

CROSS CULTURAL ENCOUNTERS ALONG THE DIXCOVE COASTLINE, GHANA: THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

MONDAY, APRIL 24, @ 5PM

FRITZ BIVERIDGE
ARCHAEOLOGY AND HERITAGE STUDIES, UNIVERSITY OF GHANA
VISITING ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, ATHS & FDI

ROBBINS LIBRARY (4TH FLOOR RUSH RHEES LIBRARY)

THIS PAPER PRESENTS RESULTS OF HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS CONDUCTED ALONG THE DIXCOVE COASTLINE, GHANA, ON THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE ENGLISH PRESENCE THERE AND HOW THEIR ENCOUNTER WITH THE LOCAL AHANTA ETHNIC GROUP WHO OCCUPY DIXCOVE IMPACTED THE BODY POLITY OF AHANTA-LAND AND THE LOCAL ECONOMY. THE STUDY REVEALED THAT PRIOR TO THE ADVENT OF THE ENGLISH AND THEIR CONSTRUCTION OF FORT METAL CROSS IN 1692, IT WAS A SMALL COASTAL CHIEFDOM WITH FISHING, GOLD MINING AND SALT PRODUCTION CONSTITUTING THE MAINSTAYS OF THE LOCAL ECONOMY. THE PERIOD AFTER ARRIVAL OF THE ENGLISH HOWEVER WITNESSED DEVELOPMENT OF VIBRANT COMMERCIAL RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO GROUPS, AND EMBRACING OF EACH OTHER'S CULTURAL LIFE-WAYS. THE LOCALS FOR EXAMPLE, ADOPTED EUROPEAN NOVELTIES LIKE SMOKING TOBACCO THROUGH PIPES, WESTERN DRESS CODES AND EDUCATION, ARCHITECTURE AND CULINARY PRACTICES, WHILE THE ENGLISH EMBRACED LOCAL FOODS AND USE OF LOCAL POTTERY. THE STUDY PERIOD SPANNED CIRCA 1620 – 1900 A.D.

SPONSORED BY
PROGRAM OF ARCHAEOLOGY, TECHNOLOGY AND HISTORICAL STRUCTURES

REFRESHMENTS WILL BE PROVIDED