

B5330, witch 346, Annel femme Conrard de Bisping

17 September 1598: Remy responds to placet from inhabitants of Bispingen. Placet alleges that three years earlier various women of the village had been denounced as accomplices by Balme veuve Weispetter of the same place, executed as a witch. *Maire* had failed to respond to suggestions that he take matters further, as made by Remy, despite several reminders by substitut at Dieuze. Inhabitants think they have suffered many losses - were ‘jurementlement affligés en leurs personnes et perte de leur bestail’ – so ask for new orders to *maire* and to court at Dieuze.

28 April 1599; Annel femme Conrard de Bisping released from prison at Dieuze, on condition of good behaviour and promise to return on request.

27 July 1599. Didier de Senonville of Bisping alleges that since release she has been found in stables of several bourgeois without permission, after which animals had died. Also claimed that she had boasted ‘qu’elle pouvoit tousjours endurer pour peu de cas telle question et gehenne qu’elle avoit endurée par le maître des hautes oeuvres estante prisonnière à Dieuze.’ She had then sold her goods and fled, but he has seized some of them against potential costs of trial for which he now asked.

29 July 1599; court at Dieuze orders that she should be summoned to appear.

2 August 1599; informations préparatoires

(1) Jacques Royer, moitrier, 33

Story about finding her in stable three days after release; cow lost milk, another two sickened and died. Went to find Annel, beat her with axle from cart while accusing her and threatening to have her burned – had heard that using axle from cart was a way to hurt witches badly. Before arrest she had complained to his wife ‘qu’elle scavoit bien qu’on la vouloit prendre, et pourquoi on ne l’en avoit advertie.’

(2) Fremy le Gendarme, 40

Also suffered numerous losses of animals. She had told him one day ‘que son frere avoit bien tasché de luy faire perdre la vie’. He had heard that previous Saturday she had been saying that she would leave because her brothers told her to do so, while claiming she had the capacity to withstand the torture.

(3) Thomas Pierson (jeune fils), 20

Had been living in same house as her a couple of months before, and when talk turned to witches she had said she had heard that when they were to be arrested, ‘s’ils pouvoient tant faire qu’ils pussent mettre le pied dedans un banc de porcz, cela faict qu’on ne leur pouvoit plus rien faire cognoistre.’

(4) Jehenne femme Estienne Dirant, 57

Told how after the beating Annel had feared arrest, and asked witness to warn her; she was so frightened that she spent two nights at the house of her brother, *maire* Stepyp. She had sold her house to another brother, Nickel, but he had not yet paid her. Also described what was obviously a major epidemic among the animals, suggesting that others in the village who had equally bad reputations should be arrested.

(5) Barbeline femme Jean de Deslingen, 40

More about claim to be able to resist torture.

(6) Royne femme Demenge Marchal, 35

Reported beating and claims about torture.

(7) Didier de Senonville, 40

Similar deposition, with claim that he had lost five horses since her release; mention of other suspects.

She was not found, so on 30 October Remy declared her banished.