CUBA Seminar
The Cuba Project

The African Diaspora
and the Cuban Abakuá Society

Ivor Miller
Cultural Historian

Ivor Miller is a cultural historian specializing in the African Diaspora in the Caribbean and the Americas. His forthcoming book *Aerosol Kingdom* (UP of Mississippi, 2002), is based on his M.A. thesis from African American Studies at Yale University. This work documents and interprets the creation of Hip Hop culture in New York City from its beginnings in the late 1960s till the present, focusing on the Afro-Caribbean and African American contributions resulting from 20th century migrations. Miller's current project documents the little known history of the Cuban Abakuá, a society derived from the Cross River region of Nigeria. Working in collaboration with Abakuá elders, he has documented the foundation of the society in the 19th century, and its continual role as a symbol of Cuban national culture. Abakuá lore in Cuba may prove useful to Cross River peoples as they reconstruct their own past. In July 2001 he helped facilitate the first-ever encounter between the Efik of Nigeria and the related Abakuá of Cuba - an event which took place at the Efik National Association in Brooklyn, NY. We thank the Institute for Research on the African Diaspora in the Americas and the Caribbean (IRADAC), for their assistance in helping us organize this event. This talk will include singing by Abakuá musicians.*

James DeJongh (Moderator)
Director, IRADAC

Friday
March 15, 2002
5:00 P.M.

Martin Segal Theatre (1200)
The Graduate Center
365 Fifth Avenue (@34th St.)

To reserve, send email to cubap@project@gc.cuny.edu or leave message at 212 817-2096

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