



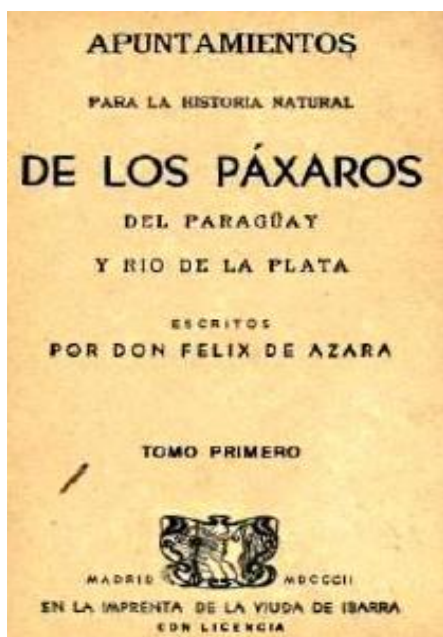
FAMOUS MIGRANTS

Félix de Azara

Geographer, navigator and Spanish naturalist. He studied the flora and fauna of South America, where he lived for twenty years, and described more than 500 species, including several mammals previously unknown.

Biography

He was born in Huesca, 18th May 1742. Felix de Azara studied at the University of Huesca and completed his training in Barcelona, where he studied mathematics. After entering the Corps of Military Engineers, he directed fortification works in Mallorca and Figueras. He later participated in the expedition to Argel (1775), where he was seriously wounded. He stayed in Paraguay and in Rio de la Plata for twenty years, and took advantage of this extended stay to study the fauna, flora and geography of the area. After returning to Europe, he lived in Paris with his brother José Nicolás. When His brother died, he decided to return to Spain. Some years later he retired to his native Barbuñales, where he died in 1821.



Contributions to evolutionism

Felix de Azara did not limit himself to botany and descriptive zoology works. His Curiosity led him to take a step further and ask questions such as: Why are they distributed the living beings in this way on the South American plains and not otherwise? From where did the first specimens of each species arrive? Why are the differences observed among the populations of different places belonging to the same species? Without proposing it, Azara was preparing the path of nineteenth –century evolutionism. We can say that Azara was the direct antecedent of the First of the revolutions.



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