

“Lesson on things”: the Museu Paraense and the teaching of Natural History (1889-1900)

Diego Ramon Silva Machado

dsilvamachado@gmail.com

Master Dissertation

Post-Graduate Program in Teaching of Sciences and Mathematics

Federal University of Pará

Belém (Pará) – Brazil 2010

The main focus of this dissertation is to reflect about the publicization of the Natural History in Pará during the end of the 19th Century through the science teaching promoted by the Museu Paraense de História Natural e Etnografia (1889-1900). In this study I make an emphasis in the notions of Education and Natural History in the speeches of the persons who are historically evolved with this Institution and in the strategies which were used to promote the science in the state. Thus, I identify some facts that were found in the documents of Pará Government and in the “Boletim do Museu Paraense de História Natural e Etnografia”, which shows that since the beginning, in 1866, the Museum sought to study the local nature, publicize the results of the researches and promote lessons about the Natural History. I debate the educational importance of public conferences, the formation of young researchers in Natural History, the Boletim (1894), and the Zoobotanical Garden, through their own specific characteristics. Therefore, the research is allied of different subjects and lines of investigation that have been occupied with the teaching and dissemination of scientific informations in Natural History Museums. It demonstrates the contribution of this analysis to others researchs of publicization and the history of the Natural Sciences Teaching. Nervertheless, it can be used as theoretical and methodological support to comparative studies in this field.

