

Tula

Tula called for resistance at the end of the 18th century. He wanted to implement freedom, equality and fraternity in the Dutch colony of Curaçao. Inspired by these French ideals, black revolutionaries had already forced the abolition of slavery in Haiti. Because the Netherlands was occupied by the French, Tula reasoned that slavery should also be abolished on Curaçao.

Tula lived in slavery. That does not mean that he was unaware of goings-on outside his immediate environment. Enslaved people exchanged information about uprisings elsewhere in the Caribbean and about political developments in the colonies and Europe. Music was an important medium for this.

Tula and his supporters decided to present their argument to the government of Curaçao. They marched from plantation to plantation towards Willemstad and were joined by two thousand people along the way. After five weeks of resistance, Tula was arrested and convicted. He was brutally tortured and then beheaded. Today Tula is commemorated as a hero on Curaçao and in the Netherlands.

In his conversation with Father Schinck, Tula refers to the situation in the Netherlands and Saint-Domingue (Haiti), 1795. QR code with transcription

Drum used in *tambú* music, in which current events were sung about, before 1885.

A *Benta* from Curaçao, a mouth bow used in the forbidden 'music of the spirits', before 1958

Toussaint L'Ouverture, leader of the black revolutionaries of Saint-Domingue, Carl de Vinck, 1796-1799

Man from Aruba, possibly a *tambú* player, before 1887.