

Three sheets from a ship register, containing six pages with the entries 343-372 of names, particulars and photos of people, entitled List of liberated Africans from the H.M. Ship 'Columbine' , 1872. The ship had landed at Port Victoria, Seychelles on the 15 January 1872. The people listed were registered on the 25 January 1872.

The pages were part of the Gubbins Library collection, University of the Witwatersrand.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

These ship registers of the HMS 'Columbine' relate to the aftermath of the abolition of the slave trade by Great Britain in the 19th Century. The 'liberated Africans' were slaves who were recaptured from the slave trade, as part of the British Royal Navy's suppression activities throughout the 19th Century. After capturing a slave ship, the naval crew took the ship to specified ports to condemn the ship as a lawful prize. State officials took the slaves from the ship, registered them, and then apprenticed them to local employers or institutions for up to fourteen years (this is what the column entitled 'how disposed of' refers to, with the list of names of locals in the Seychelles who hired the Africans as apprentices). British imperial officials thought that the Seychelles was a good location for liberated Africans to serve apprenticeships because they believed that the climate suited them. The HMS 'Columbine' was actively involved in detaining slave dhows particularly in 1871-1872, according to the Naval database. (Information provided by Jake Christopher Richards, Cambridge, UK, August 2018)

Also relating to 'prize slaves', see collection AB1612/Cb.

- 1 1 Sheet 1 - Entry no. 343-352, front and back page
- 2 2 Sheet 2 - Entry no. 353-362, front and back page
- 3 3 Sheet 3 - Entry no. 363-372, front and back page