



Village of Santos Sixteenth Century. Codex of Ajuda's Library, Lisbon, Portugal .

The site now known as Ponta da Praia. Collection Morgado de Mateus, National Library, RJ. IPHAN, SP, copy.

4_ PORT OF SANTOS

The Port of Santos guards several readings throughout its history, among which we highlight:

– *economic reading*, through some popular names such as: slave port, port of sugar, port of salt, port of sugar again, port of death, port of gold, port of coffee, port of everything;

– *geopolitical reading*, shows us that the Port of Santos can boast of having contributed to writing Brazil's history, whose territorial greatness reached the maximum size that gave it the Treaty of Madrid (1750), ratified by the Treaty of Saint Ildefonso (1777).

But let's start with the ancient days.

It all started on January 22, 1502 when Gonçalo Coelho, though he had discovered a river between the islands of Guaiaó (now São Vicente Island) and Guaibê (Santo Amaro Island), which he called Rio de São Vicente (São Vicente River) in tribute to the saint of the day: São Vicente Mártir (St.Vincent Martyr). The Portuguese navigator was mistaken, because it was not a river but just a sea channel.

He had anchored there, at that site now known as Ponta da Praia, in the current city of Santos, and there, the Port of São Vicente was settled. People would walk down the beach until the current "Biquinha", a place that, in 1541, was invaded by the sea.