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Entry Nr. 041 Un-named Gien Man

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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).

<i>Catalog number:</i>	41
<i>Name(s) of African providing account:</i>	Un-named Gien man
<i>Date account recorded:</i>	1767-68
<i>Date account first published:</i>	2000-2002
<i>Date of entry creation or last update:</i>	20 January 2022

Source:

Aspects of her life story printed on p. 382 in vol. 1 of C. G. A. Oldendorp, *Historie der caribischen Inseln Sanct Thomas, Sanct Crux und Sanct Jan, insbesondere der dasigen Neger und der Mission der evangelischen Brüder unter denselben: kommentierte Ausgabe des vollständigen Manuskriptes aus dem Archiv der Evangelischen Brüder-Unität Herrnhut*, edited by Gudrun Meier *et al.* (= Volume 51 in the series *Abhandlungen und Berichte des Staatlichen Museums für Völkerkunde Dresden*). Berlin, Germany: VWB, Verlag für Wissenschaft und Bildung, 2000-2002.

<i>Comments:</i>	None
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Text of Account:

Original German –

“An die Mangree grenzet ein Negergeschlecht, Gien genannt. Ein Neger von demselben sagte, daß zwischen ihnen und den Mangree nur ein großer Fluß wäre, und daß sie einander verstünden. Der Name Gottes war in seinem Lande Grebo. Zu dem beten sie. Sonst ist ein großer Seidencattunbaum daselbst und ein Haus und Aufseher dabei, daß niemand den Baum beschädige. Vor diesem Baume fallen sie nieder und beten in ihrem Anliegen zu ihm und glauben, daß er sie verstehe und ihnen geben könne, was sie bitten. Sie fressen Menschen, aber nicht von ihrer Nation, sondern solche, die sie im Kriege getötet haben. Auf dem Schlachtfelde sind sie voll Bosheit, daß ihnen der Feind soviel Schaden getan und rufen: ‘Was sollen wir tun, uns zu rächen? Wir wollen sie fressen.’ Da kochen sie Fleisch von den roten Feinden und verzehren es. Der Neger, mit dem ich redete, hatte es selber getan.”

English translation (by Aaron Spencer Fogleman, 2022)

“On the borders of the Mangree is a Negro race called the Gien. A Negro from this group said that a large river ran between them and that the Mangree and they were agreeable. The name of God in their country was Grebo, to whom they prayed. There is a large silk cotton tree (*Seidencattunbaum*) there and a house with a caretaker who ensures that no one damages the tree. They fall before this tree and pray in a prone position to him [Grebo] and believe that he understands them and can give them what they request. They eat people -- not those from their own nation, but rather those they have killed in war. On the battlefield they are filled with malice because their enemies had hurt them so badly and cry out, ‘What should we do to exact revenge? We will eat them.’ Then they boil flesh from their red enemies and consume it. The Negro with whom I spoke had done it himself.”

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