

Date: 1522, November 13. Valladolid, Spain.

Theme: Royal order to the Audiencia of Santo Domingo saying that many ship captains and sailors take slaves to La Española without licenses. It also mandates that an inventory is made of the slaves arrived in L.E. in those circumstances.

Source: PARES, Portal de Archivos Españoles—Archivo General de Indias, INDIFERENTE,420,L.9 - 107 – Imagen Núm: 101 / 484 -- Imagen Núm: 103 / 484

[fo. 49r.]

[...]

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The King /

to the *oidores* and officials of /
La Española, about the slaves /
that have been carried without
license, /
and that those carried without
license be confiscated /

r our *oidores* of the Audiencia and Tribunal that is and /
resides in the Española island and our officials in it: /
I have been informed that many [maestres] of merchant /
ships, sailors, and other persons that travel /
to these places against what has been forbidden by us and /

[fo. 49v.]

prohibited, have carried and carry many male slaves and /
female slaves without a license from us and that you the said /
our officials have not put nor do put into it /
the care that is convenient , from which we have been /
and are ill-served and our revenues defrauded, /
which seen by those of our Council of the Indies /
it was agreed that I should mandate to issue this my letter /
for you for this reason. And I deemed it /
good, for which I order you that, after it is /
shown to you, you do an inquiry of the slaves that /
up to now have been carried to this island without our license /
and who and what persons have carried them and in which /
ships they were carried and when and for how long, and whether they
were/
registered by the said officials that reside /
in the city of Seville at the Casa de la Contratación /
of the Indies and whether there was license from us or from another /
person that may have it from us, and of whom and to which persons /
the said slaves were sold and whether they are alive /
and under whose power they are. And once the inquiry is done /
and the truth known, written cleanly, signed with /
your names and that of the notary before whom it is done, /
folded and sealed, [you] send it before me so that I mandate /
to decide in the punishment of it what may be convenient, and /
henceforth, if one or some persons carry /
some male slaves or females slaves to this said island without explicit /
license of ours besides the four thousand slaves /
for which I have given license to my senior steward /
and governor of Bresa, of my council, you must /
take the said male slaves and female slaves that may be thus carried
without /
our license and that may not be registered by the /

said officials of ours, for us and for our chamber /
/

[fo. 50r.]

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and treasury, and you must send them to the said officials of ours /
so that they do with them what may be mandated to them by us /
and you must provide over there against the persons /
that may thus carry the said slaves, by means of justice /
[a pernición de] their crimes, according to the [gravedad], /
you may find in them by law. And so this becomes known by all /
and no one may pretend ignorance of it , /
I mandate to you that you have it proclaimed publicly /
in that island in squares and markets and ports /
of the cities and villages of that island by towncrier /
and before notary public and that you let [me?] know /
with the said inquiry what you may do about it, /
this my decree being [registered ?] by the officials of ours /
that reside in the city of Seville at the Casa de la Contración /
of the Indies [*inserted between lines*: to whom I order that they also have
this my decree proclaimed in the /
said city of Seville by a towncrier and before a public notary]. Done in
Valladolid on thirteen days of the month of /
November of one thousand and twenty two years. I the King /
Signed by the bishop of Burgos and the [*scratch*] [*in between lines*: senior
accountant and by doctor Carvajal] /
Certified by Covos [...]

- r *Idem* for the governor and officials of the island of San Juan /
- r *Idem* for the governor and officials of the Fernandina island /