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Entry Nr. 462 José 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: **462**
Name(s) of African providing account: **José Mina**
Date account recorded: 1862
Date account first published: 1996
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Source: English translation of statement printed on p. 141 and 201n10 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. 141:

“Havana, April 4, 1862

The slave Jose Mina, belonging to Don Bernardo Bravo, complains that, upon aspiring to be free, after more than half a century of slavery, with five ounces of gold that he has scrimped and saved, real by real, they want to raise his appraised price, disregarding the fact that he is over eighty years old and suffers from three illnesses: asthma, a broken bone, and erysipelas on his legs, which scarcely allow him to do any sort of work whatsoever. He was purchased twelve years ago for two hundred pesos . . .”

Comments from Gloria García Rodríguez: (p. 201n10)

“The office of the captain general, upon sending the case to the syndic, stated, ‘Such a stance on the part of the owner, if the facts the old slave relates are true, fly in the face of humanity. For this reason, the case is forwarded to the chief syndic so that, if what the slave contends is indeed true, it is assured that the appropriate authority acknowledges the facts of the case, and, according to the slave’s physical state and what regulations currently in force recommend,

current moral and cultural mores favoring freedom, that he be conscientiously appraised, as has been the custom in this country; whose humanity and fundamental decency in the treatment of slaves and in the means adopted by the government with that end in mind have come to the attention of all civilized nations.”

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