

Witch 004, Catherine Dieudonnée 1

B 2197; witch 004, Catherine Dieudonnée, de Sallonne

Early stages of proceedings are missing. Accused by François Tannaire of Sallonne.

26 September 1615; interrogation under torture

Asked if she knew she was generally called witch in Sallonne, said only time she heard herself called witch was by a woman a year earlier. Had consulted a relative, who advised her to let the matter pass.

Asked if she had caused death of Cezar Guillaumet of Château Salins, who had told off her children while working at well of Sallonne, denied this. Asked if when called witch on way back from Vic she had said she was as clear of this as the Virgin, denied replying in this form, but agreed to incident itself. Asked about strange noises from her room at night, with shouts from her, denied any noise, but said she had dreamed that 'un mauvais chien' had her by the leg.

Asked whether she had not asked small son of Chrestofle Austien for payment of small sum of money his father owed her son, and gave him to the devil several times - denied this. Also denied having caused twisted limbs of child of someone who accused her of witchcraft. Agreed that her son aged 20 had sometimes shared her bed, because they only had one, but said this had been in all honour.

Then tortured; withstood thumbscrews, but confessed when racked. Said she had been visited by man in black some 6 months earlier, when angry over the loss of some money, and swearing by the devil but had refused his offers. Threatened with renewed torture said seduction had been 2 years earlier, and master was Persin. He gave her a piece of paper supposedly containing money which turned out to be empty. Had been to sabat once, where she was alone with master and devils, but had refused to renounce God.

Asked if she had seen no-one at sabat, now said she had seen Claudatte Challot and Jehenne Jacquot of la haulte Sallonne. Persin had given her powder, but she threw it away. Denied causing any harm to people or animals, even when given both tortillons and strappado.

27 September 1615; interrogation

Confirmed basic confession, but withdrew accusations against the two women she had named.

27 September; PG (C.M. Rémy) asks for death sentence, naming her as a widow.

2 October 1615; Change de Nancy asks for further interrogation, in view of gaps in first confession. Also state that torture should not be renewed in afternoon without new indices, and court should abstain from this in future.

3 October 1615; interrogation

Admitted that she had renounced God when tempted with offer of money. On discovering she had been deceived 'elle luy auroit dit Va t'en mechant, tu m'as trompé et ayant fait le signe de la croix il disparut, qu'au mesme temps elle eust un grand remord de conscience d'avoit ainsi renié a Dieu, et ainsi adheré audit malingt esprit.' Met Persin again on road to Burthécourt; he tried to throw her to the ground

for intercourse, but she resisted him, threw away powder he gave her while making sign of cross, and he disappeared.

Denied she had been to sabat or caused any harm; repeated withdrawal of accusations, saying they had been made from mere hearsay.

Again denied that she had killed Cezar Guillaume after incident with children at well, or that she had threatened he would repent his behaviour. Asked whether her neighbour le Gros Symon had said that if she as a witch she should be burned, and then she had caused twisted limbs of his child, she agreed to his remark, but denied causing any harm. Asked about incident with son of Chrestofle Austien, said she had asked for the 9 gros in friendly way in order to buy bread. As for blindness by which he had been afflicted immediately afterwards, this was no doing of hers. Added 'qu'elle en est toute innocente, et les maux arrivent incontinent aux personnes, et comme il plaist a Dieu'.

Asked whether she had quarrelled with Anne femme Anthoine Blaize, of Sallonne, who reproached her with her frequent quarrels with neighbours, agreed that this was true, and she had been angry to be reproached for fault she had not committed. Did not know that Anne's child had subsequently fallen and broken a thigh, and was not cause of this. Denied any other offences, and asked them to have pity on her.

5 October 1615; Change de Nancy approves death sentence

10 October 1615; court at Amance passes final sentence