

Mutis' role in the independence process was to transmit the new ideas to the budding *criollo* elite, which triggered the interest of those that would be part of the revolution and would be the seed of the republican thinking.



with theoretical lectures only, since there were no laboratories to perform experiments in. He joined the Royal Botanical Expedition in 1806 and led the zoology section. The manuscripts from the *Fauna cundinamarquesa*, first piece of the national zoology, date from this year.

He studied at the *Real Colegio y Seminario* in Popayán. There, he got acquainted with Francisco José de Caldas, Camilo Torres, Francisco Ulloa, and José María Cabal. In 1791, at the age of 24, he was appointed as second assistant to the Royal Botanical Expedition. In 1795 he was accused of insurrection and exiled to Cádiz. There he was imprisoned for three years. He was denied return to the Nueva Granada, but instead, he was awarded a scientific mission in Paris. He reached high positions, such as the direction of the Botanic Garden of Madrid.



He worked for the Royal Botanical Expedition between 1802 y 1805 collecting *cinchonas* and plants from the province of Quito. Later on, he was director of the Astronomical Observatory of Santa Fe. In 1810 he created the *Semanario del Nuevo Reino de Granada*, from where he promoted the spirit of independence. He was actively involved in the independence process as an artillery expert and in the organization of scientific and military institutions. During the reconquest process led by Pablo Morillo, he was arrested and executed at the age of 48.

The nephew of José Celestino Mutis, he studied at *Colegio Mayor de Nuestra Señora del Rosario* and in 1791 he entered the Royal Botanical Expedition as an assistant. In 1794 he was accused of conspiracy and exiled to Cádiz.

Three years later he was released and he attended botany courses in Cádiz and Madrid. He returned to Nueva Granada in 1802 and joined the Expedition once again. In 1803, he started a journey with the two scientific expedition painters through the Provinces of Socorro, Girón, Cañaverales, Cartagena, and Cuba, from where he returns in August, 1808, just before his uncle's decease.

Upon his uncle's death, he becomes scientific director of the Royal Botanical Expedition. In July 20<sup>th</sup>, 1810, he is appointed by the Council of Santa Fe as people's deputy and member of the Government Supreme Board and, acting in that capacity, he subscribes the bill of independence.

At the age of 22, he conspired with Antonio Nariño in defense of human rights for the *criollo* population, for which he was exiled to Cádiz in 1794, where he was imprisoned until 1799. One year later, Charles IV granted him the degree in Law, and he was enabled to litigate in all hearings, tribunals, and courts of law of the kingdoms and provinces of Nueva España, Perú and Nueva Granada.



Between 1800 and 1802, he went to Paris to study mineralogy, and in 1803, he joined the Royal Botanical Expedition as researcher. There, he gathered the mineral collection that is part of the Expedition's material currently kept in Madrid.

He owned the *Tequendama* estate, located exactly in the place of the known waterfall of the same name, municipality of Soacha, where he grew the *Cinchona*, to which Mutis dedicated many years, which was essential for the treatment of malaria. He served his country as mayor of Zipaquirá, governor of Cundinamarca, and mayor of Bogotá, among other positions. In 1816, Morillo, “El Pacificador” (“The Peacemaker”), pressed charges against him and sentenced him to death for treason against Ferdinand VII, King of Spain. However, he was later on acquitted of all charges.

**Francisco Antonio Zea**  
Constancio Franco Vargas, José Eugenio Montoya  
and Julián Rubiano  
1880  
Oil painting on canvas  
64,5 x 51,4cm  
Museo Nacional de Colombia  
Reg. 247

**Jorge Tadeo Lozano**  
Pío José Domínguez del Castillo  
ca. 1813  
Watercolor on ivory  
7 x 5.5 cm  
Museo Nacional de Colombia  
Reg. 597

***Caldas heading towards his torture***  
Alberto Urdaneta  
ca. 1880  
Oil painting on fabric  
122.5 x 101.5 cm  
Museo Nacional de Colombia  
Reg. 556

***Sinforoso Mutis' signature***  
**Bill of Independence of 1810**  
**1846**  
**Lithograph on paper**  
**Museo Nacional de Colombia**  
**Reg. 768**

**Enrique Umaña Barragán**  
José María Espinosa Prieto  
ca. 1840  
Watercolor on paper  
10 x 15 cm  
Private Collection