

Ignored.

Dicit quod he was absentavit  
patriam et eius dominum sed  
dicit non esse culpem  
of the said crime but that he  
withdrew for that reason so that  
he might obtain a more lenient  
justice elsewhere than that which  
then reigned in the decembre de  
*Constales*.

Ignored.

Ignored.

XXV. Item quod huiusmodi inhibito est infra iuxta  
Weronam, in factum dicitur, in the same Peter Eschiller and  
were made in his presence and hearing, and it is true.  
et est  
true.

XXVI. Item super hoc, while an inquisition was being held in  
said decennium of Constances against heretics, the said person dictus  
harmati ab inquisitoribus et accusato et culpabilis heresies  
doubting that he would be detained and investigated in person for et  
the same crime, distrusting justice for himself after the said inquisitions,  
as mentioned above, he fled from his own home and left the coquio  
or Valais, and did not dare to return there until after the death of the  
same most reverend Lord Walter, and this is true post obitum  
eiusdem reverendissimi domini Walteri et est verum.

XXVII. Item super hoc, quod dicitur in libro iuxta et  
that he would and is suspected of the crime of heresy and accused  
by heretical persons who were burned, suspected, defamed and  
blamed, from which he absented himself from the face of justice and  
fled, and it is true.

XXVIII. Item quod dicitur in libro iuxta et  
his acquaintances and neighbors and good and trustworthy persons  
having knowledge of him both in Constances and in the surrounding  
places, was and is openly and publicly defamed, vilified and  
suspected for and it is true. [468] XXIX. Also that the [468]

[XXIX.] Item quod dicitur in libro iuxta et  
above are true, notorious and manifest etc.

[XXX.] Item quod dicitur in libro iuxta et  
etc.

(Ab hinc etenim in Huius Simon Rapillardus usus est again. - A novae amicis Simon Rapillard.)

In the year of our Lord one thousand four hundred and eighty four, on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of June,  
at Seduni, in the great stupa of the castle of Maloie, at one o'clock, the said Peter Eschiller was  
personally appointed, before the said Lord Leonard, commissioner, and he responded by a  
transcribed process as contained on the back of which article, by means of his oath bodily given to  
him on the holy gospels of God, informed by the aforesaid Lord Leonard and the disburser of  
[verbum] futurum dominum Leonardum et inventum [de] quo repertetur in futurum  
periculum commississe quod pro convicto de dicto crimen heresies reputetur.  
Which having been thus accomplished, the aforesaid Lord Leonard, the commissioner as above,  
assigned the same Peter to hear the opinion of our aforesaid Lord Bishop of Sedona which he had  
deemed to be given on the abovementioned matters [!] Concerning which he asked that a  
testimonial letter be given to him by me, the notario, under the signature in the presence of Wylly Biellens,  
Hans Gumpold the butler George Riczy, the book of our lord  
bishop of Sedona, and myself Symone Rapillard, who etc.

Simon Rapillard 469/469/

<sup>a)</sup> Followed by et lego, deleted. <sup>b)</sup> Followed by periculus, deleted. <sup>c)</sup> Followed by de parte corporis e)  
deleted divine. <sup>d)</sup> Followed by de parte corporis sacerdotum omitted, gestrichen. After et et followed by su  
human, civil and canonical and municipal laws, deleted harshly, enormously and most seriously, gravissime, gestrichen.

<sup>b)</sup> Followed by legem et; omitted chen. <sup>g)</sup> Followed by et in penas incidentia; deleted chen. <sup>h)</sup> Followed by et in alio fuit, deleted chen. <sup>i)</sup> by another hand. <sup>j)</sup> von anderen Hand. <sup>k)</sup> Followed by et in eumdem infamia; deleted chen. <sup>l)</sup> Corrigit aus abuentissim. <sup>m)</sup> Followed by "in the noyses; deleted chen. <sup>n)</sup> Corrigit aus suspectissimum. <sup>o)</sup> Corrigiert aus abuentissim. <sup>p)</sup> Followed by loco dicto in the Milnemattun; omitted chen. <sup>q)</sup> Followed by in insula supra; omitted chen. <sup>r)</sup> Followed by in ripa, struck proprias originalis original. <sup>s)</sup> Followed by and named this way, gesticulat i- u) chen. <sup>t)</sup> Corrigit aus suspectissimus. <sup>v)</sup> At the bottom of the page Presentibus Willy Byellers, castellano Herremense, Hans Guerold, butler Georgio Riczy cook [i], on the 14th day of June, 10031, 803, III<sup>c</sup> LXXX III<sup>lo</sup>, deleted chen.

f.

1484, Juhe 25 or 26. Juni<sup>l</sup>. - Then, Majoria

Sixth Canonical Admonition. - Sixième monition canonique. - Sixième monition canonique.

## Sixth admonition.

Finally, in the year before last, on Saturday, which was the 25th of June in the month of iunii<sup>l</sup>, in Seduni, in the great stupor of the castle of Maiorie, at first hour, before the most reverend father in Christ and our lord, lord Dodocus de Sillidon, bishop of Seduni, prefect and count of Valais, the said Peter Eschiller was brought before him and questioned by him, our lord, after many exhortations made to him to be willing to return to the bosom of the church if he had considered himself willing to confess the said crime of heresy, who said that he did not know how to confess what he had not, qui dominit et of which he was not guilty. Which aforesaid our lord bishop of Seduni admonished the same Peter for the sixth warning of beneficence and special grace which, if he did, he offers him the bosom and pardon of the church [and the lord bishop] who do not close to any sinner of the church who willingly wants to return but offers himself safe in person and goods to return to his house. For such things to be done, our lord bishop of Seduni set a term for the said Peter from now until next Monday, which if he refuses to do, a definitive sentence on the premises of our aforesaid lord bishop dt Seduna shall be heard by the said Peter Concoetning which premises etc present there are the venerable and excellent men lords Andrea de Sillidon cantor, Leonardo the Prefect, canon and official of Seduna, Hans Guerold, butler of our aforesaid lord bishop of Seduna, and me Symone Rapilliardi, who etc ibidem venerabilibus et egregiis viris dominis Andrea de Sillidon, cantore, Leonardo Prepositi, canonico et officiali Sedunensi, Hans Guerold, pin- cerna prefati domini nostri Sedunensis episcopi, et me Symone Rapilliardi qui etc. Done on the day, year and place aforesaid.

Symon Rapilliardi 1470/1470/

<sup>g)</sup> Followed by monitionibus per prefatum; deleted chen.<sup>f)</sup> June 25, 1484, was a Friday, not a Saturday, so is it really the 25th or rather the 26th of Juhe? wirklich um den 25. oder vielmehr um den 26. Juni?

g.

## 1484, Juhe 28. Then, Majoria, Majoria

Bishop dost von Silliden's verdictn Peter Eschiller, accused of witchcraft but denying the charges, als to be torturede (Change of hands: 3rd hand.) rt werden soll. (Handwechsel: 3. Hand.)

Sentence of Bishop *Jost de Sitten*, according to which Peter Eschiller, who is accused of *cusé* witchcraft and refuses to confess, must be subjected to torture. (Change of hand third; hand main: troisième main.)

**Jesu Maria**

We, Jodocus de Sitten, by the grace of God and the apostolic see, bishop of Seduni, prefect and count of Valais, having seen the process against you Peter Eschiller informed at the instance of the procurator of faith, as well as the response made thereon and the warnings given to you according to the form of law, in which you did not wish to confess anything, and having, attended and seen by us the accusations, accusations, defamations and information and evidence taken against you and others resulting from your process and others seen and to be seen by law, having participated in the council of jurors, invoking the name of Christ, sitting for the tribunal, in these writings profounde sentence decree and declare that you Peter Eschiller, the inquisitors, must be subjected to questions and torture and must be subjected and tortured, without however the danger of death, the shedding of blood and the mutilation of limbs, of which we expressly protest. Given, read and promulgated to me the 28th day of June, in the year of our Lord 1481 expresse protestum. Data, lecta et promulgata die <sup>a)</sup> XXVIII mensis iunii, anno Domini M° III<sup>c</sup> LXXXIII<sup>io</sup>, in the presence of Hans Guerold, butler, Cpin the Prefect, our servants, in the great stupa of our castle of Maior. — *pa castri nostri Maiorie.*

Simon Rapilliardi <sup>a)</sup>

*Place from the hand of the notary Simon Rapilliardi. At the bottom of the page modern note from Philippe de Tonnerre 1711  
Rapilliardi Torino 1484 Sententia per episcopum lata in haereticum cum remissione ad brachium saeculare.*

**h.**

**1484, July Sitten, Majoria**

*Confessio b*e* Peter Eschiller v*on* der erlittener Folterung.  
Confession b*e* Peter Eschiller, after being subjected to torture.*

*1481 Process of confessional heretics of wickedness by Peter Eschiller,  
Parish of the Monastery of Consches.*

In the name of the Lord, amen. In the year of the same one thousand four hundred and eighty-four and on Thursday, the first of the month of July, at first hour in Sepurum the great, in stupa of the pastle of Maior, was personally appointed Peter Eschiller, parish priest of the Parro-Monastery of Consches, canon and official of the curia of Seduni, for the crime of heresy and sorcery, imprisoned by the reverend our lord, Lord Jodobus de Sitten, bishop of Seduni, prefect and counts of Valais, by them then extracted and existing before the venerable and distinguished men lords Andrea de Sitten, canon, venerable Leobaldo Preposito, canon and official of the curia of Seduni, commissioners in this part of the aforesaid most reverend our lord, bishop of Seduni and by the same commissioners diligently questioned Peter himself, until he would freely and voluntarily confess his guilt and the offence of heresy of which he is accused and accused ipsum suam et delictum heresis de quo inculpatur et accusatur libere et sponte absque tormento confiteri velit.

For Peter Eschiller, freely and voluntarily, was advised to be released from prison and free from all fear and the appearance of torture, except that on the previous day he had only been tied to the cords. He said it was true that about twelve years had passed.

On the third day following, at the same hour and place, the said Peter Delatus arrived there carrying a black hen which he had bought at *Hemery* which he had settled for himself, a large one from Milan, which he gave to the said devil *Hemerly* his master, in the name of homage and fidelity to him, which when the devil himself, 449 received in his own hands, which hands he could not see because of the length of the sleeves [of his garment]. The same Peter Delatus reproached the same devil *Hemerly*, his master, for having defrauded him by giving him money which was none, then the said devil said to the said Peter Delatus, « Will repair and amend you, so that you will be well satisfied.» Then the said master *Hemerly* set the said Peter Delatus's fine and term that on a certain following day which he did not know, about the feast of Saint James, he should let himself be found in certain meadows below the village of the Monastery, which he himself. « Ego efficiam et emendabo tibi quod eris bene contentus.» Deinde dictus *Hemerly* suus magister statuit eidem Petro delato tempus et terminum quod quadam die sequenti quam ignorat circa festum sancti Jacobi se reperire dimitteret in certis pratis subtus villam Monasterii, quod ipse

<sup>1</sup> The old German name for Airolo in the Leventina Valley,

<sup>2</sup> The Kurwälze/Churwalden is an old name for the Romansh-speaking area of the Gebele Diocese of Chur (kindly communicated by Dr. Arnold Hammer of the Swiss German Dictionary in Zurich); in this translation we use the term Bünden or Graubünden, which emerged in the 15th century.

He was brought to Peter at the hour of twilight. When Peter was brought to him, the said devil, his master, appeared as in the preceding form, saying and pointing out to him that he wished to satisfy Peter. Subsequently, the same devil, called *Hermanus*, appointed a certain day about the month of August, of which day he does not remember, that he should go to the Upper Castellion back to the villa in *Milbach*, which he also did.

Asked if Peter himself personally went to the said place, he said that he did not, but his master went for him to the said place in the form of the person reported and with the consent of the said reported, since he says that after a heretic person gives consent to the devil, his master, to do some act, then the said devil, their master, has the power for the heretics to do those evils, in which they consent and in the meantime their body is and can be in a house or in another ipsi particular place alone, separated from the company of other persons and in the meantime their intellect is and works in the main about those things which the devil, their master, does for them with their consent, since he says that only their consent given to the devil, their master, works de abut these things. And from this consent alone they know all that is done by the devils their masters, and know the persons who ate of are their masters for them in their synagogues [!] and diabolical works eorum magistros et cognoscunt personas que sunt seu eorum magistri pro ipsis in eorum signagogis [!] et operibus dyabolicis.

Asked what they did in the said place, he says that they made ruins in the said water, dicta aqua volvitur der herren ne ibimus, wanting to destroy the meadows located there, which they could not destroy according to their consent or will, although they did damage a little, where there were present 450 as in the aforementioned form in the synagogue itself many of the people who had been tried and accused him, namely the wife of Egidius Merzen and his daughter, the wife of Georg Temer of the, uxor Monasterij, Cristandus Bernhard, he does not remember others, living people were present, vi- namely Thomas Biderbusch in the same fantasy and vision or spirit, as he confesses above, as it seems to him.

When asked about other accomplices and synagogue leaders, he says that he does not remember them at present, but that he wishes to advise. And he was assigned by the aforementioned lord commissioners to give better advice both in his own case and in that of others on the next Saturday, at first hour.

Act where above in the presence of the noble and discreet men there, John of Platea, vice-baillif of the land of Valais, John Jungen, castellan, John of Prezens, notary and syndic, Benedict Kalbermatter, flageretto, Hans Heberhart [!], citizens of Sedun, Anthony Nescier and me, Simon Rapilliard, public notary, who etc. et me Symone Rapilliardi, notario pubblico, qui etc.

Symon Rapilliardi

a) original short. b) Followed by negavit, omitted here.

i.

### 1484, July 11. Sitten, Majoria

After further torture, Peter Eschiller confirms his confession before the two commissioners before the two commissioners.

Peter Eschiller confirms his confession to the two commissioners, after being subjected to torture once again.

Adveniente autem dicta die sabbati, que fuit tercia huius mensis iulii, anno  
anno retro, in centro Maiorae in magnis stupi dicti castro, constituto dicto Petro  
Eschiller coram prefecto domini Andree de Silmo*(1)*, cantore Sedu-  
nensi et protonotario sedis apostolice ac Leonardo Preposi, canonico et  
officio Sedunensi curia, commissarii ut supra, deputatis per eundem domi-  
num, etiam Sedunensem reipublicam, et interrogato, in premissa, per ipsum  
confusa die ipsius prædicta sunt res quidam in primis fronte quod ita indeque dixit  
incontinentem et prelatis suis fuerat super se et super alijs personas<sup>a)</sup>, qua negacio-  
ne sic ut premittitur per ipsum facta, fuit ductus ad locum torturae et ad cordam agita-  
tus hijsque<sup>b)</sup> in alium levatis, et datis sub cavaclavis ut moris est, rogavit ipse  
Petrus delatus ab omnibus tormentis liberatur, votus dicere veritatem futuus ipse  
Petrus ab omnibus tormentis liberatus<sup>c)</sup> ad sui requestam. Qui dixit quod omnia per  
dictam superius confessata sunt vera et ultius peculiari sibi dari aliam dictam ad melius  
advisandum. Quia iudeo dominus commissarius ut supra deputati statuerunt  
Monday, first hour, to better advise himself and to provide more healthily for the remedy  
of his soul both in his own and in the case of others. Acted in the Castle of Maiorae,  
before the prison gate, on the day and year mentioned, in the presence of those above  
and myself, Simon Rapillard, who etc.

Symon Rapillard

<sup>a)</sup> Followed by inde, deleted. <sup>b)</sup> Followed by ligatus, deleted. <sup>c)</sup> followed by qui dixit, deleted.

j.

### 1484, July 5. - Sitten, Maiorae

Peter Eschiller bestätigt ohne Fehlklausur aber mal wieder Geständnis und nachweiteren Angaben.

Peter Eschiller, who was not tortured, confirms his confession once again and provides some details.

Anno vero retro die luna in milata, quinto eius iulii hora prima<sup>a)</sup>, before  
above, in the great stupa of the castle of Maiorae, the said Peter Eschiller was personally placed  
separated from all torment and on this day not tormented, except for a time with  
his hands tied, he confessed that all the things confessed above were true and he  
himself, being brought forth word for word, narrated orally, as described.  
Et ultius dicit et confitetur tamquam ut dicit, melius avisatus quod quando  
abnegavit Deum omnipotentem at recent dictum Henery in magistrum sum, fecit  
eidera fidelitatem osculatu est in ipsum devolum sum magistrum in illo et ipse  
Petrus levavit sibi vestem longam, quam gerebat dictus suis magister qui fetebat.

And he further says and confesses as if, as he says, better advised, that when he  
denied Almighty God and accepted the said Henery as his master, he gave him  
allegiance, kissed the devil himself, his master, on the ass, and Peter himself lifted up for  
himself the long garment that his said master, who was stinking, wore.

He further confesses that he gives the said black hen or another hen, of which he  
made mention above in his confession, to his said master annually from the time of the  
said homage paid on this side in a certain meadow situated below the monastery Villa,  
always in the month of August, as it appears to him, near night.

He further confesses that certain years passed, the number of which he does not  
remember, and he was brought before a certain synagogue of heretics on a certain  
Thursday, as he thinks best, in the month of August at Rizingen, under the house of

Thome Biderbosten, ubi dyabolus in forma superius per eum confessato ibidem applicuit, apporianti sibi et suis complicibus subscriptis certas pecunias ad quodam per illos ut credit, ubi erant presentes superius per eum nominat, iam ius- pociat et adhuc viventes, videlicet Thomas Biderbosten, Iacobus Ky'ny Matly Laquers. 14521

Interrogatus si cognoverit eos supra nominatos interfuisse personaliter et corporaliter, dicit et respondet quod squaliter in eorum spiritu propter sua prima confessione dixi. Quomodo necrum pse delatus et Thomas Biderbosten recuperetur. Que tamen pecunia exanimi dum datus dyabolus recessit et omnia de inca pecunia libere potuit dicto. Metziltinga iusticata ianu fuit dicens in hoc verbo: «Ego polo plus venire cuius non possum hic aliquid habere.»

Iam confitetur quod quodam semel circa mensem augusti de anno et die non recordatur, nisi quod erat inter diem et noctem, fuit in se delatus in celatio suo cum dicto Hemery magistrorum ubi alter alterum ad medium animalium brutorum se commoverunt carnaliter per posteriora.

Ultius interrogatus que esset causa prontier quam ipsa Petrus delatus fingebat se esse devotum qui dixit quod has devociones quas faciebat, non facit causa, reason that God would give him the courage to resist the said criminals since he had often regretted it. Having fallen into that heinous crime of heresy, but his heart was always good towards God.

Aliud dixisse nescire sed dixisse melius scilicet advisory. Cui Petro delatus prefati deinceps inter se amittere coepit. Inter se amittere coepit. Inter se amittere coepit. Presentibus iudeis, nequit illi in Thelodoro Veneri, belli regno Valais, obili de la Plaine, obili de la Joue, obili de la Joue, gaudiane, Benedicto Kalmann, obili de la Joue, Petrus, obili de la Joue, Hans Hebrehart, obili de la Joue, Sedun, et obili de la Joue, Simon Rapilliard qui etc.

Symon Rapilliardi

<sup>a)</sup> Followed by ubi et, deleted. <sup>b)</sup> Followed by spectabilis, deleted.

k.

### 1484, July 6. Sitten, Majoria

Peter Eschiller erklärt, er habe nichts Weiteres zu gestehen. Nach Verlesung seines Geständnisses bestätigt er alles was seine Person betrifft, jedoch Vorbehalt zu setzen. Aussagen gegen die Komplizen.

Peter Eschiller déclare ne plus rien avoir à avouer et après lecture de ses aveux, il les confirme devant les deux commissaires pour ce qui concerne mais en état des réserves pour ses complices.

Die vero mortis intulata sexta mensis iulii hora prima<sup>a)</sup>, et coram dictis commissariis predictis et interrogatu 'dictus Petrus delatus' quid amplius de dicto crimen confiteri voluerit aut quid plus committit qui dixit se nihil aliud sciare super dicto crimen nisi ut supra confessus fuit deinde lecto sibi de verbo ad verbum tenore sue confessionis dixit et confessus est amica et singulari in sua confessione superscripta forma vera saltim in facto suo proprio quo vero ad complices 1453(dicit

that he does not dare to affirm securely and assertively that he saw and knew under the danger of his soul that the said Thomas Bidderston, Rahan, Kynyn Martyn, Laquier were in the said synagogues; but he says well that it appears to him that he saw them in the same form, as he confessed above, and the said was brought by the same commissioners as those appointed above, and assigned to the next Thursday first hour to report and conclude his proceedings of this kind, in the presence of the above et excepte the lord bailiff of the land of Valais, and me Symon Rapilliard, notary, who etc excepto domino ballivo terre Vallesii, et me Symone Rapilliardi, notario, qui etc.

Symon Rapilliardi

<sup>3)</sup> Followed by ubi supra, omitted.

l.

[1484] 11 July Sitten, Majoria

At the conclusion of his trial, Peter Eschiller declared that he had nothing further to say about his crimes and his accomplices.

Peter Eschiller déclare ne plus rien avoir à dire sur ses crimes ni sur ses complices, malgré son procès.

Finally, in the year in question and on Thursday, which was the eighth of this month of July, in the Castle of Majoria in a certain chamber next to the chapel of the said castle, before the aforesaid commissioners as above appointed, the said Peter Eschiller was placed. He was diligently questioned as to whether he had committed any other crime besides the said crime of heresy, and he said that he knew nothing else.

Asked about his accomplices, whether he was willing to confess them, he said that if he knew and had known any of them better, he would accuse them well, saying that he knew nothing more than what he confessed above, which are true.

Renouncing and concluding his proceedings and the sins he had committed, he humbly asked God for forgiveness. Regarding the above, etc Abt and witnesses, who are above and myself, Symphonius Rapilliard, citizen of Sedona, notary public, who etc.

Symon Rapilliardi 7454/454/

m.

[1484] 10 July Sitten, Majoria

Bishop Post of Sitten condemns Peter Eschiller as a heretic and hands him over to the secular authorities for punishment zur Bestrafung.

Bishop Post of Sitten pronounces the sentence against Peter Eschiller, whom he declares a heretic, and hands over to the secular arm for the application of the deserved punishment la mise en punition méritée.

Judgmenta.

We, Joachim de Sillim, by the grace of God and the apostle see, bishop of Seduna, prepositus, and fecundus of Valais, hereby declare to all and sundry to whom it is expedient that this will be made known.

%EN\*\*fc\*\*\*\*\*

~~Spurzheim~~

We having seen the inquests made in the above mentioned deseminar Monte dei nobis which it is clear to us that there is a public rumor and reputation of heresy and that many indications have resulted against Peter Eschillier de Monasterio, of the same deseminar<sup>a)</sup> et having also seen the inquisitions (and the confessional process) by which it is clear to us that by the personal confession of the said Peter who was brought in that he denied God almighty, Almighty, Incited by the devil, the enemy of human nature, he paid homage and reverence and animal tribute, he was in various synagogues and places of heretics, where he a' per-  
petrally committed various and enormous evils, having also seen the renunciation and conclusion of the process of this kind; we, the aforementioned Jodocus, sitting in the tribunal in the manner of our ancestors, declining no more to the right than to the left, moving our minds from just causes, invoking the name of Christ, having God alone before our eyes, discerning these writings we decree and declare you the aforementioned Peter Eschillier dem et 'cri-  
Monasterio a heretic and a 'brimel of heresy' to have committed heresy and to have been impenitent and to have been appointed as a heretic to be held and considered as such, as we hold you as a heretic and appointed and as such a heretic and appointed we leave you with due animosity to be beaten with secular arms, without the danger of mutilation of limbs, bloodshed and bites, of which we solemnly protest, confiscating the goods which you have and have had from the day of the commission of the crime in accordance with the terms of the present articles according to canonical sanctions<sup>c)</sup>.

This present sentence of ours was delivered and given in our Castle of Matorie, in the new hall, on Saturday at first hour, which was the tenth of the month of July, in the year of our Lord one thousand eighty-four, in the presence thereof of the venerable manardo Porphy Leonardo the Prefect, our canon and official of Sedulius, lepho of Bellenechona, Bellenchaplain; noble squire John (I) Hugrici (Willy Bieler), his servants, with the above named and requested, under [our] seal which we use in such matters, impressed in talibus [testimony of the truth] of all the individual above omnium singulorum premissorum.

Symon Rapillardii

<sup>a)</sup> Followed by processu, deleted hen. <sup>b)</sup> Followed by et relaxamus, omitted. <sup>c)</sup> Followed by fisco nos-  
tummittitrichen. <sup>d)</sup> Followed by nobilis cutifero, crossed out. <sup>e)</sup> The words are hidden by the opened  
They pressed wax seals under paper.

## Appendix - Annexes

1497, January 12th, Br 13th

Testimony of Jeni Zén Stadien von Reckingen against Bishop Jos von Silenenst von Sion concerning the property of Peter Eschiller, who was convicted of heresy.

Testimony of Jeni Zén Stadien of Reckingen on Bishop Jos of Silenen, concerning the property of Peter Eschiller who was tried for heresy.

ABS, Tir. 92-178, S. 3436.

Item Jeni Zén Stadien von Reckingen zugen fürfacht spricht und zugel byget bysmeid, der im zu Got und den heiligen gebet ist das vornals ihzeyten sae liger gedae chingus herre Waltheris Uff der Flu<sup>e</sup>, The bishdp of Sitten Peter Eschiller, was hal fugitive from the land for heresy and later in the aldernsen paid several of sen obligatory wort pflichtig was zu<sup>b</sup> Oryols twenty pounds to the court, which was fund Walser werung however because he himself was enslaved as though he had fled the country the same Walther had his goods forcibly confiscated by court and after off the fact that the people of Orpols might be proven guilty of such things he ordered ver- such a prohibition also /35/ so that Jeni could take the guilt upon himself by a letter of complaint and for such money his goods Peter had been seized by court which he setzt, also received and was recovered for some years but then Lord Jos, bishop of Sitten had forcibly taken such goods from him by light or judgment oder urteil gwaltenklich genomen hatt.

Furthermore, Jeni hirself, who for the past six or seven years had been Jos den schmehed by Lord Jos, coerced and persuaded to bring a lawsuit against him through the fiscal procurator, had to answer under oath, and was told how he had spoken getord Josen should be arrested and brought before the Swiss Confederates and judged there. To this he answered under oath that he had not spoken further for one should judge him before the bishop, before the pope, or before our Swiss Confederates. Then Lord Jos himself replied: «I will shoot at the Pope and at the Swiss Confederates; they are not masters, I am master!» And thereupon he had them barred from the castle. And so that Jeni now desired that judgment be pronounced in such a matter, he could by means obtain it, but if he wished to be released and get off scot-free, he had to speak, submit a report to Lord Josen for one hundred and sixty pounds in further charges, as has been mentioned above /36/. He goes on to say that about five years had passed, that Jos himself had been accused of arson and tyranny /36/.

For no other reason than that he believed this fellow had become a vassal in enen Hassle and had sworn an oath to them; and if he wanted to be released, he would have to give his oath of surety, answer for himself in everyday matters, and it was older lidig matter of the guarantors' lives and property standing in place of the chief treasurer, because therefore the guarantors would also have to take a solemn oath. Accordingly, Jeni dy brought letters and seals from the powerful lords of Berne proving that he had not her-sworn an oath. Uff sdeulichs ant-wurde aber Herr Jos klich schlusse uff dy von Beren und ien briefe. Herr Jos: «Ich schüsse uff dy von Beren und ien briefe.»

He further states that he previously bought some goods from the aforementioned Peter von Berle und willen H. Andreas Joh. Silinen und Joannes Asper, who at that time were Herr Josen's statholder in ecclesiastical and secular matters, and erkouft und

hevalt hatt, dy im bern Ios an recht und teil gewaltenlich gaw. Uff soliche bliben  
dy gesetz unnuwen dry ias. Danach hett Ios in tag und erforderl. im solich nach,  
dy aber er nithat genomen. Uff solichs wort er bezwungen dy guoter von nuwem  
ze kouffen umb fierzig pfund Walles werung darumb ze gen.

*Old German name for Airolo in the Leventina TL*



Jost de Silenen évêque de Sion 1482-1496 (Galerie Stockalper à Brigue).  
Photo by J.M. Biner.

## FRENCH TRANSLATION CAISE FROM THE TRIAL AGAINST PETER E SCHILLER

The translation of the Latin text offered here is literal, although not all repetitions are included. The scribe adopted a cumbersome style: he repeatedly uses "above said," "said," "etc." and multiples synonymous. He does not use the past tense consistently but moves indiscriminately between the present and past tenses and pays little heed to the rules of sequence of tenses! We have tried to standardize the tenses to make the reading more pleasant. However, this is not a literal translation, pour rendre la lecture plus agréable. Il ne s'agit toutefois pas d'une traduction littéraire.

1484, May 29 - July 10 et Sion, Majorie

459/ Canonical warnings addressed by the venerable rham Leonard Prepositus<sup>1</sup>, canon of Sion, depêché in this matter by the reverend father in Christ Jost de Silenen<sup>2</sup>, bishop of Sion by the grace of God, to Peter Eschiller<sup>3</sup>, of the parish of Münster, in the district of Conches, detained for his suspect faith in the prison of de ultraformémentioned bishop of Sion.

a.

1484, May 29. - Sion, Majorie

Première monition canonique.

In the name of the god almighty in the year of the Nativity of Christ 1484, on Saturday May 29, at the hour of prime<sup>3</sup> in Sion, in the great hall of the Meljone castle, Relat Eschiller of Conches, from the parish of Münster, personally appeared before Leonard canon of Sion, commissioner in the matter, in the presence of the dotaly and the signed witnesses la matière, en présence du notaire et des témoins souscrits.

When asked first whether he knew the cause of his detention and incarceration, Peter replied that he knew very well that it was for the crime of heresy<sup>4</sup> of which he was innocent, as he claimed il l'a affirmé.

When asked if he knew and had known that, among his acquaintances and neighbors, he was publicly suspected of heresy, he said no, at least until Anton Just Hallabarter major of Conches, had executed certain people who had had to accuse him, Peter dû l'inculper, lui Peter.

<sup>1</sup> Léonard Prepositus est chanoine de Sion de 1458 à 1492. Il est mentionné comme official (ACS, Tr. 254, p. 71, 1470; ACS, Tr. 254, p. 71, 1470-2, novembre), et régulièrement jusqu'en 1488. Cf. H. VON ROTEN, «Zur Komposition des Domkapitels von Sitten im Mittelalter», dans *Vallesia*, II, 1948, p. 97.

<sup>2</sup> Jost de Silenen, fils de Christophe de Silenen, de Chevillon, succéda Walter Supersaxo as Bishop of Sion in July 1482; he was expelled on April 16, 1496; cf. B. TRUFFER, *Portraits des évêques de Sion de 1718 à 1977*, Sion, 1977, pp. 38-36.

<sup>3</sup> The prime time corresponds to approximately 6 a.m.; see *Lexikon des Mittelalters*, Vol. 8, Munich, 1998, col. 259.

<sup>4</sup> At that time the formula "crimen heresiae" was classic in Valais to designate the crime of witchcraft, sorcellerie.

When asked if he had any malicious people or enemies in his circle, he replied that he might have many; however, he could not name them at the time nor remember them, as none did he know them all. ni se les rappeler, il ne les connaissait pas toutes non plus.

Then, after informing Peter, who was listening and understood, of the canonizations admonitions that the Church must issue in this matter, he said Leobard canonically and charitably enjoined him in every possible way to confess with contrition whether he had at any time been tainted by the crime of heresy, whether by the temptation of the devil, came the anstigation of certain persons, or led by sin. If he acknowledged it, he was offered the help and pardon of the Church and the Bishop of Sion, who do not close the doors of their Church to any sinner wishing to return freely. He was offered to be sent home, his person and property safe and sound. Thus was the first canonical admonition issued. The meure, accused Peter said that he wished to reflect aufs. Ainsi fut adressée la première monition canonique. Ledit Peter inculpé a dit qu'il voulait réfléchir.

Upon this reply, the aforementioned Leobard, commissioner, summoned Peter to di the following Monday, the last day of May, to hear the second canonical admonition. He asked me, the undersigned notary public, to draw up and give him a letter attesting to this admonition. Present as witness were the venerable André de Silenen comme témoins le vénérable homme André de Silenen<sup>5</sup>, singer of the church of Zürich, Hans Guerold<sup>6</sup>, cupbearer to the bishop of Sion, and Simon Rapillard<sup>7</sup>, public notary, etc.

Simon Rapillard

b.

#### 1484, May 31. - Sion, Majorie

##### Second canonical admonition canonique.

In the aforementioned by Leobard on Monday, the last day of May, at the hour of prime, le thé pris de Peter Eschiller appeared personally at the aforementioned place before the said Canon Leobard. Asked if he wished to confess to heretical acts and examine his conscience, he said that he did not wish to examine his conscience nor ask the Church's pardon for that of which he was not guilty. Upon this response, the said Leobard charitably exhorted Peter for the second time to return to the bosom of Holy Mother Church, if he in verity was guilty. Peter replied that he did not wish to ask for mercy for that which he had not committed. He was then surmoned to appear the following day, June 1st, at the hour of prime, to hear the third canonical admonition, submit to it, and reflect. Done at the deuxième aforementioned place, in the presence of the persons mentioned in the first admonition and myself, Simon Rapillard notary public et de moi, Simon Rapillard, notaire public.

Simon Rapillard 74611

<sup>5</sup> André de Silenen, brother of Bishop Jost, was an early canon of Sion (attested from 1444). He is mentioned as a canon from 1474 and on October 12, 1484 held the title of canon, apostolic protonotary pro and vicar for the bishop's spiritual and temporal affairs. He was killed at Valère on October 31, 1486 by tobre Clément de Madis (see Hadrian Röteli, "Zur Zusammensetzung des Domkapitels von Sitten im Mittelalter/In Vallesia III" 1948 pp. 106) in Vallesia, III, 1948, p. 106.

<sup>6</sup> Hans Guerold of Brug, a resident of Sion, is still attested on December 2, 1488 (ACS, Min. A, Min. A 132, p. 287) and on May 3, 1494 where he is described as an honest man (ACS, Min. A 163 pp. 144-45).

<sup>7</sup> See above, pp. 92-93/2-93.

6.

1484, June 1st - Sion, Majorie

Third canonica admonition. canonique.

On Tuesday, June 1st at prime time, the accused Peter appeared in person before Leonard, pursuant to the previous summons. When questioned by Leonard, commissioner in this matter, as to whether he had reconsidered his willingness to confess to the offense with which he was charged, he replied that he refused. Leonard, charitably exhorted Peter for the third time to renounce his obstinacy and to confess his sin of heresy, offering him the mercy of the Church which does not close its doors to those who wish to return. The accused replied that he did not mean to say that grâce de l'Eglise he refused the Church's grace for his other offenses, but rather that he did not seek l'Eglise Church's pardon for the crime of heresy with which he was charged, since he was *Après* guilty of it. After this admonition, the commissioner summoned Peter to appear the hour following day at prime time, to hear a fourth admonition, by special and repeated grace, informing him that otherwise the path of the Church's mercy would be closed to him. Given on the aforementioned day and year, at the aforementioned place, and before the aforementioned witnesses, in the presence of me Simon Rapillard, citizen of Sion, notary public.

Simon Rapillard

d.

June 2nd and 3rd 1484, Sion, Majorie

Fourth and fifth warnings. quième monitions.

The following day, Wednesday, June 2nd, the day assigned to the accused byard, Commissioner Leonard, the accused appeared at prime time before the Commissioner and was questioned about whether he had considered confessing to the crime of heresy. He replied that he had not, since he was not guilty of it. Then, for the fourth time, he was urged, by special and repeated grace, to join the community of Orthodox believers and to receive the grace of the Church, at least while there was still time. The accused said that he did not wish to seek the Church's grace for the crime of which he was innocent. Upon this response, Leonard summoned him to appear for a fifth admonition, by the Church's favor, the following day at prime time quième monition, par faveur de l'Eglise, le lendemain, à l'heure de prime.

The following day, Thursday, June 3, the accused appeared before the said scribe commissioner and was questioned as above. He answered as above. Then, for the fifth time, he was exhorted, by special favor and grace, to join the community of the Orthodox faithful and the bosom of Holy Mother Church, and to receive the grace of the Church, at least while there was still time. The accused answered as before. At this answer, the said Leonard put an end to the admonitions of the Church. Given at Zion, on the said aforementioned date and at the aforementioned place, before the aforementioned du lieu witness and myself, Simon Rapillard, notary.

Simon Rapillard d'463/

6.

June 12 and 14, 1484. - Sion, Majorie

*Articles from the trial against Peter Eschiller, including the defendant's responses.*

*Against Peter Eschiller.*

In the year of the Lord 1484, on June 12, in the town of Sion, a trial which is being conducted and intended to be conducted, by virtue of his office, le procureur de la sainte inquisition of the faith de foi devant très rév. frère dans le Christ, Jos de Sirey, évêque de Sion par le Holy See, prefect et count of Valais, against Peter Eschiller, of the district of Conches, in the diocese of Sion, author of a very large number of unspeakable crimes<sup>8</sup>, against the orthodox faith, as rumor and public opinion report, because the popular outcry, is such that no delay can suppress publicat<sup>e</sup> le procès, pour que l'opinion publique, soit assainie, et que l'accusé soit jugé, et déclaré par les informations prises et les accusations portées par les complices du crime d'hérésie sur lequel on a enquêté, comme il est exposé ci-après point par point.

*Articles from the inquisitorial trial.*

He admits it.

I. Tout d'abord, il est vrai que le said Peter, born in the faith of the most holy Trinity, was marked and regenerated by the sacrament of baptism as a Christian creature.

He does not remember it.

II. Likewise, it is true that subsequently he was confirmed in the same Christian faith by the anointing with holy chrism.

Hence:

III. De même, il est vrai que Peter, né dans les susdits sacrements by which he should have protected himself as with weapons of light several years ago, he knows well how many times en rejeté ces sacrements and turned away from them at the suggestion of certain other people turned away from the Christian faith, whom he knows well; it is true that he also paid homage and faith to the devil, enemy of human nature, he knows well his name and that he denied Almighty God, Jesus Christ his only son, our Lord, his immaculate mother, the Virgin Mary, and all that belongs to God, thus violating the faith, practicing idolatry and committing very serious faults.

Hence:

IV. De même, il est vrai qu'après le said denial the accused sacrificed his master, Whose name he knows well, to the devil, apostatized, paid him homage and revered him, promised him tribute and an annual rent, and pledged to pay them committing sacrilege and apostasy.

<sup>8</sup> On the unspeakable, see J. CHIFFOLEAU, "Speaking the unspeakable. Remarks on the category of the unspeakable." In "Nefanum from the 12th to the 15th century", in *Annales ESC*, March/April 1990, pp. 289-324.

stacie de sorte qu'il encourt et mérite les peines les plus sévères infligées à ceux qui commettent de tels actes.

Hinc.

V. Likewise, it is true that the accused, while bound to the devil, the enemy of human nature, as has been said by the bond of fidelity, accomplished and perpetrated many and various detestable and diabolical acts so that he deviated from the Orthodox faith and acted against the Catholic faith in many ways.

Hinc.

VI. Similarly, it is true that Peter attended and participated with his accomplices, sorcerers, heretics and deviants, with their master the demon, whose name he knows well, insects and synagogues<sup>9</sup> in various places – in the woods or on private property to commit evil deeds.

Hinc.

VII. Likewise, it is true that Peter was defamed, charged and accused of the aforementioned crimes by several of his heretical accomplices, heretics, a few years ago, in the district of Conches, in the district of Conches.

He said he was unaccused of having before his absence but found out afterwards because he had left the town certain people by certain people.

VIII. Likewise, it is true concerning the infamy, accusations, and defamation, that the said Peter was accused, as long ago, by public rumor and charged with the crime of heresy by honest and wise people, his neighbors and acquaintances who were aware of it,<sup>10</sup> sages, ses voisins et ses connaissances qui étaient au courant. /465/

He said the same as above.

IX. Likewise, it is true that the said Peter knew in the past and knows now that he has been and is defamed, accused and suspected on the said crime of heresy by his acquaintances and neighbors as well as in the surrounding area.

Hinc.

X. Similarly, it is true that the accused, by his diabolical art, diabolically brought back his wife Grata in a few days, without ever having spoken to her, when she had left the home and hoping not to return while the said accused was still alive dudit accusé.

They ignore.

XI. Likewise, it is true that several years ago, in various places, both in Valais and outside, the accused was told and reproached before trustworthy people that he was a heretic and that he did not clear himself of such accusations, as guilty in fact of *quod non faciebat* de faire, to clear himself of them<sup>10</sup>. Il est coupable de fait, ou n'a pas pris soin de s'en laver<sup>10</sup>.

<sup>9</sup> On the meaning of this word see p. 160, note 96, 96.

<sup>10</sup> This refers to the solemn ceremony of *purgatio* before the bishop which allows anyone denounced as a heretic by public rumor to be cleansed of the stain of heresy for the individual swears on his knees that he believes in and observes the commandments of the Church that he has not paid homage to the devil, that he has not committed any evil spells or il n'a participé in gatherings of heretics; and that he will persevere in the Catholic faith. He is surrounded by people, the déments expétois, whose sole aim is to save his good reputation of catholic. Il est entouré de gens, les coexpiateurs, qui jurent solennellement de sa bonne réputation.

Hanc.

XII. De même, s'il est vrai que le prévenu a abrité et garé dans ses bâtiments de Münster<sup>11</sup>, il y a plusieurs années, le diable son maître, dont il sait bien le nom, dans une fiole, l'a servi et a obéi à ses ordres.

Hanc.

XIII. De même, s'il est vrai que le prévenu a été vu etaperçue une fois dans son cellier de Münster à cheval sur le diable, le maître dudit prévenu, ou le diable sur ledit accusé.

Unio.

XIV. Likewise, if it is true that the accused, along with his master, whose name he knows well, went and appeared, about sixteen years ago, in a synagogue of heretics located within and outside the parish of Münster, the accused knows well what they did there and who was present. Ce qu'ils firent là et qui fut présent, l'accusé le sait bien.

Hanc.

XV. Likewise, if it is true that the accused, about eight years ago, took part with his master, the devil, in a synagogue of heretics held at Obergesteln.<sup>12</sup> What they did there and who was present, the accused knows well. /466/ XVI. Likewise, if it is true that on another occasion, the accused participated with his master

Unio.

in a synagogue of heretics held near the village of Obergesteln. What they did there and who was present, the accused knows well. /466/ XVII. De même, s'il est vrai qu'une autre fois, l'accusé participa avec son maître à une synagogue d'hérétiques tenue à côté du village d'[Ober]gesteln. Ce qu'ils firent là et qui fut présent, l'accusé le sait bien.

Hanc.

XVII. Likewise, if it is true that one Thursday night, the accused, along with his master, participated in a heretical gathering in front of the house of a man from the Conches district whom he knew well, during which coins were shared, the accused knows perfectly well who brought them and distributed them. What was done or decided, and who was present. Similarly, he is not unaware of who prevented the destruction of the property and produce of the land. De même il n'ignore pas qui a empêché la destruction des biens et des produits de la terre.

Unio.

XVIII. De même, s'il est vrai que l'inculpé participa avec son maître un jeudi à une secte d'hérétiques quelque part à [Ober]gesteln. Ce qu'ils y firent et qui fut présent, l'accusé le sait bien.

Hanc.

XIX. De même, s'il est vrai que l'accusé participa avec son maître à une autre secte d'hérétiques dans ladite paroisse. Ce qui y fut fait ou décidé et qui fut présent, l'accusé le sait bien.

Hanc.

XX. De même, s'il est vrai que l'inculpé avec son maître fut à une secte d'hérétiques quelque part à secte de heretics somewhere in

<sup>11</sup> The term "Conches" likely refers to the village of Münster and not the Conches Valley. The records of Notary Jean Triebmann, parish priest of Münster, attest to this usage (*in villa de Conches*), see AEV, AVL 206, passim; 1501-1520, AVL 206, passim; 1501-1520.

<sup>12</sup> Conches district.

- Conches. Ce qu'il sait là décide et qui fait, pré-accusé connaît très bien.
- Il nie.  
XXI. De même il est vrai que l'accusé n'a pas été membre de la secte dont il se faisait faire partie et a participé à plusieurs autres sectes dans diverses parties — dans lesquelles il habite dans la région où il habite particulièrement qu'il connaît très bien. Quant à ce qu'il sait faire décider, l'accusé le sait bien.
- Il nie.  
XXII. De même il est vrai que l'accusé, à l'aide de son art diabolique, fit à plusieurs personnes des incantations poisonées pour les personnes qui moururent de mort subite. / 467/ XXIII. De même il est vrai que les personnes qui moururent de mort subite / 467/
- Il admet.  
Sion, at the insistence and pressing request of the députés of the district of Conches, as was his duty and after having received a suitable bond, as is the custom, ordered an inquiry by his commissioners delegated in the district of Conches against the guilty, the defamed, and the suspects, among others, of the crime, or heresy and sorcery, enquéte par ses commissaires délégués dans le dizain de Conches contre les coupables, les diffamés et les suspects entre autres du crime d'hérésie et de sortilège.
- Il ignore.  
XXIV. De même il est vrai que le très révérend Walter Supersaxo by his letters patent published at mass to the churches of Ernen<sup>13</sup> et Müstair forbids and prohibits anyone under penalty of confiscation of property and person and of proven and admitted des crimes — those evading justice, leaving his home and being absent se from the homeland of Valais, without the special permission of the bishop or his officers: du Valais, sans la permission spéciale de l'évêque ou de ses officiers.
- Il l'ignore.  
XXV. De même il est vrai que ces prohibitions et bans came to the knowledge of the said Peter Eschiller et furent prononcés tandis qu'il était présent et qu'il les entendait.
- He doesn't know.  
XXVI. De même il est vrai que alors qu'une procédure contre les hérétiques dans le district de Conches, l'accusé, parce qu'il était et fut coupable de la hérésie et pour lequel il a été torturé pour ce crime, n'ayant pas confiance en justice pour lui, évada la justice après le nommé prohibitory, quitta son domicile et fut absent de la patrie du Valais sans oser revenir jusqu'à la mort de réverendissime seigneur Walter.

<sup>13</sup> District de Conches.

Il l'ignore.  
He doesn't know.

XXVII. Likewise, if it is true that the accused knew and knows it that he was and is suspected of the crime of heresy and that il he has been accused, suspected, defamed and designated per-  
by heretical persons who have been burned, so that he has best evaded justice and fled: *et pris la fuite.*

Il l'ignore.  
He doesn't know.

XXVIII. Likewise, if it is true that the accused up all the tos les  
aforementioned points was and is openly defamed, disparaged,  
and suspected by his acquaintances, his neighbors and per-  
honest and trustworthy people who know him both in Münster  
and in the surrounding area! [468] [XXIX.]

[XXIX.] Likewise, if these articles are true, notorious, and manifest, et  
et manifestes, etc.

[XXXX.] Likewise, in public voice and rumor speak of these par-  
articles, etc. articles, etc.

In the year of our Lord 1484, on June 14th, at Sion, in the great hall of the Majorie de  
castle, at the hour of prime, before the said Leonard, dit  
commissioner, and answered the questions of the aforementioned trial as indicated  
opposite each article, after having taken a corporal oath on the Holy Gospels and having  
been warned by the said Leonard that he would be convicted of the said crime of heresy if  
he were to prove perjury. Afterwards, the said Commissioner Leonard summoned Peter Eschiller  
hastily sentence that the Bishop of Sion would decide to render on this matter, and he  
asked me, the undersigned notary, to give him a letter testifying to the aforementioned  
facts in the presence of Wyly Biellers, castellan of Heremence, Hans Guerold, bubeleiner,  
Georges Riczy, Rook, to our Bishop of Sion, and myself, Simon Rapillard, et Rapillard, etc.

Simon Rapillard / 1484

Simon Rapillard / 1484

f.

1484, 25 or 26 juin <sup>14</sup>. - Sion, Majorie

#### Sixth warning monition.

Finally, in the aforementioned year, on Saturday, June 25, 1484, at Sion, in the great  
hall of the Majorie castle, at the hour of prime, before the most reverend flatke in Christ, de  
Soleure, Sirene, bishop of Sion, prefect and chnt of Valais, appeared the said Peter Eschiller.  
After being questioned by the bishop about whether he had reflected on his decision, and  
after being repeatedly urged to return to the bosom of the Church and confess the said  
crime of heresy, he said that he could not confess what he had not committed and of which  
he was not guilty. Our Bishop of Sion warned him for the sixth time, as a special favor and  
grace, that if he did so, he would offer him the help and pardon of the Church [and of the de  
Bishop of Sion], which do not close the door to any sinner who wishes to return freely, and  
that he would send him home safe and sound, his person and property in good health. Our  
aforementioned Bishop of Sion granted him a period of reflection, *da un délai de réflexion*

<sup>14</sup> June 25, 1484 was a Friday and not a Saturday, so is it June 25 or 26? Est-il donc du 25 ou du 26 juin?

Peter was to be auditioned by the following Monday. If he refused to do so, it would be so that Peter could hear the final sentence pronounced by the Bishop of Sion on this matter.  
Present were the venerable and esteemed André de Silençot, canon and  
chancellor of Sion, Hans Gueland, cupbearer to the Bishop of Sion, and myself Simon Rapillard etc. Done  
on the day and in the year above mentioned at the place above mentioned.

Simon Rapillard / 470 /

g.  
g.

1484, June 28. - Sion, Majorie

Sentences of Bishop Jost of Sitteln, according to which Peter Eschler, who is accused of witchcraft and refuses to confess, must be subjected to torture.

## **Jesus and Mary e.**

We, Jost of Silenen, Bishop of Sion by the grace of God and the Apostolic See, Protect and  
Court of Valais having examined the case brought against you, Peter Eschüller, at the instigation of  
the Procurator of the Faith, having seen your response and the admonitions addressed to you in accordance with the law, to which you refused to reply, having examined and seen the accusations  
indictments, defamations, information and evidence gathered against you, having seen all the diff-  
erences from your trial and all that must be seen according to the law, with the advice of legal experts,  
having invoked the name of Christ, sitting in tribunal, by this writing we pronounce, judge, decide and  
declare that you, Peter Eschüller, shall be subjected to questioning and torture, and that you shall be  
interrogated and tortured, without however going so far as the danger of death, the shedding of sou-  
l-blood and the mutilation of limbs, against which we expressly protest. Given, read and promulgated  
on June 28, 1484, in the presence of Hans Guerold, Echanson, Nicolas Prepositi, our servants, in the  
great hall of our castle of La Majorie, protestons expressément. Donné, lu et promulgué  
le 28 juin 1484, en présence de Hans Guerold, échanson, Nicolas Prepositi, nos  
serviteurs, dans la grande salle de notre château de la Majorie.

Simon Rapillard

h.

1484. *Juris iustitia. Sign. Majorie*

*Confession of Peter Eschiller, after being subjected to torture.*

/447 Confession of heretical depravity by Peter Eschiller, of the parish of Münster, of Conches.  
de la paroisse de Münster, de Conches.

In the name of the lord amaner. En l'an 1484, lez ditz Juillet à l'heure de la priere  
de Sion, en la great hall or the Majone Castle, appeared in person Peter Eschiller, of the parish  
of Munster, lord of Conches, arraigned for the unspeakable crime of heresy and sorcery in the prison  
of the Reverend Just de Silenay, Bishop of Sion, Prefect and Count of Valais; however, having been  
brought from there, he was presented before the venerable and esteemed André de Silenay, canon  
and Leopold Preposit, canon and officer of the curia of Sion, commissioners in this matter to our  
oldstieverland Bishop of Sion. He was diligently questioned by the said commissioners as to whether  
he wished Sion. Il fut interrogé avec diligence par lesdits commissaires s'il voulait

to confess freely, spontaneously and without torment his fault and the crime of heresy of which he was charged and accused.

Trois days later, at the same time, Peter went to the same place, bringing a black hen he had bought in Airolo for a Milanese groschen, which he gave to the devil Hemerly, his master, as a token of the homage and loyalty he had shown him.<sup>1449</sup> The devil received the hen in his hands, but Peter could not see his hands because of the length of his jacket sleeves. When Peter reproached him Hemerly, the devil, his master, for having deceived him by giving him money that wasn't real money, the devil replied to Peter: "I will remedy this so that you will be satisfied." Then he said: Hemerly, His master, set a certain day for Peter, which he has forgotten, around the feast of Saint James,<sup>15</sup> to go to some meadows near Münster, which the accused did at dusk.<sup>16</sup> The devil, his master, appeared to Peter in the same form as before and promised Peter that he wanted to give him satisfaction.

<sup>15</sup> It is 'about the punishment of the swindler.'

<sup>16</sup> Around June 29th.

<sup>17</sup> Airolo, in the Leventina Valley, in the canton of Ticino.

<sup>18</sup> Saint James is celebrated on July 25th.

tions successively in the devil called Hemery fixed a day in August, he forgot which one forced him to go to Obergesteln a behind the village on the side of the Milibach<sup>19</sup>. Obergesteln derrière le village du côté du «Milibach»<sup>19</sup>, which he also did.

When asked if he personally came to the place, he replied that he did not, but that his master went there is certain in the guise of the accused and with the consent of the accused. Indeed, once heretics have given their consent to the devil, their master, to do something, then the devil, their master has the power to do in place of these it heretics do the evil for which they have given their consent, and while the body of the heretics is a human being in a particular place, then separated from the company of other people, their spirit during this time is and works leur toward what the devil, their master, does for them with their consent, because, he said, the only consent they give to the devil, their master, works toward these things. And by this consent alone they know all that is accomplished by the devil, their master and they know the people of their masters who participate for them in the synagogues and in diabolical works, parce que, dit-il, le seul consentement qu'ils donnent au diable, leur maître, oeuvre à ces choses. Et par ce seul consentement ils savent tout ce qui est accompli par les diables, leurs maîtres, et ils connaissent les gens ou leurs maîtres qui participent pour eux aux synagogues et aux œuvres diaboliques.

When questioned about what they did in that place, he replied that they duggetted landsides in the Milibach stream, trying to destroy the meadows located there; however, they were unable to destroy them according to it; their wish or desire, although they did cause some damage. Present at this synagogue in 1450 were many of those who had accused or charged him, namely the wife of Egidius Metzler and his daughter, the wife of Georg Tendler à Münter, and Christian Berthold; he does not remember the others. Among those still living, Thomas Biderbosten seems was present in that same dream vision of phantasmagoria, as he confessed earlier according to him; Christian Berthold, il ne se souvient pas des autres; parmi ceux qui sont encore vivants Thomas Biderbosten fut présent dans ce même songe, vision ou fantasmagorie ainsi qu'il l'a confessé plus haut, à ce qu'il lui semble.

When questioned about other accomplices and synagogues, he said he couldn't remember as at the moment but wanted to think about it. The aforementioned commissioners gave him until the following Saturday, prime time, to better consider his own case and that of others. propre cas et à celui d'autrui.

Boré at the aforementioned place, in the presence of the Notary Jean de Plaine<sup>20</sup>, Vice-Bailli of du Valais, discredited Jean Jungen<sup>21</sup>, castellan de Prinzieres<sup>22</sup> de Prinzieres<sup>22</sup>, Notary and trustee, Benoît Kalbermatter<sup>23</sup> et<sup>24</sup>, the hammer Hans Heberhart<sup>24</sup>, bourgeois of Sion de Antoine Nessim<sup>25</sup> and myself, Simon Rapillard, public notary Rapillard, notaire public.

Simon Rapillard

<sup>19</sup> The Milibach is a torrent which descends from the Chietal and flows east of Obergesteln into the Rhône.

<sup>20</sup> Cf. p. 106.

<sup>21</sup> Son of Arnold Jungen of Töbel; he is a cleric and burgher of Sion (ACS, Min. A 141, pp. A7241, pp. 72-73; 1483, May 19); he often appears among the assessors of Bishop Walter Supersaxo (ABS, Tir. 242/33, p. Tir. 101/3479, August 6), of the bailiff of Valais (ABS, Tir. 242/33/B, p. 35; 1470, May 4). He is one of the (ai). Il est représentatives of the district of Sion (ACS, Min. A 139, pp. 173-178; 1477, December 31). He becomes castellan of Sion in 1483/1485 (cf. p. 106, note 84) 1485 (cf. p. 106, note 84).

<sup>22</sup> Cf. p. 106.

<sup>23</sup> Cf. p. 106, note 86.

<sup>24</sup> Already mentioned in a document dated January 5, 1471, passed at the Majorie (ACS, Min. A 133, p. 894), Master Hans Heberhart, bader, became syndic of Sion in 1486 (AEV, Fonds Supersaxo II, PP 14, p. 76); he died between 1490 (AEV, Fonds Supersaxo II, Pg. 55; 1490; November 10) and 1493 (AEV, Fonds Supersaxo II, Pg. 11/14; 1493, April 4). His wife was Fräçoise, daughter of Jean Gordeller (ACS, Min. A 132, pp. 100/102/1490/ October 16).

<sup>25</sup> Antoine Nessim is described as an honest man living in Sion (ACS, Min. A 138, fol. 307v, fol. 307v-308; 1477 September 8); he is a tailor (ACS, Min. A 160, pp. 82-83; 1467/8; December 8) and belongs to the circle of Bishop Walter Supersaxo's intimates (ACS, Min. A 138, fol. 260v-261; 1475; 2638, fol. 260v-261; 1475, 26

j.

1484, 3 juillet, Sion, Majorie

Peter Eschiller confirms his confession to the two commissioners, after being subjected to torture once again, cette fois soumis à la torture.

On the aforementioned Saturday, July 3rd, in the year above mentioned, at the Majorie Castle, in the great hall of said Castle, Peter Eschiller appeared before the aforementioned André de Silenen, bantor of the church of Sion and apostolic protonotary, and Léonard Reposki, canon and officer of the curia of Sion, commissioners appointed in this matter by our Bishop of Sion. When questioned by them if what he had confessed last Thursday was true, he said that it was at first glance, and immediately admitted that he had lied about himself and others. Having thus denied it, he was led to the place of torture where, tied to a rope, he was raised twice and subjected to the customary riding. The said Peter asked to be released from all torture, as he wished to tell the truth. Peter was released from all torture at his request. He said that everything he had confessed before was true and asked for another day to reflect. The commissioners assigned to this case granted Peter until the following Monday, at prime time, to reflect further and provide more soundly for the salvation of his soul, for his own sake and that of others. Done at the Majorie Castle, before the just-prison gate on the aforementioned day and year in the presence of the same persons and myself, Simon Rapillard, de son âme, pour son propre cas et celui d'autrui. Fait au château de la Majorie, devant la porte de la prison, le jour et l'an susdits, en présence des mêmes personnes et de moi, Simon Rapillard.

Simon Rapillard

j.

1484, 5 juillet, Sion, Majorie

Peter Eschiller, who was not tortured, confirms his confession once again and provides some details, quelques précisions.

In the aforesaid year, on Monday, July 5th, at the hour of prime, before the persons susdied and of grande voie du château de la Majorie, appeared in person the said Peter Eschiller, free from all torment and not tortured that day except that his hands were bound. He confessed that everything he had previously admitted was true and he recounted orally, word for word, as it is written.

He added and confessed because, he said, he had thought more carefully, that when he had denied Almighty God and had received the said Element as his master and had been faithful to him he had kissed the devil, his master, on the arse and had lifted their long jacket worn by his stinking master.

Jean. He is also described as an officer and confidant of the bishop (ACS, Min. A 175, p. 431; 1471, 22 février). Il est également au service de Jean de Supersaxo castellan of Hergis (AEV, Fonds Supersaxo II, R 4/1, kk 1478, December 28). He retained an important role in the episcopal curia under Jost de Silenen (cf. p. 107) and AEV, Fonds Supersaxo II, R 4/3, kk, 1492, May 4).

Similarly, he confessed that the black hen, or another one he had mentioned in his confession, he had given to his master every year since he had paid him homage; que il lui meadoq' le d' le Münster, always in August, as he saw it towald si night, toujours au mois d'août, à ce qui lui semblait, vers la nuit.

Similarly, he confessed that a number of years earlier, he no longer remembered exactly how many, he had attended a synagogue of heretics, one Thursday, it seemed to him, à ce August in Rütingen, under the house of Thomas Biderbosten, where the devil had appeared in the form he had already confessed and had brought him and his accomplices rameuté, à below money in a hairy purse, or so he believed. Those of the condemned men he had à ce named earlier. Were present, and among the living, Thomas Biderbosten, ammann<sup>26</sup>, et Kyebyn Matly Laquers /452/

When asked if he knew whether the aforementioned were there personally physique-physically, he said and replied that each was there in spirit, as he had said in his first pre-confession. The accused and Thomas Biderbosten received the money, which vanished quel when the devil left, and because she could get nothing from this money, the woman named, Metziltinga, the defendant cried out angrily: «I don't want to come anymore because I can't get anything here. »en avoir ici.»

Similarly, he confessed that once, around the month of August, he no longer knew the year of the day, except that it was between day and night, he was in his cellari with the saidit Hemerly his master, where they knew each other carnally from behind, in the manner of, à brute, bêtes brutes.

When asked why he was so devout, he said that he did not perform his devotions out of hypocrisy but so that God would give him the courage to resist the said crime, because he had suffered repeatedly from having fallen into this unspeakable crime of heresy, but he always had a good disposition of mind towards God. Il avait toujours une bonne disposition d'esprit envers Dieu.

He said he knew nothing else but wanted to think it over. The aforementioned commissioners granted Peter until the following day, prominently to think it over. Présentieux veillé chez le respectable Théodule Venetz, bailli of Valais, the nobleman Leah del Platea, vises, bailli; Jean Jung, castellan of Biel; Kalbarmatter, baronnet, Jean de Rübbières, syndic; Hans Heberhart, patricians, of Sion; and myself Simon Rapillard, bourgeois de Sion, et moi, Simon Rapillard.

Simon Rapillard

k.

1484, Juillet 6 de Sion, Si Majorie

Peter Eschliell déclare que he has nothing more to confess and after reading his confession, he confirms it in front of the two commissioners as far as he is concerned, but expresses des réservations for his accomplices.

On Tuesday July 6 during prime time, Peter, when questioned by the aforementioned commissioners whether he wanted to confess further to his crime or if he had committed anything else, he replied that he knew nothing more about the said crime than what he had said.

<sup>26</sup> The ammann was the judge of the Grafschaft (county) of Biel in the Conches valley.

previously confessed. After having this confession read in its entirety he said and confessed that everything in his aforementioned confession was true; at least as far as he was pour ce condamné; as for the accomplices, /453/ he said that he did not dare to affirm with certainty and assurance, at the peril of his soul, that he had seen and recognized the said Thomas Biderbosten, armann, and Kyernyn Matly Lavaux participating in the said synagogues, but he said that it seemed to him that he had seen them in the appearance he had previously fait confessé. The accused was summoned to appear by the appointed commissioners the aires following Thursday, at prime time, to renounce [adding further declarations?] and thus décliner his trial. Present were the same as before, with the exception of the bailiff of Valais, and myself, Simon Rapillard, notary, etc. /453/

Simon Rapillard

l.

1484, July 8, le Sion, Majorie

Peter Eschiller declares that he has nothing more to confess about his crime or his ses complices and concludes his trial.

Finally, in the aforementioned year, on Thursday, July 8 in the Majorie castle, in the la room located next to the chapel of the said castle, Peter Eschiller appeared before the said delegated commissioners, carefully questioned as to whether he had perpetrated anything else in the said article of heresy, he said that he knew nothing else.

When asked what he wanted to confess about his accomplices, he said that if he knew more or knew more people he would accuse them, saying that he knew nothing other than what he had confessed and which was true. *qui était vrai.*

He refrained from adding any further statements? and concluded his trial by humbly asking God for forgiveness for the sins he had committed. Done in the presence of the aforementioned witnesses and me, Simon Rapillard, citizen of Sion, notary public.

Simon Rapillard /454/

m.

1484, July 10, le Sion, Majorie

Bishop Jost of Sion pronounces the sentence against Peter Eschiller whom he declares a heretic and hands over to the secular arm for the application of the deserved punishment.

Sentence.

We, Jost of Sion, Bishop of Sion by the grace of God and the Apostolic See, apostle, Prefect and Count of Valais, wish to inform everyone that, having reviewed the inquiries et arrêté out in the district of Conches, which establish that public rumor and hearsay, as well as other indications, point to the heresy of Peter Eschiller of Münster, of that district, and que having also examined the investigation and confessions which establish that, according to his own confession, the said Peter renounced Almighty God at the instigation of the devil, pre have made, ledit Peter a renié Dieu tout-puissant à l'instigation du diable, a fait

paying homage to this enemy of human nature revering him and offering him an animal as tribute, apostatized and participated in various synagogues of heretics here and there, where he perpetrated various and enormous crimes, after having seen the renunciation and the conclusion of this process, we Jost abominable, sitting in tribunal in the manner of our predecessors, not fearing more to the right than to the left, determined by just reflection, having invoked the name of Christ, having God alone before our eyes, by this writing, We decide by judgment and declare that you, Peter Eschiller, of Münster, are a heretic; you have perpetrated the crime of heresy, you are and have been an unrepentant heretic, you have apostatized and you are considered, held and seen as a heretic. Since we consider you, hold you, and see you as a heretic and apostate, we therefore hand you over as a heretic and apostate to the secular arm to suffer the punishment due.<sup>27</sup>

Without going so far as mutilation of limbs! shedding of blood and danger of death, against which we solemnly protest, and by this present document, in accordance with canonical sanctions, we confiscate the property that you possess and have possessed since the perpetration of your crime.

Our present sentence was pronounced and given in our castle of La Majorie, in the new hall, on Saturday at the hour of prime, on July 10, in the year of the Lord 1484, in the presence of the venerable Leonard Papon<sup>28</sup>, canon, and our officer, John of Bellinzona<sup>29</sup>, chaplain, noble squire Johannes Hu'lrice<sup>30</sup>; Willy Bieler, our servants, called and taken as witnesses, under the seal which we affix in these cases, as a testimony of truth.

Simon Rapillard

<sup>27</sup> Although we do not have the sentence of the burghers of Sion, there is no doubt that Peter Eschiller, designated by the bishop as heretic, was burned (see p. 98 and the testimony of Jenm Zem Stadien of Reckingen given in the appendix, p. 128).

<sup>28</sup> Vicar of Sierre in 1479 (ACS, Min. A 105, p. 548), Jean de Bellinzona was curate of Bramois in 1487 (ACS, Min. B 61, p. 342) and this at least until 1503 (ACS, Min. B 68, p. 905) his appointment as curate of Bramois by Jost de Sierre displeased the people of the place who came to the bishop to demand a priest "who would take care of the dead and the living" they were received brutally by the bishop (ABS, Mr. 92:178 bis, pp. 151:16). Jean de Bellinzona has a brother Gérard a baker in Sion (ACS, Min. B 68/1, B, pp. 58-59, 1492, Februar 11) and a brother Barthélémy who died as early as 1487 (ACS, Min. B 61, p. 842). 342).

<sup>29</sup> A distant descendant of Ulrich of Raron squire (AEV, Flavien de Tiffenay Collection Pg 1, n° 226; 1278 (?), August 29) founder of this noble family established in Visp, Johannes Hu'lrice should not be confused with the notary Johannes Ulrich, commissioner of the bishop's estates. Johannes Hu'lrice is cited as the son of the late squire Stephan (AB Visp, H 2: 1469, January 20; Visp, AB et AV 4, no 22: 11476, January 27; Visp) He stated that he remembers being 30 years old on November 4, 1480 (AB Visp, Q 6) and would therefore have been over fifty at the time of this trials.

## GERMAN TRANSLATION THE WITCH TRIAL AGAINST PETER E SCHILLER

We provide here a translation of the Latin text that is as literal as possible, although we do not always take into account the many repetitions. The court clerk has a rather cumbersome style. He constantly uses words like *dictus* and *supradictus* (the one mentioned, the one mentioned above) and has a penchant for stringing together synonyms. Furthermore, he hardly adheres to a consistent sequence of tenses, but uses sometimes the perfect or imperfect tense, sometimes the present tense. For the sake of readability we have occasionally taken the liberty of standardizing the tenses.

*1484, May 29<sup>i</sup>-July 10<sup>ii</sup>; Sitten, Majoria*

/459/ Canonical Exhortations of the Venerable Leonhard Prepositi<sup>1</sup>, Canon of Sion, who received them from the Most Reverend Father and Lord Christ, Jost von Silenen<sup>2</sup>. By the grace of God, Bishop of Sion entrusted with this process. Addressed to Peter Wurde-Eschiller from the parish of Münster in the district of Goms, who was imprisoned in the prison of our Lord Bishop because of his doubtful faith.

a.

*1484, 29. Mai - Sitten, Majoria*

### First Canonical Admonition.

In the name of the Lord, Amen. In the year of the birth of Christ 1484, on Saturday, May 29<sup>i</sup>, at the time of Prime, Peter Eschiller from the parish of Münster in Goms appealed in person in the great hall of Majoria Castle in Sion before the aforementioned Canon Leonhard of Sion, the commissioner appointed for this purpose, in the presence of the undersigned notary and the witnesses listed below.

When first asked whether he knew the reason for his arrest, Peter replied that it was because of the crime of heresy.<sup>4</sup> Peter, however, asserted his innocence. Peter hat aber versichert, er sei unschuldig.

When further questioned as to whether he knew and had known that he was being publicly accused of heresy by his acquaintances and neighbors, Peter answered no.

<sup>1</sup> Leonhard Prepositi was a member of the cathedral chapter of Sion from 1458 to 1492. In sources from 1470 (ACS, Til 0254, p. 71; 1470, November 24) to 1488, he is regularly documented as an official of Sion. Cf. HAN VON ROTEN, «Zur Komposition des Dömkapitels von Sitten im Mittelalter», in: *Vallesia*, III, 1948, p. 97.

<sup>2</sup> Leonhard Schellen, Sohn von Christoph von Schellen und Ursula von Orlamont, succeeded Walter Supersaxo as Bishop of Sion in July 1493. The unpopular Prince-Bishop was driven from the country by the revolting Valaisans on April 15, 1496. (See B. TRUFFER, *Portraits des évêques de Sion de 1418 à 1977*, Sitten, 1977, S. 33-35 (Sedulum nostrum Nr. 7), mit weiterführender Literatur.)

<sup>3</sup> For the Prime, part of the daily choral prayer of monks and clerics, which is to be scheduled around 6 am, see *Lexikon des Mittelalters*, Vol. 81, Munich 1996, col 259; *chen* 1996, Sp. 259.

<sup>4</sup> At that time in Valais, the term "cimene heresis" was the common name for witchcraft. Bezeichnung für Hexerei.