

The Archaeology of Sega: An Abandoned Dangbe Settlement

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Introduction

The focus of this study is the reconstruction of the cultural history of the coastal Dangbe, an ethnic group with close linguistic and cultural affiliation with the Ga (Anquandah: 1982, Dakubu:1976). The research was site oriented and the focal areas of study were Sega and Kpone West. Sega was the initial focus of the study, however, during the collection of ethno historical traditions from indigenes at Kpone, it came to light that in the past, Kpone West was an integral part of Sega. It therefore became necessary to archaeologically examine the site to validate this assertion.

The main thrust of the research was archaeological. However, a variety of documentary sources, particularly early European sources, were extensively used. This was intended to provide information about ancient subsistence patterns, the nature of intra and inter regional trade activities as well as offer a description and insights into early Euro-African relations in the research area. Other sources of data used in the study included ethno historical and ethnographic data to support and complement the archaeological data.

The research problem

The Sega site is archaeologically unexplored. Only two research projects have been undertaken in the area to date. The first focused on the periphery of the Gao Lagoon and Kpone West (Dombrowski: 1977a) while the second was at Kpone town (Biveridge 1989). The former was limited in scope and focused more on recovery and description of the archaeological finds. It failed to analyze and use the data to reconstruct the cultural past of the people. The latter was ethnographic and historical in nature and focused mainly on the several uses of mollusks within the community. In addition, much of the cultural history of the Dangbe is documented in folk lore and poetry called *Klama* which are the exclusive reserve