1726 - 1750

AGAJA, King of Dahomey


Among many issues discussed by Law is the extent to which the letter was composed - as well as put on paper - by Bulfinch Lamb, who was held prisoner in Dahomey in 1724-26. See 1722 LAMB(E).

1726-27

SMITH, William, surveyor

(1) Thirty different drafts of Guinea, London, n.d. (c.1730).
(2) A new voyage to Guinea..., London, 1744; 2nd ed. 1745; facs. 1967.
Fr. trans. 1751.
1745 Astley, 1746 Prévost, 1826 Walckenaer

The second book was put together after Smith's death from his MS account of his visit to West Africa in 1726-27, to survey the Royal African Co.'s forts, and from published sources, notably 1688 BOSMAN. See articles in HA by H.M. FEINBERG, 6 (1979) 45-60, and Adam JONES, 7 (1980) 327-28.

(1727)

MISSIONALIA

Missionalia, or a collection of missionary pieces relating to the conversion of the heathen, both the African Negroes and the American Indians, London, 1727.

It is doubtful whether there is anything here which does not come from a published source.

1727

RINGARD, Le Sieur


This document of no more than four pages is the only known eyewitness account of the Dahomian conquest of Whydah.

1727-30 (but see note)

SNELEGRAVE, Capt. William

A new account of some parts of Guinea and the slave trade, containing the history of the late conquest of the Kingdom of Whidaw by the King of Dahome..., London, 1734; 2nd ed. 1754; facs. 1971
Fr. trans. Amsterdam, 1735.

[cont.]
Snelgrave has been put at 1727-30 because this was the period of his major activity on the Slave Coast. However his experience of the African trade went back to at least 1704 (he tells us that he was at Old Calabar in that year, and again in 1713), and he had been to the Slave Coast before (in 1717 and 1725). His book also includes material dealing with events down to 1732. Robin Law (HA, 17 (1990) 367-72) has examined differences between the published text and MS WEL/29 in the National Maritime Museum.

c. 1727
TOLD, Silas

An account of the life of, and dealings of God with, Silas Told, late preacher of the Gospel... written by himself, London, 1786.
This includes accounts of slaving voyages to Bonny and Calabar.

1727-28
COLLECTION: LAW, Robin

This has the subtitle An annotated transcription of MS. Franklin 1055/1 in the Bedford Country Record Office. In his Introduction, Law discusses the survival of the R.A.C.'s records, with particular reference to those dealing with Whydah.

(1728)
CUTLER, Nathaniel

Atlas maritimus and commercialis..., London, 1728.
The West African material is either fanciful or borrowed (e.g. from 1688 Bosman).

(1729)
AUBREY, T. M.D.

The sea-surgeon, or the Guinea man's vade mecum..., London, 1729.
A practical handbook to foreign diseases, 'especially on the coast of Guinea'.

1729
BOUCARD, Claude

Boucard was active during 1728-31 in French attempts to establish a post in Bambuk.

1729
COSTE d'ARNOBAT, Charles-Pierre

Voyage au pays de Bambouc, suivi d'observations intéressantes sur les castes indiennes, sur la Hollande et sur l'Angleterre, Brussels & Paris, 1789.
Coste d'Arnobat (1732-c.1810) would seem to have had a first career as a soldier of fortune and a second one as a Parisian littérateur. The Bambuk section of this book was taken over from 1729 BOUCARD.

1729-31


Two anonymous accounts of Senegambia.

1730 onwards

ANECDOTES OF AFRICA


An anthology from published sources, starting with the story of 1730 JOB ben SOLOMON.

1730-35

MOORE, Francis

Travels into the inland parts of Africa, containing a description of the several nations up the R. Gambia;... to which is added Capt. Stibbs' voyage up the Gambia in 1723,... London, 1738; 2nd ed. 1740. facs. 1968

For partial Fr. trans., see 1804 LEDYARD.

1745 Astley, 1760 Newbery, 1826 Walkenaer

Moore was Factor of the Royal African Co. on the Gambia; to the account of his own journey is added not only 1723 STIBBS, but also the account of 1660 VERMUYDEN's expedition up the Gambia and one of the original accounts of 1701 JOB ben SOLOMON.

1730

PELAYS, Le Sieur

'Mémoire sur les mines d'or du Bambouc',

1733

CAMSTRUP, Nicolaas J.

Rampsoedige reysbeschrijving ofte journael van't Ed. O.J.C. schip Blijnde gestrand op de Guinese kust in Afrika, Amsterdam, 1735.
The ship was wrecked in 1733 on the mainland 15 miles from Goree; good illustrations.

1734-65

PRUNEAU de POMMEGORGE, Joseph (or Antoine-Edmés)

(1) Description de la Nigriritie par M. P.D.P., Amsterdam & Paris, 1789.
It has long been known that 'P.D.P.' was Pruneau de Pommegorge (1720-1802), who was in the service of the Senegal Co. from at least 1734 to 1765. During c.1734-41 he was in Senegal, Galam and Goree, and between c.1748 and c.1765 he seems to have spent three periods at the French fort at Whydah; in the Preface to *La Nigritie*, he tells us that he had served in Africa for 22 years. In 1752 a series of memoirs on the French interest in West Africa was written by a Joseph Pruneau. These clearly foreshadow the 1789 book (except that, by 1789, 'P.D.P.' was an opponent of the slave trade in which Joseph Pruneau had taken an active part), and there is really no doubt that the book's author was this same Joseph, who had retired to live at Pommegorge. It is not clear why library catalogues and biographical dictionaries should give Antoine Edmé as the Christian names for Pruneau de Pommegorge, but there is some evidence that Joseph had a brother called Antoine, who was serving in Senegal in the 1740s.

**1739-46**

*LIND, Dr James*

*Essay on the diseases incidental to Europeans in hot countries*, London, 1768; four later eds.

Lind's service as a young man as a Royal Navy surgeon included experience of West Africa which he later used for one of his major works as 'the founder of naval hygiene'.

**1739-49**

*RÖMER, Ludevig Ferdinand*

(1) *Efterretning om negotien paa Kysten Guinea...*. Copenhagen, 1756.


(2) *Tilforladelig efterretning om Kysten Guinea...*. Copenhagen, 1760.

Ger. ed.: *Nachrichten von der Küste Guinea...*. Copenhagen & Leipzig, 1767


Römer (or Römer) served on the Gold Coast with the Danish Company. His books contain much of interest even if his claim to have used records kept at Christiansborg Castle is suspect. There has been speculation about the existence of two further translations of (2) There is no substantiation of the indication in 1784 LABARTHE that there was an eighteenth century French translation; on the other hand, in 1965 the Institute of African Studies of the University of Ghana did cyclostyle and distribute two chapters of (2) in an English translation by P.H.BERTELSEN.

**1742**

*CAPITEIN, Rev. Jacobus Eliza Johannes*

*Dissertatio politico-theologica: de servitute libertati Christianae non contraria...*. Leyden, 1742.

Staatkundig-godgeleerd onderzoekschrift over de slaverny, als niet strydig tegen de Christelyke vryheid...*. Leyden, 1742.

These are Latin and Dutch versions of the same thesis. Capitein, born in the Gold Coast c.1717, was in 1726 taken to the Netherlands where, in 1742, he was ordained. He then served as chaplain at Elmina Castle. See article by F.L.BARTELS, *THSG*, 4, 1 (1959).
1744

DAVID, Pierre-Félix-Barthelemy


David was governor of the French colony in Senegal in 1738-46. Delcourt provides extensive annotation and additional documents. See also 1701 COLLECTION: MACHAT.

1744

LE GAGNEUR, Le Sieur

Description d’une partie des plantes dont les Nègres de l’Isle de Bissau se servent pour la cure de différentes maladies... annotée par Adanson,

Cf. 1749 ADANSON.

1745-54

NEWTON, Rev. John

(1) An authentic narrative of some remarkable and interesting particulars in the life of ** *****, London, 1764.

This is also published as pp.1-103 of Vol.1 of The works of the Rev. John Newton (London, 1808).

Letters 4-13 deal with voyages to, and experiences in West Africa during 1745-54.

Fr. trans.: Geneva, 1825; Toulouse 1835 & 1862; Valence, 1838.

(2) Thoughts upon the African slave trade, London, 1787, 2nd ed. 1788.

(3) Letters to a wife, London, 1793.


After two years in the merchant marine and the Royal Navy, Newton entered the slave trade in 1744 at the age of 19, and he continued in it until 1755, when he joined H.M.Customs at Liverpool. There he came under the influence of Whitfield and Wesley, with the result that he was ordained into the Church of England, becoming a fashionable priest and hymn writer. He gave evidence on the slave trade before the Privy Council in 1789 and also before a Select Committee of the House of Commons in 1790. In addition to the works of his cited above, mention might also be made of The life of John Newton (by himself), (London, 1862), and An autobiography of John Newton and narrative compiled... by Josiah Bull, (London, 1868).

(1745-46)

POSTLETHWAYT, Malachy

(1) The African trade, the great pillar and support of the British plantation trade in America..., London, 1745 etc.

(2) The national and private advantages of the African trade considered, being an enquiry how far it concerns the trading interest of Great Britain effectually to support and maintain the forts and settlements in Africa belonging to the Royal African Company..., London, 1746; repr. 1772.

[cont.
Postlethwayt, an established writer in the mercantile interest, was in close touch with active British traders to West Africa. See also 1758 POSTLETHWAYT. Some printings of (1) are by 'A British merchant'. A multi-volume facsimile ed. of his works has been published (Farnborough, 1968).

(1745-47)

**VOYAGES: ASTLEY, Thomas**

  facs. 1968

One of the most famous and, so far as Africa is concerned, complete collections of voyages and travels, first pub. in parts from 1743 onwards. It is supposed that the editor and compiler was the geographer John GREEN.

A careful and critical use is made of the original sources, and the material is arranged systematically. In general, the accounts of voyages and travels relating to each region are first summarised, and there then follows a general description of the region derived from their information. The western African material is arranged as follows:

Vol.1, Bk.2: 16th century English voyages.
  Bk.4: Cadamosto etc; Cape Verde Islands.
Vol.2, Bk.1: Cape Blanco to Senegal.
  Bk.2: the Gambia & Sierra Leone; voyages & travels; description.
  Bk.3: Sierra Leone to Benin; voyages & travels.
  Bk.4: general description of the Grain, Ivory & Gold Coasts.
Vol.3, Bk.1: R. Volta to Benin, essentially descriptive.
  Bk.2: Benin to Congo, essentially descriptive.
  Bk.3: Congo & Angola; voyages & travels.
  Bk.4: Congo & Angola; description.

French and German translations provided the beginnings of the collections produced by 1746 PREVOST and 1747 SCHWABE, both of whom went on to extend the work and to enlarge its coverage of the world outside Africa.

(1745)

**VOYAGES: HARLEIAN COLLECTION (or OSBORNE'S COLLECTION)**

* A collection of voyages and travels, consisting of authentic writers in our own tongue... and continued with others of note... compiled from the... library of the late Earl of Oxford..., printed for... Thomas OSBORNE, 2 vols, London, 1745.

Osborne's two volumes became Vols 7 & 8 of 1704 VOYAGES: CHURCHILL. In Vol. 8 may be found 1578 PIGAFETTA & LOPEZ, 1695 FROGER, and 1682 LE MAIRE. On pp.511-19, the item 'Murders of Englishmen in Old Calabar' derives from 1668 WATTS.

1746-94

**LE DAHOMET**


This prints 4 documents, including the accounts of *Le Dahomet* trading at Whydah in 1772.
(1746-89) VOYAGES: PRÉVOST D'EXILES, Abbé Antoine François

Prévost (1697-1763), the prolific novelist whose works include Manon Lescaut, was the first editor of this Histoire générale. It began with translations of the four vols of 1745 VOYAGES: ASTLEY, and then was increasingly extended, passing to other editors and into a number of editions with various numbers of volumes, for example that by LA HARPE (32 vols. Paris, 1780-1802). There is also an Abregé de l'histoire générale des voyages (23 vols, Paris, 1780-86).

1747

DULIRON, Le Sieur

'Mémoire sur la rivière de Felemé', printed in 1701 MACHAT.

1747-1801

MAWLAY al-QASIM b. MAWLAY SULAYMAN


1747

PRATIQUE MISSIONNAIRE, La

Fr. J. NOTHOMB, La pratique missionnaire des Frères Capucins Italiens dans les royaumes de Congo, Angola... 1747, Louvain, 1931.
This is a manual, based on more than a century of missionary experience in west central Africa, and probably written by a Prefect of Luanda who had had experience in Soyo.

(1747-74) VOYAGES: SCHWABE, Johann Joachim

The first four vols are translated from the first four vols of 1745 VOYAGES: ASTLEY (which see for the arrangement of the western African material). Vols 8, 10-13, 15-21 are translated from 1746 VOYAGES: PRÉVOST.

1748-75

COLLECTION: COUTO, Carlos

Os capitães-mores em Angola no século XVIII, Luanda, 1972.
This prints documents relating to the period.

1749-53

ADANSON, Michel

Eng. trans.: Voyage to Senegal, the isle of Goree and the River Gambia... translated from the French with notes by an English gentleman..., London, 1759. [cont.
Ger. trans., Leipzig, 1773; Brandenburg, 1773.
1808 Pinkerton, 1826 Wallkenaer

These two memoranda were written in 1763, i.e. after the publication of Adanson's book.

This prints many letters written by Adanson from Senegal.


Adanson, a notable botanist, whose system of plant classification did not prevail against that developed by Carl Linnaeus, began his career with four years in the service of the Senegal Company. The core of the _Histoire Naturelle_ is Adanson's description of the large collection he had made of the Senegalese flora. He also published many papers in scientific journals. See also 1744 LE GAGNEUR (and, for the West African work of a pupil of Linnaeus, 1795 AFZELIUS).

1749

[ OSBORN, Capt. Robert ]


The ship was wrecked near Cape Verde; the narrative covers the survivors' adventures in Senegambia.

(c.1749)

ROYAL AFRICAN, The


The _Royal African_ is a novel, inspired by the presence in London in 1749-51 of William Ansah, a son of the ruling potentate of Anomabu on the Gold Coast, Eno Baisie Kurentsi (known to Europeans as 'John Currantee'). Ansah was the protege of Lord Halifax, was presented to George III, attended the opera at Covent Garden, and figured in poems by Rev. William DODD and in pieces in _The Gentleman's Magazine_. The novel has a number of allusions to West Africa which could well derive from, for example, 1721 ATKINS or 1727 SNEGRAVE (the former is in fact mentioned). See Wylie SYPER, 'The African Prince in London', _Jour. Hist. Ideas_, 2, 2 (1941) 237-47, and especially 239-43. Sypher's fn.5 has a conclusive argument as to the date of publication.

(1749)

ROYAL AFRICAN COMPANY

A detection of the proceedings and practices... of the Royal African Company of England... , with remarks on the use and importance of the British forts and settlements on the Coast of Guiney... . London, 1749.
Eveline MARTIN, *Journal of a slave dealer... on the coast of Africa and America from... 1746... to... 1757*, London, 1930.

After adventures on both sides of the Atlantic, Owen eventually settled as a slave trader on the coast of Guinea.

PROTTEN, Christian

*En nyttig grammaticalisk indledelse til tvende hidlindtil grundske unbekendte sprog, Fanteisk og Acraisk*, Copenhagen, 1764.


Protten, a mulatto educated in Denmark, was schoolmaster at Christiansborg.

SCHMIDT, Christian Lindholm

*Beskrivelse over... Fri-Neger Qvou Ursovs, Fetisierer og Krigsrustning*, Copenhagen, 1762.

Schmidt was in the service of the Danish West Indies and Guinea Companies, becoming chief merchant at Christiansborg in 1762.

TEDZKIRET en-NISIAN


An anonymous chronicle of the Pashalik of Timbuktu; one vol. of Arabic text and one vol. of Fr. trans.

VIAGEM AO CASSANGE


COLLECTION: CROOKS, John Joseph

*Records relating to the Gold Coast settlements from 1750 to 1874*, Dublin, 1923. facs. London, 1973

Crooks served in the Gold Coast and Sierra Leone administrations in the early twentieth century.