Jamaica & Jonkonnu

29 MARCH 2023

Junkanoo: Bahamian term for Boxing Day masquerade

Jonkonnu: Jamaican term for Boxing Day masquerade

John Canoe: Same as above, plus name of early 18th-century slaver trader on Africa’s Gold Coast

John Coonah: Southern U.S. term for Christmas masquerade

gens inconnu: French for “masked people”

jeunes cannuers: French for “young cane cutters”

dzonko nu: Ewe term for “male sorcerer”
Jola peoples, Gambia, (left) Ejumba mask (for male initiations), documented in 1825. Wood, cloth; (right) Kankurang mask (for male initiation and social control), documented in 1825. Fibers & vegetal materials.
Map of the Southeast United States, Gulf of Mexico, & the Caribbean.
Clockwise from Lower left:
Sugar cane cultivation, Jamaica, 19th century. Lithograph. Broadside announcing a sale of slaves from the Gold-Coast, Charleston, South Carolina, 18th century. Barbadoes Copper Penny, ca. 1780s-90s. Broadside announcing a sale of Eboe slaves from Bonny, Nigeria, Montego-Bay, Jamaica, 1781.
Left & right: Jonkonnu masqueraders, Jamaica, 2000s.