
AN INDEX OF THE INQUISITION: 1546 – 1575

Carmel Cassar

THE Bull *Licet ab initio*, issued on 21 July 1542 by Pope Paul III, created a totally reformed Inquisition. It was clearly inspired by the recent success of the Spanish Inquisition, which in turn had been set up to suit the particular needs of the new and growing nation-empire that was Spain.

This new Tribunal, more commonly known as the Holy Office, was mainly intended to oppose the doctrines of Luther and the other flourishing Protestant sects. The Holy Supreme Congregation, under Cardinal Giovanni Pietro Caraffa (later Pope Paul IV), gained among its many privileges that of creating Inquisitors who were to be given the appropriate number of staff to help them in any town, province, or place. The first attempt was also made to compile an Index of prohibited books deemed likely to propagate false teachings.¹

The memoirs of Mgr. Salviati, himself Inquisitor of Malta (1754 – 59), complement the local Inquisition Archives and throw light on the establishment of this new Tribunal in Malta. Salviati relates how before 1530 there existed a tribunal of the old Medieval Inquisition, under the jurisdiction of the Bishop of Palermo, and which was no different from that of other Sicilian towns.² When the Bull was published (1542), Malta had been ruled by the Order of St John for only twelve years and the Tribunal was itself still in a period of transition. A few months later Domenico Cubelles was elected Bishop of Malta, a position he held until 1566.

The years of Cubelles' bishopric can be divided into two: the first, 1542 – 1561, when he functioned solely as Bishop of Malta; and the second, 1562 – 1566, when he also carried out the duties of Pro-Inquisitor to the Maltese Islands. Hence, prior to 1562, the Bishop could deal with cases against heresy through his own episcopal court so that the *Camera Secreta* and its appropriate staff did not need to exist.

1. E. Burman, *The Inquisition: The Hammer of Heresy*, (Aquarian Press 1984), 158.

2. Archives of the Cathedral, Medina, Archives of the Inquisition of Malta, Mem. Salviati, Tomo I Mem. 12, f.16v.

Bishop Cubelles and heresy: 1546 – 61

The first group of 'heretics' dealt with by the Bishop included mainly members of notable families and some knights and foreigners. They were mainly accused of heresy, especially of sympathizing with Lutheran ideas. These were brought in front of the Bishop in April 1546 and Cubelles compiled a voluminous case against 28 individuals.³ No action was taken against them as they all gave orthodox answers in matters of faith. Experience indicated, however, that this sort of procedure was not enough since many continued to profess heretical opinions.⁴ In 1554 and 1558 other cases were formed on the same style as that of 1546, mainly against persons absent from Malta. The names of these individuals were in fact to appear often before the Bishop himself or his successors and most of them were eventually condemned for heresy.

This index does not include the records of the Commission appointed by Grand Master D'Homedes in 1553 to take action in cases concerning the faith of members of the Order.⁵ This lacuna could indicate that the records of the Grand Master's Commission were never incorporated in the Archives of the Inquisition.

Bishop Cubelles as Pro-Inquisitor: 1562 – 66

Cubelles received powers to act as Inquisitor in a Brief dated 21 October 1561 and published in Malta on 15 July 1562.⁶ The Bishop now began to call himself Inquisitor and was furnished with his own *Camera Secreta*, separate prisons, and staff.⁷

The new Tribunal held its first session on 14 August 1562⁸ and the first accusation was heard on the 17th.⁹ It was only in May/June 1563, however, that the Tribunal began to function fully. By that time many had begun to appeal before it to declare their faults spontaneously. The great number of

3. ACM, AIM Proc. Crim. 1A, case 1.

4. AIM, Mem. Salviati, f.17.

5. A. Bonnici, 'Evoluzione Storico – Giuridica dei poteri dell'Inquisitore nei processi in materia di Fede contro i Cavalieri del Sovrano Ordine di Malta', *Annales de l'O.S.M. de Malte*, (Rome 1969), XXVI, 95.

6. A. Bonnici, *Il-Maltin u l-Inkizizzjoni f'nofs is-seklu Sbatax*, (Malta 1977), 65.

7. C. Cassar, 'The First Decades of the Inquisition 1546 – 1581', *Hyphen*, IV, No. 6 (Malta 1985), 209, and AIM, Mem. Salviati, f.22.

8. S. Sallèles, *De Materis Tribunalium Sancti Inquisitionis*, I (Rome 1651), Prol. II no. 10, 53.

9. AIM Proc. Crim. 38, case 41.

cases of this period show the immediate success of the Tribunal in its mission.¹⁰ In fact, things were going well with the Holy Office especially since Cubelles was assisted by Fra Tommaso de Vio of Gaeta who came purposely from Rome to help in the re-organization. Fra Tommaso became so important that the Bishop would not act without his advice. Salviati points out that things were going so well that the Holy Office might have succeeded in extirpating heresy from Malta had it not been for the Turkish invasion of 1565. The Great Siege, and the eventual death of Cubelles a year later, interrupted the functions of the Tribunal. As the Turkish fleet was nearing Malta in May 1565, Fra Tommaso left the island, and the Bishop took the radical measure of winding up the Holy Office and dismissing its officers.¹¹

It is evident that between 1562 and 1565 the cases heard by the Inquisition were greater in number and more varied in nature than before. The first case on record, that of 1546, was against twenty-eight persons all accused of ‘heresy’ under one form or another. These included eleven who were accused of reading prohibited books and twelve who did not abstain from food forbidden by the Church on established days. Two others were accused of sorcery, one of blasphemy, and another had allegedly favoured the marriage of priests.¹²

A year later (1547) four persons were accused of reading prohibited books, including Don Andrea Axac, rector of the school of Mdina. Axac had already been charged before Cubelles the previous year; the case of 1547 is included with one of 1563.¹³ In fact, Salviati states that after 1546 other processes were formed on the same pattern for 1554 and 1558.¹⁴ In 1554 only one person was accused of heresy, while in 1557 ten persons appeared before the Bishop similarly accused and a Sicilian of Vittoriosa was denounced for having robbed the church of St Agatha at Mdina. These cases were later appended to a case of 1563 and came to be considered part of it.

Only 2 cases arose in 1558, both accused presumably being Greek.¹⁵ The only document that figures for 1559 is a *cedula* drawn on behalf of Don

10. AIM, Mem. Salviati, f.22v.

11. Ibid., f.23v.

12. AIM Proc. Crim. 1A, case 1 ff. 3 – 33v., dated April 1546.

13. AIM, Proc. Crim. 38, case 34 ff. 473 – 480 dated June 1563, including 4 persons accused in 1547; 11 in 1557; and 2 in 1563.

14. AIM, Mem. Salviati, f.17.

15. AIM, Proc. Crim. 2A, case 25, and case 18, dated 27 April and 2 May respectively.

Joseph Bellia of Birkirkara in which he demanded from Antonio Camenzuli, a *Monitorio* of the Bishop's court, 50 *scudi* that he had given to his sister Laurica Sammut.¹⁶ In 1561 only two cases were heard by Cubelles, one involving a nun at St Scholastica and the Magnifico Pietro De Nava accused of illicit relations¹⁷ and in the other Pietro Cumbo was accused by heresy.¹⁸ There remain two other undated cases which may belong to the period prior to Cubelles' appointment as Pro-Inquisitor. These two cases, numbered 2 and 3 in vol. 1, also deal with heretical practices of two Maltese Franciscan friars.¹⁹ It can, therefore, be concluded that most cases from the time of Cubelles concerned accusations of heretical practices. The 1562 establishment of the Holy Office as a separate Tribunal changed the whole situation. There is only one case for 1562²⁰ while there are 28 cases for 1563, five of which concerned more than one person, an increase that explains why the Tribunal was so busy before the Siege. One particular case against eleven persons accused of heretical practices was heard in June 1563.²¹

The majority of cases between 1561 and 1565 dealt with heresy in all its various forms with more than forty-six individuals accused of such 'crimes' as reading prohibited literature (15); sorcery (9); breaking of abstinence (5); bigamy (3); apostasy (2); blasphemy (2); and a case of concubinage, besides 3 petitions.

Six cases were dealt with in 1564. This number is insignificant when compared to that of the previous year and that of the first six months of 1565. In 1565 fourteen cases were heard; all, except two, appeared prior to 18 May. The latter two cases were not heard before Cubelles as Inquisitor but rather in his capacity as Bishop since by then the Holy Office had closed down.

16. *Ibid.*, case 53, ff. 525 – 526, 16 October 1559.

17. *Ibid.*, Proc. Crim. 1A, case 4.

18. *Ibid.*, Proc. Crim. 142, case 1, dated 2 September 1561.

19. *Ibid.*, Proc. Crim. 1A.

20. *Ibid.*, Proc. Crim. 3B, case 34.

There is also a copy of the abjuration of Don Andrea Axac, master of the Grammar School at Mdina. His final trial was held in Rome in front of the Inquisitor General, Mastro Thommaso Scoto. Axac was declared a heretic and was given a sentence (see Index and AIM Proc. Crim. Vol. 4A, case 27, ff. 204 – 208v, dated March 1562).

By 1563, as soon as the Holy Office was established under Bishop Cubelles, most of Axac's followers were to be processed. No wonder that Mgr. Salviati, writing in 1759, readily mentions the immediate success of the newly set up Tribunal in the extirpation of heresy. (AIM, Mem. Salviati, f.22v.)

21. *Ibid.*

In fact, during the Great Siege there was no Inquisitor in Malta. The Memoirs of Mgr. Salviati illustrate how the Siege and the closing down of the Holy Office undid most of the work already achieved by the Tribunal.²²

With the death of Cubelles a year after the Siege – on 11 November 1566²³ – started a period of *sede vacante* for the bishopric of Malta, which lasted till 1572 when Bishop Martino Royas was nominated. In the interval a vicar general or a group of canons administered the diocese.

Sede Vacante – 1566 – 72

The years 1566–72 can rightly be termed a period of transition for both the Holy Office and the diocese of Malta. During this period very few cases related to the Inquisition were brought before the vicar. It is even probable that the judge of the Bishop's Court acted as judge of the Holy Office and eventually cases that were related to the Inquisition were transferred to the Holy Office. This period was particularly hectic for Maltese history for the knights, backed by the Catholic powers, were anxious to see the island better fortified.²⁴

During the six years of *sede vacante* fourteen Cathedral canons shared the running of the diocese of Malta. It seems that all, or most, of the canons participated in this *interregnum*, although only two of them exercised power for a long period of time. The Archdeacon, Don Pancratio Michallef, was Capitular Vicar from 26 November 1566 to 15 June 1569, followed later by Don Antonio Bartolo, Parish Priest of Zurrieq, from December 1569 to 1572, the year of Royas' installation.²⁵ Bartolo was one of the prominent personalities in Malta, and he was later to accompany Mgr. Pietro Dusina in his diocesan visitation as Vicar General of the Diocese, the other co-visitor being the Dominican Fra Damiano Taliana who had also had a hand in the affairs of the Holy Office.²⁶

Bishop Royas – Inquisitor of Malta 1572 – 74

Fra Martino Royas de Portalrubeo, Vice Chancellor of the Order of St John was chosen by the King of Spain as Bishop of Malta on condition that he

22. *Ibid.*, f.23v.

23. AIM, Proc. Civ. 1, case 1.

24. For further information on this period, see Cassar, 213–214.

25. Cassar, 229. Appendix II: Vicars in the period of *Sede Vacante*.

26. J. Cassar Pullicino, 'Malta in 1575: Social Aspects of an Apostolic Visit,' in *M(elita) H(istorica)*, II, No. 1 (Malta 1956), 35, and G. Wetinger, 'Early Maltese Popular Attitudes to the Government of the Order of St John,' in *M.H.* VI, No. 2 (Malta 1974), 238.

paid a pension of 400 *scudi* a year to the Prior of the Conventual Church, Fra Antonio Cressino.²⁷ His election was, however, confirmed in May 1572, when Gregory XIII was elected Pope.²⁸ The new Bishop arrived in Malta in January 1573 with a Papal Brief appointing him Inquisitor as well.

From February 1573 to July 1574, during Royas' term of office as Inquisitor, fourteen cases were heard, of which one included eight persons and another, four. On his return to Malta, however, the first person Royas dealt with was his old friend, Dottor Antonio Bonello, who had been condemned by his antagonist, Fra Tommaso de Vio, under Bishop Cubelles. Bonello, together with many knights, had been accused of heresy.²⁹ Royas was later to deal with the knights suspected of heretical practices which eventually led to his losing the inquisitorship. In 1573 only two cases were heard before Royas, both dealing with heresy, the other cases being heard in the first half of 1574. During Royas' short term of office as Inquisitor the people accused before the Holy Office came from all strata of society. The accused involved lawyers, notaries, knights, clerics, tavern keepers, workers, sailors, and medical doctors. As Inquisitor, Royas' position differed from that of Cubelles, whose problem had not been with the people of his diocese but with the Order to which, like Royas, he belonged. The problem of proceeding against knights became acute and led to trouble during his administration, except that Royas' position *vis-à-vis* the Order did not suffer. Cubelles would only proceed against knights with the acquiescence of the Grand Master and the higher officials of the Order itself.

Royas' position differed as Gregory XIII's Brief granted him full authority as inquisitor. However, it did not take long for trouble to ensue. He soon accused Grand Master La Cassiere of trying to destroy his episcopal authority. La Cassiere reacted by requesting Rome to send an ecclesiastical delegate to look into the matter. Rome sent Mgr. Pietro Dusina whose mission was to acquaint himself with the difficulties between the Bishop and the Grand Master and to act as Inquisitor and Apostolic Delegate.³⁰

Mgr. Pietro Dusina – Inquisitor and Apostolic Delegate 1574 – 75

Dusina, a native of Brescia (Italy), became Inquisitor and Apostolic

27. AIM, Mem. Salviati, f.24 and G. Bosio, *Dell'Istoria della Sacra Religione et Illustrissima Militia de S. Giovanni Gerosolimitano*, (Rome 1602), III, 789.

28. *Ibid.*, 789.

29. AIM, Mem. Salviati, f.24 and AIM Proc. Crim. 3B, case 34.

30. AIM, Mem. Salviati, f.25; A. Depasquale, *Ecclesiastical Immunity and the powers of the Inquisitor in Malta 1777–1785*, (Malta 1968), 7; A. Bonnici, 'Evoluzione storico – giuridica', 97.

Cases and Persons under Charge 1546 – 75			
	YEAR	CASES	PERSONS
Cubelles as Bishop 1546 – 61			
	1546	1	28
	1547	1	4
	1554	1	1
	1557	1	11
	1558	2	2
	1559	1	1
	1561	2	12
Cubelles as Pro-Inquisitor 1562 – 66			
	1562	1	1
	1563	27	50
	1564	6	5
	1565	14	23
Undated Cubelles 1561 – 66			
		4	6
Sede Vacante 1566 – 72			
	1567	1	1
	1568	1	1
	1569	1	1
	1570	1	1
	1572	1	1
Royas as Pro-Inquisitor 1573 – 74			
	1573	2	2
	1574	12	24
Dusina – Inquisitor			
	1574	14	27
	1575	3	4

Delegate with a Brief dated 3 July 1574,³¹ which was to serve as a model for later Briefs. A copy was also sent to Royas in his capacity as Bishop of Malta.³²

Dusina was granted the faculty to proceed alone in all cases dealing with the Faith, including those in which knights were involved. Dusina acted in concert with Royas as both of them signed their names on decrees and sentences,³³ and he even gave precedence to the Bishop in certain cases.³⁴

31. Sallelles, Prol. II no. 3.

32. AIM, Mem. Salviati, 40.

33. Ibid., 42.

34. Sallelles, Prol. II no. 7.

Dusina's term of office lasted from 25 August 1574 to the end of May 1575. In these nine months, twenty-five cases were brought before him.³⁵ Dusina's term of office is of particular interest especially since he was the first Inquisitor of Malta to be sent specifically and directly from Rome and it resulted in a gradual increase of authority of the Holy Office. Upon Dusina's arrival the number of cases increased considerably with as many as fifteen people being accused of heresy during his short period of tenure. Amongst these one finds important citizens including the judge Dottor Ludovico Platomone³⁶ on 21 September 1574 and Don Pancratio Michallef, Archdeacon of the Cathedral, who in November of that year was found guilty of conversing with heretics and was sentenced to preach against them in sermons at the Cathedral.³⁷

A factor which led to the increased efficiency in the functioning of the Tribunal must surely have been the short terms of office of the inquisitors. Dusina himself spent only nine months in Malta, in which period he could not have made many friends and could, therefore, be expected to show impartiality in his decisions.

In fact, the coming of Dusina stands out as a landmark in Maltese history since the role of the Church became much more stressed in the centuries that followed. By the late sixteenth century, religion developed into one of the major characteristics of the Maltese ethnic identity. Above all, this attempt on the role of the Church was particularly dear to the Maltese élite since it helped to define Maltese society within a definite European context – a fact which made them acceptable by the dominant culture of the times.

35. AIM Proc. Crim. 3A, case 14.

36. AIM Proc. Crim. 3A, cass 14.

37. Ibid., case 30.

APPENDIX I

Maltese Inquisition: 1546 – 75

Offence	Number
Heresy and suspected heresy	80
Heretical opinion	27
Abuse of Sacraments	2
Infringement of Abstinence	28
Prohibited books	30
Apostasy	1
Blasphemy	7
Bigamy	4
Concubinage	5
Adultery	1
Sodomy	4
Lapsed Catholics	8
Offences to Holy Office/Bishop/Pope	3
Offence to father	1
Gambling	2
Theft	2
Murder	2
Usury	3
Solicitation	7
Magical Arts	11
Copies of Abjurations	3
Excommunication	1
Miscellaneous	7
Total	239
Annual Average	8

APPENDIX II

*Cases heard before the Inquisition Tribunal 1546 – May 1575***1546**

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. ? April
Vol 1A, Case 1, ff. 1–2 | Don Petro Casizza, Maltese from Qormi, [accused of] heretical talk. |
| 2. ? April
Vol 1A, Case 1, ff. 3–33 | Don Ferrante Zurchi, heresy. |
| 3. ? April
Ibid. | Don Andrea Axac, Maltese from Mdina, curate of Siggiewi Parish and schoolmaster at Mdina, infringement of abstinence. |

4. ? April Don Brandano Caxaro, Maltese notary from Mdina, infringement of abstinence.
Ibid.
5. ? April Magnifico Mattheo Falson, Maltese from Mdina, *capitano della verga*, heretical talk.
Ibid.
6. ? April Mattheo Falson, Maltese from Mdina, son of Magnifico Mattheo Falson, heretical talk.
Ibid.
7. ? April Pietro Cumbo, Maltese, heretical talk.
Ibid.
8. ? April Dottore Pietro Stumica, Maltese lawyer from Mdina, infringement of abstinence and of being very friendly with Pietro Cumbo.
Ibid.
9. ? April Alexandro Stumica, Maltese from Mdina, brother of Dottore Pietro Stumica, infringement of abstinence and of being very friendly with Pietro Cumbo.
Ibid.
10. ? April Pietro Calava, Maltese from Mdina, of school of Axac, infringement of abstinence and heretical talk.
Ibid.
11. ? April Michele Alegritto, Maltese from Mdina, of school of Axac, abstinence and heretical talk.
Ibid.
12. ? April Geronimo Falsuni, Maltese from Mdina, infringement of infringement of abstinence and heretical talk.
Ibid.
13. ? April Lorenzo Baglio, Maltese from Qormi, son of Bernardo, infringement of abstinence and heretical talk.
Ibid.
14. ? April Pietro Casizza, Maltese cleric from Qormi, infringement of abstinence and heretical talk.
Ibid.
15. 10 April Jacobo Callus, Maltese from Mdina, of school of Axac, infringement of abstinence and heretical talk.
Ibid.
16. 10 April Thomasi Bonello, Maltese from Mdina, of school of Axac, infringement of abstinence and heretical talk.
Ibid.
17. 10 April Cola dello Re, Maltese from Rabat, infringement of abstinence and heretical talk.
Ibid.
18. 10 April Giuseppe de Guivara, Maltese from Mdina, of school of Axac, infringement of abstinence, concubinage, and heretical talk.
Ibid.
19. 10 April Gio. Maria Bonello, Maltese from Mdina, of school of Axac, heretical talk.
Ibid.
20. 10 April Don Lorenzo Caxaro, Maltese, heretical talk.
Ibid.
21. 17 April English *Commendatore*, English knight living at Borgo, owning prohibited books.
Ibid.
22. 17 April Fra Fale Lappiera, Provençal knight living at Borgo, heretical talk.
Ibid.
23. 17 April Man who says heresies, from Borgo, heresy.
Ibid.
24. 17 April Secular German living at Borgo, refusing genuflexion before bearing witness.
Ibid.
25. 17 April An Imperial Delegate, German living at Borgo, refusing confession and genuflexion.
Ibid.
26. 17 April A man who refused confession, refusing Pope's supreme

- Ibid. power and confession.
 27. 17 April La Martines, a nun living at Borgo, sorcery and witchcraft.
 Ibid.
28. 17 April Dominican Prior of the Annunciation Church, from Borgo,
 Ibid. heretical writing on host.
 29. 17 April Fra Hieronimo de Vitalis, Sicilian cleric and member of the
 Ibid. Order, from Syracuse, owning prohibited books and
 allowing others to read them.
- 1547**
30. ? Don Andrea Axac, Maltese from Rabat, curate of Parish of
 Vol 3B, Case 34, f. 473v. Siggiewi, owning prohibited books and irreverence to
 Sacrament.
31. ? Don Federico Scolaro, Maltese scholar, owning prohibited
 Ibid. books.
 32. ? Notary Placido Abel, Maltese scholar, owning prohibited
 Ibid. books.
 33. ? Notary Jacobo Baldaquino, Maltese, owning prohibited
 Ibid. books.
- 1554**
34. 15 March Antonio di Carno, from St Elmo, soldier at St Elmo,
 Vol 2A, Case 17, behaving like an heretic.
 ff. 124–151
- 1557**
35. ? Coletta Scerri, Maltese, heresy.
 Vol 3B, Case 34, ff.
 474–476
36. ? Don Brandano Caxaro, Maltese from Mdina, owning
 Ibid. prohibited books and heresy.
 37. ? Fra Pietro Moquin, French knight and *infermiere* of the
 Ibid. *Sacra Infermeria* living at Borgo, owning prohibited books.
 38. ? Mastro Simone Provost, French Master of the Mint and
 Ibid. member of the Order living at Borgo, owning prohibited
 books.
 39. ? Fra *servitore*, from Borgo, *sotto mastro* of the Grand
 Ibid. Master's house, owning prohibited books.
 40. ? Notary Bartholomeo Haxixa, Maltese, heresy.
 Ibid.
41. ? Antonio Cassar, Maltese, infringement of abstinence.
 Ibid.
42. ? Mattheo Falson, Maltese from Mdina, *Capitano della Verga*,
 Ibid. infringement of abstinence.
 43. ? Nicola Zammit, Maltese, infringement of abstinence.
 Ibid.
44. ? Hieronimo Falsone, Maltese, ridiculing the Jubilee.
 Ibid.

45. ?
Ibid. Sicilian cobbler, living at Borgo, robbing church of St Agatha, Mdina.
- 1558**
46. 27 April
Vol 2A, Case 25, ff. 212 – 223 Georgiciuz Chelibi, causing death of Stephani Parla.
47. 2 May
Vol 2A, Case 18,
ff. 152 – 175 Catherine Monaglia and her Greek friends, Greek living in Malta, wife of Mattheo Monaglia of Syracuse, heresy.
- 1559**
48. 16 October
Vol 3B, Case 53,
ff. 525 – 526 Don Josepho Bellia, Maltese from B’Kara, asking *monetario* of Bishop’s court to give him 50 *scudi*.
- 1561**
49. 18 August
Vol 1A, Case 4, ff. 37 – 42 Soro Paula de Saura, Maltese from Mdina, nun of convent of St. Scholastica, being friendly with Magnifico Pietro di Nava.
50. 2 September
Vol 142, Case 1, ff. 1 – 7 Pietro Cumbo, Maltese, owning prohibited books and heresy. *Sentence*: to report heresy or heretical talk and denounce it publicly; to report owners or readers of prohibited books to the Holy Office; to be interned at home; to pay for masses of the dead; and to confess and to receive Holy Communion on the four feasts of Easter, Christmas, Pentecoste, and the Assumption for four years.
- 1562**
51. March
Vol 4A, Case 27,
ff. 204 – 208v A copy of the abjuration of Don Andrea Axac, Maltese from Mdina, held in Rome before the General Inquisitor Thomas Scoto. *Sentence*: to abjure in public; to wear the yellow habit of heretics with red crosses at the back and front as a sign of penitence for his lifetime; to be interned at home; to fast for seven years on bread and water twice weekly; to recite the seven psalms weekly for seven years; to say the office of Our Lady and the office of the dead; to confess monthly; to keep the images of Christ and Our Lady at home; not to exercise his profession and to be suspended from church services.
52. 17 August
Vol 3B, Case 41,
ff. 500 – 501 Fra Marcorti, knight of the Order, infringement of abstinence.
- 1563**
53. 24 April 1563
Vol 3B, Case 25, ff. 451 – 452 Tholomeo Bonello, Maltese from Citadel of Gozo, heresy.
54. 20 June
Vol 2A, Case 7, ff. 1 – 20 Dottore Nicola Antonio Xerri, Maltese lawyer from Siggiewi, heresy. *Sentence*: to confess and receive Holy Communion

- on the four feasts of the Church (see above) for five years; to pay for masses of the dead; to recite the seven psalms on Wednesday and Friday; to keep images of Christ and the saints at home; to be imprisoned; to observe indulgences; to hear High Mass on feast days; to make penitence and to lead an exemplary life; to pay 250 *scudi* to the Holy Office.
55. 20 June
Vol 2B, Case 32,
ff. 365 – 402
Lorenzo Falzon, Maltese cleric, heresy. *Sentence*: to be imprisoned; to be interned at home for six months; to pay for masses of the dead for two years; to confess and to receive Holy Communion on the four feasts of the Church (see above); to present himself before the Inquisition Tribunal once monthly; to keep images of saints at home; to give alms to the poor for three years; to observe the indulgences; to pay a sum of money to the Holy Office.
56. 20 June
Vol 2C, Case 41, ff. 589 – 801
Dottore Antonio Bonello, Maltese medical doctor from Mдина, heresy. *Sentence*: to be imprisoned.
57. 20 June
Vol 4A, Case 28, ff. 210 – 221
Petition by Hieronimo Falsone, Maltese, to bury his father in a holy place. (Gieronimo Falsone, accused of heresy, had been buried in unconsecrated ground.)
58. 21 June
Vol 2A, Case 10, ff. 43 – 57
Dottore Agostino Cumbo, Maltese lawyer, heresy. *Sentence*: to present himself before the Inquisitor monthly for one year; to give alms weekly; to make penitence and to lead an exemplary life; to observe the feasts of saints for one year; to report anyone who keeps a concubine; to pay 40 ounces to the Holy Office; to be interned at home and never to appear again before an ecclesiastical court during his lifetime.
59. 21 June
Vol 2A, Case 24, ff. 202 – 211
Dottore Petro Stumica, Maltese lawyer from Mдина, heresy. *Sentence*: liberated, absolved, and admonished.
60. 22 June
Vol 142, Case 3, ff. 10 – 17
Dottore Petro Stumica, Maltese lawyer, from Mдина, heresy and sodomy.
61. 22 June
Ibid.
Gio. Maria Bonello, Maltese silversmith from Mдина, owning prohibited books.
62. 22 June
Ibid.
Dottore Antonio Bonello, Maltese medical doctor from Mдина, heresy.
63. 22 June
Ibid.
Laurenzo Falzon, Maltese, heresy.
64. 22 June
Vol 2A, Case 12, ff. 70 – 83
Antonio Cassar, Maltese, heresy. *Sentence*: to be imprisoned for one month; to be interned in Malta; to confess and to receive Holy Communion for life; to pay for masses of the dead for two years; to observe the indulgences; to keep images at home; to hear High Mass on feast days; to give alms; to present himself before the Inquisition for six years; not to appear before an ecclesiastical court for two years; to make penitence and lead an exemplary life; to pay the Holy Office 50 *scudi*.
65. 24 June
Vol 142, Case 2, ff. 8 – 9
Antonio Cassar, Maltese, infringement of abstinence.

82. 8 July
Vol 2A, Case 26,
ff. 224 – 229
Thommaso Bonello, Maltese, heresy. *Sentence*: to pay for masses of the dead for two years; to keep holy images at home; to make penitence and lead an exemplary life for one year; to confess and to receive Holy Communion on the four feasts (see above); to pay 15 *scudi* to the Holy Office; to be interned in Malta.
83. 11 July
Vol 2A, Case 14,
ff. 94 – 103
Don Giovanni Xeberras, Maltese, heresy. *Sentence*: to be suspended from church services, to confess and to receive Holy Communion on the four feast (see above) for six months; to observe the feasts of saints; give alms; keep images; to pay for masses of the dead for six months; to lead an exemplary life for four years; to present himself before the Inquisitor for three years; to pay the Holy Office 50 *scudi*; to be interned in Malta.
84. 12 July
Vol 2A, Case 13,
ff. 84 – 93
Don Francesco Sillato, Maltese, heresy. *Sentence*: to give alms; to pay for masses of the dead for two years; to observe indulgence; to keep images at home; to make penitence and to lead an exemplary life for three years; to say mass for the dead; to be suspended from church service; to be interned in Malta.
85. 14 July
Vol 1A, Case 56,
ff. 43 – 63
Dottore Nicola Pietro Sciuereb, Maltese who studied law in Naples and who was a student of Axac's, having an heretical opinion while still a student.
86. 14 July
Vol 3B, Case 76,
ff. 734 – 736
Notary Bartholomeo Haxixa, Maltese, heresy and apostasy. *Sentence*: to wear the yellow habit of heretics (see above); to be imprisoned for one year; to be interned in Malta; to hear High Mass on feast days at Annunciation Church, Vittoriosa; to confess and to receive Holy Communion on the four feasts (see above); to present himself before the Inquisitor; to pay weekly for masses of the dead for four years; to give food to the poor; to observe indulgences; not to exercise his profession; to pay 100 *scudi* to the Holy Office.
87. 15 July
Vol 2A, Case 21,
ff. 176 – 191
Fra Antonio Haius, Maltese Conventual Franciscan, heresy. *Sentence*: to be interned in Malta; to be suspended from church service for one year; to be deprived of dignities; confess and receive Holy Communion on feast days for one year; to make penitence for five years and to lead an exemplary life; to hear High Mass on feast days at the Cathedral in Mdina; to wear the yellow habit of heretics (see above).
88. 17 July
Vol 2A, Case 8, ff. 21 – 28
Salvo Frendo, Maltese from Zebbug, concubinage. *Sentence*: to hold candle and to kneel down during Mass for two months; to confess and to receive Holy Communion on the four feasts (see above).
89. 2 August
Vol 3A, Case 27,
ff. 455 – 456
Giovanni Jacobo Perulerio from Messina, of heresy.
90. 1 September
Fra Nicola de Phuimarcum, French knight living at Borgo,

- Vol 3B, Case 37,
ff. 493 – 494
- 91 1 September
Ibid.
92. 15 December
Vol 3B, Case 36,
ff. 491 – 492
93. 23 December
Vol 3B, Case 39,
ff. 497 – 499
94. 23 December
Ibid.
95. 23 December
Ibid.
96. 23 December
Ibid.
97. 23 December
Ibid.
98. 23 December
Ibid.
99. 23 December
Ibid.
100. ?
Vol 3B, Case 38,
495 – 496
- 1564**
101. 17 January
Vol 1A, Case 6, ff. 64 – 65
102. 21 February
Vol 167, Case 1,
unpaginated
103. 10 August
Vol 1A, Case 7, ff. 66 – 69
104. 16 September
Vol 2A, Case 11,
ff. 58 – 59
105. 29 September
Vol. 3A, Case 28,
ff. 462 – 475
106. 15 November
Vol 142, Case 4, ff. 18 – 19
- 1565**
107. 8 March
Vol 3A, Case 23,
ff 445 – 448
108. 14 March
- heresy and owning prohibited books.
- Fra Scerse, French knight living at Borgo, heresy and owning owning prohibited books.
- Fra Guglielmo Couppier, French knight living at Borgo and friend of the Grand Master's, heretical talk.
- Fra Comm. Blancialena, knight living at Borgo, heresy.
- Pilier of England, knight living at Borgo, heresy.
- Fra Comm. Verdala, French knight at Borgo, heresy.
- Fra Cav. Cussi, knight living at Borgo, heresy.
- Fra Cav. Torellas, Aragonese knight living at Borgo, heresy.
- Fra Cav. Tamben, French knight living at Borgo, heresy.
- Fra Guglielmo Couppier, French Knight Marshal living at Borgo, heresy.
- Captain and crew of galley *S. Giovanni*, heresy.
- Petition by *Povero* Enrico Pepiries for relief from misery.
- Fra Mastro Simone Provost from Flanders, living at Borgo Master of the Mint and Member of the Order, heresy.
- Dottore Petro Stumica, Maltese lawyer, from Mdina, presented letter from Sicilian Inquisition to rectify the case. Manoli de Radici, Greek living in Malta; heresy.
Sentence: to keep images at home; to pay 50 *scudi* to the the Holy Office.
- Dottore Petro Stumica, Maltese lawyer from Mdina, heresy.
- Letter by Don Antonio, Chancellor of the Archbishop of Messina, on Greek rites.
- Letter by Notary Vincentio Bonaventura de Bonetijis, Maltese, on fear of the Inquisition by the Grand Master and Bishop.
- Isabella, Maltese servant of Thomasino Gaya,

- Vol 3A, Case 22, ff. 443 – 444
109. 15 March
Vol 3A, Case 30, ff. 465 – 466
110. 17 March
Vol 3A, Case 26, ff. 453 – 454
111. 17 March
Ibid.
112. 17 March
Ibid.
113. 17 March
Ibid.
114. 17 March
Ibid.
115. 17 March
Ibid.
116. 17 March
Vol 3A, Case 20, ff. 453 – 454
117. 20 March
Vol 3a, Case 29, ff. 463 – 464
118. 20 March
Ibid.
119. 20 March
Ibid.
120. 20 March
Ibid.
121. 24 March
Vol 2A, Case 22, ff. 192 – 195
122. 24 March
Vol 3A, Case 21, ff. 441 – 442
123. 28 March
Vol 168, Case 49, unpaginated
124. 5 April
Vol 3A, Case 24, ff. 449 – 450
125. 5 April
Vol. 3B, Case 33, ff. 471 – 472
126. 5 April
Vol 3B, Case 52, ff. 523 – 524
- sorcery.
 Hieronima Bruna, Neopolitan living in Malta, lending money to Jews.
 Zacalu Calamia, living in Malta, sorcery.
 Catarina *la Cattina*, wife of Franchiscetto Turchi, living in Malta, heresy.
 La Falconetta, living in Malta, sorcery.
 Pulisena, living in Malta, sorcery.
 The wife of Pantaglo, living in Malta, sorcery.
 Franchiscetto Turchi, living in Malta, bigamy.
 Giorgio Sirico, living in Malta, bigamy.
 Dolcia Dalli, living in Malta, sorcery.
 The daughter of Thumira, living in Malta, bigamy.
 Catharina, wife of Bando Calafato, living in Malta, usury.
 Francesco Genoiti, living in Malta, blasphemy.
 Agata, Maltese, daughter of Gentil Zuppard, sorcery.
 Nicola Mansin, Maltese from Rabat, avoiding the lieutenant of the Captain of the Inquisition.
 Fra Marco, and others, servant-at-arms, heresy.
 Mariano Tavernaro, Maltese from Mdina, shouting.
 Fra Cav. Orioles, knight living in Malta, heretical talk.
 Federico Cachia, Maltese from Zejtun, *Capitanes*, blasphemy.

127. 6 April
Vol 3B, Case 46.
ff. 508 – 511
128. 30 May
Vol 3B, Case 42,
ff. 502 – 503
129. 1 June
Vol 3B, Case 32,
ff. 469 – 470
130. Cubelles 1542 – 1566
Vol 1A, Case 2, ff. 34 – 35
131. Cubelles 1542 – 1566
Vol 1A, Case 3,
ff. 36 – 36v
132. Cubelles 1542 – 1566
Vol 3B, Case ?,
ff. 481 – 484
133. Cubelles 1542 – 1566
Ibid.
134. Cubelles 1542 – 1566
Ibid.
- 1567**
135. 11 December
Vol 1A, Case 16,
ff. 292 – 296
- 1568**
136. 25 September
Vol 1A, Case 8,
ff. 70 – 123
137. 25 September
Ibid.
- 1569**
138. 12 July
Vol 2A, Case 16,
ff. 116 – 123
139. ? February 156(?)
Vol 3B, Case 51,
ff. 521 – 522
- 1570**
140. 18 December
Vol 1A, Case 9, ff. 129 – 178
- Fra Damiano Taliana, Maltese Dominican Friar from Borgo, preaching giving of alms to Bishop.
- Margarita, Maltese, daughter of Nardo Michallef, sorcery.
- Marietto Demodo, living in Malta, having prayed that the Turks might take Malta.
- Fra Antonio Haius, Maltese Conventual Franciscan, heresy.
- Nicola Antonio Xerri, Maltese, owning prohibited books and heretical talk.
- Fra Domenico Tabone, Maltese, heresy.
- Cola de Lorre, Maltese from Rabat, heresy.
- Don Nicola Zammit, Maltese, heresy.
- Petition by *Vicario* Alexandro Abel, Maltese from Vittoriosa, *vicario* to the Holy Office, stating that he had never been paid by Cubelles.
- Soro Clementia Muscat, Maltese nun from Mdina, from convent of St Scholastica, making love at the convent of St Scholastica.
- Canonico Joanne De Nava, Maltese Canon of the Cathedral, was acquitted and absolved.
- Jacobo Callus, Maltese, heresy. *Sentence*: to pay for masses of the dead monthly; to hold candle and to kneel down during Mass every Sunday for one year; to confess and to receive Holy Communion on the two feasts, that is, Easter and Christmas; to be interned in Malta.
- Francesco Buffone, French living at Vittoriosa, blasphemy and heresy.
- Pietro Mingrano, usury.

1572

141. 16 December
Vol 143, Case 1, ff. 1 – 194
Dottore Francesco Turrensis, judge, was excommunicated by the Bishop. *Sentence*: not to exercise his profession.

1573

142. 10 February
Vol 2A, Case 44,
ff. 847 – 888
143. 19 February
Vol 2A, Case 20,
ff. 566 – 587
Don Cornelio Jacxi, Greek living at Vittoriosa, Greek Catholic Parish Priest, heresy. *Sentence*: to be admonished and to pay 60 *scudi* to the Holy Office.
Notary Giuseppe di Guevara, Maltese from Mdina, heresy.

1574

144. 12 January
Vol 1A, Case 18,
ff. 301 – 321
145. 21 April
Vol 1A, Case 11,
ff; 181 – 186
146. 27 April
Vol 3B, Case 72,
ff. 720 – 725
147. 25 May
Vol 2A, Case 27,
ff. 230 – 243
148. 26 May
Vol 1A, Case 13,
ff. 189 – 223
149. 3 June
Vol 3B, Case 54,
ff. 527 – 530
150. 3 June
Ibid.
151. 3 June
Ibid.
152. 3 June
Ibid.
153. 3 June
Ibid.
154. 3 June
Ibid.
155. 3 June
Ibid.
156. 3 June
Ibid.
157. 11 June
Vol 3B, Case 45,
ff. 506 – 507
Luca Camilleri, Maltese from Naxxar, blasphemy and of infringement of abstinence. *Sentence*: liberated on condition that he kept silent.
Don Jacobo Calleja, Maltese from Siggiewi, Parish Priest of Siggiewi, wearing women's clothes at night.
Giarlante D'Armanin, Maltese tavern keeper from Zurrieq, infringement of abstinence.
Dottore Giacomo Sala, from Caserta, living in Malta, medical doctor at the Infirmary, heresy.
Alessandro Abel, Maltese cleric, husband of Donna Maria Alagona, bigamy.
Manolo Maaronati, Greek, living in Malta, heresy.
A forced rower on the galleys, French, living in Malta, heresy.
A Maltese man, not allowing his wife to practise religion.
Abjuration by Dottore Antonio Bonello (prisoner), Maltese medical doctor, made at the Holy Office.
Notary Bartholomeo Haxixa, Maltese from Mdina, heresy and owning prohibited books.
Mattheo Falsone, Maltese from Mdina, heresy and owning prohibited books.
Dottore Ludovico Platomone, Maltese lawyer from Gozo, was called heretic by his brother Antonio.
Enrico Pepiries, heresy and of being friendly with Mattheo Falsone.
A French knight of the galleys, living in Malta, heresy.

158. 18 June
Vol 3B, Case 63,
ff. 622 – 625
159. 26 June
Vol 1A, Case 12,
ff. 187 – 188
160. 26 June
Ibid.
161. 26 June
Ibid.
162. 26 June
Ibid.
163. 4 July
Vol 3B, Case 44,
ff. 504 – 505
164. 4 July
Ibid.
165. 13 July
Vol 2A, Case 23,
ff. 196 – 201
166. 19 July
Vol 142, Case 6,
ff. 24 – 197
167. 19 July
Ibid.
168. 25 August
Vol 3B, Case 31,
ff. 302 – 364
169. 25 August
Vol 3B, Case 48,
ff. 512 – 513
170. 27 August
Vol 2B, Case 34,
ff. 403 – 432
171. 3 September
- Mastro Blasio Zammit, Maltese from Rabat, was surprised that the statue of St Agatha was mounted on the walls of Mdina.
- Raimondo Calamia, Maltese from Mdina, being a lapsed Catholic.
- Michele Ferrioles, surgeon, living in Gozo, being a lapsed Catholic.
- Arfio Delorre, living in Gozo, being a lapsed Catholic.
- Perarli Caloriti, corsair, being a lapsed Catholic.
- Dottore Augustino Cumbo, Maltese lawyer from Mdina, heresy and blasphemy.
- Notary Bartholomeo Haxixa, Maltese from Mdina, heresy and of owning prohibited books. *Sentence*: imprisonment.
- Soldier Pietro Zinghil, drummer, living at Mdina, being against the defence of the Cathedral.
- Notary Bartholomeo Haxixa, Maltese from Mdina, heresy. He was tortured.
- Dottore Francesco Xerri, Maltese judge from Mdina, heresy. He was tortured.
- Notary Jacobo Baldacchino, Maltese from Mdina, being friendly with Axac, of owning magic books and of heresy. *Sentence*: to be imprisoned for five years; to wear the yellow habit of heretics (see above), to say Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory daily; to hear High Mass on feast days for one year at either the Annunciation Church, Vittoriosa or at St John's Conventual Church, Valletta; to hear Masses for the dead; to recite the seven psalms weekly for two years; to confess and to receive Holy Communion on the four feasts (see above); to say Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory on 1 November in front of all the altars at St John's Conventual Church; to report owners or readers of prohibited books to the Holy Office; to report heresy or heretical talk and denounce it publicly; to pay 50 *scudi* to the Holy Office.
- Filippo Vella, Maltese from Safi, concubinage and of being a lapsed Catholic.
- Mastro Aloysio Rigal, from Provence, French gunner and gunsmith, living in Valletta, heresy and of infringement of abstinence. *Sentence*: to abjure in public; to recite the Oration and the Angelus.
- Notary Giuseppe di Guevara, Maltese from Mdina, heresy.

- Vol 2B, Case 30,
ff. 256 – 301
172. 3 September
Ibid.
173. 9 September
Vol 3B, Case 35,
ff. 485 – 490
174. 16 September
Vol 3B, Case 66,
ff. 630 – 633
175. 11 September
Vol 2C, Case 47,
ff. 907 – 961
176. 11 September
Ibid.
177. 11 September
Ibid.
178. 11 September
Ibid.
179. 11 September
Ibid.
180. 21 September
Vol 2B, Case 38,
ff. 466 – 565
181. 21 September
Vol 3A, Case 14,
ff. 317 – 339
182. 21 September
Vol 142, Case 5, ff. 20 – 23
183. 21 September
Ibid.
184. 20 September
Vol 3A, Case 2, ff. 1 – 4
185. 27 September
Vol 3A, Case 2, f. 5
186. 6 October
Vol 3A, Case 2, ff. 6 – 6v
187. 6 October
Vol 3A, Case 2, ff. 7 – 7v
188. 17 October
Vol 3B, Case 50,
ff. 516 – 520
189. 17 October
Ibid.
190. 17 October
Ibid.
- Pancratio Michalef, Maltese, archdeacon, having spoken to heretics. *Sentence*: to abjure in public; to report heresy or heretical talk and denounce it publicly; to pray for the dead daily for three months.
Daughter of Angela Cassar, Maltese from Kirkop, sorcery.
- Mariano Vella, Maltese from Ghaxaq, being a lapsed Catholic.
- Guglielmo Stallone, from Lombardy, Italian living at Vittoriosa, heresy.
- Julia Borg, Maltese, heresy.
- Isabella Borg, Maltese, heresy.
- Josepho Borg, Maltese, heresy.
- Anciona Barba, heresy.
- Dottore Francesco Xerri, Maltese from Mdina, Judge of Mdina, heresy. He was liberated and absolved.
- Dottore Ludovico Platamone, Maltese lawyer, heresy. *Sentence*: to pay 20 *scudi* for masses of the dead and 180 *scudi* to the Holy Office.
- Dottore Francesco Xerri, Maltese, Judge of Mdina, gave information on school of Axac.
- Dottore Jacobo Calli, Maltese lawyer, gave information on school of Axac.
- Fra Angelo Pellegrini, living in Malta, had to abjure.
- Catherina Borg, Maltese from Mdina, sorcery.
- Fra Battista Agliarda, living at Valletta, sodomy.
- Mastro Joanne Santore, French living at Mdina, heresy.
- Fra Ciameson, French knight, infringement of abstinence.
- Two Italian knights, infringement of abstinence.
- Two Spanish knights, infringement of abstinence.

191. 29 November
Vol 3A, Case 2, ff. 8 – 12
192. 2 December
Vol 3A, Case 2,
ff. 13 – 13v
193. 30 November
Vol 2C, Case 50,
ff. 962 – 1027
194. 2 December
Vol 1A, Case 14,
ff. 224 – 225
195. 7 December
Vol 3A, Case 2, f. 16
196. 24 December
Vol 3A, Case 2,
ff. 14 – 14v
- 1 5 7 5**
197. 7 March
Vol 3A, Case 2, f. 16v
198. 8 March
Vol 3A, Case 2, f. 17
199. 12 April
Vol 1A, Case 17,
ff. 297 – 300
200. 2(?) May
Vol 3B, Case 49,
ff. 513 – 515
- Raimondo Calamia, Greek living at Mdina, writing on the walls of Mdina and of being a lapsed Catholic.
- Masi Galdese, Maltese from Qormi, being disrespectful to his father.
- Antonio Delorre, Maltese from Syracuse, owning prohibited books. *Sentence*: to hear High Mass monthly; to recite the seven psalms weekly for his lifetime; to observe the feasts of saints; to make penitence and to lead an exemplary life; had to present himself monthly before the Inquisitor to abjure in public; to report owners or readers of prohibited books to the Holy Office; to report heresy or heretical talk and denounce it publicly.
- Revenue Officer, living at Vittoriosa, was interrogated.
- Don Pietro Bartholo, Maltese from Mosta, heresy.
- Fra Geronimo from Catania, Franciscan Minor *Guardiano* living at Valletta, sodomy.
- Mgr. Cubelles, Bishop of Malta, now deceased, and the Abel brothers, having spent the money of the Holy Office during the Siege of 1565.
- Antonio Provenzale, from Provence, French, living in Malta, infringement of abstinence.
- Don Jacobo Calleja, Maltese from Siggiewi, Parish Priest of Siggiewi, homicide.
- Luca Camilleri, Maltese from Naxxar, being a lapsed Catholic.