



Map of São Vicente, by “Reys-boeck van het rijcke Brasilien”,  
1624. (MORI, p. 187).  
Martim Afonso de Souza, HEB, v 1, p 23.



### 3\_ NAVIGATORS & BANDEIRANTES

It all started in the central part of the long and narrow coastal plains once covered by the Atlantic Forest, where there are two narrow navigation channels that approximate the “stone walls” of “Serra do Mar”.

It was in this region, between the islands of São Vicente and Santo Amaro, that in 1532, the first Captain General of colonial Brazil, Martim Afonso de Souza, arrived with his fleet, after recognizing the little indented coastline of South America from the mouth of the Amazon to the mouth of the Prata River . And it was so, or nearly so, that the villages of São Vicente and Santos emerged in areas protected by nature and out of “view” from the open sea and the “fire” of the cannons of pirates and corsairs.

The fleet, with five ships, was composed of “noblemen, military elite, Portuguese soldiers, French and Italian mercenaries, bombers, crossbowmen and shotgun men”. Among the crew was young Brás Cubas, at the age of 24, who went on to find the New Village around 1540 and transfer the port to a sheltered area, “Lagamar de Enguaguaçu”, near the Santa Catarina Hill.