

# Jacob between Rio and Paris

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## 1 Paris

It is always Jacob's voice that I hear when I happen to pass along the "Hotel du Brésil". Located rue Le Goff in the 5th borough, it was during many years the home of Jacob in Paris. I never asked him why he had chosen this place but the name speaks for itself as does the location, in the middle of the Latin quarter, near Collège de France, Sorbonne, Ecole Normale Supérieure, the Jussieu campus, ...



Here are two pictures which, I am sure, will make him think of many happy moments. The second one evokes the memory of his close friendship with Jean-Christophe Yoccoz.



## 2 Rio

The only occasion when I am sure I astonished Jacob has nothing to do with mathematics. It happened long ago during a meeting at IMPA. Jacob and Zeze had invited some friends for a dinner at home. At some moment, Jacob took out of his pocket a superb ancient pocket watch in gold, as the one on the picture, which he circulated around the table so that everybody could admire it.



When my turn came, I took the watch, praised it a lot and ... finding it so beautiful, put it in the pocket of my shirt. After the initial shock, Jacob asked me to return the watch, which of course I did immediately ... nevertheless with a gran of salt ! The watch I took from my pocket and gave back to Jacob was at least twice smaller and ten times less magnificent.



I shall never forget the amazed face of Jacob which lasted some seconds before he realized that I happened to carry such a cheap watch which I had found more secure than a wrist watch.