

De: pgirshic <pgirshic@indiana.edu>

Para: Jose Luiz Pereira da Costa <dacostaq@cpovo.net>

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Assunto: Re: ART, INNOVATION BENIN - (2)

Data: Quarta-feira, 01 Março, 2000 13:32

Dear Jose Luiz,

Thank you very much for your words of praise for my book. They are especially welcome because I did not expect reactions from anyone outside of a few North American Africanist art historians and could hardly have imagined that someone outside this small group would have any interest in it.

Thank you also for your interesting reference to Costa e Silva's reference to "Pano da Costa" -- it adds a new dimension to my research. Your suggestions about corrections are very welcome -- I only wish that I could have included them when I was preparing the book. Perhaps, it will be possible if there is a second edition.

You are correct in assuming that I know a little Portuguese. I travelled to Portugal many years ago to conduct some archival and museum research and studied as much as I could of the language before going there. You may be interested to know what I was hoping to find. In the Edo (Benin) language there are loan words from Portuguese -- for example, ekuye (spoon) comes from colher. These loan words are almost all refering to material culture, and so I hoped to find in Portuguese

museums some material culture from the 15th and 16th centuries that might have been taken by sailors on board their ships to Africa.

Unfortunately, there was very little -- I was told that the great Lisbon earthquake destroyed collections. So, although I enjoyed Portugal very much, I was not able to work on that research project. And I have unfortunately forgotten much of the language.

Be assured that your English is very clear -- I have no difficulty understanding it and I look forward to our continued correspondence,

Paula