



Nanny of the Maroons

**The Gilder Lehrman Center**  
for the Study of Slavery, Resistance, and Abolition

Presents

**BUNCE ISLAND: Slave Castle on the Rice Coast**  
**Lecture by Joseph Opala**

*Wednesday, November 17, 4:15 p.m.*  
*Luce Hall Auditorium*  
*34 Hillhouse Ave.*  
*Reception to Follow.*  
*Free.*



Joseph Opala has spent 30 years researching the history, oral history, and archaeology of Bunce Island, an 18<sup>th</sup>-century British slave castle in Sierra Leone (West Africa). Professor Opala discovered that British merchants at Bunce Island sent thousands of African captives to the Colonies of South Carolina and Georgia where rice planters were willing to pay premium prices for African farmers from Sierra Leone and other parts of the West African "Rice Coast." Using historical and linguistic data, Opala has traced a number of "Gullah" families in South Carolina and Georgia back to their roots in Sierra Leone. He will show slides of Bunce Island's ruins and discuss his multidisciplinary research linking a small part of West Africa to a small part of the Southeastern United States.

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