

Mr. Wendy Morris

Dear Wendy,



I thank you very  
answer to the query on Obá  
the full text on Britannica

the Obá Ovonramwen there will be space to think that, for sometime, he may have been in an exile different from Calabar, nowadays part of Nigeria territory, where, indeed, Britannica asserts that he has died in 1914. Read please the clip on Britannica: (there is no author's name for the topic):

much for your prompt  
Ovonramwen. If you read  
Encyclopedia concerning

**Ovonramwen**, also called OVERAMI (d. January 1914, Calabar, Southern Nigeria [now Nigeria]), West African ruler who was the last independent oba (king) of the 500-year-old kingdom of Benin (in present-day Nigeria). **Ovonramwen** tried to maintain his independence in the face of increasing British pressure but was able to delay for only a few years the annexation of his kingdom by the colony of Nigeria.

He was called Idugbowa until he took the title **Ovonramwen** upon becoming oba. He succeeded to a kingdom much reduced by growing British commercial and colonial encroachment from its greatest extent (c. 1700). He attempted to seal Benin off from Europeans but by 1892 was forced to sign a protection treaty with the British administration. Disputes over trade along the Benin River (1892-94) led to a campaign against Benin; the murder of the British acting consul general in January 1897 precipitated a full-scale military expedition, which captured Benin City in February 1897. **Ovonramwen** surrendered to the British in August and died in exile.

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Your answer and others that came out of this query lead me to be sure that, in fact, the Obá Ovonramwen died in exile, in Calabar, in 1914, never being in another Country, as Brazil or Spain (a source of Nigerian Embassy, in Brasília, told me that he was sent to the exile in Spain).

But then, who was the man who lived in my town, and died in 1935? The man you can see at the enclosed picture. He was a healthy man, he used to receive a kind of pension in Sterling Pounds at the local branch of London Bank, as long as he lived. He called himself as a Prince from Benin. Should he be one brother, or son of Oba Ovonramwen who instead of Calabar, has traveled abroad, and settled himself here in Brazil?

This for me seems to be the real query. And if you can help in anyway I will be grateful.

02/25/13

José Luiz Pereira da Costa

**Was he a Prince from Benin?**