

JOSÉ MANUEL RESTREPO

Lawyer, geographer and politician
(Colombia, 1781-1863)



GALLERY
of HISTORIANS
and GEOGRAPHERS of
AMERICA

A major supporter of research and practice in the botany of Colombia. He graduated with BA degrees in philosophy and canon law from the University of Saint Thomas Aquinas. Among his pursuits were astronomy, geodesy and literature. He carried out botanical explorations in Santa Fé, and in 1808 surveyed the province of Antioquía to produce a map and a geographic description. After freedom from Spanish rule had been established, he participated in the commission responsible for drafting the first Columbian constitution. In the academic sphere, he actively corresponded with Alexander von Humboldt, researched the history of his country and wrote about the minting of gold currency and the cultivated crops of the various kinds of agriculture of the region.

Wrote: Memoria sobre amonedación de oro y plata en la Nueva granada / Fabricación de sombreros de Jipilapa / El cultivo de Para, 1855 / El cultivo del café, 1859 / Historia de la Nueva Granada, 1827.