Photographie

Skull of an anonymous person, slaves cemetery of Sainte-Marguerite Bay In 1995, two cyclones furrowed the beach of the bay of Sainte-Marguerite, in the municipality of the Moule, in rapid succession.

LO CALZO, NICOLA (1979-....) Le Moule

Description

This is a very well liked picnic place for the inhabitants. In their fury, the sea and the wind uncovered many human bones, which no one expected. The following year, a team of archeologists exhumed dozens of new graves, dating from the 18th and 19th centuries. “The morphology of the skulls presented characteristics of black African populations. Some individuals had their teeth cut to a sharp point, a mutilation some people of this continent were practicing”, explains Patrice Courtaud (UMR 5199 CNRS- Anthropology unit), who led the excavations. A whole slave cemetery had been revealed from nothingness. This very rare skull, belonging to grave S225, had dental mutilations, a very rare proof of the African origin of this person and their position as a slave. More and more, important archeological excavations take place on Guadeloupe’s beaches, following fortuitous findings by the tourists or inhabitants. Indeed, slaves cemeteries were often situated near the sea or even on the beaches or unworkable and uninteresting plots for the planters. Archeological depot, Regional Archeology Unit, le Moule.

Informations

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LE MOULE

21E SIÈCLE

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