



### Captain Philip Beaver's African Journal

*Edited by Carol Bolton and Christopher Brown*

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**In this modern scholarly edition, Captain Philip Beaver's journal, originally published in 1805, provides an absorbing testimony of his efforts to assist British colonisers in establishing their African settlement.**

In 1805, naval officer Captain Philip Beaver (1766–1813) published his *African Memoranda: Relative to an Attempt to Establish a British Settlement on the Island of Bulama, on the Western Coast of Africa, in the Year 1792*. Beaver's text in this modern scholarly edition provides an absorbing testimony of his efforts to assist British colonisers in establishing their African settlement. Despite the colonial ambitions of this project, the 'Bulama Committee' members were reformists at heart. Their high-minded intentions in purchasing the island and settling it were to demonstrate the anti-slavery principle that propagation by 'free natives' would bring 'cultivation and commerce' to the region and ultimately introduce 'civilization' among them. Beaver's journal tells the extraordinary account of how the colonists' ambitions to benefit the African economy and set a precedent of humanitarian labour for the slave-owning lobby in Britain led to the extraordinary emigration of 275 men, women and children in order to put their humanitarian ideals into practice.

#### Readership

Students and academics engaged in exploring Romantic-period literature and history; those interested in the fields of travel-writing, colonial studies, and particularly debates on slavery, empire, and nation-building.

#### Contents

List of figures; Acknowledgements; Notes on the Text; Table of Weights and Measures; Introduction; Preface; Author's Introduction; Part I; Part II; Part III; Appendices; Notes; Bibliography; Index

#### About the Author(s) / Editor(s)

Carol Bolton is a senior lecturer in English at Loughborough University. Her research centres on Romantic-period writing that represents travel, exploration, and colonialism.

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