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Entry Nr. 048 Un-named Okwa or Okoi 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>	48
<i>Name(s) of African providing account:</i>	Un-named Okwa or Okoi 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>	21 January 2022

Source:

Aspects of his life story printed on p. 396 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.

Comments: None

Text of Account:

Original German –

“Ein Neger, mit dem ich kürzlich sprach, nannte seine Nation Okwa oder Okwoi. Er hatte auf jeder Schläfe drei kleine Schnitte. Den Gott seines Vaterlandes hieß er Tschabee, wußte aber auch von Kinku. Er sagte, daß sie in seinem Lande Gold von Akkim bekämen, außerdem aber Gangunga oder Muschelgeld hätten, das sie dort Ganetelli nannten. Gangunga nennen die meisten Neger die gläsernen Korallen und die maldivischen Muscheln, die ihnen von den Blanken zugeführt werden. Die Zauberer in seinem Lande hieß er Konfu. Ein solcher bestellt in dürre Zeit die ganze Gegend, stellt ein Gefäß hin, jeder muß fünf Gangunga hineinwerfen, und dann soll er regnen machen von früh bis in die Nacht.”

English translation (Aaron Spencer Fogleman, 2022)

“A Negro with whom I recently spoke called his nation the Okwa or Okwoi. He had three small incisions on each of his temples. He called the God of his fatherland Tschabee but was aware of Kinku [the God in nearby lands]. He said that in his country they received gold from the Akyem, but that they also used Gangunga or mussel shells for money, which they call Ganetelli. Most Negroes refer to the glassy coral and the Maldavian mussels that they trade with Whites (*Blanken*) as Gangunga. He called the sorcerers in his country Konfu. In times of scarcity a sorcerer places a vat before everyone in the area and requires them to throw in five Gangunga each, so that he can make it rain from morning until in the night.”

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