

## African Diaspora Archaeology Newsletter

---

Volume 10  
Issue 4 December 2007

Article 16

---

12-1-2007

### Early Slavery at the Cape of Good Hope, 1652-1717

Karel Schoeman

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.umass.edu/adan>

---

#### Recommended Citation

Schoeman, Karel (2007) "Early Slavery at the Cape of Good Hope, 1652-1717," *African Diaspora Archaeology Newsletter*: Vol. 10 : Iss. 4 , Article 16.  
Available at: <https://scholarworks.umass.edu/adan/vol10/iss4/16>

This New Books is brought to you for free and open access by ScholarWorks@UMass Amherst. It has been accepted for inclusion in African Diaspora Archaeology Newsletter by an authorized editor of ScholarWorks@UMass Amherst. For more information, please contact [scholarworks@library.umass.edu](mailto:scholarworks@library.umass.edu).

## New Book

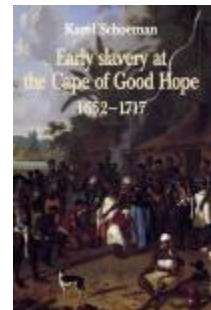
*Early Slavery at the Cape of Good Hope, 1652-1717.*

By Karel Schoeman

507 pages, ISBN 978-1-86919-147-4. Protea Book House, Pretoria, 2007.

### Description from the publisher:

The latest book of the award-winning writer and historian, Karel Schoeman, is the first work dealing specifically with the foundation and early years of slavery at the Cape of Good Hope to appear in thirty years and is one of only a few book-length studies of slavery in South Africa. The author rightly points out that this early period was crucial for establishing the ways in which slavery and bonded labour developed at the Cape, which makes its scanty treatment in other books on Cape slavery all the more regrettable. This timely book fills that gap.



*Early Slavery at the Cape of Good Hope* comprises nine chapters which cover the origins of Cape slavery against the background of slavery in the Indian Ocean world; a detailed exposition of the importation and fate of the first group of slaves that landed at the Cape in 1658; two chapters on the Indian Ocean slave trade which trace the provenance of slaves who were brought to the Cape during the period covered by the book; a thorough depiction of the lives and labours of the Company slaves who lived in the Slave Lodge in Cape Town, and a lengthy exploration of the world of slaves held by private individuals. This is followed by a chapter on how slaves resisted their situation and the ways in which they were controlled by their masters. An important contribution of the book is the final two chapters which present an important synthesis of what we know of the establishment and early history of the small free black (ex-slave) community at the Cape, in which the author also presents a number of short biographies of well-known individuals such as Angela of Bengal, Evert of Guinea and Armosyn of the Cape. The Coda to the book contains an important contribution to the debate about the origin of racism in colonial South Africa.

This significant book is certain to enhance our knowledge of the history of slavery in South Africa and is a valuable contribution to the historiography of Dutch South Africa. It is written in an accessible style and aimed at readers with no knowledge of Dutch and Afrikaans (all quotations are translated). The numerous footnotes refer interested readers to important sources and scholarship on the topic. The book also contains two thorough and lengthy indexes which increase its value as a reference tool for researchers interested in specific individuals and/or topics.

*Early Slavery at the Cape of Good Hope* can be ordered from Protea Bookshops in Stellenbosch (tel. 021-882-9100) and Pretoria (tel. 012-362-5683/4/5) or directly from the publishers at [anika@proteaboekhuis.co.za](mailto:anika@proteaboekhuis.co.za).