

Dear Paula:

I was out in a brief trip to São Paulo.

Concerning Calabar, if you have it available and you may send it via e-mail I thank you in advance.

About Ryder I have not yet read the whole book, so I'll refer to few things. I will return to the subject during the further reading of more pages of Ryder's book. By now, I have very small doubts instead of assurances. For example: Many times he refers (starting on pg 26) to *Rio Feroso*, and he says that it means "Beautiful River". In this particular case, unless if this is an anachronism or misspell, Beautiful in Portuguese is: Formoso (in Spanish = hermoso). On page 54, on the penultimate paragraph, prior the footnote you may see "*espravos*" instead of "*escravos*", but this may be just typing error. Page 57, yet on the first paragraph you may read "*vara acostumada*". Maybe you know that *vara* mean "stick", and "*acostumada*" (again or misspell or anachronism, since the word is *acostumada*). Indeed "*acostumada*" mean "as usual" or "habitual". And before the use of the metric tape traders use to measure cloth with a stick made of wood. So "*vara acostumada*" may have the meaning of a wooden stick used habitually to measure the cloth. Ahead, on page 62, Ryder says: "customary yard" or "*medida habitual*". At this time, there was already the metric unity system? If yes, "yard" would no be used, but *metro* (meter).

In the text of Ryder there are very few original text in Portuguese, so it is hard to know the extension of his accuracy. I will make available for you a text in Portuguese then, and you will see how hard could be the understanding of the language, if the pattern knowledge used by Ryder (1969) was in the modern Portuguese idiom, so many times changed along the years. Only in my lifetime, until now, I had to learn how to spell again old words, no less than four times. "H" and accents were removed, "z" changed by "s", as Brazil to Brasil, and so on.

Another thing: On the page 67 you can read "of blue cloth", that probably is "*pano da costa*" referred by Costa e Silva in his book referred in an early e-mail. And two lines below you can see "*vinte e quatreto*" (a cloth with 2,400 threads in the warp). "*quatreto*" (anachronism or misspell) since 2,400 would be "*dois mil e quatrocentos*", or if you want to refer to 24, then you have something closer: "*vinte e quatro*". As I said, few is the material available, and out of it until now I've found these remarks.

I'm reading more books at the same time. So maybe will take more time to give you more remarks, if there will be any more.

On e-mail 8, you refer that "families with Jewish ancestry because many were based on the names of trees (like Figueroa). I don't know if this is truth or a lovely story". Well, let's start by the name you gave, Figueroa. This for sure is a misspell of *Figueira*, that is the fig tree. And my middle name, the name of my mother is *Pereira*, that is the pear tree.

Como eu estou acostumado a receber favores tão preclaros de V. Alteza... [gostaria que me fizesse] ... a honra de me mandar huma (uma) carruagem que seja boa, cuja despeza (despesa) eu satisfarei na Fortaleza de V. Alteza. E igualemnte (igualmente) quero que V. Alteza me faça o favor de mandar de Polvora (pólvora) duzentos ou trezentos barris, cujo bom pagamento eu farei em excelentes

Como eu estou tão acostumado a receber favores tão preclaros de V. Alteza... [gostaria que me fizesse] ... a honra de me mandar huma carruagem que seja boa, cuja despeza eu satisfarei na Fortaleza de V. Alteza. e igualmente quero que V. Alteza me faça o favor de mandar de Polvora duzentos ou trezentos barris, cujo bom pagamento eu farei em excelentes captivos na mesma Fortaleza de V. Alteza, cujo mesmo bom pagamento me obriga a fazer por todas as pessoas de seda que V. Alteza fizer remeter para a dita Fortaleza, com a cautela della as não partirem, e Espingarda das que usão a gente de guerra de V. Alteza, e algumas mais curtas; chapéus de sol o mais grande que possam ser e ricos, e lu ou dois centos de xifarotes com os seus bucaes e ponteiros de prata que sejam bons, não passe de tres palmos e outro mais compridos, e alguns frascos lapidados grandes e pequenos para conservar bebidas, e algumas galanterias com que V. Alteza me queria fazer o favor honrar e mais doze cadeiras boas, e vinte e quatro chapéus de galão de prata e ouro, do que tudo eu farei bom pagamento em escravos bons no Forte de V. Alteza. Deus guarde a V. Alteza.

De V. Alteza seu Irmão

Ruy Dagomê

captivos (cativos) na mesma Fortaleza de V. Alteza, cujo mesmo bom pagamento me obrigo a fazer por todas as pessas (peças) de seda que V. Alteza fizer remeter para a dita Fortaleza, com a cautela della (dela) as não partirem, e espingarda das que uzão (usam) a gente de guerra de V. Alteza, e algumas mais curtas; chapeos (chapéus) de sol o mais grande que posção (possam) ser e ricos, e hú (um) ou dous (dois) centos de xifarotes (chifarotes) com seos (seus) bocaes (bocais) e ponteiras de prata que sejam (sejam) bons, não passe de tres (três) palmos e outro mais compridos, e alguns frascos lapidados grandes e pequenos para conservar bebidas, e algumas galanterias (in the actual contex of this phrase, galanterias, which today is writen galantarias, have the meaning os fancy things, and today mean being nice, being gentle), com que V. Alteza me queira fazer o favor de honrar e mais doze cadeiras boas, e vinte e quatro chapeos (chapéus) de galão de prata e ouro, do que tudo eu farei bom pagamento em escravos bons no Forte de V. Alteza. Deus guarde a V. Alteza.

De V. Alteza sseo (seu) Irmão

Rey Dagomê (Rei de Daomé)