



Dear Benjamin Imhonde,

Look yourself to the three pictures, and tell me, in your valuation, if they are the same person.

I would say, myself, that the first one is your dear Oba Ovonramwen. The second, I know that is he, Idugboa, because this is his picture in the Edo web site.

The Third one, looks to me somehow like the Second one, just younger -- nevertheless, not as young as the First one.

You have asked my impression all about. So I think as follows:

1 - The Third man in the gallery above, has settled himself in the city of Porto Alegre, State of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, and adopted the local name of "Custódio Joaquim de Almeida." (It is easy for you to identify the city: search in a map of Brazil for the southernmost State, and you'll see Rio Grande do Sul, and you will see as well the capital, Porto Alegre). This Third man (I will call him like this, Third man) for sure has arrived here, in Brazil, sometime between

1900 and 1910. What was his age then? I don't know. What I know very sure is that: The Third man died in 1935.

2 - Since he doubtless died in 1935, (there are records in the local press of his dead), there is one information that you can supply to me, and elucidate somehow the doubts: **WHEN OVONRAMWEN WAS BORN?** Is it possible that he could be alive until 1935?

3 - And if at this year, 1935, was he above one hundred years aged, for sure, the Third man is not your beloved Ovonramwen. What do I think about it, in particular?

A - If the Oba Ovonrawen died long before 1935, then who was this Third man, and why has he received a pension for life, coming from abroad? (Via London Bank);

B - Why being a wealthy man, he never more returned to Africa?

I bent to think that, maybe, this Third man could be, or a relative from Oba Ovonramwen, blessed by a royal gift (the pension for life in Sterling Pounds), or maybe was he one of his sons, beget during his exile in Calabar.

Let me emphasize: He was called the Prince, not the King. By whom? First by some peasant that may have come with him, and ahead by the whole city of Porto Alegre, since he become very much popular here. And do you know why? First because he was rich. Second, and very much important, because he was a fine herbalist, knowing how to cure body and soul sickness.

Finally: yes, this Third man left a local family behind. I have never met them, but time to time one of his grand daughters appears in the news, when newspapers and television bring the old story back again. Indeed, the picture above I have captured it from the site of one local newspaper, last year, when the once more they have made an article concerning The Prince Custódio.

Back to the main issue: you maybe can give me: **THE YEAR OVONRAMWEN WAS BORN.**

This may spare us a lot of guessing.

But it seems that, even being not the Third man your Oba Ovonramwen -- if he is member of Benin's Royal Family, maybe you can reach to an answer to your big question mark: Ovonramwen left Calabar alive?

PS: - I guess you have the first picture in the gallery above, don't you?

Regards,

José Luiz P. da Costa