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Entry Nr. 318 Gregorio Lucumí

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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: **318**
Name(s) of African providing account: **Gregorio Lucumí**
Date account recorded: 1842
Date account first published: 1996
Date of entry creation: 20 September 2021

Source: English translation of statement printed on p. 135 and 200n20 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. 135:

“Statement of Gregorio Lucumi, single, age unknown.

. . . on Friday . . . the witness was with many of his fellow slaves, just how many he did not know, working in the fields weeding cane under the supervision of the *contramayoral*, Limbano. . . . He confessed that he was certain that the other slaves who acted as advocates for the slave Jorge, the ones who arranged to have his leg irons removed, were among those who came in from the fields. But the confessor was not part of that group [that came in from the fields to act as a *padrino* (sponsor, advocate), even though he is a Lucumi] because he was in the infirmary at that time. He left the infirmary as soon as the others came into the factory courtyard, and at that point he joined them to appeal to the administrator, as an advocate [for Jorge], to remove Jorge’s leg irons . . .

At around midday, they heard some shouts and other noise coming from the ingenio factories. They could not make out anything, because they were so far away, so they all stopped work and strained to listen. They saw soldiers on horseback coming toward them. The witness, along with the slave Donato, immediately took off running toward the scrub. They hid there, and he heard the shots”

Comment from Rodríguez (p. 200 n20):

“When the trial ended, Gregorio was condemned to one hundred lashes, ten years in prison in Ceuta, and then sent into exile. Genaro and Beltran were sentenced to one hundred lashes and ten years in prison in Cuba, while Facundo and Jorge received eight years in jail. Others participating in the uprising were sentenced to fifty lashes.”

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