

September 27, 1999

To
Dr. Charles Gore
Dear Sir,

I must thank you again for your prompt answer. And I want to apologize myself if I by any means my statement of yes /no could be understood as a closing door in our communication. Instead, I was only trying not to take much of your time, and more, because of language problems, that was the way I thought would ease an answer from your end.

On the other hand, I have few, almost nothing more concerning "The Prince Custódio", than what I have told in my first e-mail.

What more do I have? It seems that his language (the one he used to talk here) was English. It seems that he has studied in England. As you may see, I only have "it seems", and no more than a couple, concerning his origin.

Truth is that he existed. That he has spread descendants, but they seem to know nothing about the origin of their ancestor. There are newspaper clips even with his picture, in material that time in time out is recorded. But they tell stories about his life in Brazil: his "wealthy"; his "medicine capability"; his "horse love" and "races gambling", and eventually the money coming from outside, and arriving at the local London Bank branch.

And the reason why I have searched your help is because I'm indeed interested in "The Prince" before he has arrived here. And, for me -- that is why my "yes or no" -- the key for the puzzle was: 1) "there was any agreement out of the negotiations that ended with the annexation of Benin Kingdom to Nigeria, in 1897, between the Oba and the British Government?" 2) If yes, there was in such agreement any clause granting to Oba's sons to live with pensions outside Benin?

Then, what we have is a question for research in books and papers that, in Brazil, I have no condition to reach.

You see, a favorable answer for those two questions will lead to an almost granted assurance that: "Yes, Custódio was really an African Prince, out from the Kingdom of Benin, receiving a pension via London Bank's branch in Porto Alegre, Brazil", even if the name Custódio is never

mentioned in the papers to be researched. It seems, for me, that the search for the man is not important, the importance live in the fact itself: there was agreement or no, and if there was what their terms contain?

Thank you once more for your patience and if you can do anything for me I will appreciate indeed.

Sincerely yours,

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