



Carmem M. Rodrigues
Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais (UFMG/CAPES)

Faden Maps Puzzle: Maps about colonial Brazil in the British Library and “Colombia Prima” cartography

In 1807 the renowned geographer and map editor William Faden published a huge map of South America, with 256 x 174 cm. With limited circulation and luxury binding, the map, designed by Louis Standislas d’Arcy de la Rochette, intended to shed a new light on the Continent, even renaming it: South America was the “Colombia Prima”. According to the subtitle, in its eight sheets the English editor intended to “delineate the extent o our knowledge of that Continent Extracted Chiefly from the original manuscript maps of His Excellency the late Chevalier Pinto likewise from those of João Joaquim da Rocha, João da Costa Ferreira, El Padre Francisco Manuel Sobrevielo etc. and from the most authentic edited accounts of those Countries.” The geographer didn’t write memoirs about his cartographic process, but in the case of “Colombia Prima,” he recorded his main sources on the map itself. The main source of information was the Portuguese Luís Pinto de Sousa Coutinho, the Viscount of Balsemão. According to Faden, while in England as Portugal’s ambassador, he provided valuable geographical and cartographic documents for the construction of the map. In order to verify this information, we decided to survey colonial Brazil maps at British Library and National Archives and were surprised by the amount of material and the mapped locations.

In this paper we present this survey and discuss some questions: Could these maps have been used as sources by Faden? Could these documents have been made available by Luís Pinto de Sousa Coutinho? What is the importance of mapping cartographic correlates when studying the History of Cartography? Our intention in this communication is to promote debate and exchange ideas related to the theory and methodology of the History of Cartography. We will not present closed answers, because this study fits within the working context of our PhD thesis, still in progress, that investigating the relations between the Portuguese ambassador, the English geographer and the map of South America, “Colombia Prima.”

Carmem Rodrigues is a PhD Student (UFMG/CAPES) in History of Cartography, research line Science and Culture in History, Professional orientation of Prof^a Dr^a Junia Ferreira Furtado. Master in Social History of Culture (UFMG) and graduated in History (UFMG) and Philosophy (PUC Minas). In 2020 she received JB Harley Research Fellowship to develop the research 'To His Excellency Chevalier Pinto: Columbia Prima’s Map and the Relationship between William Faden and Luís Pinto de Sousa Coutinho'. [Supported by the Historical Geographers Research Group (HGRG)]. She did exchange in the Department of Modern and Contemporary History at Universidad Autònoma de Barcelona (UaB) and in the Social History Laboratory at University of Brasília (UnB). She was sênior editor of *Revista Discente Temporalidades*, management 2018/19. Develops research especially in History of Cartography: @historiaecartografia.

Contact: carmemmarquesrod@gmail.com

Social Media: @CarmemMarx (Twitter) @historiaecartografia (Instagram)





Map 1: William Faden and Louis Stanislas d'Arcy de la Rochette, composite of sheets 1– 8 of “Colombia Prima or South America, In which it has been attempted to delineate the Extent of our Knowledge of that Continent Extracted Chiefly from the Original Manuscript Maps of His Excellency the late Chevalier Pinto Likewise from those of Joao Joaquin da Rocha, Joao da Costa Ferreira, El Padre Francisco Manuel Sobreviolo &c. And From the most Authentic Edited Accounts of Those Countries” (London, June 4, 1807).
256 × 174 cm. Scale 1:3,000,000. David Rumsey Map Collection.

