

Dear Paula,

03 17 00

Thank you very much for your prompt answer and wish to help me. I believe you will be receiving this E-mail on friday, and this is a day that use to be a very busy day for me, as use to be mondays. As I think your E-mail address is at the University, so you will be receiving my comments regarding your last message on next Monday (I've used a wrong number, it should be 5-b, in stead of 6-b) since there was a short number 5.

On the other hand, please take a look at Amazon site, search for your own book (Art, Innovation and Politics . . .), and tell me latter on if you agree with me.

Best regards

José Luiz

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★★★★★ **BENIN, PORTRAIT OF AN ANCIENT KINGDOM**, March 13, 2000
By **JOSE LUIZ P DA COSTA** (BRAZIL) - [See all my reviews](#)

This review is from: *Art, Innovation, and Politics in Eighteenth-Century Benin* (Hardcover)

Letter to Paula Girshick Ben-Amos, author of "Art, Innovation, and Politics in Eighteenth-Century Benin", is superb. I'm not a reviewer so the much I can see is that you lead us, the reader, easy and firmly across the ancient history of a Kingdom with her obas, uzamas, ezomos, iyases, chiefs -- and give us a handy list of the obas from Ehengbuda to Akengbuda, and teach us how they were, through the art they left behind. You make ease to understand the Civil War and different behave of various obas and chiefs. As well their relation with the spiritual world. When you refer to Father Monteleone, and the cloths "made in five or, at the most, six months" on pg. 41, using Ryder, you touch in a subject that has connection with Brazil. In the book "A enxada e a lança", (The Hoe and the Spear), the Brazilian writer Alberto da Costa e Silva depicts a panel of Africa, before the Portuguese's arrival (he starts his book on Africa's prehistory), and refers (pg. 526) to Pano da Costa (Cloth from the Coast - Ijebu), largely exported from Benin to Brazil on the first half of Eighteenth Century. It seems, later on, when the slave traffic has ended, and commerce between Bahia (Brazil) and West Coast was very strong, industrialized Pano da Costa, produced in Brazil has turned itself into a largely disputed merchandise all over the Coast, including in Benin. And moreover, in your book you teach us how to see and comprehend the bronzes, plaques, heads, in metal, ivory, clay and wood. Is all absolutely perfect. If one want to have a spotless ideas, in 177 pages, about the Kingdom of Benin, in your book one will find it. So, I indeed have enjoyed your book.

José Luiz Pereira da Costa Brazil e-mail: dacostaq@cpovo.net

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