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Entry Nr. 233 Francisco Mina

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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: **233**
Name(s) of African providing account: **Francisco Mina = Pancho**
Date account recorded: 1835
Date account first published: 1996
Date of entry creation: 20 September 2021

Source: English translation of her statement printed on p. 164-165 and 202n7 in VOICES OF THE ENSLAVED IN NINETEENTH-CENTURY CUBA: A DOCUMENTARY HISTORY, edited by Gloria García Rodríguez. Translated by Nancy L. Westrate. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2011. Copyright © 2011 by the University of North Carolina Press. Used by permission of the publisher. www.uncpress.org.

Text of Account:

English translation –

p. 164:

“*Cayajabos, August 31, 1835*

The deponent states that he is a Mina, single, of legal age, owned by Don Jose Rubio Campos, and that he ran away more than twenty years ago. . . . (He fled because his former master had sold him to a coffee plantation. He was unaccustomed to that type of work—_he is a cart driver—_and the mayoral punished him a great deal. . . . He had been in Vuelta de Abajo and a place they call Guanés. . . . He never was the leader of the palenque. He lived with only four Negro men and two Negro women, with no one acting as leader, each individual governing their own fate . . .)

p. 165:

The runaways survived by eating *jutías* [Cuban rats] and *majaes rabones* [Cuban snakes also known as Santa Marias]. . . . Don Miguel Herrera, the mayoral from Borbon, two white youths, and two mulattoes apprehended him on the coffee plantation Santa Teresa, also known as Landot. . . . There were ten maroons in all, four of them there together in the scrub on the coffee plantation Plumas. They were on that particular coffee plantation because formerly they had been very friendly with those on this estate . . . Those maroons accompanying him were: Jose de Jesus

Ganga, from the ingenio owned by the Countess de Lombillo; Nicolas Carabali, property of Don Antonio Duarte Zenea; Toribio Mina, owned by Don Jacinto Gonzalez Larrinaga; Bartolo, property of Don Leon Blen; Remigio, from the ingenio San Isidro; Aniceto Macua, owned by Don Manuel Diaz of the [ingenio] Bejucal; and the black women Gertrudis Conga, property of Don Antonio Duarte Zenea; Maria Filomena Carabali, owned by Mrs. Condesa de Lombillo; and Tomasa Criolla, about sixteen years old, born and raised in the scrub, and her mother, property of the ingenio San Francisco owned by Alfaro. They came to the coffee plantation Landot because the slave Pablo Criollo had run away from there. He proposed that they go back there with some of their beeswax and barter with it for truck. There was very little chance that they would get caught on that coffee plantation. . . . Pablo was with them for a week, because he went to take the black woman Rosalia Lucumi, a slave owned by Don Miguel Herrera, to the black man Hilario Mandinga, who had been a contramayoral from the coffee plantation Borbon but ran away into the scrub and was waiting for said black woman for his wife. Once he saw that she had reached her destination, Pablo returned to his house in order to wait for the others to bring the wax. They finally came about two weeks later. They stayed for eight days, hiding right there in the slave quarters on the coffee plantation Landot. They learned that the mayoral there on Borbon tried to send for the captain to search those huts, so they set out for the scrubland to wait until the others came with the wax. They dealt with the slaves Antonio Ganga, Leon Ganga, and another whose name he did not know about the wax. They gave a crude cake of wax to each of the two contramayorals . . . in return they gave them only lunch and a little cane liquor, agreeing to pay for the wax later. That is when the mayoral on Borbon showed up along with some others, and seized them and captured them . . .”

Comments from Rodríguez: (p. 202n7)

“Jose Ildefonso Suarez, adviser to the governor, argued that it had not been proved that Pancho Mina committed any crime and, therefore, that he must be returned to his owner “to keep him in jail for four to six years so that he may serve as an example to the rest of the servitors. As soon as possible after his release, his ownership must be transferred to a neighbor or a hacendado as far away as possible from the hills of Cuzco, in order to make it both difficult and impractical to return to them.” The captain general Miguel Tacon agreed with this ruling.”

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