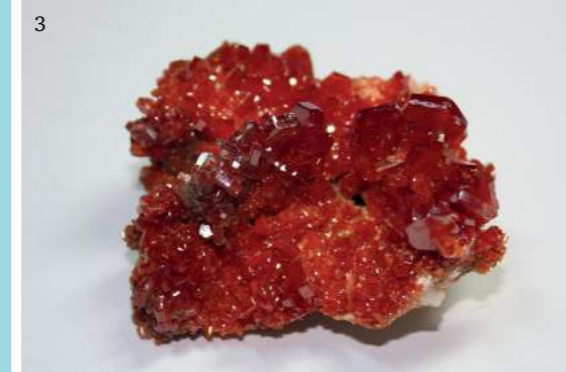
The Department of Geology and Paleontology (DGP) was created in 1842, but its collections tell much older stories, such as the founding of the National Museum in 1818, and its collection items refer to many millions of years. The Werner Collection, composed of minerals organized by Abraham Gottlob Werner, was the first scientific collection of the National Museum and is part of the DGP collection. Coveted by Napoleon Bonaparte, the collection was acquired by the Portuguese Crown in the 18th century and brought to Brazil during the escape of the Portuguese Royal Family, being incorporated into the Museum's collection in 1819.

In the Department's collections, the collection consists of several items of great historical and scientific importance, such as: the trio of coats of arms carved in lava from the Vesuvius volcano; the first fossil plant described from

Brazil (*Psaronius brasiliensis*); a sample of the first oil well petroleum from Brazil; fossils of pterosaurs, dinosaurs and samples of the extinct megafauna; as well as items from the private collection of Leopoldina and Dom Pedro II. The Bendegó meteorite is notable, among other things, for its history. It was discovered in 1784 in Bahia, its first trip to Rio de Janeiro failed and it was only in 1888 that it was relocated by orders of D. Pedro II who recognized its importance and exposed it in the palace. The expansion of geopaleontological collections occurred over the years through donations from personalities such as Baron Eschwege, Claude-Henri Gorceix and Frederick Sellow, in addition to collections from large research expeditions from north to south of the national territory, led by Charles Frederick Hartt and Orville Adelbert Derby. Rocks, fossils, minerals, sediments, metals and meteorites are distributed in ten collections in the Department: Economic Geology, Mineralogy, Sedimentology, Petrography, Paleoinvertebrates, Meteoritic, Paleobotany, Paleovertebrates, Paleopalynology and Sedimentary Rocks. The entirety of these collections was located inside the palace building during the fire on September 2, 2018 and was severely affected. However, with the rescue activities, we were pleasantly surprised to see that not all was lost, and we highlight the recovery of important items from the



Stereosternum sp., 60 cm, Family Mesosauridae (MN 4814-V). Fossil of aquatic and prehistoric vertebrate. In Brazil, mesosaurs were recorded in rocks in the state of São Paulo, where this specimen was found, and in the Paraná Basin in strata dating from the Upper Permian (299 to 251 Ma).



1. Chalcedony and jasper from Ekatherinemberg, Siberia, part of the Werner Collection. Photo (pre-fire): Mineralogy Collection, MN/UFRJ.

2. Porphyritic basalt collected by Charles Frederick Hartt in 1824. This rock was one of the samples rescued from the palace after the fire. Photo (pre-fire): Petrography Collection, MN/UFRJ.

3. Vanadinite, one of the minerals given by the Federal Revenue to the National Museum after the fire. Mineralogy Collection, MN/UFRJ.

4. *Marilyasuchus* sp. fossil of Crocodyliformes, one of the best-preserved specimens of the Paleovertebrate Collection from the

Cretaceous of São Paulo. Unfortunately, this sample was not recovered in the rescue actions after the September 2018 fire. Photo: Luciana Carvalho.

5. Apatite on quartz from Ehrenfriedersdorf, Germany. Sample of the Werner Collection, considered the first National Museum collection. Photo (pre-fire): Mineralogy Collection/UFRJ.

6. Fossil invertebrates (crinoids) collected by the Geological Commission of the Empire, commanded by Charles Frederick Hartt and Orville Adelbert Derby. This was one of the samples rescued after the palace fire. Photo (post-fire): Orlando Grillo.

collections of Meteorites, Mineralogy, Petrography, Paleobotany, Paleoinvertebrates and Paleovertebrates. After the fire, a team was organized to deal with the entire process of saving the scientific collections which had survived the accident, named the National Museum's Collection Rescue Center. The Meteorite Collection was the first to be accessed, due to its positioning inside the building and the need for quick rescue, as some parts which were not affected by the fire could be lost due to the humidity that causes the oxidation and destruction of meteorites. After the removal of the heaviest rubble which had collapsed from the third and second floors over the area of the DGP collections, a rhythm of rescue was developed which continues to date. Despite the impact caused by the fire and building collapses, most of the DGP's collections survived in different degrees of preservation, basically due to being formed by rocks and minerals.

In parallel with the rescue activities, the department's researchers have directed their efforts to restore their collections and expand them from new collection efforts and donations.

In a way, the natural history collection of the DGP reveals the trajectory of the geology and paleontology of the country and of the Brazilian territory. The spectator of this brief history, Bendegó, formed billions of years ago, remains imponent in the palace hall as a symbol of the resistance of the National Museum.



Trio of coats of arms minted in lava from the Vesuvius volcano and led to Brazil by D. Pedro II. All these pieces resisted the fire in the palace of the National Museum. Photo: Antônio Carlos Fernandes.



Tree fern trunk *Psaronius brasiliensis*, the first fossilized plant described in Brazil. This specimen was rescued from the palace after the great fire of September 2018. Pre-fire photo.

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Department of Botany

The Herbarium of the National Museum was the first to be founded in Brazil, in 1831 and represents a world heritage. Recognized by the international acronym 'R' (reference to Rio de Janeiro), it is a set of scientific collections of botanical material, partly of a museological nature, with collections from illustrious people, such as members of the Brazilian Royal Family and a significant amount of material collected by notorious naturalists of the past. The oldest specimens date from the late 1700s.

A large part of the herbarium consists of plants, algae, fungi or their parts, preserved pressed, dried and attached to a piece of paper, called exsiccates. Some material is also stored dry in envelopes, flasks in liquid medium, or even on microscopic slides.

The primary function of these scientific specimens and the information associated with them is to support scientific research, be it biological, such as taxonomic, morphological,

anatomical, molecular, etc., or historical studies, since the herbarium also functions as a biodiversity library, testifying to regional floras, often from places where native vegetation is no longer found.

The specimens present in the collection have recently been restored and reassembled on a special alkaline paper, which has greater durability since the last decade, in order to preserve the biological material more effectively. The liquid material was also transferred to more modern bottles of greater durability. In parallel with the restoration process, the collection is being computerized and photographed / scanned. The computerization process consists of typing all the information contained on the specimen tags, such as the location, date, and scientific name, while the image allows the visualization of details of plants, algae and fungi anywhere in the world, online.

The Herbarium was transferred from the Imperial Palace in 2007 to a new building built for the Department of Botany, where it occupies an area of 500m². The material is organized in alphabetical order by botanical families on the shelves of compactor cabinets. The total size of the collection is about 500,000 specimens, including duplicates. There are about 6,600 nomenclatural types, many of which have been



Collection D. Pedro II
– exsiccate of
Oxypetalum banksii
Schult., Apocynaceae,
with wax seal in
reference to the
monarch DP II.





Botanical Garden, located inside Quinta da Boa Vista, which was not hit by the fire. It has 40,748.50 m², with green area of ca. 20,000 m² and built area that includes: Central Library, buildings of the Departments of Botany and Vertebrates, including the collections from *Casa de Pedra* (archaeological collections), Celenterology Laboratory and graduate teaching buildings.

cited in the first work of great importance for plants in Brazil and still in use, *Flora Brasiliensis*.

The main representation of the material of Herbarium R is of neotropical species, with a focus on Brazil. Despite this, collections of species from all over the world can be found, received in large part as a donation or exchange activities, which are common among different herbaria.

The Herbarium represents an essential reference collection for the study of species lists for the Brazilian territory, and serves as a basis for several studies carried out by the students and professors of the Postgraduate Program in Botany at the National Museum, as well as support for the studies carried out in several national and international universities.



Herbarium collections room with compactor cabinets.

Preparation room and processing of botanical material.



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Cannonball tree, *Couroupita guianensis* Aubl., a tree native to the amazon's flood forests, widely used in landscaping in the tropical zone. In the museum's botanic garden there is an alley bordered by these trees.



Department of Entomology

The Entomological Collection of the National Museum begins with the Entomology Department, officially recognized as a member of the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro in 1971, but founded in 1842 as one of the sectors of the Zoology Section, which acquired the status of General Entomology and Agricultural Laboratory since 1916. From then on, great names in entomology contributed to the formation of the National Museum's collection, such as: José Cândido, Newton Santos, Dalcy de



Expedição de coleta em Pirapora, Minas Gerais, novembro de 1975. Olmiro Roppa, Prof. Miguel A. Monné e Carlos A. C. Seabra.

Oliveira Albuquerque, Miguel Monné, Johann Becker, Roger Arlé, Janira Costa, among others, in addition to large collectors such as Olmiro Roppa and Haroldo Sandim. The Entomological Collection consisted of representatives of various insect groups and was one of the largest and most important in South America. It was a valuable collection which represented an important database on the identification and geographical occurrence of insects and this material was accumulated from collection expeditions, exchanges with other institutions and donations. One of the great donations was made by Carlos A. C. Seabra, with about 1.5 million specimens of Coleoptera (beetles), Hemiptera (cicadas and bedbugs), Hymenoptera (bees) and Orthoptera (grasshoppers). Another major donation was the Diptera collection by Embrapa (Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation), containing specimens of various pest species, including type material, much of which was preserved because it was in a building not affected by the fire.

The Entomological Collection in the Palace was deposited in compacting cabinets, which housed around 13,000 entomological drawers, microscopic slide sets and specimens preserved in alcohol. By 2018, there were an estimated 12,005,000 specimens deposited



Beetle *Compsocerus barbicornis*
Audinet-Serville, 1834 (Order
Coleoptera: Family Cerambycidae)
deposited in the Entomological
Collection of MN (MNRJ-ENT7-45433).



Cavichiana alpina
Quintas et al., 2020,
a beautiful Brazilian
species of leafhopper
(Order Hemiptera:
Family Cicadellidae)
with paratypes
deposited in the
collection of MN
(MNRJ-ENT3-1678,
1679, 1680, 1681,
1682).



Beetles *Gymnetis amazona* Ratcliffe, 2018. Paratypes of the MN Entomological collection that returned after the fire as they were on loan. Order Coleoptera: Family Scarabaeidae (from left to right: MNRJ-ENT7-41034, 41026, 41031, 41025, 41024, 41030).

in the collection. The fire, on September 2, 2018, caused the loss of the entire collection that was in the Palace. However, part of the entomological collection, which is deposited in the Alípio Miranda Ribeiro building, known as the Annex building, remains entirely preserved. It consists of about 42,000 specimens of the Order Diptera with digitized records. The entire Entomology collection featured about 3,000 primary types of various insect orders and of these, 407 that were in the Annex building were preserved. Despite the inestimable loss of much of the collection, the data published in numerous publications is a virtual testimony of this lost material. In January 2016, the project for digitizing entomological collections linked to the Brazilian Biodiversity Information System (SIBBr - <https://ipt.sibbr.gov.br/mnrj/>) began, which today has about 117,300 insect specimens available for online query. In addition to this initiative, the primary types of

cerambycids (Coleoptera) are available online (<http://www.cerambycids.com/brazil/mnrj/>) and parallel projects are being developed with the aim of providing more information on the collections in digital format, especially of the types.

Currently, the collection has about 75,000 specimens originated from other collections, donations and specimens that were not affected by the fire. The collection is being rebuilt through expeditions, with support from funding agencies, donations from individuals and partner institutions from the National Museum/UFRJ. In this way, the Museum's Entomological Collection has been restructured and already has the capacity to receive more donations from scientific collections, both as dry and liquid preserved material.



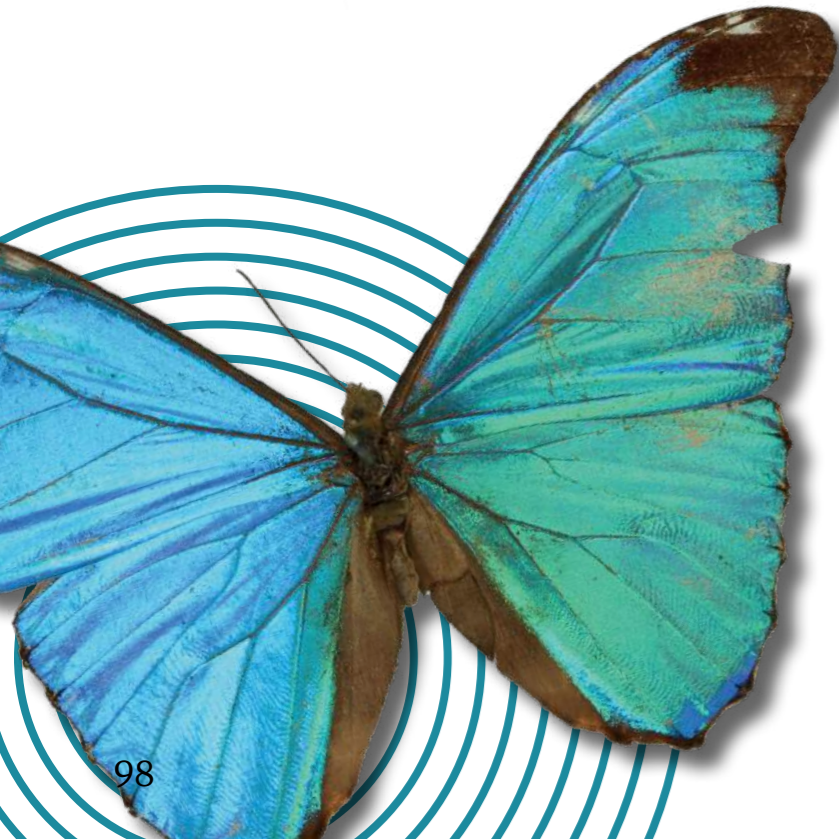
Grasshopper
Digamacris amoena
(Stal, 1878) (Order Orthoptera: Family Acrididae), deposited in the Entomological Collection of MN (MNRJ-ENT6-28777).



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3



4

1. Holotype of *Nessaea batesii magniplaga* Röber, 1928, dorsal view, MNRJ-ENT5-25789.

2. Lectotype of *Agrias claudia claudianus* f. *eos* Röber, 1925, ventral view, MNRJ-ENT5-25788.

3. Holotype of *Morpho absoloni* May, 1924, dorsal view, MNRJ-ENT5-23757.

4. Holotype of *Papilio agavus* ab. *aurimaculatus* Clérot, 1922, dorsal view, MNRJ-ENT5-26902.

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The first collections of Invertebrates (insects excluded) were acquired in the second half of the 19th century, with lots of Mollusca (snails, bivalves, octopuses and squids) and Crustacea (crabs and shrimp), mainly as part of the activities carried out by naturalists active in the offices of the Zoology section of the National Museum. From the twentieth century, and with the hiring of specialists, the collections began to receive their own numbering and were individualized. Thus, the Arachnida collections (spiders and scorpions) were created, with the hiring of Prof. Cândido F. Mello-Leitão in 1931; Mollusca, one of the largest, with cataloging beginning in the 1940s by Emanuel de Azevedo Martins and later expansion by Prof. Arnaldo C. dos Santos Coelho; and Crustacea, with first batches published by zoologist Carlos Moreira (1900), with subsequent expansion and creation of the sector by Prof. Alceu Lemos de Castro (1945). In the second half of the 20th century, the remaining collections were created such as: Echinodermata (starfish, sea urchins);



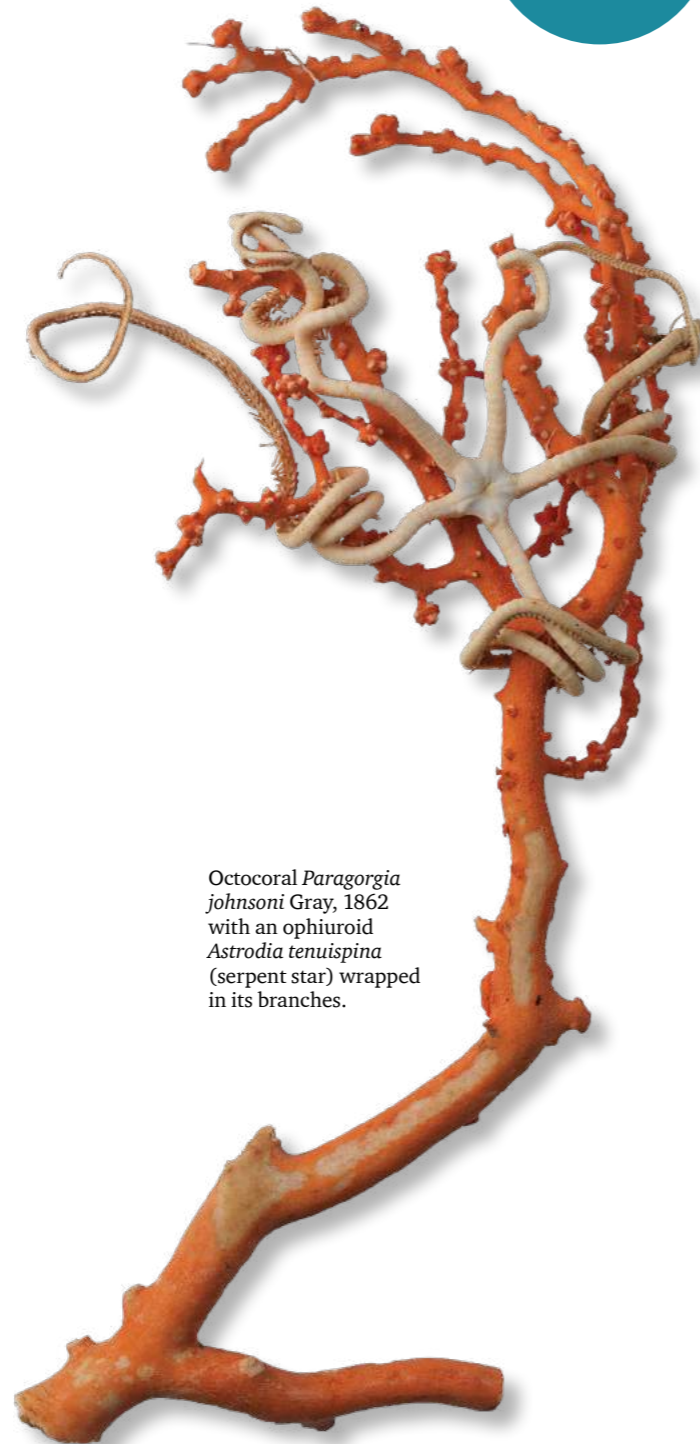
Corona ribeiroi, holotype MNRJmoll 3444. Terrestrial gastropod collected during the Rondon Commission (1907-1915) and described by Hermann von Ihering in 1915. Specimen was saved on the day of the fire and preserved in the collection.

Cnidaria (jellyfish, corals); Porifera (sponges), one of the largest in the Americas; Polychaeta (marine earthworms); and other Invertebrates (Ascidiacea, Brachiopoda, Bryozoa etc.) Only in 1971, the Department of Invertebrates (DI) was officially recognized in the organization structure of the National Museum/UFRJ. Before the fire, the DI collections had about one million specimens, in approximately 150,000

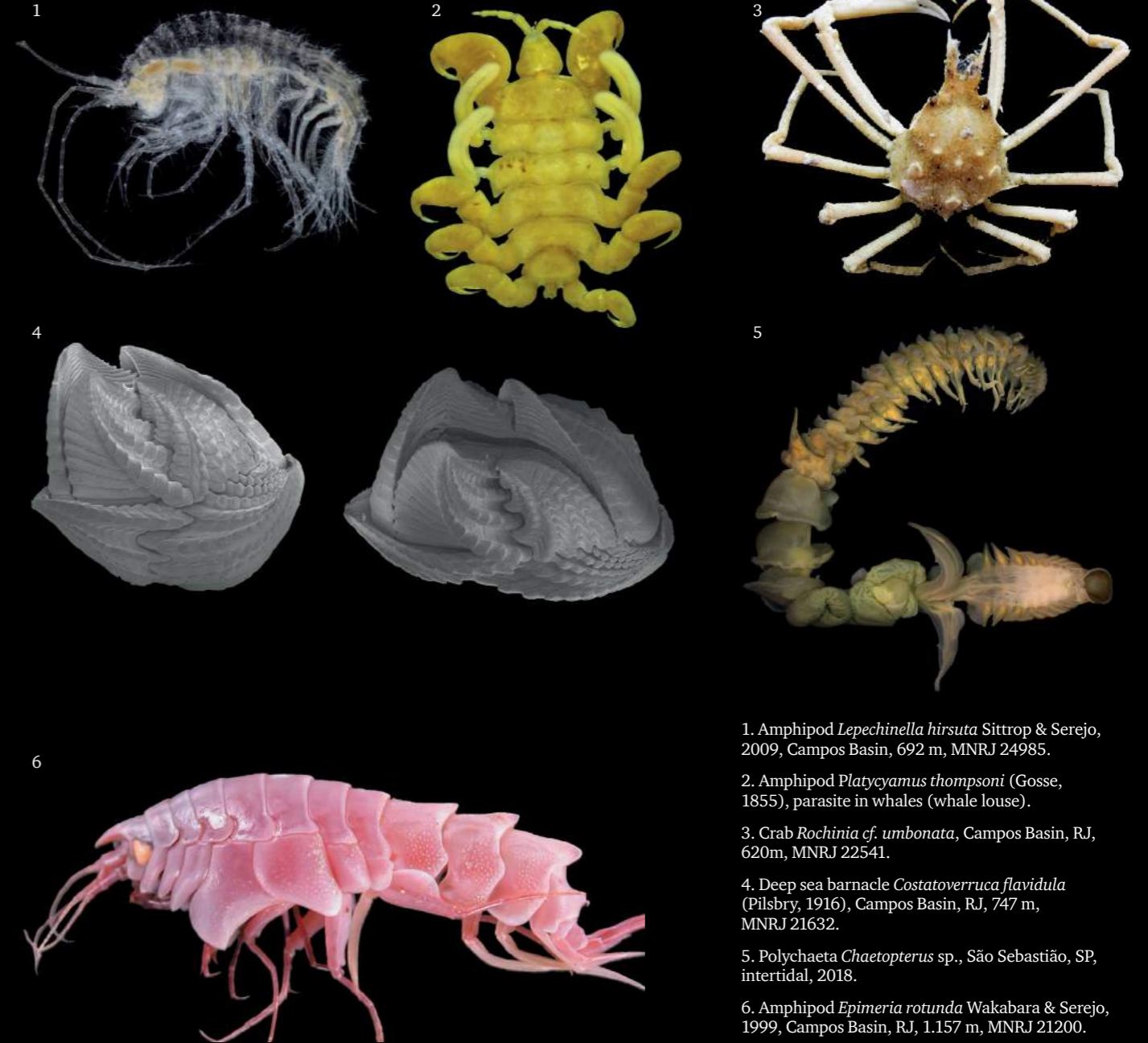


1. Nudibranch *Felimare juliae* (DaCosta et al, 2010), holotype, MNRJmoll 10940.
2. Gastropod *Gyrineum perca* (Perry, 1811), MNRJmoll 41930 (recovered from the rescue work in the palace).
3. Sponge *Hyalonema conqueror* Tabachnick et al, 2009, holotype, MNRJ 10093.
4. Polychaeta (marine worm) *Aphrodita* sp., Angra dos Reis, RJ, 1974, 38m, MNRJP 305.

lots, including material with and without records (backlog). Among the DI collections, the ones most severely affected by the 2018 fire were those of Arachnida and Mollusca, which were located in the palace. Arachnida's collection was almost completely destroyed, except for outstanding loans, while Mollusca's had 749 lots of types saved during the fire, and about 1,800 lots recovered through the National Museum's collections rescue work. The Crustacea and Echinodermata collections lost lots that were under study in the respective laboratories in the palace, including type material (Crustacea). In all, it is estimated that 50% of the department's collections were lost or affected by the fire. However, the *Paulo S. Young Collection Room*, located in the building next to the palace and which houses the other collections of the department, was not affected. The curators of the most affected collections have intensified field activities aimed at collecting specimens, as well as exchanges with collaborating institutions to receive donations of material aiming at the restoration of the collection. The Invertebrate Department is a reference center in Brazil and worldwide, and its collections are a fundamental part of the research infrastructure in diversity, morphological and molecular evolution, conservation and ecology of invertebrates. The growth and



Octocoral *Paragorgia johnsoni* Gray, 1862 with an ophiuroid *Astrodia tenuispina* (serpent star) wrapped in its branches.



1. Amphipod *Lepechinella hirsuta* Sittrop & Serejo, 2009, Campos Basin, 692 m, MNRJ 24985.
2. Amphipod *Platycyamus thompsoni* (Gosse, 1855), parasite in whales (whale louse).
3. Crab *Rochinia cf. umbonata*, Campos Basin, RJ, 620m, MNRJ 22541.
4. Deep sea barnacle *Costatoverruca flavidula* (Pilsbry, 1916), Campos Basin, RJ, 747 m, MNRJ 21632.
5. Polychaeta *Chaetopterus* sp., São Sebastião, SP, intertidal, 2018.
6. Amphipod *Epimeria rotunda* Wakabara & Serejo, 1999, Campos Basin, RJ, 1.157 m, MNRJ 21200.



Opilion *Phalangium punctipes*
(L. Koch, 1879), male, Crimea,
Russian Federation, MNRJ 2731.
Material received from exchange
with Aleksey Chemeris in 2017.

qualification of the collections are directly associated with the training of masters and doctors, especially through the Postgraduate Program in Biological Sciences (Zoology) at UFRJ, based at the National Museum. Such collections testify to past and present diversity, and contribute to the understanding of environmental diversity (ecosystems), changes in the environment (deforestation, eutrophication, silting), and the projection of future changes (global warming). One of the highlights of the DI collections is the representativeness of material from the deep sea from different phyla, including several new species, which was incorporated into the collections mainly from the year 1999/2000, as a result of oceanographic expeditions (REVIZEE - Projeto Recursos Vivos da Zona Econômica Exclusiva) and environmental characterization projects, mainly those promoted by PETROBRAS. It is important to note that all DI collections were computerized before the fire, which means that the metadata (identification, origin, date, collector) on the destroyed material was preserved. In this sense, DI staff have been investing in the management and digital accessibility of the data in the collections, which provides security and structure so that they can be correctly made available to other researchers and to society.

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Department of Vertebrates

The Department of Vertebrates holds one of the largest scientific collections of neotropical biodiversity, constituting an international reference center. Its collections started in the second half of the 19th century, currently encompassing more than half a million specimens, and are a fundamental part of the research infrastructure in diversity and molecular and morphological evolution of vertebrates, associated with Postgraduate

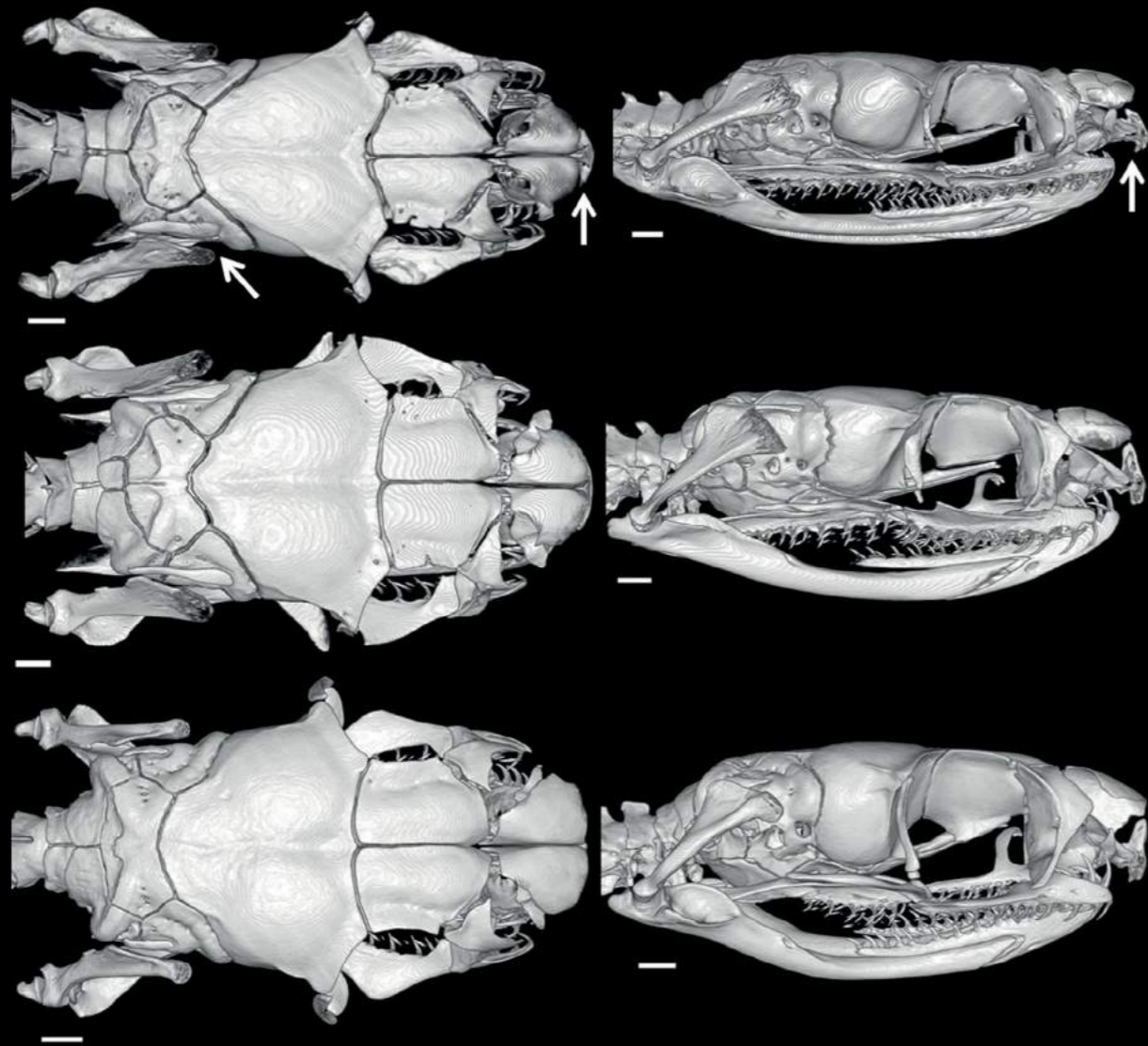
Programs, especially that in Biological Sciences (Zoology) at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, based at the National Museum. The ongoing research has the support of computerized radiography and molecular diversity laboratories, and several international partnerships. It includes material of inestimable scientific and historical value, such as species extinct in nature or in regions altered by human action. As early as 1870, vertebrate specimens were presented to the public on the main floor of the Zoology exhibition, set up at the original headquarters of the National Museum, in Campo de Santana, in downtown Rio de Janeiro. With the transferral of the National Museum to the Quinta da Boa Vista palace and the involvement of Brazilian and foreign scientists, the collection started to grow exponentially, including important material from the “Commission for strategic telegraph lines from Matto Grosso to Amazonas” (“Commission Rondon”), which lasted from 1907 to 1915. In the 20th century, distinguished scientists such as Alípio de Miranda Ribeiro, Antenor Carvalho, Bertha Lutz, Emilie Snethlage, Helmut Sick and João Moojen contributed greatly to the formation of the collections of the Museum.

Dog fish, *Rhaphiodon vulpinus*
Spix & Agassiz, 1829, MNRJ 207,
collected during the Rondon
Commission (1907-1915).



Broad-snouted caiman, *Caiman latirostris*
(Daudin, 1802), MNRJ 14173, 1.36 meters
long.





High resolution microtomography showing the dorsal (left side) and lateral (right side) views of the skulls of snail-eating snakes (malacophagous snakes of the family Dipsadidae) of the Atlantic Forest. Above, holotype of *Dipsas bothropoides* Mebert et al. 2020 (MNRJ 26377); to the center, specimen of *Dipsas alternans* Fischer, 1885 (MNRJ 19595); below holotype of *Dipsas sazimai* Fernandes et al. 2010 (MNRJ 15136). Scale bar = 1 mm.

From the mid-1990s, the Vertebrate collections were accommodated in their own building, with the intention of safeguarding the integrity of an invaluable heritage and the perpetuation of a research center responsible for significant scientific production and the training of specialized personnel, which led to an even more expressive growth of this collection. Currently, its staff is of 25, between teachers and technical workers, constantly developing research with its students in Brazil and abroad. The Department's collection and lines of research are divided into four sectors:

The Herpetology Sector holds a collection of about 90,000 specimens of amphibians and 30,000 reptiles, one of the largest in the world in terms of neotropical herpetofauna, and is one of the most consulted such collections in Latin America. It includes the Adolpho Lutz Collection (AL-MN) which has about 65 nominal species of amphibians (mostly) and reptiles. With a completely computerized catalog and one of the first biodiversity databases to adopt the WWW standard, the Ichthyology Sector has a collection of approximately 600,000 specimens of fish from the main hydrographic basins in Brazil, organized in more than 50,000 lots. The Ornithology Sector has the most representative collection of bird diversity in

the country. It has about 50,000 taxidermized specimens, comprising representatives from all Brazilian biomes, in addition to specimens in liquid medium, nests, eggs and skeletons. The Mastozoology Sector has the largest mammal collection in Latin America. More than 80,000 specimens are included, with emphasis on material from the 1940s and 1950s from João Moojen de Oliveira's efforts in projects associated with the control of endemic diseases, constituting the largest and better documented surveys of mastofauna in the national territory.



Mastozoology Sector:
Cabinets with specimens
from the fur collection
(March/2019). The
sector includes the
largest collection of
mammals in Latin
America, with more
than 80,000 specimens
registered.

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What can the Museu Nacional collections tell us?

The fire on 2 September 2018 was a tragedy not just for Rio, or Brazil, but for the world. The loss of the exhibitions and collections housed in the National Museum and the damage to the Palace itself was felt around the world. It felt visceral. Having visited the shell of the Palace towards the end of the salvage process and seen the staircase climbing to nowhere, the sole remaining specimen - the Bendegó meteorite, and met the people working on the rescue I have some small sense of what this means to those most closely associated with it. Thankfully not everything was lost. Some parts of the collection were saved from the burning building and luckily others were housed elsewhere. What has struck me most in the time I have spent working with the staff of the National Museum is their resilience and determination to rebuild.

The importance of the Museu Nacional collections and the need to rebuild them can not be underestimated. Brazil is a key country for access to biodiversity with its incredible range of habitats that need to be recorded and studied. Natural history collections are vital to our understanding of the natural world and humanity's interactions with it, on which we all depend. At their most basic these collections hold specimens that enable us to organise and research the range of species on earth; how they differ from each other; how they interact with each other, their habitat and environment ecosystem; how that changes over time and how human impact effects everything. At a more complex level they are a resource for our ambitions for societal change providing big data for modelling climate change, food sustainability and human health.



Delegation of the Natural History Museum, London (NHM) visiting the palace of the Museu Nacional at Quinta da Boa Vista in August, 2019. From left to right: Brad Irwin (NHM); Vincent Smith (NHM); Michael Dixon (Director, NHM); Clare Valentine (NHM); Cristiana Serejo (MN) and Murilo Bastos (MN).

Together the natural history collections in museums and universities around the world build into a global repository of bio- and geo-diversity over time and space, which evidence the rate of global change. Brazil must continue to be part of the overall picture!

I wish the staff of the National Museum every success in rebuilding their collections. Knowing what an astonishing group of people they are, I have no doubt of their success!

MSc Clare Valentine
Head of Life Sciences Collections
Department of Life Sciences
Natural History Museum, London



The British Council Brazil as a partner

Since 1818, the National Museum has been an important precursor in the research of natural sciences and anthropology in Brazil, and a highly respected institution internationally. As the country is home to around 20% of the world's biodiversity, the museum - in fact, one of the most important scientific research institutions in Brazil - plays a decisive role in our understanding of the history of the rich biodiversity present within the country's borders.

The tragic fire in the main building at Quinta da Boa Vista in September 2018 highlighted the importance of international collaboration. UK academics and institutions were among the first to express their solidarity and desire to collaborate as soon as the board of the National Museum began the arduous reconstruction process.



In due course, the museum was proactive in digitizing its extensive collection for many years. When the fire reached about 85% of its collections, the museum's researchers had already cataloged no less than 306,000 specimen records in digital format, in many cases with photographic evidence.



In order to share experiences and technical knowledge in the area of digitization of collections, the National History Museum in London - with one of the largest collections in the world, with 80 million specimens - and the National Museum signed, in August 2019, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) at the 1st Col Digi Workshop - The Collections of Natural History and Anthropology in the Digital Era.

The British Council was pleased to play the role of financier not only for the Col Digi Workshop, but also for the Coll Plan - Planning of Guard Spaces in Museums event held in March 2020 in Rio de Janeiro. Such events brought together professionals from the National Museum and the Natural History Museum, London to start collaboration on

management, digitization of collection data and planning of storage spaces over the next five years. We wish every success for this collaboration in the future.

Martin Dowle
Director, British Council Brasil

Word of the Director

Collections - why are original specimens so important?

There is no other way of saying it: the fire at the National Museum/UFRJ on September 2, 2018 is undoubtedly the worst tragedy that has ever happened in Brazil's scientific and cultural arena, having transcended the country's borders. Everyone was surprised that one of the ten largest economies in the world left its main museum of natural history and anthropology, with about 20 million items, unsupported for decades, despite several warnings issued by directors and scientists. It still hurts just thinking about it.

On the other hand, the support that the Museum received in these almost two years after the tragedy touched our hearts and kept us alive. Now we are in the right direction to rebuild the oldest scientific institution in Brazil, which is also the first museum founded in the country. Since June 6, 1818, the National Museum has inspired the creation of other scientific institutions and museums, helping, through its Postgraduate programs



and researchers, to promote science and culture in the national territory and elsewhere in South America.

What is the biggest challenge? This is the question I am asked most about reconstruction efforts. Perhaps most people will respond immediately: money! I can understand why this is the most obvious answer for some - if it weren't for the lack of financial resources, we wouldn't be in the difficult situation in which we find ourselves.

But no. This is not the main challenge we are facing. Rebuilding the collections is our central concern. I pointed this out immediately during the days after the fire. This is by far the main problem that keeps me up at night. Not that I don't see the obvious financial crisis around the world caused by COVID-19, which has just arrived and will certainly not make it easier.

Several institutions, mainly from outside the country, offered molds and digital reconstructions. Others signaled with loans. While these offers are certainly well-intentioned and, in some cases, perhaps the only possible route for legal reasons, the fact is that it will not take us very far. There is no way around this situation: **we need original material!**

I could go on talking about this topic forever, but I will summarize a long story: the British Museum would not be the British Museum if it were not for the collections! I can say the same about almost every major museum in the world. It is the original material that has the magic of capturing the visitor's interest in a museum of natural history and anthropology! It is the contextualization of these items that helps us explain why the world is the way it is. In addition, no museum can compete with Disneyland - where robotics and fictional creatures amaze children and parents! As I like to say - for costumes, Mickey and his gang are unbeatable. But, if one wants to see the specimens on which science is built, especially regarding natural history, the only place is museums. Nothing wrong with theme parks - only the purposes are different.

Despite the obvious difficulties in relation to the collections, we have made some important progress. At the national level, we received several donations from official institutions and private collectors, mainly from specimens related to biodiversity and Brazilian artifacts, material that will help us in our research and exhibitions. We are also seeking to secure financial resources for the preparation and assembly of specimens that have been offered to us as donations. In the same way, we try

to achieve the necessary conditions to be able to restore the items we recovered from the rubble of the palace. They are wonderful and rare specimens, difficult to obtain.

Internationally, we have already received promises of donations from important European museums and some from China. The most auspicious act in relation to the collections was carried out by 26 German scientific and cultural institutions in an open letter published by the German Embassy in Brasilia. They pledged to assist the National Museum in its reconstruction activity, including the provision for recovering the museum's collections. The first effective international donation of original material was made by the *Universalmuseum Joanneum* in Graz, Austria, which donated 197 ethnographic pieces from indigenous tribes in the Amazon region that were part of Lukesch's collection. We are sure that this particularly important initiative will be followed by other international institutions in the coming years.

However, as I have already highlighted, our institution needs to deserve these new items! And the only way to convince others to donate original material, which is certainly expensive for them, is to rebuild a palace with the best security measures for people - here meaning

visitors and staff - and for the new collection, causing a tragedy. like the one on september 2, 2018 never to be repeated. I am happy to report that we are making considerable progress in this direction.

It should be noted that the reconstruction of the National Museum has become an opportunity to make this institution a model again for others in the country and in South America. An opportunity that should not be missed. To fulfill it, we need international help, especially regarding the most precious items in any museum: original objects in its exhibitions and collections! The reconstruction of the National Museum can show, in practice, how cultural and scientific institutions can work together to achieve a splendid goal, which will make a big difference in this corner of the world.

Alexander W. A. Kellner
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