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Entry Nr. 102 Second Un-named Rebel

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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).

Catalog number: **102**
Name(s) of African providing account: **Second un-named rebel**
Date account recorded: 1767
Date account first published: 2000-2002
Date of entry creation or last update: 4 February 2022

Source:

Aspects of her life story printed on p. 504-505 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:

Oldendorp spoke with these two men (Nr. 101-102) about their role in a shipboard rebellion. Except for the brief notation that one of them was a youth who took the captain's gun, he does not distinguish between the two accounts. Thus the full account is given in both Catalog entries.

Text of Account:

Original German –

“Von der Rebellion auf einem andern Schiffe erzählten mir zween Neger, deren einer als ein kleiner Junge auf dem Schiff hatte dienen helfen und der andere als ein Mitschuldiger heftig gepeitscht worden war. Ein Negerjunge, der den Captain bediente und also in die Kajüte kommen konnte, wurde von den Sklaven, die sich vornahmen, die Blanken zu töten, angestiftet, ihnen in der Nacht des Captains Gewehr herauszugeben. Er tat es, und sie verwahren es in ihrem Behältnis. Ihr Vorsatz wurde nicht gleich ausgeführt, weil sie uneins waren; denn einige wollten alle Blanken umbringen. Andere sagten hingegen, daß sie alsdenn nicht nach Guinea zurückkamen könnten. Zuletzt beschlossen sie, einen leben zu lassen der das Schiff regieren könnte, und wollten nun vor Anbruch des Tages ihr Vorhaben ins Werk setzen. Ein Bomba erfuhr es noch zu rechter Zeit, wollte es nicht zugeben und sagte es, da er sie nicht davon

abbringen konnte, dem Captain. Dieser ließ ungesäumt Anstalt machen, es zu hintertreiben. Eine Canone, die vor das Loch, durch welches sie heraufkommen mußten, gepflanzt, jagte ihnen Furcht und Schrecken ein. Man ließ sie hervorkommen, einem nach dem andern wurden Fessel angelegt, und die Schuldigen bekamen grausame Schläge.”

English translation (Aaron Spencer Fogleman, 2022)

“Two Negroes told me about a rebellion on another ship. One of them was a small youth who was a servant on the ship and helped because of this. The second, who also participated, was severely whipped for it. The youth served the captain and thus had access to his cabin, so the other slaves who intended to kill the Whites (*Blanken*) frightened him into taking the captain’s gun from his cabin at night. He did so, to the immense pleasure of the others, but their intentions were not carried out because the rebels were not united. Some wanted to kill all the Whites, while others said if they did that, then they would not be able to return to Guinea. In the end they decided to let one of the Whites live so he could steer the ship. They planned to implement their plan before daybreak, but a *Bomba* [enslaved supervisor on the ship] discovered their plot in the nick of time and told the captain so he could stop them. The latter made immediate preparation to thwart the rebellion by having a cannon placed before the hole from which the rebels intended to emerge in order to terrify them into submission. Then they waited for the rebels to come, and when they did, the crew placed them in irons, one after the other, after which they administered horrible beatings to those involved.”

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