

2022

Entry Nr. 454 Pedro Real Congo

Aaron Spencer Fogleman
Northern Illinois University, aaronfogleman@niu.edu

Robert Hanserd

Follow this and additional works at: <https://huskiecommons.lib.niu.edu/history-500africanvoices>



Part of the [Africana Studies Commons](#), [African History Commons](#), [African Languages and Societies Commons](#), [American Studies Commons](#), [Caribbean Languages and Societies Commons](#), [Digital Humanities Commons](#), [English Language and Literature Commons](#), [Latin American History Commons](#), [Missions and World Christianity Commons](#), [Other French and Francophone Language and Literature Commons](#), [Other German Language and Literature Commons](#), [Other Spanish and Portuguese Language and Literature Commons](#), and the [United States History Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Entry Nr. 454 Pedro Real Congo, Huskie Commons, Northern Illinois University, Fogleman, Aaron Spencer and Hanserd, Robert, *500 African Voices*, <https://huskiecommons.lib.niu.edu/history-500africanvoices/259>

This Oral History is brought to you for free and open access by the Other Faculty Publications at Huskie Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in 500 African Voices by an authorized administrator of Huskie Commons. For more information, please contact jschumacher@niu.edu.

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: **454**
Name(s) of African providing account: **Pedro Real Congo**
Date account recorded: 1854
Date account first published: 1996
Date of entry creation: 20 September 2021

Source: English translation of statement printed on p. 139-140 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.

Comments: None

Text of Account:

English translation –

p. 139:

“Havana, April 21, 1854

The freedman Pedro Real Congo, moreno, chief capataz for the association of his fellow Congolese, resident of the Chavez neighborhood, Gloria Street, widower, and tobacconist by trade, states before Your Excellency that:

Maria Luisa Gonzalez, morena, Congolese, owned by Angel Arrechasabaleta, appeared before him with a two-day pass to look for a new master. She had been coartada at 350 pesos and arrears and was owned by Don Angel Arrechasabaleta. At said slave’s request, Don Angel Arrechasabaleta issued her documents allowing her the two days to look for a new master. [In his own words:] I sought out Lic. Don Jose Fornaris to purchase her. This gentleman waited for said Arrechasabaleta to make out the bill of sale. The aforementioned owner did not go to the notary’s office but, instead, seized the slave woman and sent her out into the rural countryside to be

punished, [this, the fate of] a coartado slave enjoying the privilege of refusing to be sold for an amount not to her liking, and [a privilege to be] even more strictly observed should she have a buyer . . .

p. 140:

In the capacity of capataz of her nation, I beseech that Your Excellency issue an order immediately requiring her master to locate the slave woman so that the buyer may execute the bill . . .”

This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/).