

B 7134 no 1; witch 112, Jacquot Petit Jacquot, de Hymont

23 March 1623; PG des Vosges has received information that the accused is selling all his goods, in fear of arrest and of denunciation by witches currently held at Mirecourt. Since he is plainly about to flee, asks for arrest and taking of depositions.

24 July 1624; Receveur of Mirecourt has received information that Jacquot had returned home secretly to settle his affairs, and was on point of leaving again. Went to seek him with 6 men, and after failing to find him in village, finally captured him on road to Bazoilles.

6 August 1624; informations preparatoires

(1) François Mecquart le viel, 50

Several quarrels, and had even been driven into his own house; also had many animals dead, mostly as if rabid, and Jacquot had helped him drag them out of stable. Believed that he had been cause of death of 2 calves some 10 years earlier, which died after eating hay bought from him. Around same time lightning struck house, making hole in wall, and fell between him, his wife, and Jacquot. Latter lay on ground afterwards banging his feet, and they stared at him, at which he told wife she mocked him. Witness subsequently proposed that they give thanks by pilgrimage to St Nicolas, and they made this together. Suspected this might have been his doing, angry because witness found him lighting fire to cook on eve of St Bartholomew, and told him day was too dangerous to cook on.

(2) Honn. homme Demenge le Clerc, 56

Long reputation; father already executed at Mirecourt. 8 years earlier had 4 horses dead within a month, and suspected Jacquot, whom he knew to wish him ill at that time. Had also heard from late Dedier Andreu that accused wanted to ruin him, and he had indeed been ruined, along with his children, before his death. (Shaky signature)

(3) Jacques Barbey, manouvrier, 36

7 years earlier had married Françoise fille Jean Mulot, who had always been ill during 4 years they were together. Had told him several times she suspected Jacquot, but only learned from others that this was on account of refusal (? by whom) to act or be invited as godparent. Had made pilgrimages to St Berbenel, Vic, and Mirecourt, where she had been exorcised. Each time she returned from Mirecourt felt ill again, and would swell as she approached village so that the 'ceinture' of her 'garderobe' broke. Had told him he had given her 'un mauvais regard' near washing place, and that priest at Berbenel told her 'que celui qui luy avoit donné le mal, avoit tasché de redoubler le sort pour luy faire perdre son fruit'.

(4) Barbe veuve Claudon André, 21

Her father in law Dedier André had quarrelled with him over a garden, then saw he was losing animals every day, and decided to sell garden. Animals still died, then illness spread to family, with 6 people dying 'seiches et arides'; in view of reputation believed this was his doing (Competent signature).

(5) Abraham Hilaire, drappier, 52

Neighbour for 9 years, but had seen no harm in him. Had had a niece ill in his house for 4 years, and she had been exorcised by an Ambrosian father, but was already ill before she came. Reputation and execution of father. (Signed)

(6) Epurot Mulot le viel, 70

9 or 10 years ago had caused Jacquot to be fined for offences in communal woods, and a few days later were drinking together in tavern. Jacquot broke a tart in 4 and shared it among 4 of them; witness ate his part, then left briefly. On return found that accused had left, putting his part of the tart on his plate; since he feared him, knowing of reputation and resentment over fine, gave it to his son's dog. Animal left without his knowing how, and was never seen again, although it had always returned before, so suspected there had been something in tart.

(7) Jeannotte fille Georgeot Cabled, 22

Some 5 years earlier her brother Claude had killed a hen belonging to Jacquot which got into their garden, and he was angry, threatening 'qu'il ne luy en tueroit plus, sans se repentir'. Later became ill and died after 18 months; he and parents suspected Jacquot of giving him the illness.

(8) Jean Mulot le viel, 70

Did not think he had done him any harm, although they had several quarrels and he had often called him witch. His daughter, wife of Jacques Barbey, had died believing he had given her the illness, which lasted 2 years. Always swollen, and this grew until she was like a barrel, with 'venin' coming from tip. More than 3 years earlier Jacquot's daughter (now married at St Nicolas) had been making lace in his house; said she had been to fields previous day with father, and pointed great black bull out to him, at which he said 'tais toy sotté' and it disappeared. Was sure there was no witch in the world if he was not one.

(9) Hilaire fils George Cabled, 20

Story about killing of hen by her brother; this was after Jacquot's hens had been continually doing damage in garden. He then knocked a large number of unripe apples off trees, and it was when her mother went to complain that he made threat to her, adding that he would give Claude such a blow he would knock him to the ground if he met him. Others who saw him during illness said it was 'un mal donné'.

(10) Jean Mulot le jeune, 40

4 or 5 years earlier his son Jean, aged 6, was playing with other children, and called Jacquot's daughter 'noir bo' either in play or annoyance. He heard of this and said the boy would repent, then next day he fell ill in extraordinary fashion, with stomach very swollen. This lasted 3 weeks, and witness was advised to consult Mre Jean de la Montaigne of Bayon to see who had given the illness, but a woman suggested 'qu'elle avoit entendu quelque bruit qu'il gueroit'. Therefore decided to

call some friends to supper, and ask Jacquot and his wife; as they left they visited sick boy, who had had blessed candle in hand all day, and was expected to die. During night he called out for some bread, ate it readily, and next day recovered, running around street with others. Suspected him over this, and of spells currently afflicting his wife and daughter. (Marked IM)

(11) Michiel Colin, 50

Story of tart at tavern; he claimed none of them had dared to eat any. Also heard from Dedier André how he threatened he would make him 'le plus pauvre homme de sa race'.

(12) Mengeotte femme Jean Mulot le jeune

Two year before last winter found Jacquot and his wife quarrelling with wife of husband's cousin Epurot Mulot. Speaking of her sister-in-law Françoise, they said she was damned, to which witness replied 'qu'il la laissast la pauvrete, qu'elle portoit bien penitence'. Jacquot said 'qu'elle portoit le diable', then wife chased witness with knife in hand. Took refuge in nearby house, then Françoise came out with stick in hand; he said she had 'le diable au corps', to which she replied that he had put it there. Suspected that he and his wife had given this, also illness of her son Jean. Finally suspected him of putting spells on her and daughter after quarrels; she had been affected for 3 years, and daughter had been adjudged possessed 3 weeks earlier. Reputation 14 years (residence).

(13) Catherine femme Abraham Hilaire, 60

Reputation and execution of father; had heard wife of George Cabled accuse him over illness of her son.

(14) Georgeot Cabled, 60

Story of son killing hen, and subsequent death after much suffering.

(9 August 1624)

(15) Jacques Clerc, marchand, 41

Long reputation, and he had always thought he was witch - he was neighbour. Late grandmother had told him that none of the children of late Jacquot Petit Jacquot resembled him so much in every way. Accusation by Dedier André, over which he took no action. (Fluent signature)

(16) Aubry Picquaud, forestier, 44

Story of tart; according to him Epurot Mulot had advised them not to eat it until they tried it on an animal. 4 or 5 years earlier his son-in-law Jean Poirel had been ill, and was diagnosed by an Ambrosian father as being bewitched by the accused. Witness went and threatend to become partie formelle if he did not heal him, after which he recovered. Suspected that he or his wife had caused this, also bewitchment of his own wife. She became swollen under breasts around midday every day, and it seemed as if there was an animal like a 'bouchon' moving there,

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causing her such pain she was as if dead. Had been exorcised by curé at Dommartin, where she still was; believed this was his doing, since he had long wished witness ill and wanted to ruin him. Reputation and execution of father.

(17) Honn homme Bastien Poirson, mayeur a Hymont, 30

When loading grain on cart with Estienne Collin, laboureur, latter told him he had heard Messire Jean Chrestofle, previously vicaire of Hymont, and now at Mirecourt, say that Jacquot had declared to him 'que sy ce n'estoit la honte du monde qu'il se feroit apprehender pour le crime de sortilege'. General reputation. (Fluent signature)

(18) Estienne Collin, laboureur, 30

9 or 10 years earlier, in service of Jacques Clerc, hens of accused were always taking grain, and he killed two of them. Jacquot herd of this and threatened to beat him. Was going to mill with 2 horses to fetch flour, when they became wild as they passed Jacquot's house; bit one another, then one bit him on arm, and did not let go until he got them home (showed scar at this point). 5 or 6 years earlier had lost his best horse, which smith said he could not cure because it was poisoned; servant told him that when he was in fields Jacquot had approached, asked which horse was best worker, then mounted small son on it and given him a few turns. Was sure this was his doing, 'sorcier comme il est ou il n'en y a point au monde'. Since death of horse 'il n'a jamais heu heur ny chance'. Also story about priest saying he had thought of accusing himself.

(19) Nicolas Grand demenge, laboureur, 40

General reputation

(20) Demenge Ongier, drappier, 42

Story of accusations by Didier André. (Good signature)

(21) Pierot Poirson, laboureur, 60

9 or 10 years before had been very angry when witness refused to rent him some land adjoining his own. Later passed him with cart on way to woods; he gave bonjour to his companion, but not to witness. When loading in woods a horse went wild, and he was thrown from cart, then log fell on him and injured ribs. Jacquot emerged to see what was happening, said 'tant pis', and went away again - had been going in other direction when seen on road. Second episode after Jacquot had sown corn in field of witness; he cut it, but as he was taking sheaves back a whirlwind enveloped him, horses ran away, and cartwheels passed over his body. Believed all this had been his doing; general reputation, execution of father.

(12 August 1624)

(22) Jean Poirrel, 40

Late Claudon Andreu had told him that when he was guarding father's horses Jacquot passed and asked which was the best - it died 2 or 3 days later. General reputation.

(23) Nicolas Bregeot, 33

General reputation. Jacques Barbey had told him he thought accused had caused death of his wife.

(24) Villemin Perry, 50

Long reputation, execution of father.

(25) Jean Marchand Didelot, drappier, 55

Reputation 20 years. A cloth belonging to witness was stolen, and without his knowledge several charged Jacquot with taking it - had in fact been stolen by man subsequently executed at Vallefroicourt. Jacquot and his wife complained bitterly to witness, and later his wife became ill. Went on pilgrimage to Vittel, where priest told her illness might have been given by a witch. Did not suspect Jacquot, but thought if he was a witch he had caused him great harm.

(26) Claudon femme Demenge le Clerc, 56

Previous St George had warned her they should not try to buy garden of Epurot Mulot le jeune, which was being auctioned, saying that in 7 or 8 years, when they thought he would be far off, he would still be in village. At last Christmas he told her 'que si sa femme l'eust voulu croire, il eut enduré tout ce que l'on auroit voulu, mais que sa femme l'a tousjours dechassée pour conserver l'honneur de leur fille, laquelle ne peult qu'elle ne recoipvre deshonneur a cause qu'il est ainsy fugitif'. Her daughter had been possessed, and at exorcism by curé of Berbenal her devil said a man had made him enter her, without naming him. Had no specific charge against Jacquot more than another, any more than over losses of animals, but was reputed a witch.

(27) Mathieu Symonet, tailleur d'habitz, 32

Reputation 9 years (residence); accusation by Dedier Andreu. (Competent signature).

(28) Margueritte veuve Dedier Roy, 60

21 years before her husband wanted to do some building, and hired Jacquot to help him, much against her will. Did not come when wanted, so husband went to see him; then taken ill as he was putting up ladder, and died in 2 weeks. Some of those who came to sprinkle holy water remarked that he was now in peace, and that a week earlier he had been quarrelling with Jacquot. 12 years earlier she had taken grain to mill, and he tried to go before her, although she was first - miller's wife gave her priority. After this lost a calf and 3 cows, which the 'escorcheur' told her were full of poison. Believed this was his witchcraft; execution of father, who had already caused harm to their family.

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(29) Nicolas Bon Larron, 56

Accusations by Dedier Andreu. Long reputation, execution of father, mother suspected. (Fluent signature)

(30) Claudon Epurot, drappier, 55

Accusations by Dedier Andreu. Reputation and execution of father.

(17 August 1624)

(31) Claude femme Claudot l'Huillier, de Rannecourt, 19

Her first husband Mongin André of Hymont had told her that before their marriage he had beaten son of Jacquot, who told him he would repent. Then long illness for a year, during which he said several times that Jacquot had given it to him. Told her 'qu'il avoit entré deans leur lict une beste de longueur d'un homme qui s'estoit mise sur luy, et tellement pesant qu'il n'esut le pouvoir de faire le signe de la croix avec sa main, ains du bout de la langue, et qu'il l'avoit veu entrer par la planche de la porte a la lueur de la lune'. After this would not go to bed without having a candle and holy water beside him.

(32) Jean Mulot, jeune fils de Mattaincourt, 27

4 years before had been with soldiers under son of governor of Nancy, where Jacquot was in service of Jean Mulot le jeune of Hymont. Latter wanted to send him away after a quarrel, then fell ill, and was reckoned to be bewitched. Witness threatened to beat Jacquot if he did not cure him, and he recovered in 2 days. (Good signature)

13 August 1624; interrogation

Said he was 55, draper, living at Lorquin. Had left Hymont, of which he was native, in order to make better living; had worked at Lorquin, then resided there for 4 months. Denied he had left in fear of arrest for witchcraft. Asked why he had returned at night and in secret, said he had returned by night and by day as was convenient.

Agreed he had been thrown to ground by lightning which struck house - temporarily blinded, thought arm was damaged. Had made pilgrimage afterwards. Had heard that Françoise fille Jean Mulot was bewitched, but denied being responsible.

Said his sister had lent Didier André 25 or 30 francs, and he was angry when she wanted repayment. Problems with wodland had been that he was obliged to leave 'baliveaux', but someone else had cut these; he was obliged to pay 55 francs in damages. No other admissions.

16 August 1624; interrogation

Said that he had only known of Pierat Poirson's injury 3 days after it happened. Otherwise continued denials. Asked if since arrest he had not said 'qu'il y avoit beaucoup d'artz de sortileges a Hymont desquels il n'estoit la cause, mais

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qu'il en nommeroit les auteurs qu'en il seroit temps', he denied this, but suggested he might have spoken of false oaths or suspicions.

19 August 1624; confrontations

Said François Mecquart had paid fines to duke, and Pierot Poirson was a thief. Michiel Collin had insulted a man in court and been forced to retract. Aubry Picquard had cut wood he was supposed to protect, and was bankrupt. Jean Mulot le viel had paid fines, and was a thief, as was Georgeot Cabled. Mengeotte femme Jean Mulot le jeune had been troubled in mind, and should not be heard, husband had paid fines.

(22 August 1624) Said that Jean Mulot was already ill when he came to regiment. Claude femme Claudot l'Huillier had stolen some eggs. All reproaches denied by witnesses on both days.

26 August 1624; interrogation

Asked why he had left, said it was 'a cause qu'il estoit vilipendé du monde et que quand quelqu'un avoit quelque maladie qu'on disoit que c'avoit esté luy et fut tellement indigné de tant de discours communs qu'il fut contraint d'aller trouver le taincturier de Lorquin pour travailler avec luy.'

Otherwise answers were mostly same as earlier. Asked about deaths of 4 horses of Demenge le Clerc, said he had been serving in M de Florainville's regiment waiting for Mansfeld at Nommeny at the time. Thought Claude Cabled had an abscess on his thigh. The village had had a black bull for some 7 years.

Asked why he had not taken action against those who called him witch, said 'que Messire Poirson luy avoit deffendu d'en prendre la vengeance, et qu'un jour s'ayant adressé a luy comme chef de justice contre un particulier qui l'avoit appelé sorcier, les fait tenir tous deux hommes de bien et allerent boire ensemble avec l'eschevin.'

1 September 1624; PG des Vosges asks for question ordinaire et extraordinaire

7 September 1624; Change de Nancy approves

10 September 1624; interrogation under torture

Withstood thumbscrews, rack, and tortillons without confessing. Called on patron saints, and promised to make pilgrimage to N.D. de Liesse.

Questioned briefly next day, stood by his denials.

11 September 1624; PG des Vosges proposes that he be renvoyé.