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## Entry Nr. 038 Un-named Woman

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Aaron Spencer Fogleman and Robert Hanserd (eds.), *Five Hundred African Voices: A Catalog of Published Accounts by Africans Enslaved in the Transatlantic Slave Trade, 1586-1936* (Philadelphia: American Philosophical Society, 2022).

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*Comments:* None

*Text of Account:*

Original German –

“Eine Negerin sagte, daß in ihrer Gegend der Verstorbene aufgeschnitten und zugesehen würde, ob er natürlichen Todes gestorben oder totgezaubert sei. Im letzten Falle werde sein Leichnam verbrannt. Dieser Argwohn, daß Menschen durch Bezauberung sterben, ist unter den Negern fast durchgängig und eine Quelle vieles Zwists, Aberglaubens und Unheils. Sie glauben solches sonderlich von jungen Leuten, deren Tod nicht natürlich, sondern durch Zaubermittel gewürkt sein soll.”

English translation (by Aaron Spencer Fogleman, 2022)

“A Negress said that in her land the dead are cut open to determine if they died a natural death or by magic. In the latter case the body will be burned. This suspicion that people die by magic is found among almost all Negroes and is a source of many disputes, superstitions, and unholy deeds. They especially believe this when young people do not die a natural death, that is they believe a magical substance must have been caused it.”

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