

**ARCHAEOLOGY OF CROSS-CULTURAL INTERACTIONS AT AMEDEKA,
AKUSE, EASTERN REGION, GHANA**



BY

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**THIS THESIS IS SUBMITTED TO THE UNIVERSITY OF GHANA LEGON, IN
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DECLARATION

I hereby declare that I have personally undertaken this study in the Department of Archeology and Heritage Studies, University of Ghana, under supervision of Prof. Kodzo Gavua. This thesis has not been submitted in any form to any other institution for the award of another degree. Other sources of information cited have been fully acknowledged.

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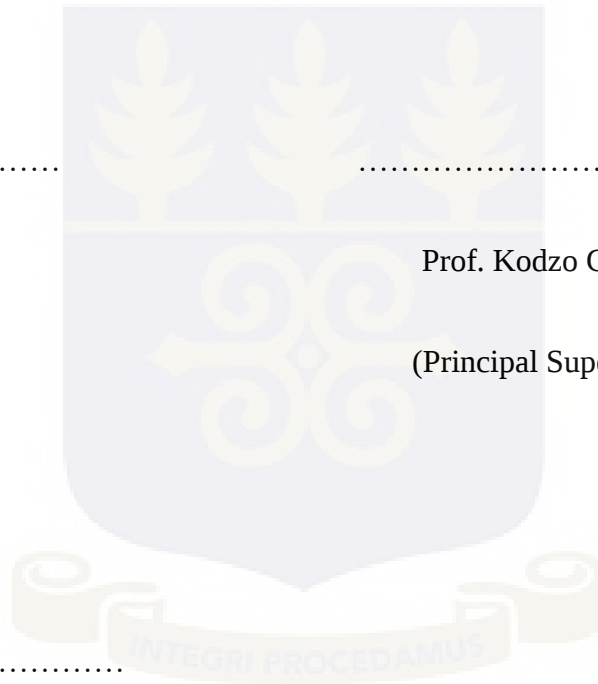
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DEDICATION

I dedicate this work to my family: my lovely father Mr. Charles Darko Yeboah, my mother Mrs. Eunice Yeboah and my two brothers, Charles Darko Yeboah and Joseph Darko-Yeboah.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I express my sincere gratitude to the Almighty God for his guidance and protection for making this thesis a success. I sincerely appreciate my supervisor, Professor Kodzo Gavua for his interest, guidance, motivation and encouragement during the course of my work. I thank him for attaching me to this project and for his patience, criticism and useful suggestions and support. I am also grateful to my co-supervisor, Dr. Fritz Biveridge for his advice and proof reading my work.

I wish to thank the Assembly man, the two heads of community and the people of Akuse and Amedeka for giving me permission to research in their community. I also express my gratitude to them for making time to give me an oral account of the occurrences and information. Many thanks Mr. Olympio Vormawor and Mr. Nyamasekpor.

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all my friends and loved ones who supported and encouraged me to move forward. God bless you all for the love and support.

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ABSTRACT

This study investigates the nature of interactions that existed at Amedeka and Akuse between Africans and Europeans. The objective of the study was to generate information on the legacy of multinational economic interactions at Amedeka and to derive additional archaeological data to facilitate reconstruction of past socio-economic and cultural life-ways in the area. It also sought to document factors which facilitated the growth of commercial network, identify the major local agents involved in trade and the reasons or factors that led to the collapse of commercial activity in the area in the early 20th century. The artefacts recovered helped establish a chronology of the site of Akuse-Amedeka.

A multidisciplinary approach involving gathering of oral account, documentary and archival records, ethnographic and archaeological data were adopted in this study. The result revealed various levels of interactions (economic, social, political and cultural) between the local people and their European counterparts. The main reason for this interaction was the location of the research area which prevented Europeans from travelling up north to trade as a result of the presence of huge boulders of rocks in that part of the Volta River. This led to the establishment of multinational companies which attracted other local people from neighboring towns to the area, thus the multi-ethnic nature of the area.

This research therefore gives an insight into an inland interaction at a 19th century port created at Amedeka leading to trade in various goods, including palm oil and cocoa which were exported in exchange for European materials. The study will therefore serve as a contribution to the study of inland trading activities and interactions in Ghana.

TABLE OF CONTENT

DECLARATION.....	i
DEDICATION.....	ii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.....	iii
ABSTRACT.....	v
LIST OF TABLES	xi
LIST OF CHARTS	xii
LIST OF MAPS.....	xiii
LIST OF FIGURES	xiv
CHAPTER ONE	1
BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY.....	1
1.0 Introduction	1
1.1 Objectives of the study	7
1.2 Research questions.....	7
1.3 Research Methods.....	7
1.3.1 Library and Archival Research.....	8
1.3.2 Oral account	9
1.3.3 Ethnographic studies.....	10
1.3.4 Field survey.....	11
1.3.5 Excavation	11
1.4 Intellectual framework of the research.....	12
1.5 Significance of the study	14
1.6 Organization of thesis chapters	14
CHAPTER TWO	16

LITERATURE REVIEW: GEOGRAPHICAL AND HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE OF THE RESEARCH	16
2.0 Introduction.....	16
2.1 The geographical background.....	16
2.2 The People and their history	18
2.2.1 Settlement History.....	19
2.3 Early Commerce in the Akuse- Amedeka area.....	21
2.3.1 Missionary activities and Trade	26
2.4 Decline of Commerce and the Flood.....	27
2.5 Conclusion	29
CHAPTER THREE	30
ETHNOGRAPHY OF AMEDEKA	30
3.0 Introduction.....	30
3.1 Subsistence/ Economic activities	30
3.1.1 Fishing activities.....	31
3.1.2 Farming activities.....	32
3.1.3 Other subsistence activities	36
3.2 Political Organization	37
3.3 Socio-cultural Activities	37
3.4 Religious activities	38
3.4.1 Christianity	38
3.4.2 Indigenous religion.....	39

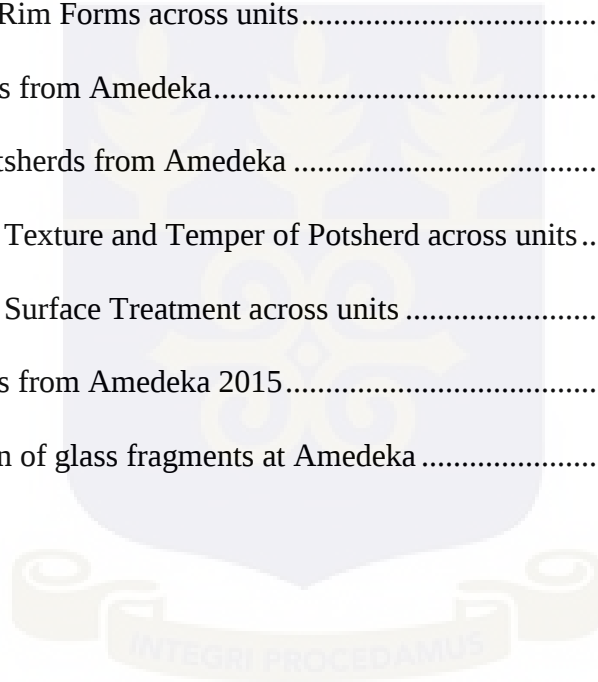
3.5 Social stratification	40
3.5.1 Volta River Authority Community.....	41
3.5.2 Zongo Community	41
3.5.3 Akuse and Amedeka Community	41
3.6 Architecture.....	42
CHAPTER FOUR.....	46
ARCHAEOLOGY OF AMEDEKA.....	46
4.0 Introduction.....	46
4.1 The state of the site	46
4.2 Archaeological Reconnaissance.....	47
4.2.1 Field Mapping and Gridding.....	48
4.3 Description of Excavated units	51
4.3.1 Unit 1 (W2C)	52
4.3.2 Test pit one.....	56
4.3.3 Unit two (FH)	58
4.3.4 Test pit 2 (SB)	62
4.4 Classification and Analysis of finds from Amedeka	67
4.4.1 Local Ceramics	67
4.4.1.1 Size of sherds.....	69
4.4.1.2 Thickness of potsherd.....	70
4.4.1.3 Texture and Temper of sherds.....	72

4.4.1.4 Surface Treatment and decoration	72
(a) Surface finish.....	73
(b) Surface Decoration	74
4.4.1.5 Vessel Forms	75
(a) Bowl Forms	76
(i) Bowl form 1	76
(ii) Bowl form 2	77
(iii) Bowls form 3	77
(iv) Bowl form 4.....	78
(v) Bowl form 5	79
(vi) Bowl form 6.....	80
(b) Jar form	81
(i) Jar form 1	81
(ii) Jar form 2.....	82
(iii) Jar form 3.....	83
4.5 Glazed Ceramics	84
4.5.1 Earthenware	87
4.5.2 Porcelain and Semi-porcelain.....	90
4.5.3 Stoneware	91
4.6 European Glass Bottles	92

4.7 Beads	101
4. 8 Imported Smoking pipes	102
4.9 Faunal Remains	104
4.9.1 Cowry	104
4.9.2 Shells.....	105
4.10 Bones	106
4. 11 Daub	107
4. 12 Metals	108
CHAPTER FIVE	109
SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION.....	109
5.0 Introduction.....	109
5.1 Summary and Discussion.....	109
5.2 Conclusion and Recommendation.....	114
REFERENCES.....	118
APPENDIX A	128
ETHNOGRAPHY AND ORAL ACCOUNT QUESTIONS	128
APPENDIX B	131

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1: Frequency of cultural materials from Unit 1 (W2c)	54
Table 2: Frequency of finds from Test pit 1	57
Table 3: Frequency of finds from Unit 2 (FH)	60
Table 4: Frequency of finds from Test pit 2 (SB).....	63
Table 5: Summary of artifacts from amedeka, 2015.....	66
Table 6: the distribution of sherds type across units	68
Table 7: Distribution of Rim Forms across units.....	68
Table 8: Size of potsherds from Amedeka.....	69
Table 9: Thickness of potsherds from Amedeka	71
Table 10: Distribution of Texture and Temper of Potsherd across units	72
Table 11: Distribution of Surface Treatment across units	75
Table 12: Trade Ceramics from Amedeka 2015.....	85
Table 13: The distribution of glass fragments at Amedeka	93



LIST OF CHARTS

Chart 1: Graphical summary of finds from Amedeka	67
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LIST OF MAPS

Map 1 : Map of Ghana showing the research area.....	5
Map 2: Map showing the study area	6
Map 3: Site plan of Amedeka sowing Unit 1.....	49
Map 4: Site plan of Amedeka showing Unit 2, Test pit 1 and 2.....	50



LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1: abandoned engine sail boat	&	Figure 2: collapsed court house	3
Figure 3: river defense	&	Figure 4: destruction by erosion	3
Figure 5: abandoned UAC warehouse	&	Figure 6: abandoned UTC warehouse	4
Figure 7: Women leaving Amedeka at the early stages of the flood of 1963 (source: Mr. Fredrick Amegavluie)..... 28			
Figure 8: A family packing their luggage during the flood (Source: Mr. Nyamasekpor) 28			
Figure 9: fishing activities in the Volta River..... 32			
Figure 10: A rice milling company at Akuse..... 33			
Figure 11: A rice milling machine at Akuse.....34			
Figure 12: Private fish farming activity in the Volta River 35			
Figure 13: Mounds of oyster shells at a shell crushing company 36			
Figure 14: An oyster shell grinding machine at Akuse..... 37			
Figure 15: A shrine at Amedeka 40			
Figure 16: Steet of Amedeka..... 43			
Figure 17: Residential unit at the UTC yard..... 43			
Figure 18: The former District Commissioner office 44			
Figure 19: The first court house built in Akuse 44			
Figure 20: Main Street from the river to the warehouses 47			
Figure 21a: gridding of the study area & b. mapping of the study area 48			
Figure 22a, b, c & d: settlement features identified at Amedeka..... 49			
Figure 23: Unit 1 (W2c)..... 55			

Figure 24a & b: stratigraphic profile of Unit one (W2c) North and west walls	56
Figure 25: Test pit one	57
Figure 26a & b: stratigraphic profile of Test pit one North and East walls.....	58
Figure 27: Unit 2 (FH)	61
Figure 28a & b: stratigraphic profile of Unit 2 North and south walls.....	62
Figure 29: Test pit two.....	64
Figure 30: stratigraphic profile of test pit 2 North and west walls	65
Figure 31: Bowl form 1.....	75
Figure 32: Bowl Form 2.....	76
Figure 33: Bowl form 3.....	78
Figure 34: Bowl form 4.....	79
Figure 35: Bowl form 5.....	80
Figure 36: Bowl form 6.....	81
Figure 37: Jar form 1.....	82
Figure 38: Jar form 2.....	83
Figure 39: Jar form 3.....	84
Figure 40a & b: Cream ware.....	87
Figure 41a & b: Pearl ware	88
Figure 42a, b, c, d, e & f: white ware.....	89
Figure 43: Petrus Regout seal & Figure 44: Oxford made in Brazil seal	90
Figure 45: Porcelain and semi-porcelain	91
Figure 46a & b: Stoneware	92
Figure 47: Gin bottle.....	95

Figure 48: Schnapps bottle.....	96
Figure 49: Wine Champagne bottles.....	97
Figure 50: Beer bottles.....	97
Figure 51: Mineral water bottles & Figure 52: Syrup and sauce bottles	98
Figure 53 : Perfumery & Figure 54 : Ointment bottles.....	98
Figure 55: Bottle stoppers	99
Figure 56: Pharmaceutical bottles.....	100
Figure 57a & b: J.H. Henkes seal	100
Figure 58: Beads	102
Figure 59: Imported smoking pipes	103
Figure 60: Cowry	104
Figure 61: Shells	105
Figure 62: Bones.....	106
Figure 63: Daub	107
Figure 64a & b: collapsed story building and first settler's compound.....	108
Figure 65a & b: Metal objects.....	107

CHAPTER ONE

BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY

1.0 Introduction

The research examines the consequences of early commercial operations of expatriate companies at Akuse and Amedeka and their neighborhoods, and how such operations impacted the local economy of the area from the mid-18th to late 20th century. Several extant buildings, warehouses, and abandoned decrepit steam engine and sail boat, part of which can be seen during low tide at the inland port at Amedeka constitute some major legacies of early commercial interactions between the indigenous population of the area and expatriate companies. Other materials attesting to commercial contact between the two groups include several cultural materials of European and local origin which litter the ground surface at Amedeka. These materials are currently endangered by erosion and activities of some persons farming in the area.

The primary geographical focus of this research is Amedeka, a suburb of Akuse located in the Eastern Region of Ghana (**Map 1 and 2**). Amedeka lies approximately 500 metres east of Akuse. A commercial epicenter from pre-colonial to post-colonial era, Amedeka linked several coastal towns in the interior of the Gold Coast and served as an important distribution and redistribution center for European trade goods and locally produced commodities like salt and palm oil. Some of the major European companies that operated at Akuse and Amedeka and had warehouses there included the United Africa Company (UAC), John Holt and Bartholomew, George Bernard Olivant (G. B. Olivant) and Union Trading Company (UTC). Akuse was also an important distribution point for the Basel missionaries in Ghana.

The inhabitants of the research area are of diverse ethnic and cultural origins. However, Ga-Dangme (mainly from Krobo, Osudoku, Ada) and Ewe (mainly from Anlo, Mafi) constitute the predominant ethnic groups stationed there.

Akuse is derived from two words, *Aku* and *Se*. *Aku* is the name of a 1,200 hectare creek located between the settlement and the Volta River, while *Se* is the Dangme word for behind. Translated, it means behind the *Aku* creek. Similarly, Amedeka is a derivation of two Ewe words namely “Ame and Deka”. *Ame* (person) and *deka* (one). It is believed the area was first settled by a hunter called Dokutse Perteye from the *Attaa Abla* lineage sometime in the 1700’s before the arrival of Europeans in the 1820’s. Dokutse Perteye is supposedly that ‘one person’ who first settled there.

Prior to January, 2015 when Gavua assisted by a team composed of final year students from the Department of Archaeology and Heritage Studies, University of Ghana, investigated Amedeka, the site was unexplored. That team, of which I was part conducted a survey and recovered hundreds of cultural materials for analysis that is currently on-going.

A surface survey of the research area by Gavua’s team revealed a wide scatter of archaeological material on the ground surface. These included locally manufactured pottery, mollusc shells and imported ceramics among others. Perhaps, the most notable of these cultural remains are the remains of a steam engine and a sail boat (see **figure 1**) (which are exposed during low tides), and the ruins of warehouses (**figure 5 and 6**) and court house (**figure 2**). The bulk of the above named cultural materials are currently endangered by erosion in the area (**figure 4**). The survey also showed that the construction of a river defense embankment (**figure 3**) along the west bank

of the Volta River has resulted in the burial of several important cultural materials under rock boulders which are being used to construct the river defense wall.



Figure 1: abandoned engine sail boat



Figure 2: collapsed court house



Figure 3: river defense

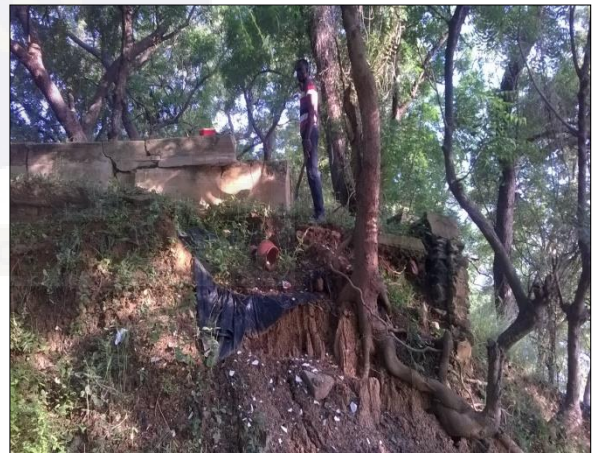


Figure 4: destruction by erosion



Figure 5: abandoned UAC warehouse

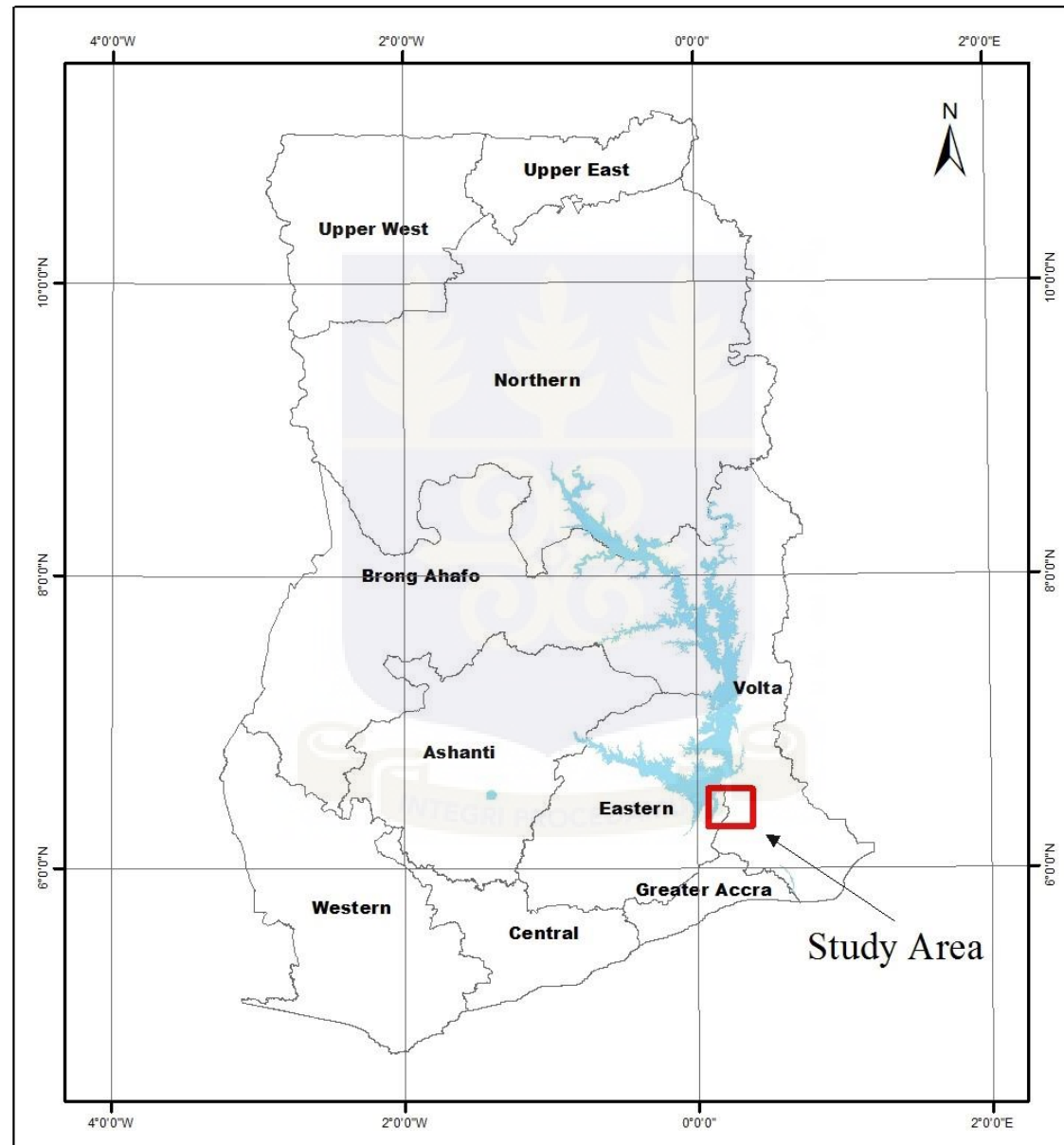


Figure 6: abandoned UTC warehouse

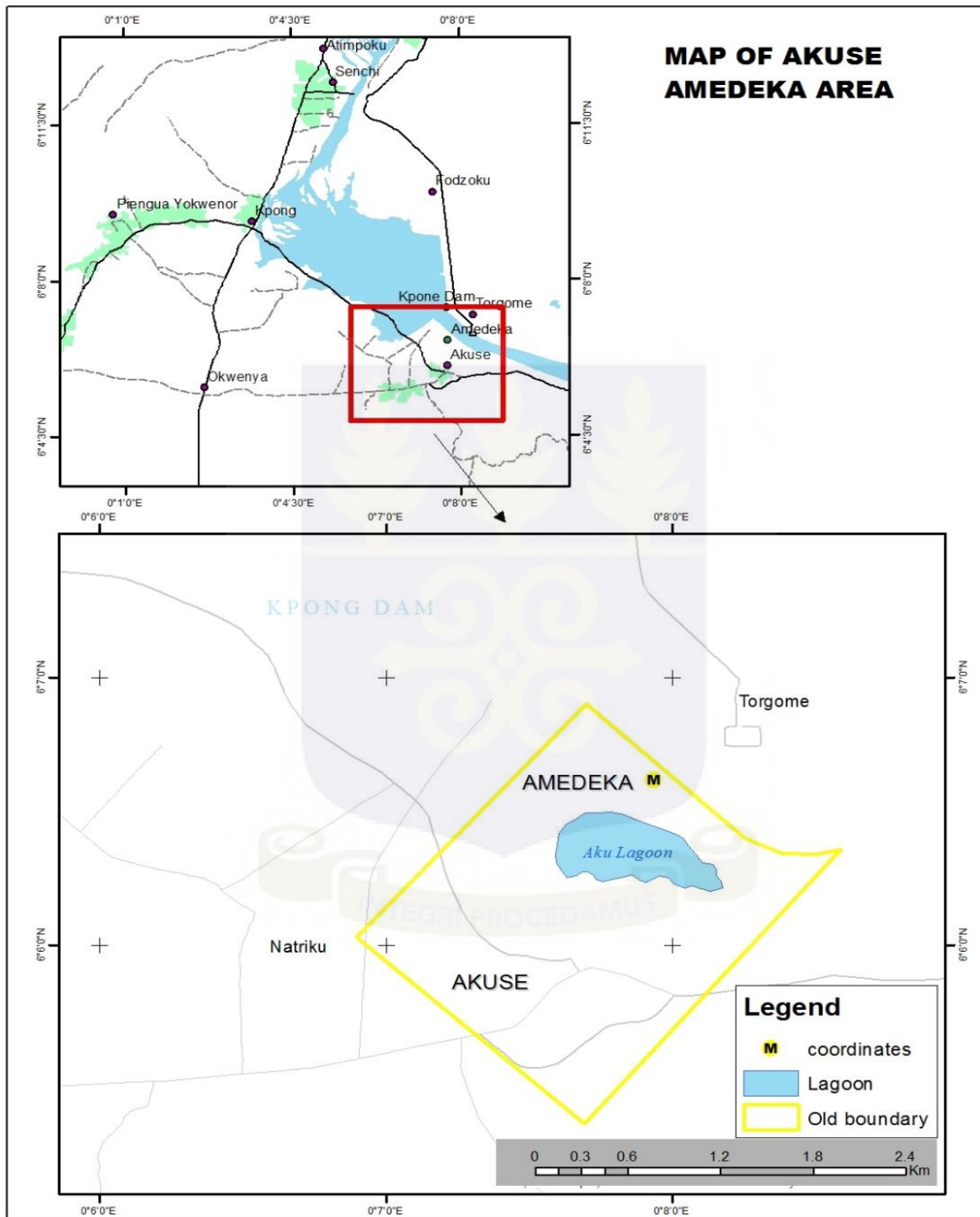
(Source: Gideon Agyari)

To-date, no in-depth archaeological investigation has been undertaken at the research area. The cultural and biological contents (material remains) embedded in the stratigraphy are also undocumented. There was thus the need to undertake archaeological investigations at the site which is part of a bigger project being undertaken by Gavua in the study area to recover material remains that will facilitate reconstruction of past socio-economic and cultural life-ways of the interactants (indigenous populace and expatriate traders) who operated there.

Map 1 : MAP OF GHANA SHOWING THE RESEARCH AREA



Map 2: MAP SHOWING THE STUDY AREA



(Source: George Owusu. CERGES, University of Ghana)

1.1 Objectives of the study

The goal for undertaking the research was to discover and recover the legacy of economic interactions at Amedeka, and seek additional archaeological data to facilitate reconstruction of past socio-economic and cultural life-ways of the two groups during the period under study.

The study also sought to document factors which facilitated the growth of this important commercial network, identify the major local trade agents involved in the trade, and find out reasons why the trade collapsed in the early 20th century and identifiable legacies of the trade.

1.2 Research questions

Some questions that informed the research included:

1. What factors informed expatriate firms to conduct commercial activities at Amedeka?
2. Why were people of different backgrounds attracted to the place?
3. What were the main commercial activities in which people engaged during pre-European and European contact periods?
4. What factors facilitated the collapse of the trade at Amedeka?

1.3 Research Methods

A multi-disciplinary approach was used to gather or obtain data for the research. Data for the study was derived from three sources namely, library/archives, archaeological data and ethnographic data. A permit was secured from the Ghana Museums and Monument Board (GMMB) to commence research in the study area. The research was undertaken in phases over a two year period. Phase 1 involved the examination of early historical / archival records relating

to trade at Akuse and Amedeka and its environs. The purpose was to derive historical and archival data to buttress and complement the archaeological data which were recovered from excavations. Under Phase 2, two units and two test pits sited at different locations at Amedeka were opened to retrieve archaeological data. It also involved the gathering of Oral account and ethnographic data from selected indigenes and resource persons at Akuse and Amedeka (**Appendix A**).

1.3.1 Library and Archival Research

Library research was carried out mainly at Balme Library and the Department of Archaeology and Heritage Studies Library at the University of Ghana. It involved the examination of some early historical documents on the theoretical perspectives that guided the work including Knappet (2014), Dobress and Robb (2005) and Renfrew (2004). The research also provided information on the geographical background of the study area with reference to works of Dickson and Benneh (1988) and Ghana Statistical Survey (2014). Also concerning the history of the people as well as the trade, Wilson (1989), Huber (1993), Lynn (2002), Amanor (2011) and Reynolds (1974) among others were reviewed. These documents are relevant because they highlighted on some aspects of the trade, the trade goods that were imported and exported from the area, as well as the people who were involved in the trade at the study area. The short falls of these documents are that, though it elaborates on the trade goods and the traders who were involved in the trade at the study area, they failed to give a vivid description of the trade at the study area and mentioned it in some small sections.

Archival data was also obtained from the Public Records Administration and Archives Department (PRAAD) in Accra concerning the Akuse and Amedeka areas. It included native affairs of the people, deeds, maps, boundary demarcations, receipts, notes attesting to

commercial transactions and many others. The records collected informed the researcher on some aspects of the settlement history that the oral account and ethnographic data could probably not capture. It also in some part emphasized and confirmed some aspects of the trade that oral account brought to light. They included the presence of that one person who first settled at Amedeka. According to the records, that one person is from the Atta Ablah family of Osudoku called Dokutse Perteye (ADM. 11/ 1/ 1098 – Akuse Native Affairs 1885-1930 (Case No. 97/ 1911). ADM. 11/ 1/ 29 – Ferries- Volta River District (Case No. 1909), ADM. 31/ 5/ 1 – Native Affairs Record book (Confidential) 1915, ADM. 31/ 4/ 1 – 10th February 1900-28 to December 1903 minuet Book, ADM. 31/4 /22 – 10th October 1887 to 8th March 1890 Criminal Record book. More historical maps and associated cartographic information are absent in this work because it was difficult getting them from the archival records. This explains why most of the illustrations seem to be recent.

The researcher also used internet sources to find journals and papers on the history of the trading activities. They included; *Commerce and Economic change in West Africa*, *The palm oil trade in the Gold coast*, *Banditry, Rebellion and Social Protest in Africa*, *Between the Sea and the Lagoon*, *Global Restructuring and Land Rights in Ghana..*

1.3.2 Oral account

Oral account was collected from a section of the people including the two headsmen of the study area, some older people who witnessed aspects of the trade and the various activities at the time, some of whom are living in surrounding towns like Kpong and Somanya. Informal interviews were also conducted by talking to 14 people from Akuse, Amedeka, Kpong, Somanya and in Accra. They involved 5 women and 9 men between the ages of 60 to about 90 years old. These

people were chosen because most of them witnessed part of the trade activities. Also focus group discussions were conducted; two in Amedeka, two at Akuse and one at Somanya. The researcher also observed some remains of the warehouses, shops and buildings that were built at the time of the trade and for that matter attest to the trading activities at the study area. These included the remains of warehouses and shops of the UAC and UTC multinational companies, the Akuse Hospital, post office, police station and prisons which are recorded to have been built in 1911, as well as some remains of individual shops.

1.3.3 Ethnographic studies

Ethnographic studies were conducted to compliment the data from oral account, archaeological record and documentary records. The studies covered the contemporary lifeways of the people in the study area, including religious activities and beliefs, subsistence and economic activities such as the rice and oyster shell production, as well as the fishing and fish farming by private firms in the Volta River. This study helped the researcher to understand what had been derived from documentary and archival sources. One method of capturing data during the course of the research was the use of a digital camera to take photographs of some important buildings in the town such as the post office and the hospital. However, the challenge faced here by the researcher was that, some institutions in the research area did not allow the research team to capture their buildings on camera. The Ghana Police Service was one such institution. This situation did not allow some important architectural and structural features to be captured to facilitate reconstruction.

1.3.4 Field survey

Much of the surface survey was undertaken on foot along the west bank of the Volta River at Amekeka and covered a total area of 100 metres. It also involved survey of some parts of the town including the Old Amedeka market where test pit two was excavated. The first settlers' compound was surveyed. The survey revealed a wide scatter of archaeological material on the ground surface. These included locally manufactured pottery, mollusk shells, fragments of glass bottles and imported ceramics among others.

1.3.5 Excavation

This method constituted phase two of the field work and followed the surface survey. It helped to reveal the three dimensional and physical provenance and to assess the functional significance of the materials recovered. Excavation was done in two phases.

The first phase of excavation was conducted from the 5th to the 16th of January 2015 during the field school coordinated by Gavua. The second phase was done from the 6th to 20th of July 2015 by the researcher and a crew of three with two other field assistants from the community. This was done under the guidance and supervision of Professor Kodzo Gavua. In all, two units measuring (1.5 x 2.5 meter and 2 x 1 meter) and two test pits (each measuring 1 x 1 meter) were excavated. An arbitrary level of 20cm was used to control vertical provenance.

Unit one was excavated at the collapsed UAC storehouse close to the bank of the river which had stone foundations of the store. It reached a depth of 140cm at sterile. Materials recovered included 619 fragments of bottles, 537 European ceramics, 34 shells, 4 cowry shells, 29 locally manufactured ceramics, 89 metal objects and 4 pieces of smoking pipes making a total of 1,316 artefacts. Unit two was excavated at the first settler's compound beside a place which looked like

a bathroom with evidence of cluster of pottery on the surface. It reached a depth of 120cm at sterile. Materials recovered included 46 fragments of bottles, 43 European ceramics, 296 shells, 17 daub, 192 locally manufactured pottery, 98 metal objects, 3 stones, 5 roofing slates and 2 glass beads making a total of 702 artefacts. Test pit one was excavated east of trench two at the first settler's compound 50 metres away as a result of some cultural materials on the surface. it reached a depth of 60 cm at sterile. Materials recovered included 3 bottle fragments, 1 European ceramic and 2 daub making a total of 6 artefacts. Test pit two was excavated along the major road that leads from Amedeka to Akuse just on the compound of a collapsed story building where the old Amedeka market at the time of the trade according to informants were located. It reached a depth of 100cm at sterile. Materials recovered included 25 fragments of bottles, 4 European ceramics, 61 shells, 17 daub, 58 locally manufactured pottery, 73 metal objects, 12 pieces of animal bones, 1 lime, 2 roofing slates and 2 beads making a total of 242 artefacts.

1.4 Intellectual framework of the research.

The study is guided mainly by the Actor Network Theory (ANT) (Knappet 2014), which suggests that material culture has agency and plays a major role in establishing networks among interacting groups of people. In this regard it is presumed that although the people who manufactured some of the artefacts that may be found at Amedeka may not be physically present at the area, their products which are distributed, consumed and discarded at the settlement could be considered as a means of establishing relationships among the different people that operated there. The materials recovered in the archaeological record will enhance and provide information on how people networked in the study area. Ethnographic data and oral accounts that were retrieved from the current indigenes complement the archaeological data. Some of the cultural

exchanges relates, for instance, to the introduction of fishing, petty trading, architecture and the various religions penetrated at the research area.

In this regard, material culture will be deemed to have agency and serve as a framework for understanding everyday social action, long-standing cultural institutions and culture change (Dobress and Robb 2005: 159; Barfield, 1997: 4 cited in Dornan 2002:304)). This is because, it is often difficult for the archaeologist to link the data on materials recovered in excavation with the manufacturers and how these materials were used and discarded. According to Renfrew (2004: 26) every artefact is a product of human intentionality (agency) and its form has been shaped by generations of experience. The artefact is a product of a manufacturing technology, itself governed by the materiality of the artefact and the acquisition and use of that artefact are shaped also by the social conditions prevailing. At Amedeka and Akuse, different agents (men, women and children) undertook different cultural activities that reflect in their material culture. For instance, men are responsible for fishing and blacksmithing and they are assisted by young boys while women are involved in fish mongering assisted by young girls in food preparation, among others. In farming activities, for example, men and women cultivate different crops at the study area. Other expatriate firms are also involved in the cultivation of large scale rice and banana production as well as fish farming.

Material Culture will therefore be seen as a medium through which people actively engaged, communicated and conveyed meanings as they interacted, networked and constructed ideas (Knappett 2014). The materials retrieved from excavations give an idea of the manufacturer, the area from which they were obtained, how they were used, who used them and why they were discarded. All these are embedded in the recovered artefacts. Renfrew (2004: 23) suggests that things have histories and that the memory of that particular history is evoked by, and carried

along with, the material itself. Such history according to him is not one that necessarily exists only in the past but that the symbol or effective power of the artifact can continue by virtue of that history to exist in the present. This means that the materials recovered which give an insight of the past and how they were used also reveals the present activities of the contemporary society who might have been affected by the past. This gives an understanding of the culture and its materials under study.

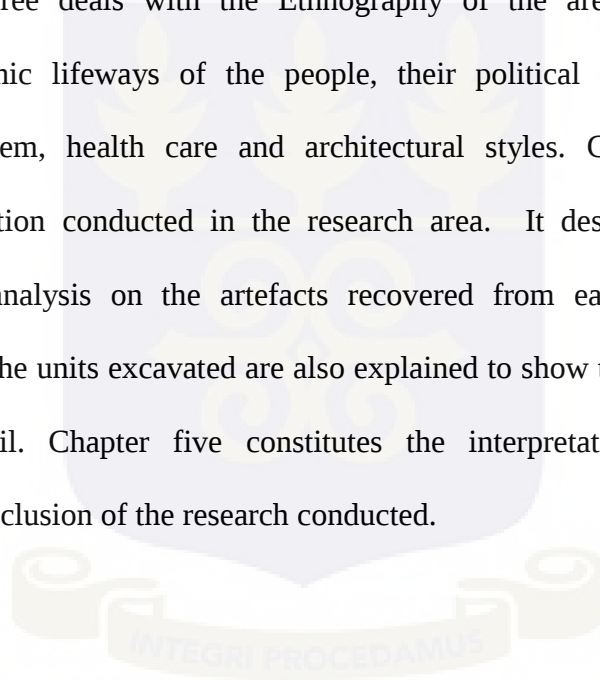
1.5 Significance of the study

The results of the research will provide valuable information on how cross-cultural interactions between the indigenous population of the research area and Europeans who represented various expatriate firms operating at Amedeka and areas bordering Akuse enhanced and impacted socio-economic activities of the local people and the local economy of the area. The study generates knowledge on the various social formation processes which facilitated cross cultural contacts within the research area as well as the evolution and early development of the Akuse Township and Amedeka in particular. It is hoped that academics, scholars, students, merchants, development planners and policy makers will benefit from the data generated by this study.

1.6 Organization of thesis chapters

The thesis is divided into five chapters. Chapter one introduces the research in question and a background of the study area. Emphasis was laid on the research objectives, research problems, research questions and the methods used in the gathering of the data of the study area.

Chapter two reviews pertinent literature and scholarly works on the geographical and historical background of the research area. The geography of the area to be discussed included the climate, vegetation, soil and the nature of the natural environment. Much of this data was derived from secondary sources. On the other hand, the historical perspective discusses important aspects of the cultural history of the people of Amedeka, their origin, migration, language and settlement histories. Much of the data outlined in this section was derived from oral accounts gathered collected from the heads of the two clans and other selected informants as well as from archival information. Chapter three deals with the Ethnography of the area. It elaborates on the subsistence and economic lifeways of the people, their political systems, festival, social structure, religious system, health care and architectural styles. Chapter four covers the archaeological investigation conducted in the research area. It describes the various units excavated as well as analysis on the artefacts recovered from each unit excavated. The stratigraphic profiles of the units excavated are also explained to show the various layers, colour and texture of the soil. Chapter five constitutes the interpretation of data, summary, recommendation and conclusion of the research conducted.



CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW: GEOGRAPHICAL AND HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE OF THE RESEARCH

2.0 Introduction

This chapter discusses the geography of the area with special reference to the climate, vegetation, soil and the nature of the natural environment. Much of this data was derived from secondary sources. It also presents important aspects of the cultural history of the people of Amedeka, their origin, migration, language and settlement histories as well as the early commercial activities in the area. Much of the data discussed was derived from oral accounts collected from the heads of the two clans and other selected indigenes as well as archival information.

2.1 The geographical background

The research area lies within a semi-equatorial climate belt with a mean annual rainfall ranging between 900mm to 11,500mm. Relative humidity is high during the wet season at a height of 2m above the ground (www.weatherandclimate.info). The rainy season is a double maxima type experienced from April to early August as well as September to October whereas the dry or hamattan season is experienced from November to March. Temperatures are generally high with average temperature ranging between 26°C and 35°C. The pattern of temperature and rainfall distribution presents a climate that is conducive for plantation agricultural development throughout the year (Ghana Statistical Survey 2014; 1-2).

The soil found in the area is clayey. Although heavy and intractable, they respond well to cropping under irrigation and mechanical cultivation. Because of intrinsic poverty in nutrition,

most of the soils are heavily dependent upon the humus supplied by the vegetation cover. There is thus a delicate balance between vegetation and soil fertility, which may be upset by uncontrolled burning or overuse. The total organic matter content is relatively low with Nitrogen and Potash appearing to be in relatively short supply. In the natural state, the soil is hard and compact when dry, cracking deeply and widely. It requires the use of heavy cultivation machinery, skilled management and irrigation together with drainage to produce crops like rice and sugarcane as well as vegetables (Obeng 2000: 18).

The research area lies within the semi-deciduous forest and savannah zone. Trees commonly found in this vegetation include Acacia, Neem and Ceiba with varying size of density dispersed in the midst of secondary forest and perennial grasses with associated herbs. It is for the presence of these herbs that ethno-medicinal practices are common at Amedeka and Akuse (Ghana Statistical Survey 2014; 1-2).

The topography of the research area is relatively flat with isolated hills. The landscape of the northern part is generally undulating and drained by the Volta River. It is surrounded by hilly areas dominated by the Akwapim-Togo mountain ranges that are basically made up of lava flows and schist. The land rises from a height of about 100 meters in the southwest lowlands to over 600 meters above sea level (Dickson and Benneh 1988: 153). The sediments appear to be of Palaeozoic age which consist of crystalline granulite and gneiss which have suffered metamorphism of great depth. It has migmatites with quartz schists, biotite schists and other sedimentary remnants (Ghana Statistical Survey 2014: 1-2).

2.2 The People and their history

The people of Amedeka and Akuse comprise the Krobo, Osu-Doku, the Ewe, Akan, Hausa and other ethnic groups. Each of these groups has a headman or a leader. The Ada probably settled in the area because of the salt trade between Adaforh and Amedeka. The Ewe were probably attracted to Amedeka by the colonial establishment, commercial shops and warehouses (ADM. 11/ 1/1098). The area was along the inland tributary of the Volta where people of diverse ethnic origins migrated (Wilson 1987: 472). As a result of the cross- cultural nature of Amedeka, there were no chiefs. The settlement was thus demarcated in relation to ethnic groupings led by headsmen and family heads. They do not have a festival of their own but join in the Krobo festival celebrated annually (Wilson 1987:273). The Krobo are a group of Dangme-speaking people whose language belongs to the Western Kwa language family. Until 1892 when they were ejected by the British colonial administration, they settled on the Krobo Mountain which is about 6 kilometers northwest of the research area (Huber 1993: 32; Omenyo 2001:15; Steegstra: 2005:31; Gblerkpor 2008; 156). Ownership of the land is contested by the Manya Krobo and the Osudoku.

The Anlo and Mafi who settled at Akuse were fishing folks. They were attracted to the area as a result of the presence of the Aku lagoon and the Volta River where fishing was very high. The Anlo were involved in trading at Amedeka. According to the records (Amanor 2011; 60) some Anglo traders were involved in trading slaves at Amedeka. The wealthiest of this people known as Atiobi who adopted the name of his master, Geraldo de Lima was actively engaged in this trade between 1865 and 1885 when enslaved people were transported from the Amedeka port to Keta trader who perhaps is the dominant figure in Anglo history between 1865 to 1885 was engaged mostly in the slave trade and transported slaves using the Amedeka port to Keta. It was

after his death that his successor changed from the slave trade to the palm oil trade at the time when palm oil became the dominant trade goods in the whole of the Gold Coast. It was during this period that most Anlo people engaged in trading fishes from the Keta coast to Amedeka port (Amanor 2011: 61).

The Ada on the other hand settled in the area as a result of their salt trade. They transported salt by boats from Adafuor, their homeland to the Amedeka and Akuse markets. According to informants, most of the Ada who settled at Amedeka were also involved in bakery as most of the multinational companies were at the time trading in flour and other materials for baking.

The Krobo who claim ownership of the land brought palm oil to be traded at the Amedeka port. During this period, the Krobo and the Akweapim were the main producers of the palm oil. Palm oil thus became an important commodity at the time because it became one of the largest export goods from the Gold Coast to the overseas market. However the presence of the various ethnic groups and their various activities in the research area shows the cross-cultural nature of Akuse and Amedeka making it an important part of the Ghanaian history.

2.2.1 Settlement History

There are different versions of the first settler at Amedeka and Akuse. According to one version the land was first inhabited by the Atta Ablah family of Osudoku who are part of the Dangme. This version is however contested by the Krobo who also lay claim to the land because, when they were ejected from the top of the mountain by the British as a result of their ritual activities, some of them claim to have first settled in the Akuse area (ADM. 31/ 4/ 1; ADM. 31/4 /22). On the other hand, informants claim that Amedeka was first settled by one person, Fofoe, probably a fisher folk from one of the Ewe villages along the Volta who sailed his way fishing in the Volta

River and discovered the area where he settled, and created a town and market there. Thus the name *Ame* meaning person and *Deka* one of Ewe origin. Hence Amedeka meaning ‘one person’. The place was later settled by European traders who dealt in the European materials such as textiles, tobacco, and liquor among other European goods and engaged in the palm oil trade from Kroboland, and also traded their produce for other local goods like gold and cocoa through the port of Amedeka, to the coast. Thereafter, other European companies like Messrs G.B. Olivant company, the Basel mission factory, later the United African Company (UAC) among others, leased land from different local families who had settled at Amedeka and Akuse and laid claim to operate (Lynn 2002: 41).

Akuse was however known to have been in existence around 1820 and had a large market as a result of the port created at Amedeka (ADM. 11/ 1/1098). As a result of the establishment of the market, most of the multinational companies built their warehouses at Akuse where goods transported from the coast to the port of Amedeka were sent with the help of the rail lines that linked the port to the warehouses. Akuse derived from the two words *Aku* and *Se*, a Dangme word, meaning, ‘behind the Aku lagoon’. The expansion of the Krobo in the 1870 under Konos Sakitey might have influenced the growth of trade at Amedeka and Akuse (Mate Korle 1952:139). This is because, at that time, the Krobo began the production of palm oil in large quantities. The palm oil thus became the predominant export product after gold since the trade in ivory had reduced drastically. For this reason palm oil was transported from Kroboland using the port at Amedeka to the coast before it was sent overseas. This boosted the trade at Amedeka and Akuse and led to the expansion of the two towns with people from diverse background and ethnic groupings.

2.3 Early Commerce in the Akuse- Amedeka area

According to oral traditions, Amedeka and Akuse were very important commercial and social centers because several people had migrated from different parts of the country and were residing there as trading boomed. This was because the two settlements were connecting points between the southern part of the country via the Volta River and the hinterland. The trade at Amedeka and Akuse began as a result of the colonial companies on the coast developing the quest to transport their trade goods up northwards. The Volta River was thus the only source of transport for conveying goods to the inland areas and up north. Roads leading to such areas were very bad and it was difficult transporting goods by them. Products were thus transported by the Volta River with smaller boats. Since Amedeka was the only inland port at the time, commercial activity there increased (ADM. 11/ 1/ 29).

According to informants, travelers from Kumasi and other towns and villages came to Amedeka to board the ferry to the coast, as at that time the Accra- Aflao road was not constructed. The existence of rocks in the river near Amedeka prevented boats from continuing their journey northwards. Goods were thus offloaded at river banks at Amedeka from where traders continued their journey by road elsewhere. This led to the establishment of the Amedeka port where goods such as salt, palm oil, textiles and other materials were traded. Also, it led to the establishment of multinational companies such as the United African Company (UAC), Union Trading Company (UTC), G. B. Olivand, CFAO and many others in the area. The Akuse-Amedeka area thus became an important trading center from the 18th to the mid-20th century (ADM. 11/ 1/1098). Commercial activities involving local goods and services included the salt from Ada, pottery from neighboring towns, fetching and distribution of water in Akuse by people of northern backgrounds, sale of agricultural produce among others.

Early trading in the area involved trading in enslaved people. The Volta basin was notorious for the slave trade as well as for salt. Despite abolition, the trade was carried on with vigour until the 1880s, with most towns like Keta and Adina on the coast serving as slave market (Amanor 2011: 60-80). Geraldo de Lima, a Brazilian, for example, established himself as a slave dealer in his own right after serving as an apprentice with Goncalves Baeta from the Baeta family whose descendants are known to be a very wealthy family as a result of their dealings in slaves from Keta to Togo. De Lima built a factory at Vodza from where he shipped his slaves until his death in 1862. Upon his death, his business was taken over by Adzoviehlo Atiogbe who has been his servant from the early 1850s. Atiogbe assumed his master's name in order to facilitate his business dealings in slaves, some of the slaves were shipped from Amedeka which became a collecting point. By 1864 he had given up the slave trade to engage in the palm oil trading which was the important export product at the time. Once in the palm oil trade he began to corner a sizable amount of it and carried on a flourishing trade in cotton goods, fire arms and liquor in Kpong the palm oil emporium, and in other towns along the Volta including Amedeka (Wilson 1993: 185-187). According to informants some freed slaves looked for lands to farm. Others were engaged as domestic workers.

The Ada on the other hand were engaged in salt mining and fishing and sold the produce to the people who traded at Amedeka. Salt and fish traders sailed up the river for about eleven days journey to Odentee and Amedeka where it became too rocky for canoes to continue their journey (Reynolds (1974: 27).

Part of the commercial activities in the study area comprised the supply of water drawn from the Volta by people of northern Ghanaian backgrounds to residence of Akuse where there was no fresh water. Trade in clay pots was another activity. Most of the pots were brought from Torgome

across the river where commercial potting was practiced and other nearby villages who were engaged in potting activities. Some of the pots were made for tapping palm wine while others were for boiling and storage of herbal medicine. A few sacred pots were also distributed. The rest were cooking pots, water fetching jars and huge water storage jars.

From oral accounts, there were several retail shops and workshops across the main road. These included gold smithing shops. The gold at the time was not refined and was brought by the smith from the sea coast. The gold ingot was derived from Tarkwa and Prestea and brought to Amedeka to be melted and made into different jewelries by the smith. Most often, individual travelers brought it from the mining towns. There was a particular pattern and design they were made into, thus gold was melted and put in a cast to make earrings and necklace. There were various retail shops which spread along the major street of Amedeka, along a road which led straight to Akuse. There was also a major market at Amedeka along the main street. This was the first early market where trade goods were brought after they were offloaded at the river bank before buyers came to buy for their shops (ADM. 11/ 1/1098). According to informants, people from the northern part of the country such as Yendi and Sisala among others participated in the trade travelling by road to Amedeka and continuing their journey from there on the river by the ferry and smaller boats to the coast (ADM. 11/ 1/ 29).

Aside the local commodities that were traded at Amedeka, other European goods were also traded. Textile was one of the major goods that the European companies imported and distributed wholesale at Amedeka. There were shops that retailed textiles while others engaged in wholesale at Akuse and beyond. The textile was first sorted and later sent to the market for sale. Companies such as UAC imported a lot of textiles that was sorted and distributed in the area by local merchants who had retail shops as well as warehouses where they sold wholesale (ADM. 31/ 5/

1). According to other informants, there was also distribution of flour, and bread making was also a popular commercial activity. The UAC, a Basel Mission Company of Swiss origin, traded in textiles, tobacco and other household material. The company distributed mainly textiles, drums of oil and commodities including drugs and cutlass. They sold things in whole sale and were involved in the credit system. The credit system involved the offering of goods on credit to local traders who did not have enough funds to purchase them from the company. The names and debt of creditors were recorded in a book and cancelled only when the debt was paid. Informants also claim that Brazilians who came on commercial trips settled in the area. Most of them intermarried and had children with the local people. Some of the Europeans who operated in the area served as clerks. The activities of the Brazilians and Europeans including carpentry, masonry and tailoring were copied by the local people especially the Ewe. The type of boats that the Brazilians used on the Volta was called the 'caravel'. Smaller versions were known by the local people as 'Bonto'. Such boats were used to transport salt from the Songo lagoon near Adafuor to Amedeka (ADM. 11/ 1/ 29).

Cocoa, sweet potatoes, onion, groundnut and palm oil were commodities that the European companies acquired for export from the area. Palm oil was brought in by various groups of people from the hinterland to the port of Amedeka along the river. The Krobo in particular embarked on large scale production of palm oil (Crummery (1986: 124).

Palm oil began to feature predominantly in the export from the Gold Coast in the 1820s, when the port at Amedeka was established, and by the 1850s had replaced ivory as the second leading export of the Gold Coast. The palm oil from the Gold Coast at this time came mainly from Krobo and Akuapem in the eastern part of the country and it is clear that by the beginning of the 19th century the Krobo were buying more land for expanding palm oil plantation and population

(Reynolds 1974:69). Much of the oil was shipped from the Amedeka port to the coast. In recognition of the commercial importance of Kroboland and Konor Sakite, the British created the Volta District and selected Odumase to be the district headquarters in 1880. During his long reign, Sakite constructed an elaborate court and residence at Akuse, with the generous support of missionaries and mission-trained artisans (Wilson 1987:492).

From 1826 up to 1850 there was a transition in the economy of the study area and elsewhere across the country as a result of the wars between the Asante and her southern neighbors, supported by the English and the Danes. These wars had disrupted the peace and commercial life of the country and prospects of trade were no more promising. Hatred between the British allies on the coast who were fighting among themselves had cut communications with the interior and trade was almost destroyed completely (Reynolds 1974:72). Until 1890, the Danes claimed jurisdiction over the area from Christiansburg to Ada as well as the areas of Akyem, Akuapem, Krobo and Akuse. In order to reduce his government's budget, King Christian VIII In 1840 sold Danish property including those in the study area to the British who were interested in the area because of the palm oil trade. The British thus established the Union Trading company UTC to coordinate their trade (Reynolds 1974:99). The focus on the palm oil trade in the Volta basin including Akuse area appears to have begun when merchants disengaged themselves in the slave trade and interested themselves in the palm oil trade. The Anlo and the Ada competed as middlemen for the palm oil trade of the area (Amanor 2011: 87).

In its bid to raise additional income for administrative purposes, the British colonial administration imposed heavy fines on the Krobo and its towns including Akuse and Amedeka in 1866. The fine and the means of collecting it led to a dispute between the Krobo and the administration and hence the Krobo held up the supply of palm oil which eventually affected the

palm oil trade on the Gold coast in the late 1850s to the 1860s (Lynn 2002: 40). This factor in addition to a drop in the global market price of palm oil and the unprofitability of palm oil industry with the adoption of cocoa cultivation eventually led to the decline in the palm oil trade and this affected commercial activities at Amedeka (Nketiah 2011: 173).

2.3.1 Missionary activities and Trade

Missionary activity boosted trade at Amedeka and Akuse. During that time, there were agents of various companies that had settled at Adafuor linking the area with the Volta Basin including the Amedeka area. Among these companies were the H. L. Rottman and Company, W. P. Gunnell, John Clayton, W. G. Bruce and M. Victoria, Sons of Bremen. The Basel Mission was the first to establish itself in the Amedeka area. In order to advance its course they had to engage in trade working with some of the companies that were established at Adafuor (Reynolds (1974:142). The Basel mission for example in the bid to promote trade and generate income, they invested in private companies such as that of H. L. Rottman who had established a company in Christiansburg in 1854 (Amanor 2011: 59). By 1859 it converted its activities to the United African Company (UAC). The company kept sale prices of goods very low by bringing in large quantities leading to its growth. From 1860 onwards the trade expanded in the area with local people exchanging African produce for commodities brought in by the UAC. Eventually the UAC representing the Basel mission began to compete with the local traders for African produce. This led to some conflict between the African merchants and the UAC. In the process the Basel mission consolidated pitfalls by establishing mission stations and schools in Akuse and nearby communities like Krobo for the benefit of the local people in a way as compensations for the conflict to be resolved (Reynolds 1974:149; Wilson 1987:490).

2.4 Decline of Commerce and the Flood

It appears that the decline of activities of the multinational companies began from 1948 onwards when the UGCC and Nkrumah started agitating for self-governance. The agitation resulted in looting of goods and the setting of some shops on fire and when Ghana gained independence in 1957 most of the companies folded up. This was the early decline of the trade at the Amedeka and Akuse area. The trade totally collapsed after the construction of the Akosombo dam which led to a heavy flood taking over the whole of Amedeka area in 1963.

According to local informants, the Amedeka area had been experiencing flooding annually before the Akosombo dam was constructed. In this period Akuse served as refuge for the Amedeka people when their homes were flooded. Buildings made of mud collapsed while those made of iron sheets withstood the flood. The severest occurrence of the flood was however experienced in 1963 following the construction of the Akosombo dam. This flood drove away the majority of the people of Amedeka. These people relocated to Akuse and nearby settlements such as Kpong and Somanya. After the flood, most of the people relocated to settle at Amedeka after a year when the flood waters retreated.



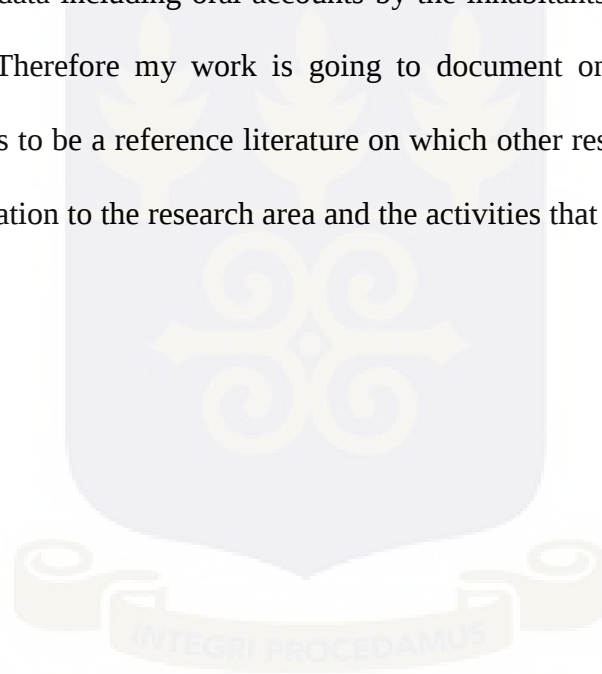
Figure 7: Women leaving Amedeka at the early stages of the flood of 1963 (source: Mr. Fredrick Amegavlue)



Figure 8: A family packing their luggage during the flood (Source: Mr. Nyamasekpor)

2.5 Conclusion

From the review above, it can be concluded that, though Amedeka and Akuse were the main focus of the trade, because of the presence of the port, there has not been any literature written on this activity by any scholar. Rather, most of the literatures derived for this research focus on the various towns that traded their goods at Amedeka and Akuse including Ada, Anlo and Krobo among others. This thus made it very difficult for the researcher to have sources of information to review. As a result, most of the information gathered for the section was derived from archival documents and primary data including oral accounts by the inhabitants who might have altered the information given. Therefore my work is going to document on the activities from the information derived so as to be a reference literature on which other researchers can depend and access information in relation to the research area and the activities that occurred there in the 19th century.



CHAPTER THREE

ETHNOGRAPHY OF AMEDEKA

3.0 Introduction

This chapter discusses the subsistence and economic lifeways of the people in the research area from oral accounts collected and observations. It also discusses the political organization, social and religious behavior as well as architectural styles. A cross section of the people were interviewed. This was necessary so as to do away with all biases associated with oral accounts. The field interviews were recorded on tapes which were played back severally for authentication. Oral account was necessary for this research because it helped in the reconstruction of the settlement history of the study area with useful information to the past. It was also necessary because most of the respondents were illiterates and it was also difficult finding literatures relating to the study.

3.1 Subsistence/ Economic activities

The people of Amedeka did not have enough land for farming and thus focused on trading with neighbors. Farm produce were brought in from Somanya, Agomeda and other farming communities in the Krobo area where farming, including oil palm plantation was a major activity. Shop owners and traders who settled at Amedeka, according to informants were also involved in the cultivation of cassava and other foodstuff for domestic consumption.

According to oral accounts, the economic activities at street level involved the exchange of indigenous materials supplied from the south and the forest areas including calabash, basket woven from palm fronds or the cane. Fishing activities as well as fish farming were also

practiced. The main occupation of the people of Amedeka and Akuse today includes fishing, farming, fish mongering, rearing of livestock and shop keeping.

3.1.1 Fishing activities

According to informants, fishing was done in the Aku creek until it dried up and the area became outgrown with weeds. Fishing is currently done in the Volta River (**fig 9**) by men from the community who bring fishes for women to buy. Women engage mainly in fish mongering. They either smoke or dry the fish and send them to markets nearby and to the capital city of Accra. In some cases, the women fry the fishes or sell them fresh. Most of the fishermen who had settled in the area relocated during the flood and the construction of the Akosombo and Kpong Dams. This is because the fish stock in the side of the river where Amedeka is situated reduced in quantity. Most of those who currently fish do so using canoes most early in the morning at dawn. They are sometimes faced with dangers from the Kpong dam. The kind of fish they catch include catfish, shrimps, lobsters and cray fish.

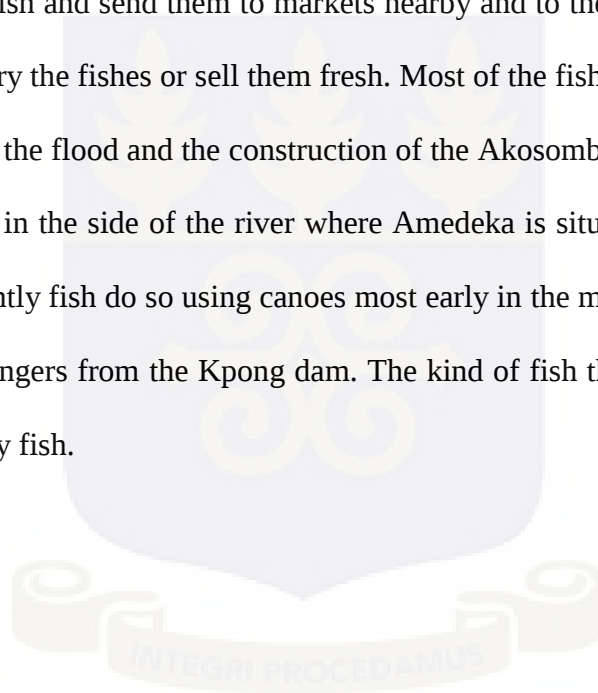




Figure 9: fishing activities in the Volta River (Source: Beatrice Darko-Yeboah)

3.1.2 Farming activities

Another major activity undertaken in the area mainly by the expatriates is rice and banana plantation on irrigated farms. These crops are harvested in large quantities and sold wholesale. There are canals leading from the Kpong dam on to some farms where tomatoes were cultivated until farmers took to rice farming. Among the expatriate farmers are Nigerians, Australians, Chinese and Togolese. The rice is harvested, dried and the husks are removed with various equipments before they are bagged and made ready for the markets.



Figure 10: A rice milling company at Akuse (Source: Beatrice Darko-Yeboah)

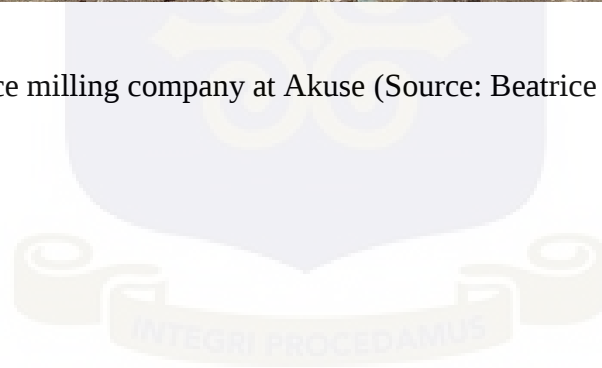




Figure 11: A rice milling machine at Akuse (Source: Beatrice Darko-Yeboah)

Fish farming is another major farming practice at Amedeka and neighbouring areas (**fig 12**). The type of fish that is in high demand and farmed by mostly expatriates and a few local farmers is the Tilapia fish. There are a number of Tilapia farms in the area operated mostly by expatriates. There is cross breeding of the fish to produce fingerling and the fingerlings for sale. Most fish farmers sell the fingerlings to generate additional income. Others rear them until they are ready for the market. This is mostly practiced by the local farmers who are interested in rearing fish for consumption. It takes a long time before fishes are sold. During this period, various diseases caused by pathogens are likely to affect the fishes. These diseases can also become contaminated by mishandling from where they were bought. The diseases can also develop when the water becomes stagnant. Farming of livestock such as cattle, pigs, sheep and goat is also done commercially and for domestic consumption. This is mostly done by the local people in their home and surroundings.



Figure 12: Private fish farming activity in the Volta River (Source: Beatrice Darko-Yeboah)

3.1.3 Other subsistence activities

Apart from fishing and farming the people of Amedeka and Akuse are involved in shop keeping, lumbering and serve as labourers for the multinational Companies. A few of them are engaged in banking, teaching, health and security services. There are small scale oyster shell crushing companies (**fig 13 & 14**) at Akuse which produce lime that is used as bonding material in house construction. The crushed oyster shell is used for terrazzo and used for white washing buildings as well as chicken feed, and is burnt.



Figure 13: Mounds of oyster shells at a shell crushing company (Source: Beatrice Darko-Yeboah)



Figure 14: An oyster shell grinding machine at Akuse (Source: Beatrice Darko-Yeboah)

3.2 Political Organization

The Amedeka community today is ruled by the assembly man who works there as a representative of the Member of Parliament (MP) for the district. Though the Assembly man rules, the various ethnic groupings still have headsmen of the various families in the community. These headsmen help in conflict resolution and are also in charge of their ethnic issues at Amedeka.

3.3 Socio-cultural Activities

Activities such as marriage funerals and festivals are performed according to how each ethnic group conducts them. As such there is no particular order in which these socio-cultural activities

are performed. For instance, according to informants, they do not celebrate a particular festival common to the people in the community. As such, people of each ethnic group travel to their various hometowns to celebrate their festivals. For instance the Krobo, move to the Krobo area to celebrate various rights and festivals, so do the other groups like the Ada, Akan, Ewe among others.

3.4 Religious activities

The dominant religion of the study area is Christianity. There are a few Muslims and the rest of the people follow the indigenous religion.

3.4.1 Christianity

The following Christian religious groups were identified in Amedeka: The Church of Pentecost, Catholic, Methodist, Presbyterian, Assemblies of God, Seventh Day Adventist and Jehovah Witness. Christianity according to informants gained momentum after the activities of the Basel Mission commenced in the area. When the Basel mission came to establish the UAC trading store and ware houses in the area, they also introduced Christianity. They established the Presbyterian Church where they worship. Later they built the Presbyterian school at Akuse for the younger generation. This shows that, though they came to the area as traders, they also introduced their religious activities or way of life to the local people. Later, other Christian churches also followed suit. As a result about 80 percent of the people in the study area now attend these churches leaving the rest who still believe and practice their indigenous religion.

3.4.2 Indigenous religion

Though Christianity is the main religion in the study area, some indigenes still engage in their African indigenous religion. They are led by a priest who communicates with God through the smaller gods at the shrine. During the study, one of such shrines was visited at Amedeka (**fig 15**). There we observed the traditional priest pray to his dieities offering drinks, money and sacrifices to appease them. Some of the materials observed in the shrine included; the whisk, used by the traditional priest to show the power that the gods have given him to heal people and cure diseases. The talisman is used by different kinds of people for protection against accident, witchcraft and so on. Olive oil, which according to the priest, is mixed with other substances or liquid to protect one against witchcraft. A pack of cigarettes also found in the shrine of Amedeka suggests the traditional priest believed the gods also smoked. Eggs were also found on the walls of the shrine with people's names inscribed on each of them. The eggs act as guard against evil people. A clay pot was also found inside the shrine. The pot, according to the priest, was used to store various herbs for curing diseases and sickness that are related to the spirits.

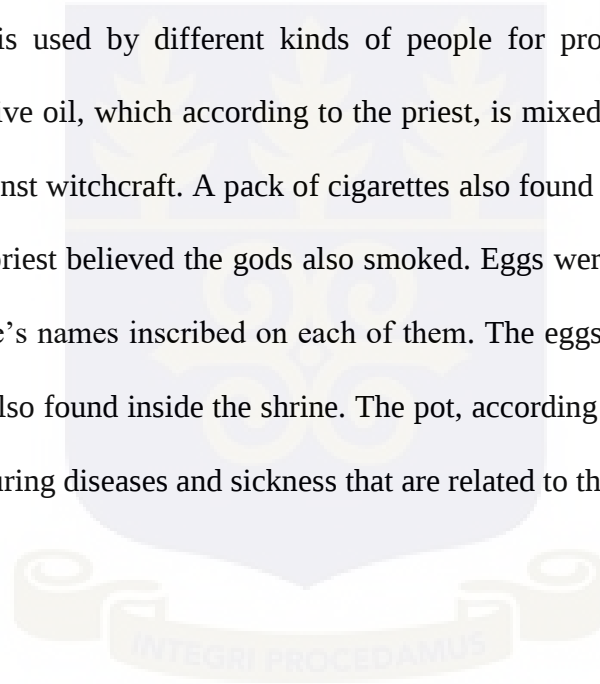


Figure 15: A shrine at Amedeka (Beatrice Darko-Yeboah)

3.5 Social stratification

The research area is demarcated into different sections in relation to the ethnic group and the social class to which individuals belong. The subdivisions in the research area include the VRA community, the Zongo community and the general community where the other ethnic groups reside.

3.5.1 Volta River Authority Community

It is a community where the Volta River Authority workers reside. It consists of schools, hospitals, recreational centres, residential houses and a bank. Their settlement is well laid and planned and has an excellent drainage system. The dress code for work is blue and black and they also have Friday wear for their workers. The Volta River Authority's crest is used as its symbol on letter heads, vehicles, structures etc. The crest consists of an outer triangle with a black border, into the apex.

3.5.2 Zongo Community

The zongo is an area where the Muslims and few non-Muslims in the community reside. Buildings are not well laid and planned and the settlement does not have proper drainage system. The community is made up of different ethnic groups mainly the Hausa, Ewe, Frafra, Akan and Dagomba. Majority of the population in the Zongo are Muslims. Some rear cattle since they have a cattle range. There is one mosque in the community where they worship. They also have an Imam who is the head of the society.

3.5.3 Akuse and Amedeka Community

Most of their buildings are of wattle and daub, galvanized roofing sheets and block. These communities are also well laid out and planned with a drainage system. There are also banks, schools, churches, hospital, post office as well as the abandoned UAC and UTC ware houses at Akuse. At Amedeka, the indigenes have used roofing sheet as their fences since it was in abundance after the collapse of the trade and the expatriates left the community. They have well laid streets in between the buildings with each ethnic group residing in a particular area. The

river Volta is found north of the community where people use for domestic purposes as well as fish in them.

3.6 Architecture

Although there was active commercial activity at Amedeka, the commercial architecture there were unlike what Europeans left on the coast, such as the building of forts and castles. Rather, most of the stores built by these companies were made of galvanized sheet except for the UAC and UTC warehouses at Akuse which have similar building materials like that used in the construction of the forts and castles at the coast. According to informants, most of the buildings at Amedeka were made of wattle and daub type of architecture until the coming of the Europeans. They introduced their style of architecture to the local people. This included the use of iron rods, cement, concrete and roofing sheets (**fig 16 - 19**). The present architecture of Amedeka is made mainly of the galvanized sheet. This type of building materials were used after the flood of 1963 had collapsed all the wattle and daub houses in the study area leaving a few. The local people therefore resorted to the use of the galvanized sheets in which they felt safe. This has been in existence till date.



Figure 16: Street of Amedeka showing some architecture styles (source: Gideon Agyari)



Figure 17: Residential unit at the UTC yard (source: Gideon Agyari)



Figure 18: The former District Commissioner office (source: Gideon Agyari)



Figure 19: The first court house built in Akuse (source: Gideon Agyari)

Other structures built by Europeans which are in existence till date are the Akuse police station, the hospital, the prisons and the Akuse Post Office all of which are believed to have been built in 1911 according to oral accounts collected. Today most building are of concrete block and cement, thus the change from the galvanized and clay kind of structure to blocks and cement.



CHAPTER FOUR

ARCHAEOLOGY OF AMEDEKA

4.0 Introduction

This chapter discusses in detail the materials recovered from the archaeological research conducted at Amedeka. In all, two units and two test pits were excavated. The first unit (unit one) was excavated beside a collapsed UAC store at the bank of the Volta River where a cluster of imported ceramic fragments and bottles were exposed by runoff erosion. The second unit (unit two) was excavated at a compound which informants associated with the first settler. East of unit two on the same compound was test pit one which was opened before unit two. The final test pit was opened along the major road that links Amedeka to Akuse, a place which was believed to have been the market where goods were brought and sold when Amedeka was a vibrant commercial center. The materials retrieved from the various units reflects the early commercial activities at Amedeka. Details of the composition of the site and excavation process are further elaborated. Classification and analysis of materials consisting of bottle fragments, local and imported ceramics and other finds are also presented and discussed.

4.1 The state of the site

According to informants, flood caused by the construction of the dam destroyed the whole of Amedeka and led to the decline of the trade even after the Europeans left. This resulted in the collapse and destruction of the stores and warehouses at the bank of the river. Some of the foundations of these buildings are still present but a sizeable amount of archaeological evidence has been destroyed as a result of erosion. There are also relics of stores of some multinational companies including the UAC, the remains of the first settler's house and some shops.

4.2 Archaeological Reconnaissance

Reconnaissance survey was conducted on the 5th of January 2015. This was done to assess the archaeological potential of the Amedeka port. The survey was done by walking along the bank of the river and observing features and artifacts on the ground. Materials such as fragments of glass wares, imported and local ceramics on the surface of the area served as a clue for the selection of areas excavated. As indicated by Sharer and Ashmore (1993:197), “ground reconnaissance can be greatly aided by the cooperation and assistance of local inhabitants who may serve as guides and indicate the location of the sites”. Local field assistants therefore helped with the location of some important areas like the first settler’s compound and the various divisions of the town. Information gathered during the preliminary investigation from the 5th to the 16th of January 2015 informed the researcher to set the 6th to 20th July 2015 as the date for additional field work (see fig 20).



Figure 20: Main Street from the river to the warehouses (Source: Beatrice Darko-Yeboah)

4.2.1 Field Mapping and Gridding

With the use of a GPS, long tape measures and other tools, various areas on the site of Amedeka were measured and mapped. These areas included the remains of the first settler's house, the collapsed story building along the major road where test pit two was excavated and the remains of some shop that were in use. Other areas that were measured and mapped included the remains of the UAC store at the bank of the Volta River, the UAC warehouse at Akuse as well as the UTC warehouse at Akuse. Instruments used included measuring tapes, pegs, tags, stadia rod, twine, prismatic compass and a notebook for recording. The selection of areas for excavation was based on judgmental sampling and oral account. The surface concentration of artifacts was also a factor. With the aid of a stadia rod and a prismatic compass, the north, south, east and west directions were located and pegged. Two measuring tapes aided in establishing the rest of the site for marking and pegging. Pegs were placed at points where the measuring tapes met. This was repeated at each of the area where excavations were conducted and grids were made (see **fig 21**).



Figure 21a: gridding of the study area

21b. Mapping of the study area

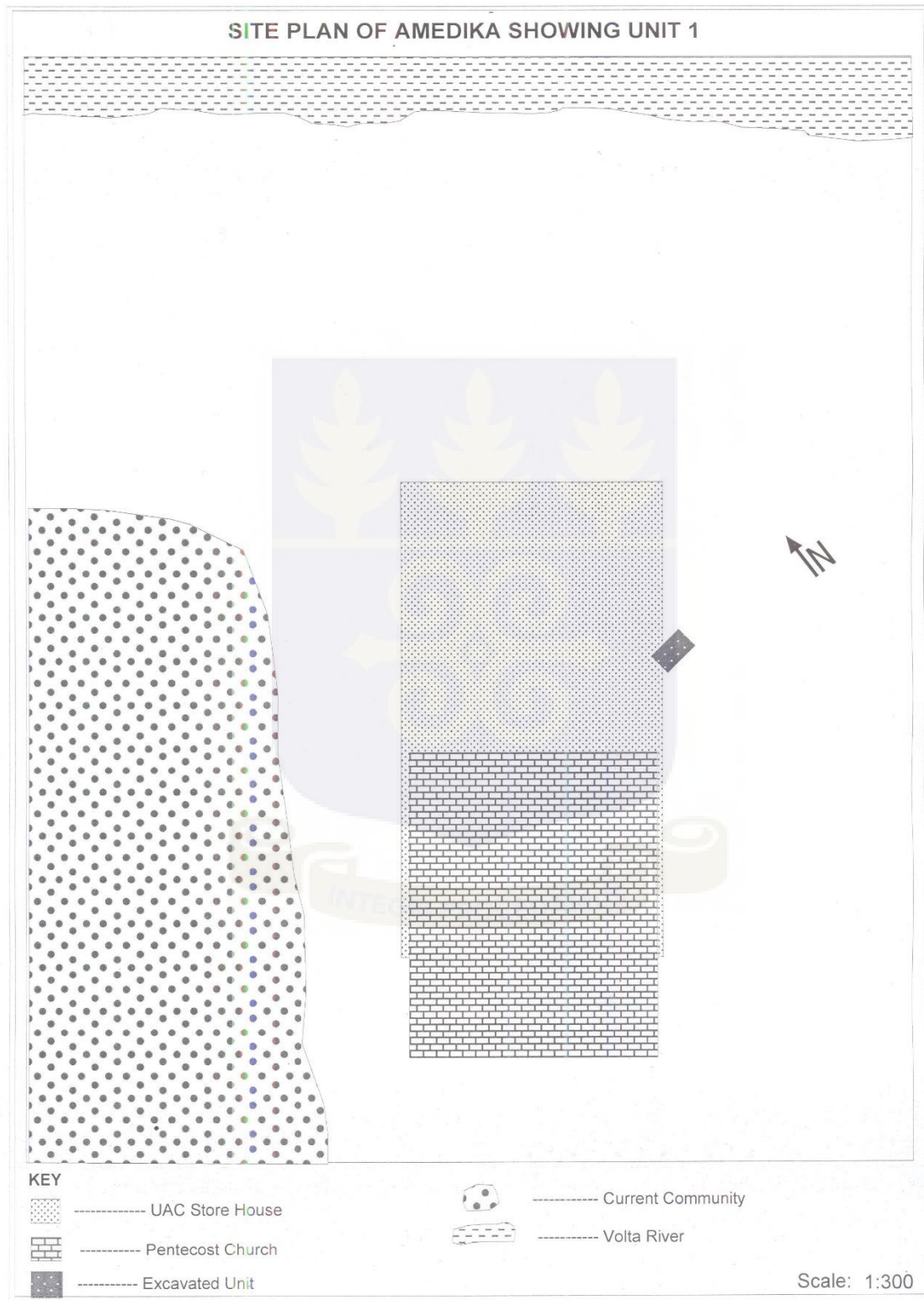
Evidence of human habitation on the site was documented in addition to photographing of informative features during reconnaissance. Some features identified included collapsed story building, cluster of potsherd and shells, part of a huge pot (see **fig 22**).



Figure 22a, b, c & d: settlement features identified at Amedeka ((source: Gideon Agyari)

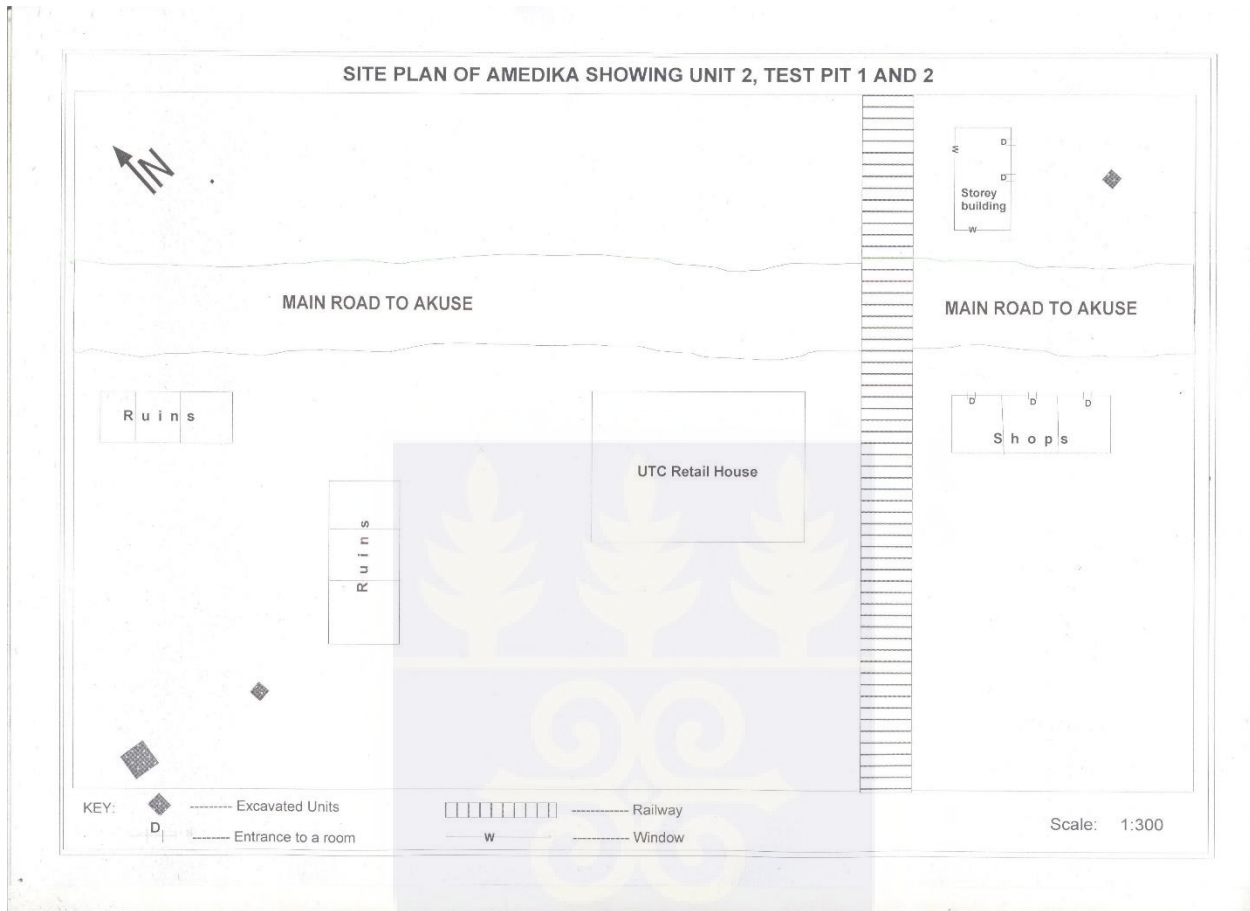
With the help of the Global Positioning System (GPS), coordinates of the mapped areas and the excavated units taken, a site plan of the research area was developed showing excavated units and other landmarks in the research area (see **map 3**).

MAP 3: SITE PLAN OF AMEDEKA SHOWING UNIT 1 (W2c)



(Source: Appiah Adu Siaw, Department of Archaeology and Heritage Studies)

MAP 4: SITE PLAN OF AMEDEKA SHOWING UNIT 2, TEST PIT 1 AND 2



(Source: Appiah Adu-siaw, Department of Archaeology and Heritage studies)

4.3 Description of Excavated units

Excavation was undertaken in order to link documentary sources and oral account with recovered archaeological materials. From the field survey that was conducted, the researcher decided to excavate two (2) units. These comprised a 2.5m x 1.5m trench and a 2m x 2m unit. Two (2) test pits, all measuring 1m x 1m were also dug. From 5th to 16th January 2015 materials were excavated as the beginning of research into the area. Some of these materials are used in this research. From 6th to 20th of July 2015 additional research was conducted in the area for

further studies. A 20cm arbitrary level was used throughout the excavation. Materials were removed with the help of the hand trowel, hand picks and brushes. Soils were screened to obtain smaller artifacts and ecofacts.

4.3.1 Unit 1 (W2C)

This unit was selected at the bank of the river, close to the foundation of a former UAC store. The area was cleared and gridded. Ten 2m x 2m grids were made and surface collection was done. Afterwards, unit W2c was chosen for excavation, as it was disturbed by erosion and cultural materials it contained were exposed and were being destroyed. Initially this unit was a 2m x 1m unit as a result of a foundation of the UAC store preventing the researcher to have a 2m x 2m square as proposed, but in July, it was extended to a 2.5m x 1.5m unit (**fig 23**). Using arbitrary levels of 20cm, seven levels were excavated to the sterile layer. During the first phase the soil was easy to sieve but during the second phase, it became difficult at a point due to a heavy rain that filled up the pit and made clay soils wet. The only choice was to use water to wash the soil as it was poured in the sieve. The surface materials collected included 20 bottles fragments, 30 fragment of imported ceramics, 6 shells, 14 fragments of local pottery and 7 pieces of metals adding up to 77 cultural materials.

Level 1 (0 - 20cm) yielded 33 bottles fragments, 15 fragments of imported ceramics, 2 shells, 1 cowry and 5 fragments of local ceramics, making a total of 56 cultural materials were found.

Level 2 (20cm – 40cm) yielded 61 fragments of imported ceramics, 1 shell, 1 cowry, 4 fragments of local ceramics and 21 pieces of metal, making a total of 88 cultural materials were found. Level 3 (40 – 60cm) yielded 133 bottles fragments, 67 fragments of imported ceramics, 1

shell, 3 fragments of local ceramics and 18 pieces of metals, making a total of 222 cultural materials were found. Level 4 (60 – 80cm) yielded 90 bottles fragments, 95 fragments of imported ceramics, 3 shell, 24 pieces of metals, making a total of 212 cultural materials were found. Level 5 (80 – 100cm) yielded 98 bottles fragments, 75 fragments of imported ceramics, 15 shell, 2 cowry, 3 fragments of local ceramics, 7 pieces of metals and 2 pieces of imported smoking pipe (one bowl and one stem), making a total of 202 cultural materials were found. Level 6 (100 – 120cm) yielded 245 bottles fragments, 194 fragments of imported ceramics, 6 shell, 12 pieces of metals and 2 pieces of imported smoking pipe (one bowl and one stem), making a total of 459 cultural materials were found. Level 7 (120 – 140cm) did not yield any cultural materials. This showed the sterile layer of the unit. In all, a total of 619 bottle fragments, 537 fragments of imported ceramics, 34 oyster shells, 4 cowry, 1 bead 29 fragments of local ceramics, 89 pieces of metals and 4 pieces of imported smoking pipes were collected from unit one, making a total of 1,317 materials from unit one (see **Table 1**).

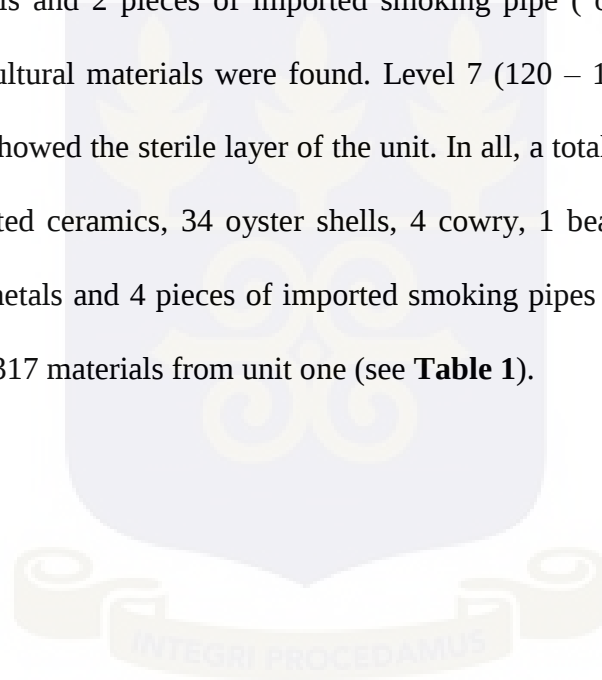


Table 1: Frequency of cultural materials from Unit 1 (W2c)

Levels (cm)	Bottle fragments	Imported ceramics	Local ceramics	Shells	Cowry	Metals	Imported Smoking pipes	Total
Surface	20	30	14	6	-	7	-	77
L 1 (0-20)	33	15	5	2	1	-	-	56
L 2 (20-40)	-	60	4	1	1	21	-	87
L 3 (40-60)	133	67	3	1	-	18	-	222
L 4 (60-80)	90	95	-	3	-	24	-	212
L 5 (80-100)	98	75	3	15	2	7	2	202
L 6 (100-120)	245	194	-	6	1	12	2	460
Total	619	536	29	34	5	89	4	1,316
Percentage	47%	40.7%	2.2%	2.6%	0.4%	6.8%	0.3%	100%



Figure 23: Unit 1 (W2c) (source: Gideon Agyari)

The unit consisted of four natural levels in the stratigraphic profile. The first level constituted black soil with rootlets. This was followed by a brown soil with a huge root included. Underlying the second level is a dark brown soil with a concentration of imported ceramics and an iron bar inclusions. The final level constituted reddish yellow compact clay leading down to the sterile with another iron bar protruding into the wall (see **fig 24**). The stratigraphic profiles of the North and west walls of the units have been illustrated

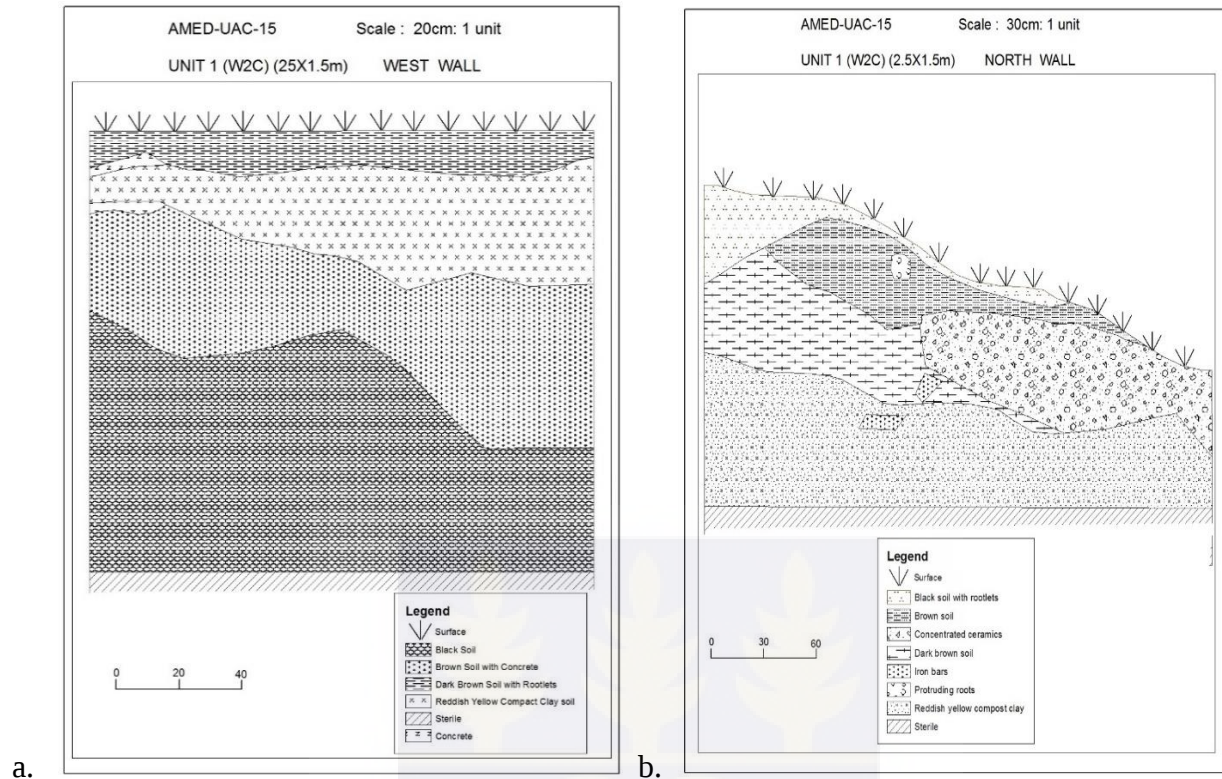


Figure 24a & b: stratigraphic profile of Unit one (W2c) North and west walls (Source: George Owusu)

4.3.2 Test pit one

This unit was located to the east of Unit 2 (**fig 25**). It consisted of a 1m x 1m which was dug to 20m arbitrary level. 3 levels were excavated and retrieved three 3 artifacts. Level 1 (0cm-20cm) did not yield any cultural materials. Level 2 (20cm-40cm) yielded 2 pieces of daub, 3 fragments of bottles and 1 fragment of European ceramic. Level 3 (40cm-60cm) did not yield any cultural material thus the sterile level. This I attributed to the fact that rubbish from the house was not dumped on that part of the compound but somewhere else or was sent outside the house to be thrown away. In all, a total of 3 bottle fragments, 2 pieces of daub and 1 fragments of imported

ceramics, were collected from test pit one, making a total of 6 cultural materials found (see **table 2**).

Table 2: Frequency of finds from Test pit 1

Levels (cm)	Bottle fragments	Imported ceramic	Daub	Total
Surface	-	-	-	-
Level 1 (0-20)	-	-	2	2
Level 2 (20-40)	3	1	-	4
Level 3 (40-60)	-	-	-	-
Total	3	1	2	6
Percentage	50%	16.7%	33.3%	100%



Figure 25: Test pit one (source: Gideon Agyari)

The pit consisted of two natural levels in the stratigraphic profile. The first level constituted dark brown soil with rootlets which was followed by a reddish yellow compact clay soil down to the sterile. This two natural levels had little artifacts measuring from 40cm – 60cm. The sterile level had no artifact in it (see **fig 26**). The stratigraphic profile of the North and south walls have been illustrated.

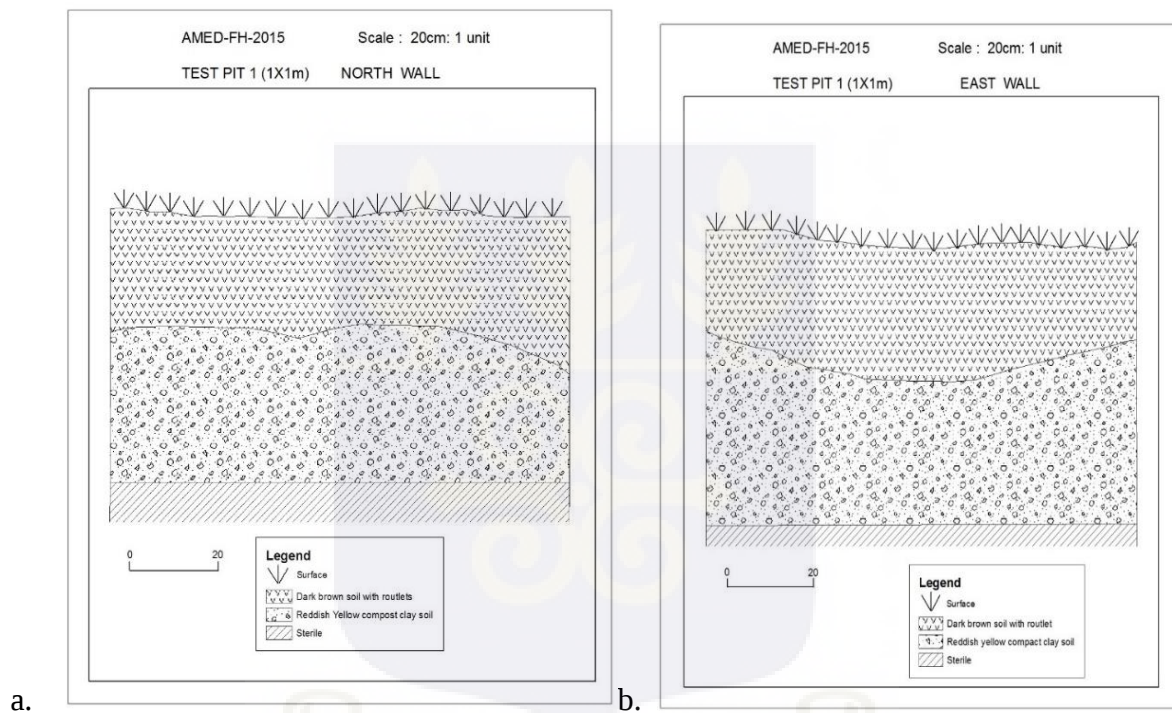


Figure 26a & b: stratigraphic profile of Test pit one North and East walls (source: George Owusu)

4.3.3 Unit two (FH)

The location of this unit was influenced by surface features, the nature of the soil and the kind of trees there (**fig 27**). Initially the unit was a 1m x 1m pit but after reaching level 2, there were intrusions of cultural material, thus it was extended into a 1m x 2m trench. It was excavated by

20cm arbitrary levels. Upon attaining level 3 there was a downpour and the work was halted. Sterile level was reached after level 3 but there was a change in color of soil at the middle of the south wall and water coming out of it. We therefore had to extend the unit again into a 2m x 2m unit. The unit was excavated by 20cm arbitrary levels. According to informants, the pot was probably buried there for safe keeping a very important material or property. In all 7 levels including the sterile were attained.

The surface materials collected included 4 bottles fragments, 3 fragment of imported ceramics, 2 shells, 25 fragments of local ceramics and 2 pieces of metals, making a total of 36 cultural materials.

At level 1 (0 - 20cm), a total of 367 cultural materials were found. They included 12 bottles fragments, 12 fragments of imported ceramics, 2 beads, 8 pieces of daub, 236 shells and 58 fragments of local ceramics. The total number of artefacts found at level 2 (20 – 40cm) was 214. They included 30 bottle fragments, 24 fragments of imported ceramics, 21 shell, 72 fragments of local ceramics, 3 pieces of roofing slates and 61 pieces of metal. Level 3 (40 – 60cm) yielded 73 cultural materials. They included 4 fragment of imported ceramics, 37 shell, 23 fragments of local ceramics, 2 pieces of roofing slate, 6 pieces of daub and 1 pieces of metal. Level 4 (60 – 80) yielded 1 fragments of local ceramic, level 5 (80 – 100) yielded 3 fragments of local ceramics and level 6 (100 – 120) yielded a pot with pedestal containing 3 black stones and a brownish shell and covered with another bowl and plastic bag.

In all, a total of 46 bottle fragments, 43 fragments of imported ceramics, 5 pieces of slate, 1 bead, 296 oyster shells, 192 fragments of local ceramic, 98 pieces of metals, 17 pieces of daub

and 5 plastics were collected from unit two, making a total of 703 materials from unit two (see **table 3**) below.

Table 3: Frequency of finds from Unit 2 (FH)

Levels (cm)	Bottle fragment	Imported ceramics	Local ceramics	Metal objects	Daub	Shells	Roofing slate	Beads	stone	Total
Surface	4	3	25	2	-	2	-	-	-	36
L1 (0-20)	12	12	58	34	8	236	-	2	-	362
L 2 (20-40)	30	24	72	61	3	21	3	-	-	214
L 3 (40-60)	-	4	23	1	6	37	2	-	-	73
L 4 (60-80)	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
L 5 (80-100)	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
L6 (100-120)	-	-	10	-	-	1	-	-	3	14
Total	46	43	192	98	17	296	5	2	3	702
Percentage	6.6%	6.1%	27.4%	14%	2.4%	42.2%	0.7%	0.3%	0.4%	100



Figure 27: Unit 2 (FH) (source: Gideon Agyari)

Unit two constituted four natural levels in the stratigraphic profile. The first level was made up of very dark brown soil. It was followed by a black soil with very tiny rootlets which were not too visible. The next level constituted very dark grayish brown soil which was followed by a reddish yellow compact clay soil down to the sterile (see **fig 28**).

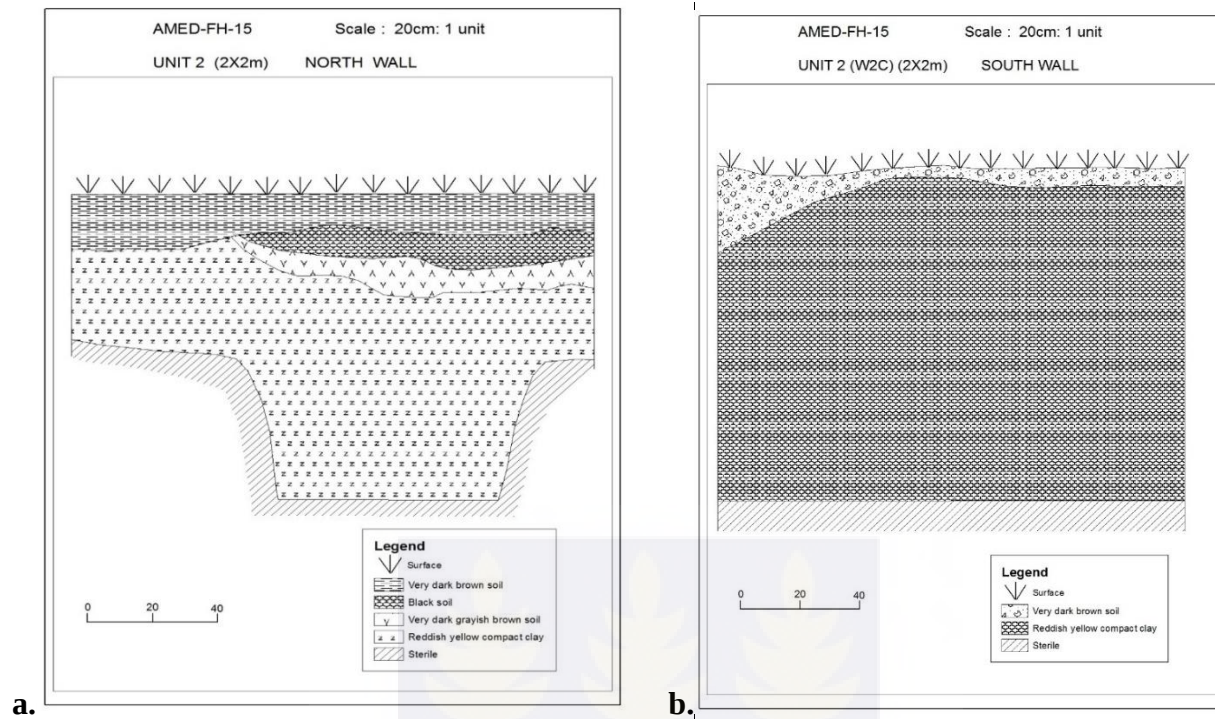


Figure 28a & b: stratigraphic profile of Unit 2 North and south walls (Source: George Owusu)

4.3.4 Test pit 2 (SB)

This unit was located besides a collapsed story building just along the main street of Amedeka (fig 29). According to informants, the area was a market where goods were sold and exchanged during the time when Amedeka was a vibrant commercial center. It consisted of a 1mx1m which was dug at 20cm arbitrary levels. In all 5 levels were excavated. The materials retrieved included, a bottle fragment and a piece of metal on the surface. Level one (0 – 20cm) produced 6 local ceramics, 4 bottle fragments, 1 imported ceramic and 5 metal pieces making a total of 16 cultural materials found. Level two (20 – 40cm) produced 38 local ceramics, 9 bottle fragments, 2 fragments of imported ceramics, 2 beads, 6 pieces of bones, 15 shells and 40 metal pieces making a total of 116 cultural materials found. Level three (40 – 60cm) produced 14 local

ceramics, 11 bottle fragments, 1 fragment of imported ceramics, 5 pieces of bones, 46 shells, 1 lime and 28 metal pieces making a total of 106 cultural materials found. Level four (60 – 80cm) produced 2 pieces of bones and 2 pieces of roofing slates. Sterile was hit at level five (80 – 100) with the soil changing to reddish yellow compact clay.

In all, a total of 25 bottle fragments, 4 fragments of imported ceramics, 2 beads, 61 oyster shells, 58 fragments of local ceramics, 73 pieces of metals, 1 lime and 12 pieces of bones were collected from test pit 2 making a total of 236 materials found (see **table 4**).

Table 4: Frequency of finds from Test pit 2 (SB)

Levels (cm)	Glass fragment	Imported ceramics	Local ceramics	Metal objects	Bones	Shells	Lime	Roofing slate	Bead	Total
Surface	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
L1 (0-20)	4	1	6	5	-	-	-	-	-	16
L 2 (20-40)	9	2	38	40	5	15	-	-	2	109
L 3 (40-60)	11	1	14	28	5	46	1	-	-	106
L 4 (60-80)	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	2	-	2
Total	25	4	60	73	12	61	1	2	2	232
Percentage	10.8%	1.7%	25.9%	31.5%	5.2%	26.3%	0.4%	0.9%	0.9%	100%



Figure 29: Test pit two (source: Gideon Agyari)

Test pit two constituted three natural levels in the stratigraphic profile. The first level consisted of dark brown soil with concrete inclusions making excavation difficult. This was followed by a dark loose soil with charcoal layer inside of it. The final level constituted reddish yellowish compact clay with less artifact in there. This was followed by the sterile where no artifact was found (see **fig 30**).

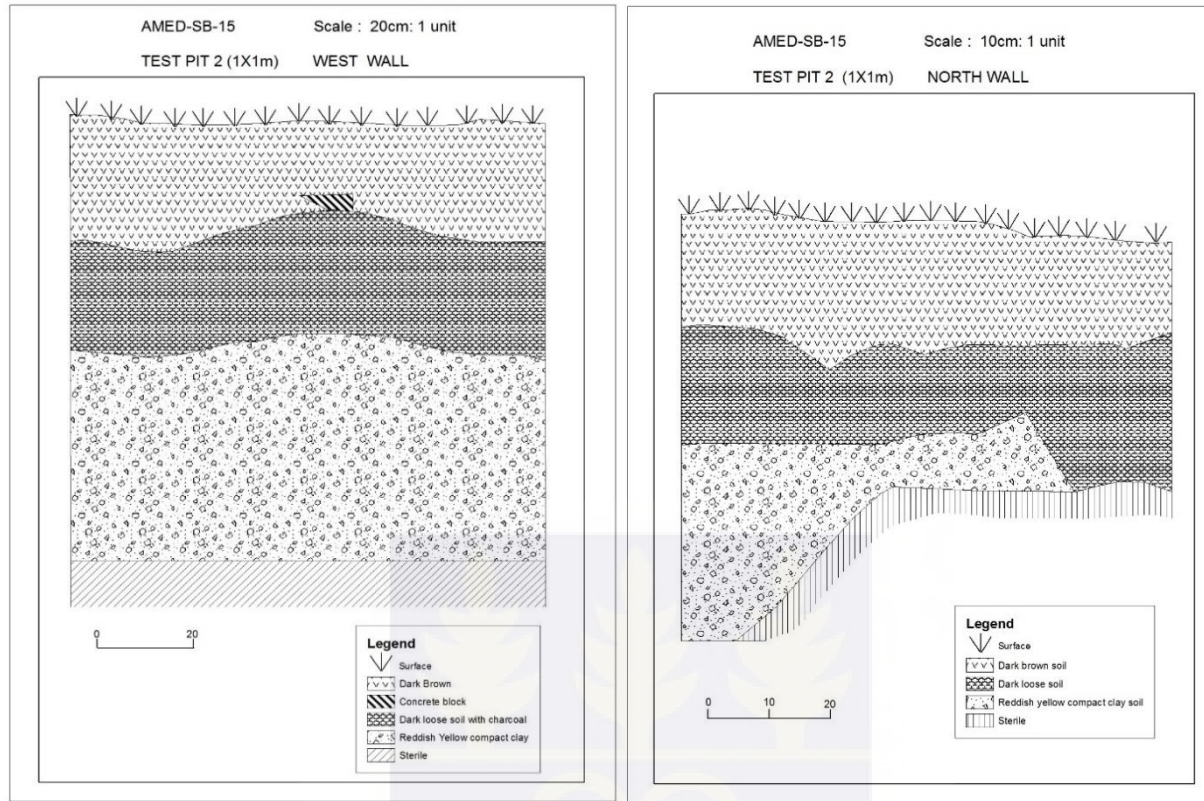


Figure 30: stratigraphic profile of test pit 2 north and west walls (source: George Owusu)

Table 5: SUMMARY OF ARTIFACTS FROM AMEDEKA, 2015

Artifact categories and material remains	Surface	Unit: w2c/ Unit 1	Unit 2 (FH)	Test pit 1	Test pit 2	Total count	% of total
Glass fragment	25	619	46	3	25	718	30%
Imported ceramic	33	537	43	1	4	618	26%
Local ceramic sheds	39	29	192	-	52	281	14%
Metal objects	9	89	98	-	73	269	11%
Daub	-	-	17	2	-	19	1%
Shell	8	34	296	-	61	399	17%
Stones	-	-	3	-	-	3	0.2%
Bones	-	-	-	-	12	12	1%
Cowry	-	4	-	-	-	4	0.1%
Smoking pipes	-	4	-	-	-	4	0.1%
Lime	-	-	-	-	1	1	0.04%
Slate	-	-	5	-	2	7	0.2%
Bead	-	-	2	-	2	4	0.1%
TOTAL	114	1,316	702	6	232	2,327	100%

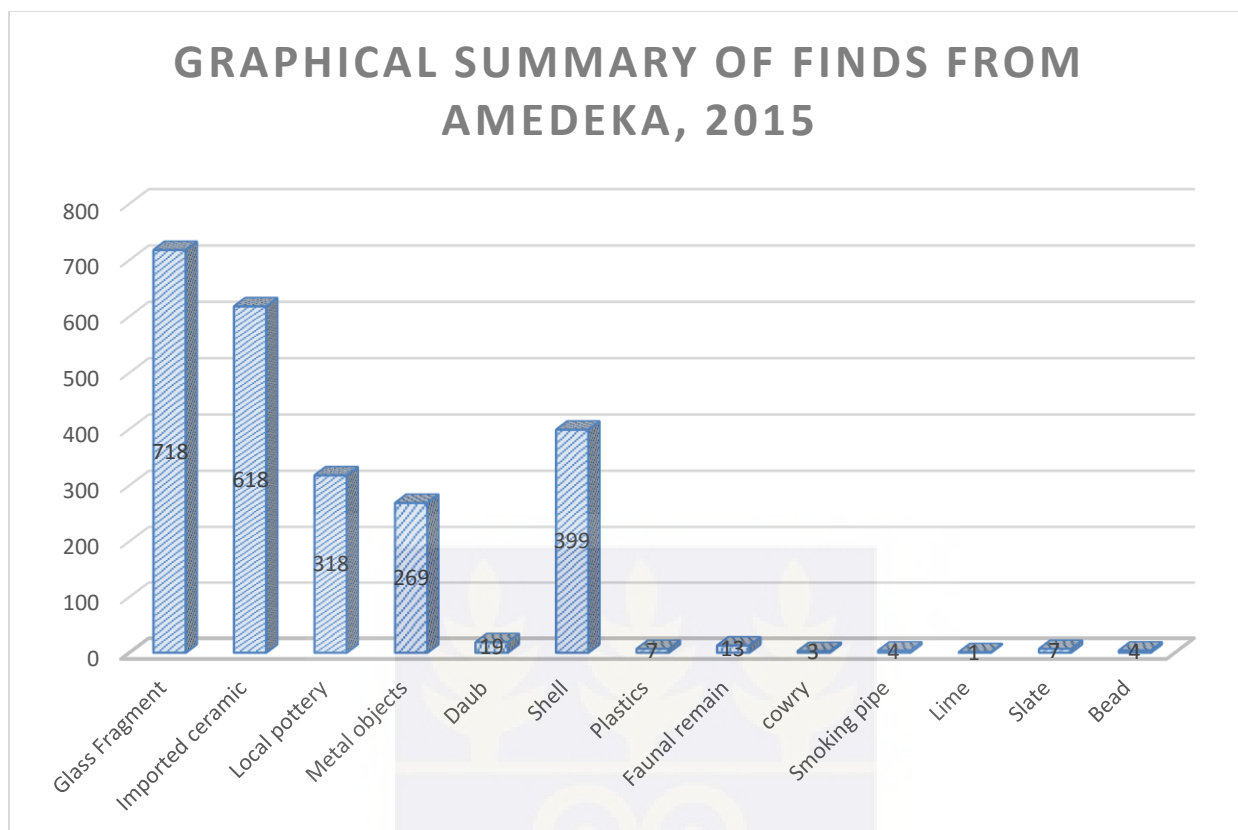


Chart 1: Graphical summary of finds from Amedeka

4.4 Classification and Analysis of finds from Amedeka

4.4.1 Local Ceramics

From the excavation at Amedeka, a total of 279 fragments of local ceramics was recovered. The site did not produce a lot of local potsherds as compared to glass and imported ceramics. The potsherds were grouped into various categories based on the rim form, temper and texture, size and thickness as well as surface treatment. The various potsherd type included the rim, neck, body, shoulder were grouped according the four units. The body constituted the bulk of them all. The distribution of sherds as found in the various units is shown in **table 6**.

Table 6: the distribution of sherd type across units

Unit	Base	Rim	Neck	Body	Handel	Pedestal	Shoulder	Total
One	-	12	1	16	-	-	-	29
Two	-	35	3	150	1	1	2	192
T. P. 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
T. P. 2	5	16	-	37	-	-	-	58
Total	5	63	4	203	1	1	2	279
Percentage	2%	23%	1.4%	73%	0.4%	0.4%	0.7%	100%

The table above represents the various parts of vessels that were distributed across the units. They included; the base, rim, neck, body, handle pedestal and shoulder. In all, a total of 279 potsherds were retrieved. The potsherd with the highest was the body, representing 73% of the total potsherd. This was followed by the rim 23%, the base 2%.

Table 7: Distribution of Rim Forms across units

Unit	Everted	Inverted	Total
One	9	3	12
Two	25	10	35
T. P. 1	-	-	0
T. P. 2	8	8	16
Total	42	21	63
Percentage	67%	33%	100%

The table represent the distribution of rim forms across the units excavated. This helped the researcher to determine the type of pottery that was used whether they were bowls or jars and their various forms. In all a total of 63 potsherds represented the rim. 67% of them were everted and 33% inverted. Showing only two types of rim forms. See **table 7 above**.

4.4.1.1 Size of sherds

The potsherds were dominated by large sized sherds with a diameter of 11-15cm constituted 51% of the total sherds. Small and medium sized sherd with a diameter of 0-5cm and 5-10cm respectively constituted 49% of the total sherd from the excavations (see **table 8**).

Table 8: Size of potsherds from Amedeka

Unit/ level (cm)	0-5cm	5-10cm	11 – 15cm	TOTAL
U 1 / surface	3	5	6	14
L1	1	1	3	5
L2	2	-	2	4
L3	3	-	-	3
L5	3	-	-	3
U2 / surface	8	7	10	25
L1	49	6	3	58
L2	29	23	20	72
L3	6	10	7	23

L4	-	1	-	1
L5	-	2	1	3
L6	-	5	5	10
T.P.2 / L1	3	3	-	6
L2	25	10	3	38
L3	11	-	3	14
TOTAL	143	73	63	279
PERCENTAGE	51	32	17	100%

4.4.1.2 Thickness of potsherd

Sherd thickness was measured with a caliper and classified as thin (0-4mm), medium (4-6mm) and thick (6mm and above). 56 sherds representing 20% of the total sherd recovered from Amedeka were thin, 88 sherds (32%) were medium sized while 135 sherds representing 48% were thick (see **table 9**). Analysis also revealed that, most of the rim sherds were thick while the body sherds were either thin or medium size.

Table 9: Thickness of potsherds from Amedeka

Unit/ level (cm)	Thin (0-4mm)	Medium (4-6mm)	Thick (6mm and above)
U 1 / surface	8	3	3
L1	2	-	3
L2	-	1	3
L3	-	3	-
L5	3	-	-
U2 / surface	-	11	14
L1	21	17	20
L2	5	22	45
L3	5	15	3
L4	1	-	-
L5	-	-	3
L6	-	3	7
T.P.2 / L1	3	1	2
L2	6	4	28
L3	2	8	4
TOTAL	56	88	135
PERCENTAGE	20	32	48

4.4.1.3 Texture and Temper of sherds

Through careful observation of the materials used in the pottery from Amedeka with the help of a magnifying glass, the ceramics are grouped on the basis of texture as fine grained and coarse grained. 214 sherd (76.7%) were fine grained, 54 sherds representing 19.4% were coarse grained sherds (see **table 10**). Of the potsherds collected 3 of them were micaceous, the mica being part of the temper or included in the clay and the remaining 8 sherds had micaceous inclusions in the interior and exterior of the pots and not in the paste the pot.

Table 10: Distribution of Texture and Temper of Potsherd across units

Unit	Fine Grained	Course Grained	Mica	Total
One	26	3	1	30
Two	130	51	10	191
T. P. 1	-	-	-	-
T. P. 2	58	-	-	-
Total	214	54	11	221
Percentage	76.7%	19.4%	3.9%	100%

4.4.1.4 Surface Treatment and decoration

Surface treatment generally indicates how the surface of the vessel was finished. Surface treatment serves technological, aesthetic and symbolic functions. In examining the potsherds that

were retrieved three main categories of surface finish, surface wash and impressed decorations were distinguished.

(a) Surface finish

Surface finish involves the activities that were performed on the surface of the pot including burnishing, slipping and smudging.

Burnishing is done by rubbing the surface of the leather hard vessel with a smooth object such as a pebble. The polished surface appears shinny with the pores of the vessel sealed and rendering the vessel wall virtual impervious (Crossland 1989: 58; Joukowsky 1980: 380). A total of 155 of the potsherds were burnished forming 56% of the total assemblage. 14 of them were recovered from unit one, 111 from unit 2 and 30 from test pit two (see **table 11**). This shows that the greater number of potsherds from Amedeka were burnished. Also 11% of the total assemblage were slipped and burnished and 1% was smudged and burnished. It can therefore be said that burnishing was common to pottery found at Amedeka.

Smudging involves darkening the outer surface of the vessel consciously. This can be done by adding fresh leaves, chaff, husk or grass into fire during the process of firing thereby reducing the supply of oxygen. It can also be obtained through the use of pots on fire during cooking. Only 7 pieces of potsherds were identified as smudged forming 3% of the total assemblage. 6 of them were from unit two and the other one from test pit two (see **table 11**). Two of the sherds were smudged and burnished representing 1% of the total assemblage.

Slipping is done by applying a prepared red hematite solution which is made from adding water to laterite or red clay (see **table 11**). The solution is applied on the dry unburnished surface of a pot with the aid of a piece of cloth or brush (Crossland 1989: 59). 15% of the potsherds were

slipped with one from unit one, 40 from unit two and another 2 from test pit two making a total of 43 potsherds.

(b) Surface Decoration

This involves making impressions on the body of the vessel to create various designs. Two main decorative impressions were identified on the Amedeka pottery. They include incision and grooving. The majority of the sherds were undecorated and formed 94% of the total number of potsherds (see **table 11**). This shows that, just a few of the potsherds had the two impressed designs main mentioned above.

Incision is done when a pointed or sharp object is dragged quickly over the surface of the leather hard clay. In the process, clay is displaced along the path of the sharp object and is deposited along the sides of the incised line or rolled in front of the implement (Crossland 1989: 58). The cross-section of incision impressions on pots are usually V-shaped. 14 of the sherds from the site had this type of decoration on them. 1 from unit one, 7 from unit 2 and 6 from test pit 2 forming 5% of the total assemblage.

Grooving on the other hand is achieved when a blunt object is pulled over the leather hard clay surface to produce a fairly broad depressed line, usually a U-shaped cross section (Crossland 1989: 57). Only three sherds had shallow grooves on them forming 1% of the total assemblage. All three were from unit two of the excavated unit.

Table 11: Distribution of Surface Treatment across units

Units	Total no. of sherds	Surface finish					Decoration		
		Burnished	Unburnished	Smudged	Red- slipped	Plain	Groove	Incision	Undecorated
One	29	14	15	-	1	28	-	1	28
Two	192	111	81	6	40	146	3	8	181
T.P. 1	-			-	-	-	-	-	-
T.P. 2	58	30	28	2	2	54	-	6	52
Total	279	155	124	8	43	228	3	15	261
%	100%	55.6%	44.4%	2.9%	15.4%	81.7%	1%	5%	94%

4.4.1.5 Vessel Forms

Two main vessel forms were identified in Amedeka local pottery. These were bowl forms and jar forms. The jar and bowl forms recovered have been further classified based on the rim diameter, vessel profile and examination of morphology as well as the nature of the neck. Most of the rim forms are too small to determine their rim diameters, as such the vessels with rim diameters that are easy to analyze have been used.

(a) Bowl Forms

Bowl forms have the maximum breadth greater than the maximum height. From excavations at Amedeka 6 main types of bowl forms were classified and analyzed.

(i) Bowl form 1

This type of bowl form is roundly shaped and has its round surface like a pot (see **fig 31**). It has an everted rim with and shallow groove on the lip and its neck. It is smudged and burnished both in the interior and exterior surfaces. The average diameter of this rim is 22cm with its radius 11cm. This type of bowl is in the category of medium bowl form (15-25cm diameter) as described by DeCorse (DeCorse 1998: 12). It could probably be used as a soup bowl or a cooking pot since all the pores on the pot have been sealed. From the rim to the neck measures 2mm. A total of 2 sherds belonged to this category, both from unit 2 level 6 of the excavated units.



Figure 31: Bowl form 1 (source: Gideon Agyari)

(ii) Bowl form 2

This type of bowl form is carinated on the shoulder with large grooved neck and thick lip and incision on the interior surface of the rim (see **fig 32**). The average diameter of the rim .This type of bowl is in the category of medium bowl form (15-25cm diameter) as described by DeCorse (DeCorse 1998: 12). It is smudged both in the internal and external surfaces. A total of 6 sherds belonged to this category with 4 from unit one and 2 from unit two.



Figure 32: Bowl form 2 (source: Gideon Agyari)

(iii) Bowls form 3

This is a bowl form with a pendant rim which angularly flattened on its exterior rim edge with incision and hangs downwards (see **fig 33**). These bowl forms have thick and squared lips over a

medium size body. The lip diameter ranges between 10mm-12mm. The rim has a diameter ranges between 24cm-27cm. It is found in the category of a large size bowl with a slightly rounded base as described by DeCorse 1998: 12 and Joukowsky 1980: 353. A total of 4 sherds belonged to this category, both from unit two of the excavated units



Figure 33: Bowl form 3 (source: Gideon Agyari)

(iv) Bowl form 4

This type of bowl forms have multiple grooves on the lip and a smaller neck in between the rim and the shoulder. It also has a sloping shoulder connecting the neck to the body (see **fig 34**). It is smooth both on the exterior surface and the interior surface. This particular rim has a diameter of 19cm and an average radius of 9.5cm. It falls in the category of medium bowl form (15-25cm diameter) (DeCorse 1998: 12). It could probably be used as a soup port or used in cooking. This

is because, most pots are smoothened inside and out in order to seal the pores on them for use. From the lip to the neck measures 2.5 mm. A total of 8 sherds belonged to this category, 5 from unit two level 2 and the remaining 3 from level 2 of the same unit.



Figure 34: Bowl form 4 (source: Gideon Agyari)

(v) Bowl form 5

It is a flat bottom base bowl in the form of a plate. It has a flat top with a very small body to the base (see **fig 35**). The horizontal rim is parallel to the base of the bowl (Joukowsky 1980: 353). It has a rim diameter of 23cm and a radius of approximately 12cm. It is found in the category of medium bowl (15-25cm) (DeCorse 1998: 13). The lip to the neck measures 1.9mm. Just one

fragment was recovered from level 6 of unit 2 which was used to cover the pot containing three stones and a brown shell interpreted as being used for storage.



Figure 35: Bowl form 5 (source: Gideon Agyari)

(vi) **Bowl form 6**

It falls under a plain inverted rim which may be either sloping or vertical in nature (Joukowsky 1980: 351) with a slightly rounded base (see **fig 36**). The inside has multiple incisions in them which allows the pot to be used for grinding purpose. The rim has a diameter of 22cm and 24cm and a radius of 11cm and 12cm. It is found in the category of a medium size bowl (15-25cm diameter) (Decorse 1998: 12). A total of 20 sherds belonged to this category, 5 from unit one, 9 from unit two and the remaining 6 from test pit two.



Figure 36: Bowl form 6(source: Gideon Agyari)

(b) Jar form

Jar forms are identified by having maximum height greater than maximum breadth. From excavations at Amedeka 3 main types of jar forms were observed.

(i) Jar form 1

This is a short narrow rim that joins the body of the vessel at a noticeably sharp angle with a radius of 11cm (see **fig 37**). It falls under the classification of medium globular pots or jar vessels (15-25cm diameter) with a diameter of 22cm. It has a smooth surface both in the inside and the outside without any decorations. It was found in unit two level 6 with a shell and 3 black stones inside with a bowl covering it. From oral account, it is believed to have been used to hide some important materials and were later removed, thus it not being whole. Or that it was used for ritual

purpose. From the lip to the neck measures 2.8mm. A total of 2 sherds belonged to this category, one from level 2 of unit 2 and the other from level 6 of the same unit.



Figure 37: Jar form 1 (source: Gideon Agyari)

(ii) Jar form 2

This is a pot with broader rim that joins the body of the vessel at a less conspicuous angle at an average radius of 15cm (see **fig 38**). It falls under the classification of restricted slightly elongated neck jar vessel (25-50cm diameter) with a diameter of 29cm which falls under the pot. The rim lip is squared-shaped with shallow grooves on the exterior and interior surfaces around the lip. The exterior surface is red-slipped and smudged at the rim. Could probably be used for

storage. From the lip to the neck measures 4mm. A total of 11 sherds belonged to this category, 6 from unit one, 2 from unit two and the remaining 3 from test pit two.



Figure 38: Jar form 2 (source: Gideon Agyari)

(iii) Jar form 3

It has a short pointed thick rim with elongated neck with flared lip with the shape of the body probably globular (see **fig 39**). It has a diameter of 22cm with radius of 11cm and thus, classified under the category of medium jar vessel (15-25cm diameter). It is burnished and red-slipped on the external surface as well as the internal surface of the rim. The internal surface of the jar has an irregular surface with holes on them. This could probably be an indication that the jar was used as a storage port as opposed to a cooking pot. The rim has 3 single grooves around the lip

and a single groove at the neck in the interior. From the lip to the neck measures 3.2mm. A total of 9 sherds belonged to this category, 2 from the surface, one from level one, 3 from level 2, 1 from level 3 and 2 from level 5 all of unit two.



Figure 39: Jar form 3 (source: Gideon Agyari)

4.5 Glazed Ceramics

A total of 618 fragments of glazed ceramics were recovered from excavations at Amedeka. 33 of them were surface collection, 537 from unit one, 43 from unit 2, 1 from test pit one and 4 from test pit 2. The fragments consist of earthenware's, porcelain and stoneware of English and Dutch origin dating to between 18th and the 20th centuries. Some of them have been identified as plates, spice vessels and chamber pots. The various types of glazed ceramics and their origin and chronology are shown in **table 12**.

Table 12: Trade Ceramics from Amedeka 2015

Type of Ware	Description	Origin	Date	Quantity
CREAMWARE	Undecorated “light” (shanks)	England	1762 – 1820 (DeCorse 2001 : 152) 1775 – 1820 (South 1977 : 212)	1
	Over glazed enameled hand painted cream ware. (probably a spice bottle)		1765 – 1810 (South 1977 : 212)	1
PEARLWARE	Plain White	England	1780 – 1830 (DeCorse 2001: 153)	2
	Transfer printed in light green, blue and purple	England	1787 – 1840 (Brown 1982 :5) 1795 – 1840 (South 1977 : 212) 1790 – 1840 (DeCorse 2001: 153)	2
	Hand painted polychrome floral motifs in marine blue, maroon, brown and green	Holland	-	5
WHITEWARE	Plain	England	1820 – 1900 (DeCorse 2001 : 153)	364
	Blue annular under glazed decoration with gold linear band polychrome	England	1820 – 1870 (DeCorse 2001 : 153) 1830 - 1860 (Brown 1982: 6)	36
	Under glazed hand painted polychrome floral motifs in light green, dark green and maroon	England	1840 – 1873 (DeCorse 2001 : 153) 1830 – 1900 (Brown 1982 : 6)	3

	Annular decorated ware in brown and dark green thick line style	England	1820 – 1870 (DeCorse 2001: 153) 1830 – 1860 (Brown 1982 : 6)	4
	Cut-Sponge stamped floral patterned in black and maroon		1845 – 1870 (DeCorse 2001 : 153) 1830 – 1871 (Brown 1982 : 6)	1
	Sponge – stenciled decoration in blue with fine annular rings on rim		1830 – 1873 (DeCorse 2001 : 153)	10
	Cut- sponge stamped with geometric patterned in blue		1845 – 1873 (DeCorse 2001: 153)	2
	Cut – sponge stamped with hand painted lines		1845 – 1873 (DeCorse 2001: 153) 19 th century (Majewski and Schiffer 2011: 201)	3
	Hand painted polychrome and floral motifs (with Gadrooned edges)		1830 – 1900 + (Brown 1982 : 6) 1820 – 1870 (DeCorse 2001: 153)	2
SEMI-PORCELAIN & PORCELAIN	Plain	England Staffordshire Potteries	Early 19 th century	56
STONEWARE	Vintage stoneware earthenware flagon	England	1840-1900	2

4.5.1 Earthenware

The pieces of earthenware from the excavations comprised of 2 cream wares, 9 pearl wares and 425 white wares. The cream ware is cross-dated to ceramics found by DeCorse and South which range between c. 1762 and 1820 (DeCorse 2001: 152; South 1977: 212) and is of English origin. This ware includes an undecorated shanks/Chamber pot and an over glazed enamel hand painted ware which was probably used as a spice bottle (see **fig 40**). According to Hume (1979: 145-150) chamber pots was initially made of silver until it was copied by the Pewters and porters. The common of which is those of pottery found in the archaeological record. To Hume, 18th century pots were consisted of an off white with a tint of blue which were made after the decorative delftware had ceased. An example of such type is what was recovered from the archaeological record at Amedeka.

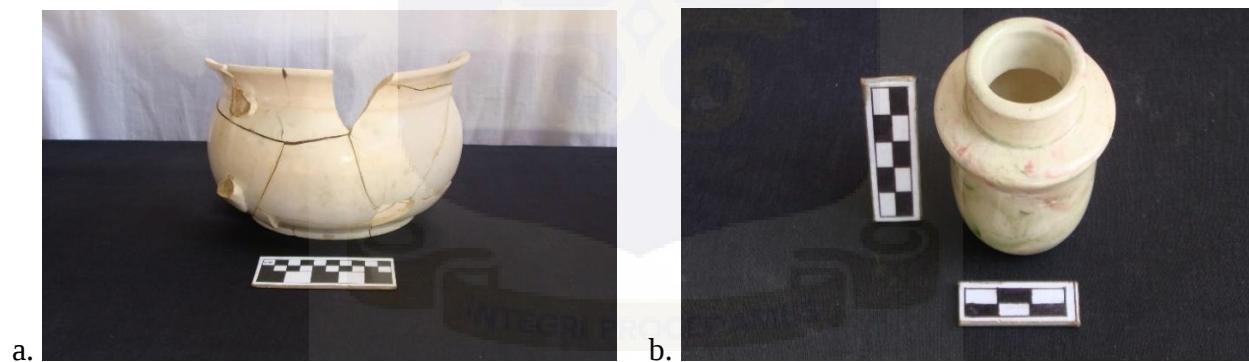


Figure 40a & b: Cream ware (source: Gideon Agyari)

The pearl ware consisted of plain white, transfer printed in light green, blue and purple. It also included hand painted polychrome floral motifs in marine blue, maroon, brown and green. The pearl ware identified at Amedeka cross-dates ceramics found by DeCorse at Elmina which range

between c. 1780 and 1840 (DeCorse 2001: 152; South 1977: 212; Brown 1982: 5). These ceramics are of English and Holland origin (see **fig 41**).

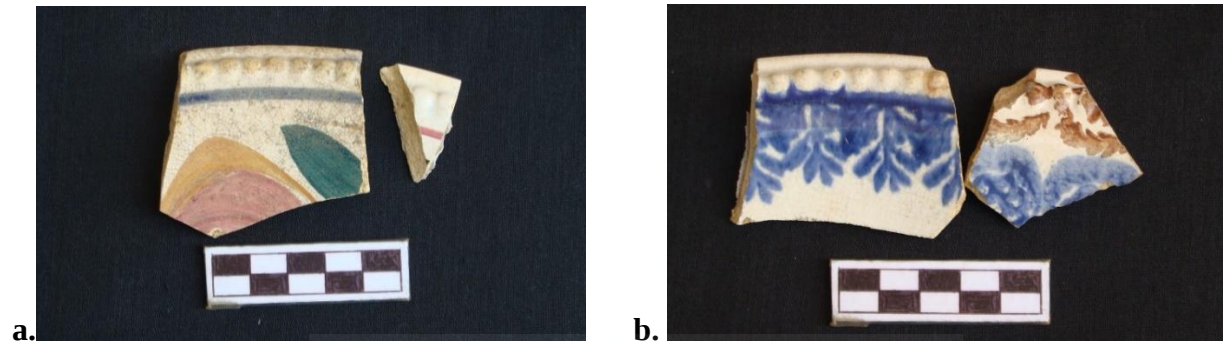


Figure 41a & b: Pearl ware (source: Gideon Agyari)

The white ware which dominated the bulk of the ceramic consist of plain, blue annular under glazed decoration with gold linear band polychrome and under glazed hand painted polychrome floral motifs in light green. It also included dark green and maroon, cut- sponge stamped floral in black and maroon and with geometric patterned in blue, sponge- stenciled decoration in blue with fine annular rings on the rims and hand printed polychrome and floral motif with gadrooned edges. This type also cross-dates to ceramics recovered by DeCorse from Elmina with range between c. 1820 and 1900 (DeCorse 2001: 152; South 1977: 212; Brown 1982: 5) these type of wares are also of English origin (see **fig 42**).

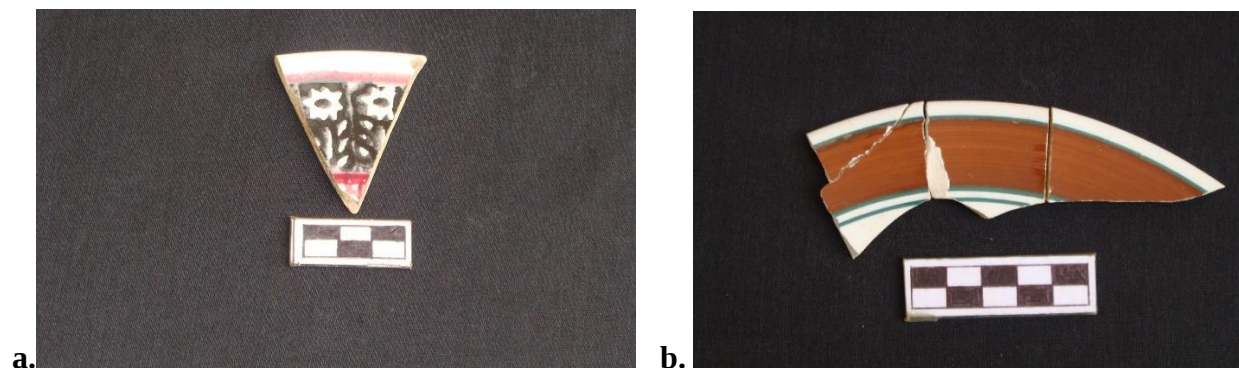




Figure 42a, b, c, d, e & f: white ware (source: Gideon Agyari)

From the recovered ceramic, there were quite a few seals that give a clue on the origin of the materials and the makers of the ceramic. One of such makers mark or seal is the 'Bros' made in England. The Bros made in England is a Johnson Bros made in England seal. It comes in different type and labels like the; royal ironstone wear Johnson Bros England, Royal semi-porcelain Johnson Bros England, Willow Johnson Bros England, Old English Johnson Bros England among others. Production began at the Charles streets works from 1883-2003 (www.thepotteries.org/johnson_brothers). The bros seal found on the ceramic could not be identified with any of the brand since just a small piece of the ceramic was retrieved. As such making it difficult to identify.

Another seal recovered was Petrus Regout (see **fig 43**). Maastricht, Holland, was the city where Petrus Regout established the De Sphinx pottery in 1836. De Sphinx operated under the name Petrus Regout & Co. until 1899. The firm was noted for its transfer-printed earthenware (www.kovels.com). Other identified seal was the Oxford made in Brazil and many others (see **fig 44**).



Figure 43: Petrus Regout seal



Figure 44: Oxford made in Brazil seal

4.5.2 Porcelain and Semi-porcelain

A total of 54 porcelain and two semi- porcelain fragments were collected from Amedeka. They are all made in plain white with no decorations on them except a piece of a tea cup which had an orange like paint at the lip (see **fig 45**). 53 of them are fragments of plates and one piece consist of a fragments of a tea cup which dates to the early 19th century and produced in Staffordshire potteries in England.



Figure 45: Porcelain and semi-porcelain (source: Gideon Agyari)

4.5.3 Stoneware

Two of the ceramic fragments collected were of stoneware. One was in the form of a bucket and the other a jar (see **fig 46**). They are known as the Vintage stoneware flagon which dates between 1840 and 1900 and are produced in England. The jar type is an example of 19th century British stoneware vessel from Bristol factories (Lewis 1987: 66 cited in Klose 2007: 125). England began producing stoneware from the 17th century. The England salt glaze, red, black and cane colored stoneware were made in the 18th century (Gaimster 1997).

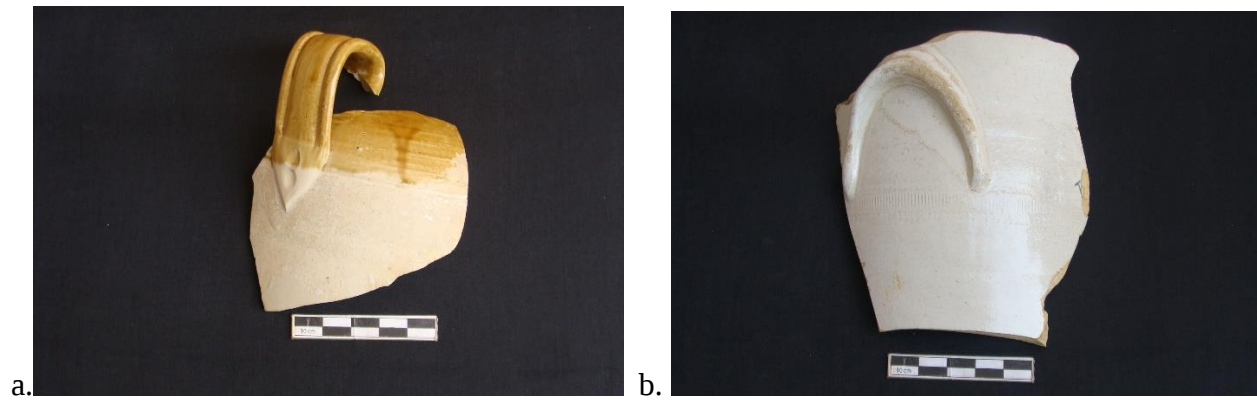


Figure 46a & b: Stoneware (source: Gideon Agyari)

4.6 European Glass Bottles

Glass bottles dominated the materials recovered from Amedeka consisting of 30% of the total assemblage. In all, 8 whole bottles and 713 fragments of bottles were collected. 619 of them were from unit one, 46 from unit two, 3 from test pit one and 25 from test pit two. Of the total bottle fragments the dominant sherds were of dark green case bottles, specifically gin and schnapps. Other plain and light blue bottles retrieved also consisted of mineral water bottles, sauce and syrup bottles, medicinal bottles, perfumery, ointment bottles and bottle stoppers. Most of the fragments were undiagnostic except a few which were further classified and analyzed into groups on the basis of functional properties. (See **table. 13**).

Table 13: The distribution of glass fragments at Amedeka

Category	Type /variety	Description	Origin	Quantity	Date ratings
Alcoholic beverages	Schnapps	Flared lip	Holland	26	1840
		Blopp rim	Dutch	2	Early 1800
	Wine/ champagne	Cylindrical bottles. Some with pushed up base and others with flat base		10	1809-1921
	Beer			14	1910-1920
	Gin	White transparent bottle		6	20 th century
Culinary	Syrup/Sauce bottles	Plain light blue transparent syrup and sauce bottles with no inscriptions		17	
Mineral water	Spa mineral water	Light blue transparent bottles and bottle fragments with no inscriptions		12	
		White transparent bottle with wavy slanted lines from the neck down		2	
Medicinal		Clear glass bottles and one light blue bottle fragment with inscription	English	5	1780-1853 (Hume 1969: 72)

		(Licorine)			
	Pomade/ ointment	Clear glass bottles and one white bottle fragments		3	
Perfumery	Mlogo	Long neck bottle with two rings on the neck		1	
	Perfume	Clear glass bottles		3	
Stoppers		Mostly described as mineral water stoppers in white, light blue and transparent bottle types		4	
Undiagnostic				608	

These fragments were classified using their rim, neck, lip, shoulder, base and body. The rim and neck fragments represented the upper part or orifice of the bottle. The shoulder constituted the part between the body and neck where some of the seal of manufacturers or makers marks are found. The classification was based on the primary function of the bottles although these bottles could have been reused as containers for oil, syrups, toilet water, olives capers and tuna (Decorse 2001: 161, McNulty 1971: 100).

Majority of glass bottles from Amedeka were of European origin probably Dutch and English. Only a few pieces of them had embossed marks or seals. Many of them were incomplete and

many could not be identified. Dutch, English, French and American manufacturers were represented. The most common marks were seals found on the shoulder and base of case gin bottles (see **fig 47**). Most old gin bottles were of a type called *case gins*, which had four straight sides and a square bottom that allowed easily fitting of 4 to 12 bottles in a wooden packing case. The most common color for case gins is olive green, though examples can also be found in clear, amber, and cobalt blue (DeCorse 2001; 160).



Figure 47: Gin bottle (source: Edward Nyarko)

Lip finish identified for the schnapps bottle type was the applied lip, which is a Dutch type (see **fig 48**). Two main types of lips were identified; the flared lip and the Loop lip. The flared lip measure 2.5cm, while the loop lip was 1.5cm from the lip to the rim of the bottle.



Figure 48: Schnapps bottle (source: Edward Nyarko)

Most of the wine/ champagne bottles appear to be of Dutch or continental origin (see **fig 49**). Other liquor and wine bottles are clearly British in form postdating 1873. Some are however earlier and have forms and finishes typical of 18th century English glass (DeCorse 2001; 161). From the bottles recovered, two main types were identified; the hollow/pushup base measuring 8cm for the biggest and 7.7cm for the smallest as well as those with the flat base measuring 7.8cm. The lip/rim finished were identified to have the tool finished lip and the ground rim.

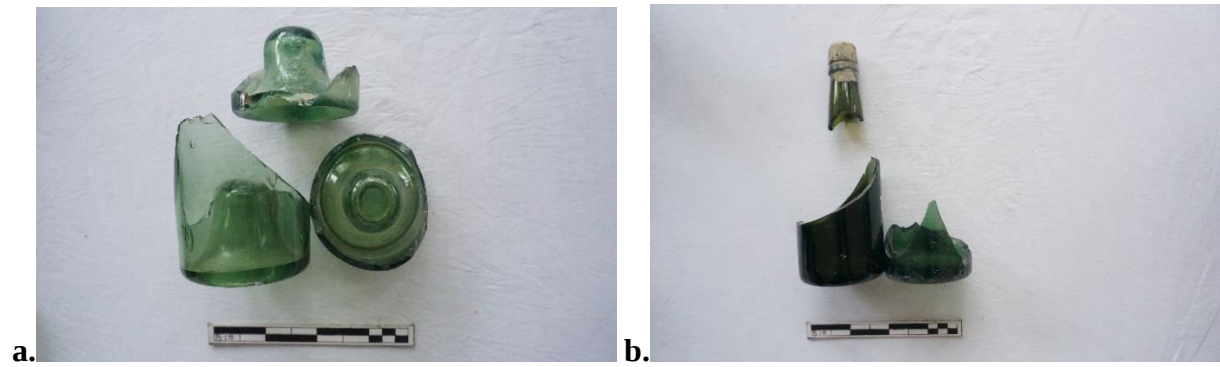


Figure 49: Wine Champagne bottles

Also represented in the alcoholic beverage were beer bottles with mould lines running right up the lip. This is an indication that Automatic Bottling Machine (ABM) was used in their production (Blakeman 2009: 11). This production style dated to post 1910 and more likely 1920 construction of glass bottle (see **fig 50**).



Figure 50: Beer bottles (source: Edward Nyarko)

The culinary/general households included mineral water bottles (**fig 51**) as well as syrup and sauce bottles (see **fig 52**). The perfumery category included scented oil bottles and other perfume bottles (see **fig 53**). Also recovered were ointment bottles (**fig 54**), mineral water stoppers (**fig 55**) and several miscellaneous bottle forms.



Figure 51: Mineral water bottles



Figure 52: Syrup and sauce bottles



Figure 53 : Perfumery



Figure 54 : Ointment bottles



Figure 55: Bottle stoppers (source: Edward Nyarko)

Other glass forms recovered include pharmaceuticals bottles (1780-1853) of English origin (Hume 1969: 72). Pharmaceutical bottles were made in England from the 16th century onward. In the subsequent periods, varieties were produced with some being produced in other parts of Europe such as from the Dutch and later the Americas (Hume 1969: 72-75). They come in different sizes and colours. From Olive, green in clear containers and pale-blue. In the Amedeka area, those recovered from excavation were that of the clear bottle colour dating to the 18th and 19th centuries (see **fig 56**).



Figure 56: Pharmaceutical bottles

Identifiable marks/seals on the bottle fragments recovered include those of the J.H. Henkes on the schnapps bottles recovered which remains one of the most common imported brands of schnapps in Ghana. The Henkes Company of Holland was established in 1820 (see **fig 57**). It began exporting to West Africa around 1850 (Sloot 1975; 22; DeCorse 2001; 160).

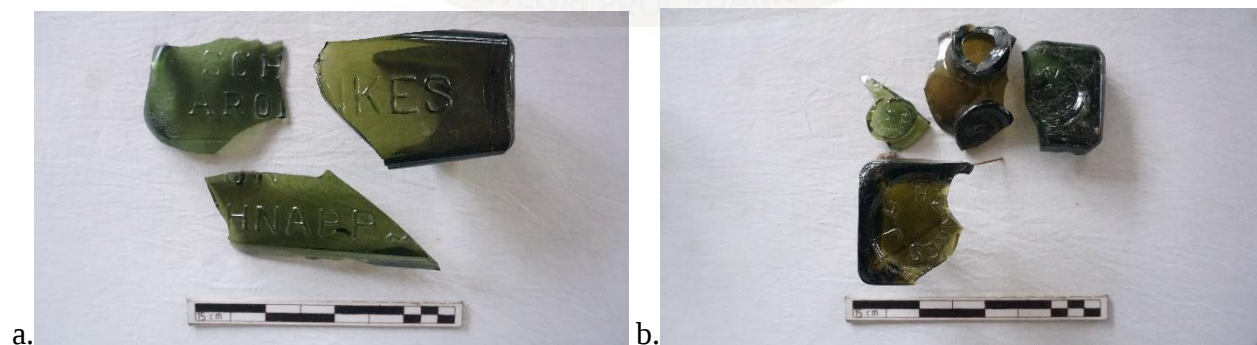


Figure 57a & b: J.H. Henkes seal (source: Edward Nyarko)

Also represented is the Stealing Glass Company (1902-1921) located in the block of South Frankling and West Maiden Street. This seal was found on a wine glass bottle with a metal covering. The company was established in September 1902 after it was purchased by the Caldwell family from the Novelty Glass works in June 1902 (www.antiquebottles.com/gin). Also the seal JJ MELCHES was identified as part of a Dutch gin bottle and is dated to the early 1800 circa.

4.7 Beads

4 beads were recovered from the excavations forming 0.1% of the total finds. One was recovered from unit one, one from unit two and the other two from test pit 2 (**Fig 58**). The one from unit one is made of a red slim plastic disc. Similar types are known in Nigeria as ‘Jigida’ and in Ghana as ‘Coffie’ and dated to the 19th century (Wilson 2003: 122). It is mostly mixed with gold objects to give it a glamour colour when used on different occasions. The bead from unit two is dark blue glass drawn beads probably of European origin. This is because an identical type of 19th century bead was part of a corpus of European beads excavated in 1978 by Anquandah from an old midden at the historic township of Lodoku near Dahwenya (Anquandah 2006: 1-2). Drawn beads are made when large mass of molten glass are drawn out into a long thin tube up to 100 metres long are cooled and sliced into beads of required length. On the other hand, the other two beads collected from test pit two are probably one of the earliest powdered bead of the Dangme (Wilson 2003: 122).



Figure 58: Beads (source: Edward Nyarko)

4. 8 Imported Smoking pipes

A total of 4 fragments of imported smoking pipes were recovered from excavation forming 0.1% of the total finds. All four fragments were recovered from unit one. They included two bowls and two stems (**fig 59**). One bowl and a stem from level 5 and the other bowl and stem from level 6. European tobacco pipes are important, for their bowls forms, manufacturer's marks, stem diameters and stem-bore diameters have all shown to be useful chronological indicators (DeCorse 2001: 163; Atkinson and Oswald 1972; Harrington 1954; Walker 1977). The pipes collected from the Amedeka excavation cross-date pipes found by Hume which range between 1820 and 1860 English pipes (Hume 1969: 303) on the basis of bowl and stem diameters and stratigraphic context. Oswald (1975: 38-39) in his study of 18th century pipes of London depending on the size and thickness of the stem and bowl described they type which was found

at excavations at Amedeka as having a thin narrow bowl, flat based foot, lip often at an angle to the stem with narrow and small bored dating to 1820- 1840. This is an indication that the date set by Hume (1968) is in correlation with that of Oswald (1975) and DeCorse (2001) in the pipes found at Elmina. Both the stem and bowl fragments lack any form of adornment. According to Deetz (1993: 5-8) in calculating for the bore diameter, there is the need to compute the percentage of the stem diameter of each bore diameter. The diameter of the bore hole in the smoking from excavation were 4/64 (1.24mm to 3mm). This method was derived from Harrington's measurement of stem diameters with each fraction determining the date in which the pipe was produced.



Figure 59: Imported smoking pipes (source: Gideon Agyari)

4.9 Faunal Remains

4.9.1 Cowry

Five (5) cowry shells were recovered representing 0.1% of the total number of finds (**fig 60**). Specialist analysis conducted by Mr. Bossman Murey shows that, they were identified as “*Cypraea anallus*” (**Appendix B**) which served as currency in many parts of West Africa until the late 20th century. This therefore explains its presence in the archaeological record at the site of Amedeka since the area is known for trade activities in the 18th to early 20th century.



Figure 60: Cowry (source: Gideon Agyari)

4.9.2 Shells

Three hundred and ninety nine (399) pieces of shell were recovered from Amedeka representing 17% of the total finds (**fig 61**). Eight (8) of them were surface collected, 34 from unit one, 296 from unit two and 61 from test pit two. Of these, 10 of them were identified as “*Achatina achatina*” which are mostly found in dense forests and are collected for food. The remaining 338 were identified as “*Tivela tripta*”. It could probably be also that it was transported to the Amedeka area by traders who sailed from Ada where salt was brought from to Amedeka and other coastal areas. Some of the shells have been used in decoration of houses, others are milled and added to chicken feed for strong bones since it contains calcium. (See **Appendix B**).



Figure 61: Shells (source: Gideon Agyari)

4.10 Bones

A total of 12 pieces of bone fragments and teeth were recovered from research at Amedeka representing 1% of the total finds (**fig 62**). All 12 were collected from test pit two of the excavated units. Specialist analysis conducted by Mr. Bossman Murey (Appendix B) shows that, 3 of them were whole premolar teeth of a *bovid* (goat, sheep and antelope). 3 were bone shafts of *Bovid* with one having a butchery mark and one lower jaw of a bovid. Also there was one rib bone of a “*Bos Taurus*” (cattle) with butchery marks and one phalange of the ‘*Bos Taurus*’ also with butchery marks. One bone shaft fragment was also identified as an *Aves* (bird). Two of the bone fragments were non-diagnostic and unknown (see **Appendix B**).



Figure 62: Bones (source: Gideon Agyari)

4. 11 Daub

A total of 19 lumps of daub were collected from excavations representing 1% of the total finds. 17 of them were recovered from unit 2 and 2 of them from test pit one (**fig 63**). The presence of daub shows the type of architecture that was present in the past. In the present settlement there are just a few wattle and daub houses. The wattle and daub architecture is made of clay and a structure of bamboo or timber. This type of architecture was, according to informants common in the study area during the period of the trade since that was the major type of building. The flood in 1963 led to the collapse of most of the wattle and daub architecture paving way for the galvanized type of building which is the most type of architecture in present Amedeka. An example of such a building is the collapsed story building by the roadside where test pit two was excavated and the remains at the first settler's compound where test pit ne and unit two were excavated (**fig. 64a and b**).



Figure 63: Daub (source: Gideon Agyari)



Figure 64a: collapsed story building

Figure 64b: first settler's compound

4. 12 Metals

269 fragments of metal objects were recovered from excavation at Amedeka forming 11% of the total finds (**fig 65**). 9 of them were surface collection, 89 from unit one, 98 from unit two and 73 from test pit two. They consist of a key, fragments of metal cup with enamel, lid of a metal pot, handle of a cutlass, door hinge, metal rod used in building of pillars of houses and walls. Some of them were found in buildings at the site. Other metal finds included metal braces of drums, nails for roofing and other carpentry works and part of a metal pot locally known as “dadisei” and many others.

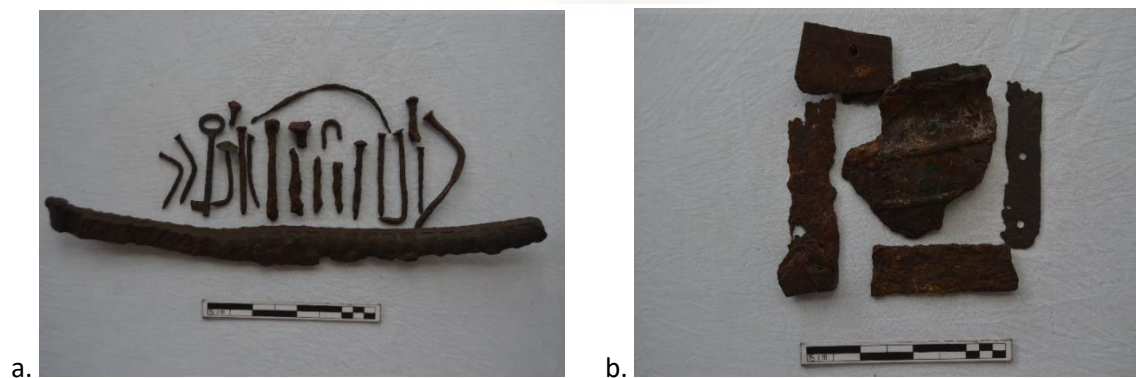


Figure 65a & b: Metal objects (source: Edward Nyarko)

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

5.0 Introduction

The Amedeka port was an inland port that was in existence along the southern Volta River in the 19th century. The reason for the construction of the port was that the European traders, including the Danes and British, who penetrated the hinterland by travelling on the Volta River could not continue their journeys upon reaching Amedeka with the presence of huge boulders of rock in the River. As a result, they established a port at Amedeka where their goods such as textiles, tobacco pipes, liquor and ceramics among others were traded for local goods like palm oil, cocoa and gold. Companies such as the UAC, UTC, and G. B. Olivant built warehouses and shops where goods were stored, and sold to local traders. This attracted people of Ada, Anlo, Krobo, Akan and of northern Ghanaian backgrounds to settle in the area and engage in trade and networking.

5.1 Summary and Discussion

The results of this study suggest there was European presence in Amedeka from the 18th to the 20th centuries. It is clear that there was interaction between European and local people of different ethnic backgrounds, as seen from the mix of archaeological materials recovered during the excavations, ethnographic data and oral accounts.

Glass wares and Ceramics: The relative abundance of European glassware excavated suggest that there was high demand for European liquor and alcoholic beverages and that the multi-national companies distributed these widely at Amedeka port. This evidence is parallel by findings from researches conducted on African-European contacts elsewhere along the Ghanaian coast, for instance at Elmina (Anquandah 1996: 10-25; DeCorse 2001: 152-159; Anquandah 1993: 1-20) and Cape Coast (Anquandah 1997: 17-43). The variety of European ceramics recovered provides a clue regarding the mix of cultural products traded in the research area, by various European nations such as English, Dutch, German, French among others. Even though some European nations may not have been present physically in the area, their goods were marketed there. The number of European imported ceramics retrieved from the excavations (No = 618) was far greater than the local ceramics (No = 281). It is evident from this that European ceramics became quite popular among local people (especially the wealthy). Hence, demand for local ceramics gradually declined over time.

Beads: A small number of beads made of glass and plastics was recovered from the excavation. The variety of beads points to the fact that they were sourced from different people. For instance among the findings was a slim red plastic 19th century bead known in Nigeria as “Jigida” or “Coffee” in Ghana. This bead type is often mixed with gold ornaments for aesthetic purposes. This bead type is either of Nigerian or Dangme origin. Another bead from the excavation was a 19th century dark blue glass drawn bead of European origin. An identical type of bead dated to the 19th century was part of a corpus of European beads excavated in 1978 by Anquandah from an old midden at the historic township of Ladoku near Dawhenya (Anquandah 2006: 1-2). Another bead type excavated was the powder bead known to have been made by the Krobo ethnic group (Wilson 2003: 122).

Architecture: The data on architecture includes daub, nails and lime, provides an insight into the building styles of the different peoples at area. The ethnographic record shows that the local people constructed houses of wattle and daub. They burnt oyster shells and used the product in manufacturing of lime which they employed in coating their wattle and daub houses. As a result of the introduction of galvanized sheets into the area by Europeans, many people in Amedeka adopted this mode of building and roofing their houses. This practice along with the use of cement became common in the area after flooding of the Volta Basin. This resulted in the collapse of many wattle and daub houses.

Metal work: A number of metal objects were recovered from the field research. These included a key, the handle of a cutlass, a metal rod, part of a metal pot and lid as well as door hinges. An imported ling thick iron rod was also collected from the surface but evidence of the use of imported iron rod was also found in the extant 19th century UAC and UTC warehouse structures as well as some houses built of cement. It appears from the oral accounts documented and the actual presence of iron smith shops which were located along the Amedeka to Akuse road that there was traditional iron smithing among the local people. It is thus uncertain whether the large-scale importation of iron rods by European traders had actually exercised a negative influence on the local industry.

Subsistence: From oral account and ethnographic data collected, it appears that there has been both continuity and change in the subsistence and general economic activities among the people of the area. For instance, prior to the arrival of the Europeans in the area, the indigenous people were involved in small-scale farming characterized by cultivation of crops such as tomatoes, pepper, and cassava and may others mainly for family consumption. This trend changed during the period of European contact when large-scale plantation agriculture based on rice and banana

was introduced by the expatriates. Another economic activity introduced by the European was fish farming. This became common along the banks of the Volta River and the local wealthy people adopted this practice in addition to plantation farming.

Gold smithing: The available ethnographic evidence attest to the practice of gold smithing by the indigenes of Akuse- Amedeka. Ornaments and other products manufactured by local smiths were priced by Europeans although most of them preferred the unrefined gold. The Europeans thus engaged in the exchange of imported textiles and liquor for unrefined gold from the local smiths.

Textiles: The 19th and early 20th centuries witnessed considerable importation of European textiles into the study area. As a result, locally manufactured textiles including the bark cloth, Akan Adinkra and Kente were not patronized as in the past. In fact many women whose husbands worked at the stores of the multinational companies of Akuse- Amedeka bought imported textiles on a grand-sale and sold them on credit basis to the local people. Thus the cloth trading business enhanced the local economy greatly.

Education: The presence of Europeans into the area and other part of Ghana led to the introduction of various Christian mission schools. These educational establishments were by the Basel Presbyterian, Methodist and Catholic missionaries. The English language was adopted by these mission schools as the medium of instruction and communication through the 20th century. Along with the western education system came the adoption of Christian religion which vivid with the local traditional religion. Today, the Akuse Methodist Senior high/technical school is a vivid legacy of education system the early European traders/missionaries established in the area.

From the discussions above, evidence of European materials such as bottles, European ceramics, smoking pipes among others, and European structures as well as local artifacts and ecofacts

including local ceramic, shells among others shows both internal and external interactions as well as long distance trade networks at the research area. It also gives a clue as to the kind of materials that were represented in the trade attesting to the cross-cultural nature of the research area and the kind of interaction that occurred at Amedeka and Akuse. It also points out the influence the traders, both locals and Europeans had on each other during and after the trade as well as those activities that have continued till present.



5.2 Conclusion and Recommendation

Much of the archaeological and historical studies related to European enterprise in the Gold coast up to the 1800s has focused on the trade forts and castles along the coast. One exception to this phenomenon is the recent historical archaeology research carried out at Fort Ruycaver located at Awudua Dada near Prestea. The initial investigation there was conducted by the Archaeologist Merrick Posnansky and historian Albert Van Dantzig in 1976. More recently further research was carried out there by Fritz Biveridge and Daniel Kumah (Posnansky 1976; Van Datzing 1973; Biveridge 2013: 117, 125; Kumah 2013: 143). The importance of the research at Akuse-Amedeka undertaken by the present writer is essential in that the earlier Fort Ruycaver researches as well as this research are part of Euro-African historic sites that have been investigated from the perspective of Historical archaeology combining oral tradition, written sources and archival sources with archaeology.

Historical archaeology is viewed by some scholars (Decorse 2014) as entailing documentation of data on the phenomenon of globalization and its impact in historic times on various world communities. The result of the prevailing research in Kpong, Akuse, Amedeka region provides an insight into the two way traffic that was generated by the long distance trade and cultural contact between Europe and the lower Volta Basin in the period 1800 to early 1900. From the data sourced from ethno-history and archives it is evident that the Dangme and allied people made a notable contribution to European economies through the exploitation of various indigenous products. Archival record show that in pursuit of the European plan to promote post-abolition legitimate trade a number of European trading companies were established at the lower Volta River port at Kpong from the mid-1800s. These included the Basel Mission Company,

Bruce Brothers and Company, F and A Swanzy Company, W.P. Gunnel and Company and Foster and Smith Company.

Among the exports traded from Kpong were palm oil, palm Kernel, Ivory, gold and indigenous cotton from Krepi land. According to Edward Reynolds 1974 (see pages 139-142), from the 1860s palm oil joined gold dust and replaced ivory as the major staple export from the Gold coast. As a result, the port of Kpong became “the palm oil Emporium of the Gold Coast. Statistical records shows that palm oil exports from the Gold Coast increased from 86,000 pound sterling in 1862 to 279, 000 pound sterling in 1871. Also, palm kernel exports increased from 7,400 pound sterling in 1858 to 22,000 pound sterling in 1870. In return the European mercantile companies trading to the lower Volta Basin imported Manchester textile goods, Indian silk cloth, English, Dutch and Venetian glass beads, French wines, European fire arms and metal wares, Caribbean and Brazilian tobacco and Dutch schnapps.

In 1880, the use of cowry as currency in the Gold coast was rendered illegal through the British colonial Demonetization ordinance passed that year. As a result, the British pound sterling became the official currency for the Gold Coast but prior to that date the cowry shell (specimens of which were found in the excavations at Akuse-Amedeka) constituted the accepted local currency throughout the Eastern region of the Gold coast. Around the mid to late 1800s the rate of exchange was 2,000 cowries equivalent to anything between one and four English shillings. As early as 1853 archival record shows that English trading ports were exporting some 300 tons of cowry shells to the Gold coast. This may probably be the reason for the reduced quantity of cowry found in the archaeological record.

From the Actor Network Theory (ANT), it can be established that since material culture can be used to identify the agents or people present in the research area, the recovered artifacts including bottle fragments, European ceramics and beads as well as local ceramics and beads has brought to light the agents that participated in the trade. The materials also shows the establishment of long distance trade networks between Africans and Europeans as well as between the local traders across the country at the study area. This is seen from the seals and embossment on the materials recovered. From analysis of the materials and ethnographic context it can be concluded that, the agents or people that were represented there influenced each other in terms of subsistence, architecture styles, education as well as religious influences.

The specific legacies of interaction identified during this research includes archaeological artifacts (bottle fragments, European ceramics, Local ceramics, beads, daub, nails and many others). Other legacies includes, the UAC and UTC warehouses and stores that are still present in the research area. There are also legacies of schools and churches (Presbyterian, Methodist and Catholic) that were established by missionaries in the area. The settlement layout of Amedeka with the construction of galvanized sheet houses is another legacy of the trade. These legacies therefore points out the significance of the trade in the research area.

However, this research is significant in that, being the first archaeological investigation in the research area, it will contribute to Ghana's history and serve as a guide for future researchers to conduct further work at the site. This is because although some work has been done, the bulk of the materials still remains on the site, and there is the need to rescue them before they are destroyed. This research was limited because only two units and two test pits were excavated. I would therefore recommend that salvage archaeology of the research area be conducted at the river bank as well as in Akuse itself where the multinational companies were situated. It will also

be suggested that reconstruction of the abandoned ware houses of the UAC, UTC warehouses be undertaken so as to preserve that heritage. When this happens, a museum can be created at the research area where the materials from excavation will be stored. It will thus serve as a tourist center where the story of Amedeka and Akuse will be told. This therefore represents an added value on historical archaeology.



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APPENDIX A

ETHNOGRAPHY AND ORAL ACCOUNT QUESTIONS

1) Origin and early history

- a. What is your place of origin?
- b. What brought you to the Amedeka area?
- c. What does Amedeka stand for?
- d. Who was the first settler?
- e. What does Akuse stand for?
- f. Does the family of the first settler still live at Amedeka?

2) Ethnicity and Government institution

- a. Which ethnic group do you belong to?
- b. Does Amedeka have a chief? If yes, what is his name? If no, who rules the area?
- c. Since the various ethnic groups have their headsmen, what are their names?
- d. How is the area governed?
- e. Is it autonomous or not?
- f. Is it under the Krobo stool?
- g. If yes, what is the position of the area under the chief?

3) Religious practices

- a. What type of religion is practiced at Amedeka?
- b. How are they practiced?

- c. Are there any taboos related to the creek and the Volta River?
- d. Does the town celebrate any type of festival?
- e. If yes, what festival is it and how is it celebrated?
- f. If no, why?

4) Trade and commerce

- a. What led to the establishment of Amedeka as a trade port?
- b. Which people were involved in the trade?
- c. Where did they come from?
- d. What attracted them to the area?
- e. Which type of goods were traded?
- f. Which local traders were represented?
- g. What goods did they trade in the area?
- h. Which European traders were represented?
- i. Were they involved in slave trade?
- j. What goods did they trade in?
- k. How were goods sold?
- l. How long did the trade last?
- m. Which factors led to the collapse of the trade?

5) Subsistence and economic activities

- a. What economic activities were the people involved in?
- b. Are they still in practice or there has been a change?

- c. What type of farming are the people engaged in?
- d. Are the farms done on large scale or small scale?
- e. Which people are in charge of these farms?
- f. Are there potters in the area?
- g. If not, where are pots traded from?



APPENDIX B**FAUNAL ANALYSIS****SITE: AMED – SB'15****RECORDER: Bossman MUREY****DATE: February 2016**

UNIT	LEVEL (CM)	ELEMENT/ DESCRIPTION	COUNT	GNAW MARKS	MNI	BURNT	CHARRED	BUTCHERY MARKS	WHOLE	FRAGMENT	TOTAL	GENUS/SPECIES
L3,TP2	2	Tooth (premolar)	2						2		2	Bovid
" "	"	Boneshaft	2					1		2	2	"
" "	"	Rib	1					1		1	1	Bos Taurus
" "	"	Phalange	1					1		1	1	" "
" "	"	Boneshaft	1						1		1	Aves
L3,TP2	3	Lower jaw	1							1	1	Bovid
" "	"	Tooth (premolar)	1						1		1	"
" "	"	Boneshaft	1								1	"
" "	"	Nondiagnostic	2							2	2	Unknown

MED – UAC'15**SHELL ANALYSIS**

UNIT/PIT	LEVEL	ELEMENT/ DESCRIPTION	COUNT	GENUS/SPECIES	HABITAT	COMMENTS
W2C	S	Cowrie	1	Cypraea anullus	Marine invertebrate	Used for currency
W2C	1	Shell	10	Achatina achatina	On dense forest floors	Collected for food
"	"	"	9	Tivela tripla	On sandy beaches	" " "
AP,W2C	5	Cowrie	2	Cypraea anullus	Marine invertebrate	Used for currency
1	2	Shell	23	Tivela tripla	On sandy beaches	Collected for food

Bovid – goat, sheep, antelope

Bos taurus - cattle

Aves - bird

