# VISIONS OF AMAZONIA

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Natural Vegetation

- Tropical rainforest
- Tropical semideciduous forest
- Paraná pine forest
- Transitional palm forest
- Thorny scrub (caatinga)
- Savanna* (carrado)
- Grassland
- Mangrove and/or dune vegetation (coastal)
- Perennially or periodically wet land

*Savanna grass, low trees, shrubs; ranging from grassland with scattered trees and shrubs to scrub woodland.
BEFORE ANTHROPOLOGY

- Pero Vaz de Caminha – Brazil’s birth certificate (April 1500)
- Hans Staden – 1557
- Jean de Léry - 1578
They are brown skinned, of a quite reddish complexion, with handsome faces and noses. They go about naked, without clothing. They do not bother about to cover or to uncover their bodies, and show their private parts as readily as they show their faces. In this matter they are of great innocence.
Not taller, fatter, or smaller in stature than we Europeans are; their bodies are neither monstrous, nor prodigious with respect to ours. In fact, they are stronger, more robust and well filled-out, more nimble, less subjected to disease; there are almost none among them who are lame; one eyed or disfigured.

JEAN DE LERY
COLONIAL WRITERS

- Clergy – Antonio Vieira (1608-97)
- Bandeirantes - pathfinders
- Government officials
JOHN HEMMING
(B. 1935)
19TH-CENTURY EXPLORERS

- Johan B. R. von Spix & Carl von Martius (1819)
- Prince Adalbert of Prussia (1842)
- William Henry Edwards (1846)
- Francis de Castelnau (1840s)
- Lt. W. L. Herndon (1850)
EARLY ETHNOGRAPHY

C. M. da Silva Rondon (1865-1958)

“Die if necessary, but never kill.”

Indian Protection Service
CLAUDE LÉVI-STRAUSS (1908-2009)

- French mission to the University of São Paulo in the 1930s
- Summer travels in the interior
- Structural anthropology
CHARLES WAGLEY (1913-1991)

- Columbia University – Franz Boas (1858-1942)
- Richard Pace – MTSU - Gurupá
VILLAS-BOAS BROTHERS
THE DELUGE

- Post 1945
- Hundreds of anthropologists
- SALSA – Society for the Anthropology of Lowlands South America
THE VANDERBILT CONNECTION

- Emilio Willems (1905-1997)
- Tom Gregor (retired 2012)
- Beth Conklin
KEEP THE RIVER ON YOUR RIGHT

- Tobias Schneebaum (1922-2005)
- 1950s Fulbright in Peru
- 1970s to Irian Jaya (New Guinea)
ACTIVISM

- Shelton Davis (1942-2010) [World Bank, Harvard University]
- *Victims of the Miracle*: Development and the Indians of Brazil (Cambridge University Press, 1977)
- Adrian Cowell (1934-2011)
- *The Tribe That Hides from Man* (1970)
As he practices his profession, the anthropologist is consumed by doubts: has he really abandoned his native setting, his friends, and his way of life, spent such considerable amounts of money and energy, and endangered his health, for the sole purpose of making his presence acceptable to a score or two of miserable creatures doomed to early extinction, whose chief occupations meanwhile are delousing themselves and sleeping, and on whose whims the success or failure of his mission depends?

Claude Lévi-Strauss, *Tristes Tropiques*, 427-28