



**NOTE OF MOURNING, REPUDIATION AND INDIGNATION
CONCERNING THE LOSS OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM
COLLECTIONS IN RIO DE JANEIRO**

The community of historians and art history professors represented by the members of the Brazilian Committee of Art History (CBHA), express their profound sadness, consternation and indignation regarding the fire that destroyed the National Museum at the Quinta da Boa Vista in Rio de Janeiro. The National Museum, founded by Dom João VI on the 6th of June 1818, was the oldest scientific institution in Brazil and one of the largest Museums of natural history and anthropology in the Americas, holding several collections that amounted to over 20 million items.

This community also repudiates the decrease and lack of investment in museums and the universities that administer them, as was the case of the National Museum, which was under the tutelage of the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro. The lack of investment prevents these institutions from using the simplest technologies to avoid or minimize losses, robberies and other events that put their collections at risk.

This community demands that the Federal Government, through its Ministry of Education and Culture, designate sufficient and necessary funds to enable these institutions to fully accomplish their objectives, including the central one of preserving and conserving their collections.

Finally, we express our solidarity towards all the employees of the National Museum.

BRAZILIAN COMMITTEE OF ART HISTORY (CBHA)

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