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Entry Nr. 228 Rosa Maria de Conceição

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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>	228
<i>Name(s) of African providing account:</i>	Rosa Maria de Conceição
<i>Date account recorded:</i>	1835
<i>Date account first published:</i>	2000
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Source: Will and Inventory printed with annotations by Hendrik Kraay on p. 290-293 in *Colonial Lives: Documents on Latin American History, 1550-1850*, edited by Richard Boyer and Geoffrey Spurling. New York: Oxford University Press, 2000.

Comments:

English translation –

p. 290:

“Will and Inventory of Rosa Maria da C Conceição

The year 1843, Santana parish. Rosa Maria da Conceição passed away, leaving [her] will, on February 1, 1836.

Second District Civil Court [of Bahia?]. Inventory of the goods of the late Rosa Maria da Conceição continued by her executor, Maria Eugênia Coelho. Notary Domingos José do Amorim.

In the year of our Lord Jesus Christ 1843, on March 28, in this Loyal and Valorous city of São Salvador [da] Bahía de Todos os Santos, in the office of the undersigned notary, I registered the petition, certification, and will that follows, in witness whereof I began this document. I, Luiz José Gomes de Almeida, sworn scribe, write this. I, Domingos José de Amorim, notary, undersign this.”

Text of Account:

English translation --

p. 290:

“Will:

1. I, Rosa Maria da Conceição, native of the coast of Africa, freedwoman, and widow of Caetano de Cauto, also of the same nation, formerly slave of the late Clemente Luiz, a *pardo* man, sound of mind, and desiring to bequeath my property, order my will to be made as follows:

2. I declare that I had no children, neither while I was single, nor while I was married, nor while I was a widow, and for that reason I have no obligatory heirs, descendants who prevent me from bequeathing to whomever I desire.

3. My executors will be, in the first place, Maria Eugênia Coelho, African *preta* freedwoman; in the second, her son, José Maria, *cabra*; and in the third, her daughter named Maria Margarida, *cabra*. I beseech them to do this favor for me, and for God, accepting this executorship, fulfilling the following dispositions:

4. I declare that on June 11 of this year, on the request of Manoel de Almeida, I prepared another will, which was written by José Elias Xavier da Conceição, a friend of that Manoel de Almeida, who had already conspired together. This will was written with fraudulent intent not only because the said Elias declared his friend, ‘Almeida, as my heir, but also because it did not declare my jewelry, gold coins, and silver, which Almeida took away in a basket on the pretext of storing it-- he kept all of it-- and finally because this will did not leave any bequests at all to relatives of my late patron. I was completely deceived but discovered this plot when I ordered the will opened and found all of these falsehoods; therefore, it will not have the least effect, and by this [article] I declare it to be revoked in its entirety.

5. I declare that I will be buried in the Saint Francis Monastery, accompanied by my reverend parish priest, sacristan, its priests (to whom will be given the customary fees [and] the half-pound candle), and the brotherhoods of Saint Benedict and Our Lady of the Rosary of Shoemakers’ Hollow. I will be shrouded in the Franciscan habit, and fifty requiem masses *praesente cadavere* of the *pataca* alm will be recited in the said monastery, in *piedade* (convent), and in my parish [church].

6. Furthermore, 2\$000 will be given in alms to the poor that accompany [my funeral] at forty *réis* each, and fifty more masses of the same donation will be said for the soul of my husband, three for the souls in purgatory, and three more, one

p. 291:

to the purity of our Lady, one to my guardian angel, and one to the saint of my name, all at forty *réis* each.

7. I declare that the property that I presently possess, because the said Manoel de Almeida carried off my valuables, is a little residence on Genipap Street, from which value (whether or not it is auctioned off after being assessed) my dispositions will be carried out, including the sum of 4\$000, which I leave to any heir of my late patron who appears [to claim]

it. Of the balance [of my estate] I institute as my universal heir my first executor Maria Eugenia Coelho; and, in the event of her death, her daughter, [my] third executor; and, in the event of the death of both; her son, my second executor.

8. I declare that I do not owe anything, nor do I have any debts to collect. Having therefore concluded my sole and final testament, annulling forever the other one, I request that His Imperial Majesty's justice see that it is executed, and kept in the present form. Knowing neither how to read, nor write, I requested that this testament be prepared and, on my request, signed by the undersigned in Bahia on June 30, 1835.

Written on the request of the testator, Rosa Maria da Conceição,
[signed] Joao Francisco da Rocha”

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