

B 8721 no 4. Witch 296; Hantzo Alexis of Wisembach

7 July 1618; accused is confronted with Mathis Chamenel of Gemaingotte, who maintained that he had been at sabbat, and despite missing left leg had been the most forward at the dance, demonstrating with two sticks how he used his crutches.

25 August 1618; substitute for procureur general asks prevot to take evidence against Hantzo, and arrest him if evidence is sufficient.

29 August 1618; informations preparatoires

(1) Colas Gaixotte, mareschal, 40

Knew he was suspected as witch, but was very deaf and had heard no more.

(2) Didier du Prey, 34

Long reputation; had heard that Jean Bejollé, his grandson on mother's side, had claimed that Hanzo had tried to take him to sabbat.

(3) Demenge Chotté, 48

Some 7 or 8 years earlier, when some witches from Taintrux were convicted, Hanzo had been named; reputation since then.

(4) Claudel Jaclin, 50

When Catherine Claude had been arrested Hanzo had told him he was sure she would name him and cause him great sorrow.

(5) Rozon femme Demenge Colas Gaixotte, 48

As close neighbour of Hanzo, had heard of claims by Jean Bejollé, and had spoken to the boy's mother about it, warning her. She had said that she could do nothing, adding that Hanzo had said that if he were arrested he would give him 'un diable de coup'.

(6) Marthiolle Marchante, ?

When Mathis was still in prison (after accusing several others) Hanzo had said they ought to get together and each contribute some money in order to have him examined and get him to retract charges. Had also heard by common repute that he had told Jean Bejollé he would take him to company of devil, so that he would be at his ease and lack nothing.

(7) Zabel veuve Jean du Prey, 46

Had heard that Jean Bejollé had said that if he wished to believe the accused he would not be so poor, and would have been to sabbat.

(8) Colas Toussaint Didier Bejolley, 24

Told story about coming home from tavern towards midnight and seeing a black statue with one leg; thought it was a ghost, but when he threw a stone at it made a hop. Then story about his brother hearing great noise in the night, and discussing it with Hanzo - relevance not very obvious.

(9) Beniste femme Marthiolle François marchant, 31

Told how 4 years earlier she had made some shirts for his wife, and when she took them to house he was there alone. Got her to come in on pretext of paying her, then tried to seduce her, even threatening her with force. She told him that he would cause them both to be damned, especially since he was her godfather, and gave him good telling off before leaving.

(10) Jean Bon Temps, 26

Repeated Jean Bejollé story.

(11) Barbelline femme Claude Jean Michiel, 40

Ditto.

(12) Colas Jean Didier Laine, 26

Jean Bejollé story. Had heard him talk of expectation that Catherine Claude would accuse him, and at her execution had said 'qu'il estoit saisy d'un mauvais morceau interrieurement et qu'il ne se portoit pas bien.'

(13) Didier Bejollé, 60

Fears of accusation by Catherine.

(14) Claude le Maire, 45

Jean Bejollé story.

(15) Demenge Colas Gaixotte, 42

Ditto.

(16) Jean Bertrand, 40

Fear of accusation by Catherine.

5 September 1618; interrogation

Said he was about 80, native of Wisembach. Knew he had been accused by Mathis, but as he was deaf had not been able to reply as he would have wished. Judges were obviously worried that he might make use of his deafness to avoid questions. Said of Jean Bejollé that because he would not pay money to get him released from prison where he was held on charge of murder he believed he had accused him. Had believed Catherine would accuse him because he had refused her some millet, and she hated him. Agreed that he had wanted to take action over

Mathis, because he believed he had not been tortured, and wanted him made to tell truth. If he had been charged at Taintrux, believed this was by Colas le doyen de Lavelaine, who bore him a grudge because he would not give him financial help.

Admitted caressing Beniste, but said he had not intended to dishonour her. Said everything done against him had been from hatred; Jean Toussaint owed him money and he had twice sent an officer to try and collect it.

7 September 1618; confrontations

Still denied all significant aspects of charges, but did not reproach witnesses, apart from saying that Didier Bejollé had also been accused by Mathis and confronted with him.

11 September 1618; Remy asks for question ordinaire; Change de Nancy approves thumbscrews only.

13 September 1618; interrogation under torture

Given thumbscrews, and started to confess. Some 8 or 9 years earlier had fallen out of an apple tree and hurt himself, then 'le diable nommé Mre Persin' appeared to him offering to cure him and make him rich so that he would never want. Gave him a box containing black powder to take vengeance on enemies; made horse belonging to a carter languish because man had not paid him for lending him some horses to pass mountain at St Marie.

Claimed he had only killed animals, never people. Had only been to sabbat twice. Had not recognized anyone because they were all masked.

14 September 1618; confirmed previous confessions, and repeated this on 17th.

22 September 1618; Remy asks for death sentence, approved by Change de Nancy.