

- Maria da Graça Seawright
- Lourdes Maria Gondim Bastos
- Antonio Carlos Lobo Soares

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- Dr. José Seixas Lourenço - UFPa
- Dr. Amadeu Cury - CAPES
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- Prof^o Sidney Emanuel Batista dos Santos - UFPa

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OBITUARY OF ARTHUR NAPOLEÃO FIGUEIREDO

ARTHUR NAPOLEÃO FIGUEIREDO, 65, Retired Professor of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology of the Universidade Federal do Pará (Brazil) and Research Fellow Emeritus of the Conselho Nacional de Desenvolvimento Científico e Tecnológico (CNPq)/Museu Paraense Emílio Goeldi, died March 8, 1989 in Belém from a heart attack. Napoleão was one of the last living connections to the illustrious years of Amazonian ethnology during mid-century. He was also one of the few Amazonian anthropologists of his generation to master the history of anthropological theory, one of his favorite topics of conversation. He was considered by many, including Seth Leacock, to be a premier specialist on modern Afro-Brazilian cults in the Amazon. Author of 115 articles and 4 books, Napoleão's interests were tropically broad, yet always focused on his native land, Amazonia, and its peoples. Napoleão had a long and wide-ranging field career, beginning with his studies of the material culture of the Tupi-Guarani speaking Anambé Indians in the 1950s, under the supervision of his mentor, Eduardo Galvão. Napoleão published on Amazonian Indians, Afro-Brazilian slavery and cults in the Amazon, ethnobotany, ethnomedicine, and material culture. Perhaps his most renowned work was *Amazônia: Tempo e Gente* (Amazonia: Time and People) (1977). With this book, in addition to many articles, he became one of the first anthropologists to address specifically the question of Afro-Brazilian slavery in the Amazon, the history of which had previously been very poorly known.

After obtaining his high school diploma from the Colégio Moderno in Belém, Napoleão served as Captain of Infantry in the Brazilian Reserve Army during 1940-46. He also studied law during this period, receiving his BA in Legal Sciences from the Faculdade de Direito do Estado do Pará in 1946. Anthropology as a course of study did not exist in the Amazon region at this time. But Napoleão developed a lifelong commitment to anthropology, nevertheless, during these years, finishing a post-graduate course in Regional Planning at the Fundação Getúlio Vargas in 1956, with a concentration in cultural anthropology. He was Associate Researcher of the Museu Goeldi from 1956-83. He was instrumental in founding and

furthering anthropology at the Universidade Federal do Pará during 1958 until his retirement in 1983. He founded the Laboratório de Ethnologia at that institution in 1982. From 1983 until the time of his death, he held a fellowship from the CNPq at the Museu Goeldi. At the end, he was working on a project concerning popular culture in the Amazon.

Napoleão leaves behind a widow, Maria Célia, and three children. His colleagues will remember him as a versatile researcher, a dedicated teacher, a founder of academic anthropology in the Amazon region, and a productive scholar. A native Amazonian, Napoleão was proud to devote his life to studying his own land people. (W. Balée. Dept^o Ecologia/MPEG/CNPq).

