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THE TRIAL OF

L'ESCOLE DES FILLES

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L'ESCOLE DES FILLES

L'Escole des Filles was more than a century ahead of its time. It ought to have appeared around 1755; only then would it have arrived at the right moment, taking its proper place in the most unapologetically perverse body of literature the world has ever known—or ever will. This ultra-libertine literature developed alongside the philosophical writings of d'Holbach, La Mettrie, and their circle in the second half of the eighteenth century; the two currents were complementary. Though it is said to have been modeled on Italian works, *L'Escole des Filles* nonetheless stands as the first deliberately obscene book written in French, one that appeals directly to the senses. It is hardly surprising that in 1655 the king's attorney general was alarmed by its publication and took steps to punish the author and destroy every copy. That twofold aim, it should be said at once, was not achieved: Michel Millot the elder—fortunately for himself—escaped by fleeing, and a handful of copies of *L'Escole des Filles* survived the flames, making possible numerous reprints abroad. One copy of the original edition was even seized in 1661, at the time of Fouquet's arrest, from a drawer in the secret study of a house with a mysterious entrance, which the superintendent of finances had furnished for his mistress.¹

The prosecution brought against the author of *L'Escole des Filles* was first mentioned in the letters of Guy Patin.

¹ **Feuillet de Conches:** *Causeries d'un Curieux* (vol. II, p. 544). The legal inventories state: “a single small book : *L'Escole des filles*, printed at Leiden, so filthy and impudent, and so infamous, that we believed it our duty to have it burned.”. »

Guy Patin writes from Paris to Ch. Spon, on Tuesday, 17
August 1655 :

Here, a man named Milot has been hanged in effigy, proven to be the author of an infamous book entitled **L'Escole des Filles**, which is said to be derived from Aretino.¹

And later, in the *Carpenteriana*, Millot is disguised under the name Hélot :

Monet is the first man whom we have known to excel in portrait miniatures. I learned from him a rather curious particularity concerning L'Escole des Filles, which has just been printed in Holland. Monet was learning to draw with Chauveau when a certain Hélot, son of a lieutenant of the King's Cent-Suisses² came to ask Chauveau to engrave for him a small subject, which he executed according to the idea that the other gave him of it, and such as one sees it at the front of L'Escole des Filles, of which Hélot is the author. The latter gave his manuscript to a bookseller of the Palais, who had it printed; he sold it under the counter, but justice, having taken notice of a book so scandalous, caused searches to be made to discover the author, who, having got wind of it, left France. The bookseller, having disclosed the name of the one who had given him the

¹ The Réveillé-Parisse edition of Guy Patin's *Letters* dates the letter as 26 July, whereas the original letter is from 17 August 1655. In order to splice the paragraph concerning Millot from the letter of 17 August into the letter of 20 July, Réveillé-Parisse added the words: "On my return, someone was hanged here ..." No exact and complete edition of Guy Patin's *Letters* exists; not only have numerous paragraphs from the original letters been suppressed, but entire letters as well. Dr. Friaire had begun a definitive edition but unfortunately stopped after the first volume (out of what would probably have been four). The original letters are preserved in the Bibliothèque nationale, manuscripts français 9357 and 9358.

² This assertion is incorrect. There was no Hélot—neither lieutenant nor even ensign—of the King's Cent-Suisses in 1654 or 1655. The post of lieutenant was held from 1642 until 12 May 1653 by Guillaume de La Boissière de Saint-Marie; thereafter, until 23 May 1655, by Philippe de La Boissière de Chambor; and after that date by Thibaud de La Brousse, seigneur d'Atys.

manuscript, Hélot was hanged in effigy, all the copies of his book were burned at the foot of the gallows, and the bookseller condemned to an afflictive punishment. Chauveau, who was ignorant of the use that one wished to make of the subject that he had engraved for Hélot, nevertheless did not fail to be troubled. The bailiff of the Palais came to take him at his home; but as he had not had communication of *L'Escole des Filles*, he got off with having to see the plate that he had engraved broken, with a prohibition against engraving a second, should any printer ask it of him. It is far from the case that the plate which is at the front of *L'Escole des Filles*, which has just been printed in Holland, is as correct as that of Chauveau. Few persons have any of those that were burned at Paris with the book.¹

This last note, although partly inaccurate, was all the more interesting to us because we knew that Millot had had a collaborator—if not an accomplice—in the notorious Claude Le Petit.², the author of the anonymous madrigal addressed to M. Millot, placed at the head of *L'Escole des Filles*³. Claude was not implicated in the trial, being only seventeen years old; but he made up for it seven years later: less fortunate than Millot, who was burned in effigy, he himself was burned in reality on 1 September 1662. *Le Bordel des Muses*, which led to his condemnation, while inspired by the same spirit as *L'Escole des Filles*, aimed rather to scandalize than to corrupt.

The *Carpenteriana*, noting that the bailiff of the Palais had been tasked “with taking Chauveau from his home,” allowed us to direct our research. Accordingly, we were

¹ *Carpenteriana* : ou, Remarques d’histoire, de morale, de critique, d’érudition, et de bons mots de M. Charpentier de l’Académie Française (Paris : J. Fr. Morisset, 1741).

² See our notice of Claude Le Petit, placed at the beginning of: *Les Œuvres Libertines de Claude Le Petit, Parisien, brûlé le 1^{er} septembre 1662* (Paris, 1918).

³ The title of this madrigal appears in the table of contents of *Le Bordel des Muses* by Claude Le Petit.

able to locate, in the registers of the Bailliage du Palais preserved at the National Archives, the file of the trial of *L'Escole des Filles*.

The documents of this trial present an exact picture of the nature of the prosecutions brought, in the second half of the seventeenth century, against the authors of libertine books; they will serve to reconstruct the history of the first work—we repeat—written in French expressly to promote libertinism of morals, the breeding ground of unbelief. *L'Escole des Filles* is, in its genre, a document as representative and as valuable as the *Quatrains du Déiste* or the *Anti-bigot*¹. At first glance, nothing would seem to connect the systematic negations of the *Quatrains du Déiste* with the voluptuous descriptions of *L'Escole des Filles*; and yet their authors were tending toward the same end—the former consciously; the latter, perhaps involuntarily. Claude Belurgey (the presumed author of the *Quatrains du Déiste*) seeks to undermine the very foundations of religion, to destroy the principles of Christian morality, to free the human beast from all restraint; Millot arouses that human beast² and, in so doing, makes man the slave of his passions,

¹ *Les Quatrains du Déiste* were not printed in the seventeenth century; they circulated clandestinely and were communicated only to those in the know; they were refuted by Father Mersenne in his *Impiété des Déistes* (1624). We have reproduced them, together with a notice, in *Le Procès de Théophile de Viau*, a complete publication of the documents from the Archives nationales, vol. II.

One may perhaps be surprised that we do not speak here of the *Parnasse Satyrique* of 1622. Its excessive bawdiness and its irreligious sallies have nothing in common with the doctrinal bearing of *Les Quatrains du Déiste*, or with the odious licentiousness of *L'Escole des Filles*. The *Parnasse Satyrique* belongs to the same family as *Le Bordel des Muses*; Théophile de Viau and Claude Le Petit are brothers.

² Here is a suggestive example; it is given to us in a letter addressed by the comte de Bussy-Rabutin to Madame de Sévigné on 19 November 1687: “Madame de Montchevreuil (governess), having found in the chamber of the daughters of Madame la Dauphine a book entitled

annihilates within him all powers of resistance; in a word, he completes the theoretician with the practitioner. Burgery and Millot, precursors of Voltaire and Crébillon fils, have not been surpassed by their successors.

LE PROCÈS DE *L'ESCOLE DES FILLES* (1655)

A word first about the persons implicated:

Michel Millot, known as *l'ainé*, was a payeur, or rather a controller, of the Swiss Guards. Our efforts to discover his family have remained fruitless.

Jean L'Ange, forty-five years of age, has remained almost entirely in the shadows¹. We do not know to which family L'Ange, or de Lange, was connected, for in France there are several families of that name: one of them, originating in Bresse, may be that of our Jean L'Ange. We are led to think so by noting that he lodged with the widow of Nicolas Faret, the academician, born at Bourg;² however, his intimacy with Tristan L'Hermite, a native of the château du Solier in the Marche, might link L'Ange to the de Langes, lords of Solier. We may also cite the Langes

L'Escole des Filles, went to lodge a complaint with the king, telling him that she could no longer be answerable for it. His Majesty replied that he would relieve her of this burden, and that the Queen, his mother, and the Queen, his wife, not having been able to keep it either, he did not believe that Madame la Dauphine could do so any better than they." On 17 January 1688, the king dismissed all the maids of honour.

¹ A Lange, a canon of the collegiate church of Saint-Calais, was condemned on 22 October 1682 to nine years in the galleys and to the *amende honorable* [ritual humiliation] before the principal door of the church of Paris for having composed two libels, couched in impious terms and mockery against religion, entitled *Le Catéchisme des Jansénistes* and *Le Voyage d'Ypres*, as well as a defamatory *factum* [a polemical legal brief or pamphlet] against Madame de Verdelay, widow of Sieur Des Préaux.

² See note 1, page 17.

established at Lyons, lords of Cuire (la Croix-Rousse), and the Langes, lords of Château-Renault, in the Nivernais. Finally, one finds a Jean L'Ange, counsellor at the Parliament of Toulouse, in 1626.

It does not appear that Jean L'Ange's status—by no means usurped—as a gentleman in the king's service hindered the action of justice against him. He counted Scarron among his friends and, as we have said, Tristan L'Hermitte. The author of *Mariane* expressed his esteem for him in the following sonnet:

A Monsieur L'Ange, gentilhomme servant du Roy.

Un Ange qui m'assiste à combattre mon sort,
Et fait agir pour moy sa bonté merveilleuse,
Est un Ange terrestre, et sujet à la mort,
Mais de qui la nature est noble et généreuse.

Sans doute à sa vertu la Fortune fait tort ;
Et pour l'un, et pour l'autre, elle est trop rigoureuse ;
Mais sa prospérité ne seroit point douteuse,
Si quelque Astre bénin m'avoit mis dans le port.
Sa modestie est grande, et je veux bien qu'on sçache
Qu'elle fait éclater mille vertus qu'il cache,
Et que pour la conduite il n'a point de pareil.
O qu'on voit en ma vie une foiblesse horrible !
J'erre malgré l'Escorte, et malgré le Conseil
D'un Ange Gardien, et d'un Ange visible.¹

Never was flattery less justified; yet we are ignorant of the services rendered by L'Ange to Tristan!

Following the sentence of 7 August 1655, and after having made the *amende honorable* to which he had been condemned, L'Ange—having lost his status as gentleman—

¹ *Nouveau Recueil des plus Belles Poésies contenant « Le Triomphe d'Aminte » et autres pièces curieuses.* (Paris, Jean-Baptiste Loysan, 1654, in-12. Ce recueil est du l'avocat De Pelletier, si maltraité par Boileau. Le sonnet de Tristan est à la p. 167 ; il doit avoir été composé en 1652.

in-waiting to the king—attached himself to Jean Regnault de Segrais, who recommended him to the Grande Mademoiselle. He was therefore entrusted by Segrais with presiding over the printing of the work *Les Nouvelles françaises, ou les Agréables Divertissements de la Princesse Aurélie* (Mlle de Montpensier) (Paris, Antoine de Sommaville, 1656–1657). He states this in categorical terms in the dedicatory epistle addressed to the Duchess of Épernon, which he placed at the head of a collective volume devoted in large part to the works of Loret, the gazetteer of *La Muse Historique, Nouveau Mélange de Pièces Curieuses tant en prose qu'en vers* (Paris, Antoine de Sommaville, 1664).

Here is the text:

Madam,

The honor I had, some six or seven years ago, of presenting to you *Les Nouvelles Françaises* by Monsieur de Segrais—whose printing he had entrusted to my care—gives me the boldness, Madam, to dedicate to you this *New Miscellany of Prose and Verse*, which I have gathered from various authors; and of which, however, the greater part is the work of a fine mind (Loret), who lays no claim to the title of author, his greatest ambition being only to continue his services with zeal and passion to Her Royal Highness Mademoiselle, for whom I have also often had the honor to write. Thus, Madam, since this great Princess, for whom you have a particular veneration, has the kindness to regard me favorably when I appear before her, I venture to hope, Madam, the same from you—that you will not disdain the respectful offering of, Madam, your very humble and very devoted servant.

L'ANGE.

François Chauveau, the celebrated engraver, born on 10 May 1613 in the parish of Saint-Paul, was then forty-two years old. On 8 February 1652 he married, against the wishes of his family, Marguerite Roger, a woman of great

beauty. Out of spite at seeing all his overtures to his relatives rejected, he cut up all the portraits of his family that adorned his apartment; and from then on, says Jean-Michel Papillon, his biographer, he forgot them so completely that the names of several families of standing to which he was related are no longer even known. These details show that Chauveau lived somewhat on the margins of the society he ought to have frequented. This is what explains his associations with Millot, L'Ange, and Claude Le Petit.

Louis II Framery, bookseller and bookbinder,¹ officially admitted to the guild on 19 October 1651, was the eldest son of Louis I, a bookseller in 1627 who died after 1656.

Louis Piot, known as le jeune, born in 1630, a bookseller–printer since 30 September 1640, was the second son of François, admitted as a bookseller on 3 October 1625 and appointed deputy to the syndic on 9 May 1650. His elder and younger brothers were also booksellers: Jean I, admitted on 22 December 1644, and Jean II, on 2 May 1652. His sister married Sébastien I Martin, a bookseller.

Nicolas de La Vigne, bookseller–printer, from 1620 to 1679. In the heading of several mazarinades, he is listed as residing “near Saint-Hilaire.”

Here is what the report of the inquiry conducted into the Paris printing trade in 1644 says of him :

Nicolas de La Vigne, master printer on the rue des Carmes, was found to have three presses : on one of which is printed the *Dictionnaire* of Monet (of the French and Latin languages), for Sieur Le Beau ; also *L'Instruction du Rosaire*, for the said Sieur Le Beau ; and on the third press, the *Heures à la Cavallière*.

¹ In the seventeenth century—at least until 1688—the profession of bookbinder was indistinguishable from that of bookseller. Bookbinders had no guild of their own.

He has one apprentice named Philippes Mametz, bound since Michaelmas, and eight journeymen.¹

Now let us summarize the situation as it presented itself on 12 June 1655, at the time of the bailli of the Palais's first operations, and indicate the stages of the trial that was to culminate in the sentence of 7 August 1655.

In the first months of 1655, before Easter, Michol Millot the elder, paymaster or controller of the Swiss Guards, completed *L'Escole des Filles*; did he translate the two dialogues that compose it from Italian, did he draw them from the *Puttana errante* or from the *Creanza delle donne*, dressing them up in French fashion? We leave to persons more competent than ourselves—should they feel so inclined—the task of answering this question! Be that as it may, Millot communicated his work to a gentleman in the king's service named Jean L'Ange, and to a young man fresh from the Collège de Clermont, Claude Le Petit. L'Ange, seduced by the novelty of the work—which probably appealed to his tastes—or by the lure of profit—*L'Escole des Filles*, being sold under the counter, was likely to find many buyers—undertook to contribute one quarter of the printing costs and to correct the proofs; Millot bore the remaining three quarters. Claude Le Petit, whose temperament was as libertine as could be, also had to review the text and probably add something of his own. A better judge than anyone else—and for good reason—he reserved to himself the task of celebrating the author: the madrigal to M. Militot, placed at the head of *L'Escole des Filles*, is his. Finally, L'Ange, having conceived the idea of embellishing the volume with a frontispiece, commissioned it from Chauveau, who soon delivered to him the drawing and the plate. The manuscript having been copied by L'Ange, he and Millot approached the bookseller-printer

¹ *Une enquête sur l'imprimerie de Paris en 1644*, par G. Leproux, 1910.

Louis Piot, who lived in the district of Cambray, parish of Saint-Benoist, and came to terms with him at the price of ten livres per sheet. Piot, for form's sake, asked them whether they had a privilege. L'Ange undertook to bring him one. That day, the three accomplices certainly could not look at one another without laughing. In any event, Piot showed no eagerness to attach his name to *L'Escole des Filles*. In order to give the impression that it had been printed in Holland, it was agreed to put on the title page not Paris, with Piot's address, but rather *A Leyden*. As for the author, he too remained anonymous. What purpose would a privilege have served for this clandestine publication? Printing began a few days after Easter. Millot and L'Ange, in accordance with their promise, each paid his share to Piot, who, when the printing of the sheets was completed, in the course of the month of May, had been fully paid for the three hundred copies—two hundred and fifty on ordinary paper and fifty on fine paper intended for notable persons. The greater part of the copies in sheets was taken to the apartment occupied by Millot on the quai Nostre-Dame, and the remainder (seventy-five) handed over to L'Ange. The latter gave Louis Framery twenty-two copies to bind in his presence, from which he took eight that he offered to Scarron, including Fouquet's copy; Chauveau, the engraver of the frontispiece, received two. A few days later, L'Ange returned to Framery with two dozen copies and asked him to bind them as a matter of urgency; but Framery, probably coached by Piot, took them to Robert II Ballard, syndic of the booksellers

Millot and L'Ange had no reason to worry; they had reckoned without their printer, a thoroughly unsavoury character. Once his interests had been secured, Piot had but one thought: to escape punishment should *L'Escole des Filles* come to the attention of the courts. Only one means

offered itself to avert this danger—to deliver up his accomplices by denouncing them to the king’s *procureur général*, on condition of obtaining for himself the certainty of impunity. The rogue did not hesitate to adopt it. He went at once to Ballard and confided his perplexities to him. The syndic of the booksellers was not foolish enough to believe the story of the privilege; but a question of professional solidarity was at stake. He agreed to inform the king’s procureur provided that Piot bound himself to reveal the name of the author of *L’Ecole des Filles* and to indicate the place where the copies were deposited. Piot replied in the affirmative. Ballard informed the king’s procureur of the informer’s undertaking, without naming him, an undertaking linked to the written promise that the latter would not be molested “either in his person or in his goods.” The king’s procureur having given his assent, Piot supplied Ballard with the promised information, and it was agreed between them that he would repeat it before the bailli of the Palais; the latter, for his part, would confirm the promise of the king’s procureur. On 12 June, Piot informed Claude Hourlier, bailli of the Palais, that L’Ange was to present himself that very day, between seven and eight o’clock in the evening, at the house of Nicolas de la Vigne, beneath the staircase of the Cour des Aydes, in order to sell him fifty copies of *L’Ecole des Filles*. In concert with this bookseller, Piot had laid the trap. L’Ange, though punctual at the rendezvous, brought no copies of *L’Ecole des Filles*. Accompanied by the syndic of the booksellers and his deputies, Hourlier arrested the “gentleman in the king’s service” at the moment when he was leaving the Palais de Justice and, without delay, proceeded to search, in his presence, the room he occupied in the rue des Rosiers, at the house of Dame Faret¹ : Twelve bound copies, the

¹ See below, note 1, p. 17.

manuscript bound in parchment, and a few proofs of the frontispiece—such was the haul. From there, the bailli of the Palais went to Millot's house; there he seized loose sheets of *L'Escole des Filles*, numerous enough to form “the load of a crook.” In the face of the hostile attitude of a few outsiders, friends or neighbors who were present, he did not dare apprehend Millot, as he had been ordered.

We will not recount the interrogation of L'Ange, the variations of his defense strategy, nor the depositions of Chauveau and Framery, nor that of Piot. On 13 June, the king's procureur issued an ordinance for the taking into custody of Millot, who, of course, turned a deaf ear. L'Ange, interrogated again, admitted that the manuscript was in his hand, and if we did not have Claude Le Petit's “madrigal” to M. Militot (for Millot), we might doubt somewhat that Millot was the true author of *L'Escole des Filles*.

On 25 June, a new ordinance was issued with trumpet sounding for Millot. On 14 July, L'Ange was confronted with Chauveau and Framery; Piot was deliberately omitted. On 4 August, Robert Ballard appeared before Hourlier and his advisors. His deposition recounted how Piot had become the provider of information to the authorities, on the condition of being absolved of blame. A final interrogation of L'Ange concerned the *Bulle orthodoxe*; this hors-d'œuvre, lacking other merit, retains at least the merit of leaving no ambiguity as to the author's intentions. Naturally, it would be Millot (?).

The king's procureur drew up his conclusions; the judges of the Court of the Bailliage of the Palais accepted them only in part, two days later. Millot, contumacious, was condemned to be hanged in effigy on a gallows placed on the Pont-Neuf, at the extremity of the Île du Palais. A placard attached to the said gallows bore the causes of the condemnation, and all seized copies of *L'Escole des Filles*

were to be burned with the gallows and Millot's effigy. Furthermore, the condemned man's property was confiscated and the fine set at 400 livres parisis; Jean L'Ange got off with only three years' banishment from the prévôté of Paris and a fine of 200 livres parisis; the *amende honorable*, bareheaded, was to be performed in the Chamber of the Bailliage of the Palais. As for Piot, the sentence stated that he was to be taken and "apprehended in person." This was a platonic satisfaction given to the law; it could only remain a dead letter.

The sentence was executed on 9 August. But it was only on the following 8 October that L'Ange made his *amende honorable* and left the prisons of the Conciergerie.

Millot, hiding in Paris, relying on audacity, filed an appeal on 13 August, claiming that at that time he was with the king's troops in Lombardy! He neglected to surrender himself to allow the investigation to reopen and his trial to be reviewed.

THE DOCUMENTS OF THE TRIAL

The brief commentary at the beginning of the case files highlights details that we overlooked in our summary of the trial.

I JUNE 12, 1655.—ARREST OF JEAN L'ANGE, — SEARCHES AT THE HOMES OF L'ANGE AND MILLOT

The following report details the circumstances surrounding L'Ange's arrest, as well as the results of the searches carried out at his home and at Millot's residence. It is worth reading the details of the tricks employed by Claude Hourlier, who, not having brought with him the armed force necessary to apprehend Millot, first tried to mislead him about the purpose of his mission. Taking advantage of Millot's genuine surprise at the arrival of the civil and criminal lieutenant, escorted by the booksellers' representative, his deputies, etc., a group of about five or six people, Hourlier asked him point-blank if he had a prohibited book in his library, giving it the first title that came to mind: *La Politique Pemicieuse*.¹ When Millot responds negatively, of course, the conversation begins. Hourlier gently insinuates that it is known that he is aware of a book entitled *L'Escole des Filles* and even that he owns several

¹ This is probably the Mazarinade : *La Politique Sicilienne, or the Pernicious Designs of Cardinal Mazarin declared to His Grace the Duke of Beaufort, on your behalf, by all the Provinces of France.* , S. l. (1650), in-4° de 34 p.

Later, in Jean L'Ange's interrogation, we will see that Claude Hourlier mentions another collection of mazarinades and another play published during the *Fronde* [a series of civil wars and uprisings (1648–1653) against the crown during the minority of Louis XIV.]

copies of it. Millot having shown “a little surprise,” Hourlier adds, to reassure him: “It is only a youthful indiscretion, but one that could cause him trouble if he does not confess the truth.” What a good Samaritan Claude Hourlier was! But Millot was not fooled; he arranged for the bailiff of the Palace to be obliged to release him. Hourlier soon realized that the opportunity he had missed that day, much to his regret, would not come again.

In the year one thousand six hundred fifty-five, on the twelfth day of June, we, Claude Hourlier, Esquire, Counsellor of the King, Lieutenant General in civil and criminal matters at the bailiwick of the Palais in Paris, upon the notice given to us by the syndic of the booksellers and his deputies that a certain person unknown to them was to come between seven and eight o'clock that same evening to the shop of one named de Lavigne, bookseller, which is beneath the staircase of the Cour des Aides, in order to sell him fifty copies of a book entitled *L'Escolle des filles*, which is against the honor of God and of the Church and very contrary to good morals and Christian discipline; the said syndic and deputies requesting us that we have him arrested and taken prisoner, in accordance with the order they had received from Monsieur the Procureur General, and addressing themselves to us to determine whether he might not be the author of the said book and to seize the other copies which might have been printed, in order to prevent their distribution; which obliged us to lend them assistance and to provide them with the necessary officers to secure the said man, who was arrested and taken prisoner while leaving the Palais, although none of the said copies were found in his possession; and thereafter he was examined by us in the customary manner, after which examination the said individual, who told us that his name was Jehan Lange and that he resided in the rue des Roziers, at the house of Dame Faret, we proceeded, assisted by our clerk, by the said syndic and deputies of the booksellers and others assisting us, to the house of the said Dame Faret, situated in the rue des Roziers, near the Petit

Saint-Antoine,¹ in order there to search for copies or manuscripts of the said book; and before entering the room occupied by the said Lange, we caused the said Dame Faret to be notified that she should wish to be present, so as to attend and see what would be done by us; which she freely consented to, and, not having the keys to the said room, gave orders to have a locksmith brought in to open the premises. Whereupon, once inside, we found upon the table several plates serving for the said book entitled *L'Escole des filles*, twelve copies of the said book bound in parchment, and the manuscript of the same book likewise bound in parchment, together with several other pieces written by hand; all of which we caused to be removed in the presence of the said Dame Faret, the said syndic and deputies of the booksellers, leaving the remainder in the custody and possession of the said Dame Faret, consisting of several other books of which we were unable to take cognizance, and which the said Dame Faret promised to produce whenever and as often as she should be required to do so, without however wishing to take upon herself anything whatsoever by authority of justice. We also left in her hands a small basket or hamper containing certain gold coins and other coined money,

¹ This Madame Faret is none other than the widow of Nicolas Faret, of the Académie française, the friend of Saint-Amand. Marthe Pavillon, daughter of Étienne Pavillon, receiver of accounts, and sister of the bishop of Alet, married Faret on 21 September 1639. She had by him a daughter, Marie, married on 4 June 1669 to Claude-Antoine de Harville, sieur de La Celle, and a son, Nicolas, whose godfather in 1646 was his uncle, the bishop of Alet, and who died young. Marthe Pavillon had been married a first time to Jacques Thévenot, secretary to the king and brother of the traveler Melchisédech Thévenot. She had by him three sons: Jacques, who in 1651 was a novice at the convent of Picpus; Jean, a traveler like his uncle; and Bonaventure, who entered the ecclesiastical state. M. Faret died on 20 June 1680, and Abbé Bonaventure Thévenot had a monument erected to him at the Minims of the Place Royale. On 2 December 1651 she is recorded as residing in the rue des Rozières, parish of Saint-Gervais, and in 1669 in the rue des Tournelles, parish of Saint-Paul, in a house purchased by her on 19 December 1636. (Ch. Urbain.)

which basket, gold, and money she likewise promised to produce whenever ordered by justice, and she refused to sign.

From the said place, we, the aforesaid Lieutenant General, assisted as above, having recognized from the papers of the said Lange that he kept company and association with one named Millot, residing on the Île Notre-Dame, and that it might be possible to find him in possession of certain copies of the said book, proceeded to the house of the said Millot, on the quay of the Île Notre-Dame overlooking the Port au Foin. There, we caused it to be made known to a maidservant, who inquired as to what we sought, that we wished to speak with Sieur Millot on some business matter, so that, as we did not have sufficient force to arrest him, and so that, suspecting nothing upon seeing us clothed in our judicial attire and followed and assisted by four or five persons, he might not make difficulty in speaking with us. Nevertheless, we observed that, upon looking at us, he appeared greatly surprised; and after making him understand that we had come to search for a book entitled *La Politique pemicieuse*, so that, not feeling himself guilty of the book for which he believed we had come, he might have less suspicion of the discourse we would hold with him in order to extract clarification of the matters we wished to learn, which led him to place confidence in us upon seeing that we spoke to him of a book of which he had neither copy nor manuscript, assuring himself that we had nothing to say to him on account of which he should have reason to apprehend. All which discourse we were obliged to employ because we did not have force at hand to have him arrested and taken prisoner, and because we were not well informed that he possessed the said book entitled *L'Escole des filles*.

And thereafter, having been questioned by us in the form of a conversation as to whether he had any knowledge of a book entitled *L'Escole des filles*, which at first somewhat surprised him, and as we made him understand that it was only a small youthful gallantry, which nevertheless could cause him trouble if he did not confess the truth and did not surrender the copies which were known to be in his hands, and also as we made him understand that the said Lange had declared as much, the said Millot, believing us, declared that it was true that he had

several copies thereof, which he delivered into our hands, unbound, constituting the load of a porter. And wishing to induce him to leave his house in order to inform Monsieur the Procureur General of the name of the person who had given them to him and who had printed them, being unable to undertake to compel him to answer and submit to interrogation, the door of the house was found to be closed and several persons unknown to us within the house, in order to prevent, should we wish to arrest him as a prisoner, our taking him away, without however the said persons offering us any violence. Wherefore we deemed it more appropriate to defer the matter until such time as we should have sufficient force, for fear that, in undertaking action without having force, we might no longer be able to find him in his house. Of which and for which we have drawn up the present procès-verbal.

Signed: HOUPLIER

Here follows, to complete this procès-verbal, the extract from the register of commitments of the Conciergerie relating to Jean L'Ange:

XII juin M. VI^e LV

Jean Lange, brought as a prisoner to the prison of the Conciergerie by verbal order of Monsieur the King's chief prosecutor, by Donon, Jacquemain, and Neutrix, sergeants-at-arms of the Châtelet, in the in the presence of the clerks Camus and Pierre, designated by him to the said sergeants, to answer before the law.¹

II.— JUNE 12, 1655—INTERROGATION OF JEAN L'ANGE

On 12 June 1655, the bailiff of the Palais proceeded to the interrogation of Jean L'Ange, committed to the prison

¹ Archives of the Prefecture of Police, prison registers of the Conciergerie, on the date

of the Conciergerie of the Palais. After stating his age as forty-five, while taking care not yet to specify that he is a “gentleman in the service of the King,” the accused traces the responsibility for his arrest back to Nicolas de La Vigne. The motive that this bookseller is said to have obeyed in denouncing him would have been nothing other than the resentment felt following L’Ange’s refusal to supply him with several copies of *L’Ecole des Filles*, knowing that he had distributed some to several private individuals, among others eight or nine to Scarron. L’Ange is mistaken; but he is excusable for not having thought of the treachery of Piot, his accomplice; it may nevertheless be presumed that Nicolas de La Vigne, as we have said, was in agreement with Piot.

The attribution that L’Ange makes of *L’Ecole des Filles* to the Comte de Solan (d’Etelan) or to the Comte de Cramail was not inept. The Comte d’Etelan passed for the author of the satire against Richelieu, *La Milliade* (1635), and the Comte de Cramail had to his credit *Les Jeux de l’Inconnu* and *Les Pensées du Solitaire*, one piece of which, very licentious, in the genre of those that Crébillon fils was to cultivate in the eighteenth century—*La Plainte de Tirsis à Cloris*—had been the object of legal proceedings in 1630.¹

When asked whether he has any forbidden books, L’Ange replies that he has Rabelais, Marot, and other works of a similar nature; this gentleman was a man of letters! The forbidden books cited by the bailiff of the Palais were hardly up to date ; the first: *Recueil des pièces faites et*

¹ Judgment of the civil lieutenant of the Châtelet of Paris, dated 18 June 1630, ordering the suppression of *La Plainte de Tirsis à Cloris*, and sentencing Courbé and Sommaville to a fine of twenty-four livres parisis ; we have published the text of it in the article to be found further on: *Le Comte de Cramail et Vanini*.

imprimées en 1647 et 1648,¹ reproduced mazarinades already long forgotten; the second, *La Balance des Cardinaux*, was in all likelihood none other than *La Balance d'État*, a tragicomedy, s. l., n. d.,² that had been published before the *Fronde*.

Regarding the provenance of the copies of *L'Escole des Filles* and of the manuscript seized at his residence, L'Ange explains that he obtained them from a woman named Dumas, whose address he does not know. The accused defends himself as best he can, while avoiding compromising anyone. All at once, a sudden change of tack: he admits that his previous answers involved "a certain amount of disguise"; the text of the manuscript is by Millot the elder, who brought it to him a month earlier; but the copies of *L'Escole des Filles* were indeed handed over to him by the said Dumas, whom he had still encountered seven or eight days earlier. This bout of frankness does not last. L'Ange specifies that *L'Escole des Filles* was printed at Leiden; and that, moreover, this indication appears on the title page. Let us note this detail: it will be crucial when we examine L'Ange's replies at his third interrogation (4 August 1655).

Du XII juin 1655

Interrogation conducted by us, Claude Hourlier, of Jean Lange, presently a prisoner in the Conciergerie of the Palace, accused on certain facts and articles placed in our hands by the King's Prosecutor; which interrogation we conducted in the said Conciergerie, where for this purpose we had repaired, assisted by Master Pierre Charpentier, ordinary clerk of the said court, in the usual form and manner, after having taken and received from the said Lange the oath to tell us the truth

¹ This title is a fictitious one; it is, beyond any doubt, one of the collections of fugitive pamphlets published in 1618 and 1649, the list of which may be found in Moreau's *Bibliographie des Mazarinades*, vol. III, p. 22 and following.

² Moreau, 559.

concerning that which he should be by us inquired of and interrogated upon.

Jean Lange, esquire, presently residing at the house of Madame Faret, aged about forty-five years, a native of Paris.

Asked whether he knows why he has been arrested and imprisoned, and at whose request.

He said that the trick had been played on him by one named de Lavigne, bookseller, dwelling in the old gallery of the Palace near the gate.

Inquiry made as to the cause wherefore the said de Lavigne may have been taken and imprisoned.

He said that the said de Lavigne, wishing to have from the respondent certain books, and the respondent being unable to supply them, not having them, out of hatred for this the said de Lavigne may have given information that he had supplied books to certain private persons, even to Monsieur Scarron.

Asked what matters and what subjects the said books treat of.

He said that the said books treat of amourettes [love affairs].

Asked whether there is anything in the book that is against good morals and Christian discipline.

He said that there is nothing except what is natural, though somewhat free.

Asked as to the number of books that remain to him.

He said that he had indeed some fourteen or fifteen, but that at present he has none.

Asked of the said respondent from whom he had obtained the fourteen or fifteen books that he has acknowledged, and who had given them to him.

He said that they were given to him by one named Dumas, with whom he had dealings, and that he took them in payment.

Asked where the said Dumas resides.

He said that he cannot say.

Whereupon we represented to him that all his answers do not contain truth, inasmuch as it is not credible that the said Dumas being his debtor, and he having received the books in payment in order to settle accounts with him, he could not but know his residence, his condition, and his quality.

He said that he knows nothing else, except that the said Dumas is a man of business, and that although he has had some dealings

with him, nevertheless he does not at present know the place where the said Dumas resides.

Asked whether he slept this night at the house of Madame Faret.

He said Yes.

Questioned as to whether he has any books in his possession that are forbidden, and whether he has any pasquinades or defamatory libels.

Said that there would be found only old books: Rabelais, Marot, and other books of a similar nature.

Questioned as to whether, among his books, he does not have La Balance des Cardinaux, the Collection of pieces written and Printed in 1647 and 1648.

Said that he has only those which were commonly sold.

Questioned as to whether he does not still have the complete book of L'Escolle des filles.

Said that he does not have one.

Questioned as to how many copies of L'Escolle des filles he may have supplied to Sieur Scarron.

Said that Sieur Scarron may have had from him eight or nine, which he may have given to his friends.

Questioned as to how long he has known Sieur Scarron and what association he has with him.

Said that it has been five or six months, and that he sees him from time to time.

Questioned as to whether he does not know well the author of the book L'Escolle des filles.

Said that it is by the Count of Solan or the Count of Cramaille, and that the manuscript was given to the said Dumas.

Questioned as to whether he knows to whom the said Dumas gave the copy, and who was the printer.

Said that when the said Dumas gave him some writings, the copy had been sent to Holland in order to print copies from it.

Questioned as to whether he saw the said copy in the hands of the said Dumas.

Said that his previous answers have received some distortions, and that he would not wish to sign the present interrogation unless his answers contain the truth; and he feels obliged to state that the said manuscript was communicated to him by Sieur Millot the elder, residing on the Île Notre-Dame, on the quay overlooking the hay-port, near Sieur Charon, treasurer.

Questioned as to whether the said copies, which he has acknowledged having had in his hands, were not given to him by the said Dumas or

by the said Millot.

Said that the said copies were given to him by the said Dumas and by no other.

Questioned as to whether the said book bears the name of the person who entitled it.

Said that it does not.

Questioned as to when the said Millot the elder showed him the said manuscript of L'Escolle des filles ; and whether it has been a long time since the copies which the respondent has acknowledged having had were given to him.

Said that the said manuscript has been in the hands of the said Millot for six or seven months, and that only one month ago did he show it to him.

Questioned as to where the said Millot showed the said manuscript to the respondent.

Said that the said Millot brought the said manuscript to his house, and that he also saw it in the house of the said Millot.

Questioned as to when he last saw the said Dumas, and whether it has been long.

Said that seven or eight days ago he came to see him at his house.

Questioned as to where the said book was printed.

Said that it was printed in Leyden.

Questioned as to how he knows that the said book was printed in Leiden.

Said that the said book states this, and that he has no other knowledge of it.

The said interrogation having been read aloud word for word to the said de Lange.

And *signed*: HOURLIER, L'ANGE.

Following this interrogation, L'Ange immediately appealed against his imprisonment.

III. –JUNE 12, 1655. – INTERROGATION OF FRANÇOIS CHAUVEAU

On the same day, 12 June, François Chauveau—who had designed and engraved the frontispiece of *L'Escole des Filles*—was in turn interrogated. He declared himself to be thirty-six years old, which would place the date of his birth in 1619, whereas his most recent biographers place his birth, as we have said, on 10 May 1613.

His system of defense is simple—too simple to be the expression of the truth. He engraved his plate “without knowing to what use it might be put”; he nevertheless admits that the text of *L'Escole des Filles* was communicated to him. He depicts L'Ange, whom he deliberately calls Saint-Ange, under the features of a tall, dark-haired man about forty years of age, and he gives his address. As for the printer, he does not know him, and he received only two copies of *L'Escole des Filles*.

The assertion of the *Carpenteriana*—“that he was discharged from the trial on condition of seeing the plate he had engraved broken, with a prohibition against engraving a second one should any printer request it of him”—is entirely unfounded. The truth is that Chauveau was never charged; he was called only as a witness.

Since Piot, the printer, was not prosecuted, Chauveau and Framery the bookbinder likewise had nothing to fear.

Interrogation conducted by us, Claude Hourlier, etc.

June 12 1655

Questioned as to his name and age, status, and place of residence.

Said that his name is François Chauveau, engraver in Paris, residing on rue Boulaye, parish of Saint-Sanson, in the town of Poitiers, aged thirty-six years.

Questioned as to whether he made the illustration for the book entitled L'Escole des filles.

Said, after the said book was shown to him, that the plate is his work, but that he had no knowledge of the purpose for which it might be intended.

Questioned as to the name, residence, and status of the person who employed him to carry out this work.

Said that he is called Sieur de Saint-Ange, who is a tall, dark-complexioned man who may be about forty years of age, and who resides with Dame Faret, on rue des Rosiers.

Questioned as to whether he knows the name of the printer, and whether the said Lange did not tell him whom he intended to employ for the printing thereof.

Said that he does not.

Questioned as to how many copies he received from the said person in order to execute the plate.

Said that he received two copies, which he is ready to place in our hands.

Questioned as to whether he still has in his possession the plate of the said book.

Said that he does not, and that he returned it into the hands of the said Saint-Ange.

Signed : HOUPLIER, FRANÇOIS CHAUVEAU

IV. JUNE 12, 1655. - INTERROGATION OF LOUIS FRAMERY, BOOKBINDER

The interrogation of Louis Framery informs us that an “unknown man,” on a first visit to his workshop, handed over to him—paying immediately the price asked—twenty-two copies of *L’Ecole des Filles* to be bound in his presence, in such a way that he might not be tempted to read the work. The “unknown man” invoked the friendship he bore toward Framery’s father, while at the same time insisting on his desire to oblige the son. It was difficult, one must admit, to refuse anything to a man so affable and so well intentioned. At a second meeting, the “unknown man” brought two dozen copies. This time, Framery became suspicious: instead of binding them with the prompt-

ness demanded by his client, he sent the twenty-four copies to the syndic of the booksellers. Who had put this ill-advised thought into his head? Piot, certainly.

The “unknown man” was L’Ange, gentleman-in-waiting to the King.

Interrogation conducted by us, Claude Hourlier, etc

12 June 1655

Said that his name is Louis Framery, master bookbinder, in Paris, residing on rue Saint-Jean-de-Latran, parish of Saint-Étienne-du-Mont, aged **twenty-seven years**.

Questioned as to who gave him the twenty-four copies of the book entitled L’Escolle des filles, of which he was found seized, and whether he did not know that the said book was contrary to good morals.

Said that a bookbinder cannot know what a book contains, and that the said book had been placed in his hands by a private individual unknown to him, to be bound, who made him understand that the reason for addressing him was the remembrance of an old friendship contracted with his father, because he was glad to help him earn his living.

Questioned as to how many copies of the said book he bound, and whether the said unknown person, as he has answered us, came to see him on different occasions and busied himself with having them bound.

Said that the said man—whom he would readily recognize when presented, because he knows his bearing and manner, and because he saw him on two different occasions at his house—on the first occasion when he presented himself to have twenty-two copies bound, would not leave him until he had finished binding the said books, not wishing to allow him to take any knowledge of what the said book contained, and showed, by the readiness with which he offered to give the respondent whatever he asked for the binding of the said book, that he feared being discovered; and that the said man had one copy of the said book already bound. The said respondent also stated that the said unknown man brought him today two dozen copies, with urgent entreaties to abandon all other work in order to return the said books bound to him immediately;

after the communication which the respondent took of this matter, he addressed himself to the Sieur Syndic of the booksellers to place in his hands the said copies of the said books, which he was to return to the said unknown man tomorrow.

Signed : HOURLIER, L. FRAMERY

V. JUNE 12, 1655. INTERROGATION OF LOUIS PIOT, MASTER PRINTER

Merely as a formality, Louis Piot is interrogated by Claude Hourlier; the bailiff of the Palais knows full well that he has before him the “informant.” Piot, after declaring his age (twenty-five years), admits that he printed two hundred and fifty copies of *L’Escole des Filles*, the printing of which he had begun eight days after Easter; he involuntarily forgets the fifty copies on heavy paper, and informs us of the cost of printing: ten livres per sheet.¹ Piot took in the money and avoided the risk. He attributes the book to the Count of Étélan, but L’Ange and Millot corrected the proofs.

Interrogatoire fuit par nous Claude Hourlier, etc.

June 12 1655

He stated that his name is **Louis Piot**, master printer in Paris, residing on the *terre Cambray*, parish of Saint-Benoît, aged twenty-five years.

Questioned as to whether he printed a book entitled L’Escole des filles, and how many copies he printed from the copy that was placed in his hands, by whom he received it, and at what time.

¹ Claude Le Petit said that he had promised Eustache Rebuffé, printer, four écus per sheet for his *Bordel des Muses* [roughly equivalent to 100–120 modern euros per sheet, depending on the silver content and buying power]. (Biographical note on Claude Le Petit, page XLIX, at the head of his *Œuvres Libertines*, 1918).

He stated that he printed two hundred and fifty copies from the copy that was placed in his hands by Messrs. Lange and Millot, which two hundred and fifty copies he placed in the hands of the said Messrs. Lange and Millot, by whom he had been solicited to print the said book, and that he began the printing of the said book seven or eight days after Easter.

Questioned as to the agreement made by him for the said book and whether the said Lange and Millot came to his house to engage him to undertake this printing.

He stated that the said Lange and Millot came to see him at his house and agreed at the rate of ten livres for each sheet.

Questioned into whose hands the said copies were delivered.

He stated that they were placed in the hands of the said Lange.

Questioned as to who corrected and reviewed the proofs.

He stated that the said Millot and Lange jointly reviewed the proofs.

Questioned as to whether they did not tell him who was the author of the work with which they had charged him.

He stated that he learned from them that the Sieur, Count of Étélan, was the author thereof.

Questioned as to from whom he received payment for the printing.

He stated that the said Lange paid him what they had agreed upon together, and that the said Millot assisted Lange with the correction of the proofs.

Signé : HOURLIER, LOUIS PIOT.

VI 13 JUIN 1655. – ORDONNANCE DE PRISE DE CORPS CONTRE MILLOT

Millot forgot to turn himself in, so the public prosecutor ordered that he be arrested and imprisoned in the Conciergerie of the Palais de Justice, along with L'Ange (who had been behind bars since the previous day), so that the trial could begin.

Seen by the King's Prosecutor at the bailiwick of the Palais, the interrogation conducted at my request of Jean Lange, prisoner in the Conciergerie of the Palais, accused of being the author of the book entitled *L'Escolle des filles*, prohibited and forbidden

as being contrary to the honor of God, of justice, and of Christian discipline; the said interrogation containing the replies, confessions, and denials of the said Lange; the report drawn up by Monsieur the Lieutenant General containing the inspection carried out by him, in consequence of the said Lange's replies, at the houses of Sieur Millot and of Dame Faret, and the seizures made by him of the copies of the said books there mentioned, together with other proceedings. I therefore request, on behalf of the King, that Sieur Millot, controller of the Swiss, be taken into custody and brought as a prisoner to the prisons of the Conciergerie of the Palais, if he may be taken and apprehended; otherwise, that he be summoned within three brief days, under penalty of ban and banishment, with seizure and inventory of all and each of his goods, in accordance with the ordinance, to be heard, interrogated, and to answer our conclusions; and that the said Lange be arrested and recommitted to the prisons of the said Conciergerie, in order that his trial may be conducted and completed according to the ordinance. Done this 13 June 1655.

R. de Chenevière.

Let it be done as required by the King's Attorney. Done on the day and year above.

Signé : HOURLIER.

VII. – JUNE 13, 1655, SECOND INTERROGATION OF L'ANGE

In the seventeenth century, justice was summary: L'Ange, committed on the 12th and questioned the same day, was questioned again on the 13th. This time, he states that he is a "gentleman in the service of the King"; his declaration does not seem to impress the bailiff of the Palais, who records it without any comment – and L'Ange was not lying! He specifies that the manuscript of *L'Escole des Filles* is in his own hand (was he its author?), and that

the printed copies do not contain the complete text; the author and he wished to suppress certain parts “because they believed them too licentious and contrary to Christian discipline”! This assertion is open to doubt, although it is difficult to mistrust the word of a gentleman! If the passages that were too licentious “and contrary to Christian discipline” had indeed been removed, there would have remained of *L’Ecole des Filles* nothing but the title! Evidently, Claude Hourlier did not linger over making this verification. As for the name of the author, L’Ange confirms his first deposition by designating Millot the elder, paymaster of the Swiss; but he, L’Ange, corrected only the proofs of *L’Ecole des Filles*. He nonetheless acknowledges that the author communicated his work to him progressively as it was being composed.

As for the printing costs, L’Ange bore one quarter of them and Millot three quarters. After reaching an agreement with the printer, the three hundred copies printed were divided in the same proportion. It was he who commissioned the frontispiece from Chauveau, without saying what it was intended for. This last reply, too, was worthy of a gentleman. Finally, L’Ange agrees with Framery as to the number of copies he delivered to be bound.

Let us not forget that Millot was never interrogated and that, consequently, L’Ange’s statements must be accepted only with all due reservations.

Du XIII juin M VI^c LV

Interrogation conducted by us, Claude Hourlier, of Jean Lange, accused and prisoner in the prisons of the Conciergerie of the Palais, concerning the matters contained both in the report drawn up by us this day at the request of the King’s Prosecutor and in the interrogations of the named François Chauveau and Louis Framery, taken before us the same day; to which interrogation we attended in the said Conciergerie, where, for this purpose, we repaired, assisted by Master Pierre Charpentier, chief clerk of the said court, in the usual form and manner, as follows, after

having administered to the said Lange the oath to tell and answer the truth.

He stated that his name is Jean Lange, esquire, gentleman in the service of His Majesty, residing in Paris at the home of Dame Faret, rue des Rosiers, aged forty-five years or thereabouts.

Questioned as to whether he recognizes the manuscript entitled L'Escolle des filles, bearing on the first page and below the words "agere et pati," which we showed to him.

He stated, after it had been shown to him, that the said manuscript is written in his own hand, but that the printed copies do not contain everything that is included in the said manuscript, since the author and he wished to suppress certain parts because they believed them too licentious and contrary to Christian discipline.

Questioned as to whether he is not the author of the said book.

He stated that he is not.

Questioned as to the name of the author and whether he worked with him.

He stated that it is Sieur Millot the elder, paymaster of the King's Swiss, residing on the Île Notre-Dame on the quay overlooking the Port-au-Foin, who is the author of the said book, and that he contributed in no way to the composition of the said book, except that he may have assisted the author in reviewing the book and considering the proofs.

Questioned as to how he knows that the said Millot is the author of the said book and whether he saw him work on the said book.

He stated that he knows that the said Millot is the author of the said book because he saw him working on it and that from time to time he communicated to him what he was doing.

Questioned as to whether the respondent did not go to the named Piot, printer, to ask him to undertake the printing of the said book.

He stated that the said Sieur Millot and he went there jointly.

Questioned as to whether he contributed to the expenses necessary for the printing of the said book.

He stated that he advanced one quarter of the expenses that he agreed to bear, and that the remainder was supplied by the said Millot.

Questioned as to how many copies they ordered the said Piot the younger, bookseller, to print of the said book.

He stated that they ordered him to print three hundred copies, which were divided between the respondent and the said Millot, namely one quarter to the respondent and the remaining three quarters to the said Millot.

Questioned as to whether he gave the order to the named Chauveau, engraver, to make the plate for the said book.

He stated that yes.

Questioned as to whether the said Chauveau knew for what purpose the said plate was intended.

He stated that no, and that he communicated nothing of it to him.

Questioned as to whether it is not true that on two different occasions he went to see the named Framery, bookbinder, residing at the Place Cambrai, to ask him to bind the book entitled L'Escolle des filles, and that on those occasions he brought him forty-six copies.

He stated that yes.

Questioned as to whether the respondent produced other works against good morals, against the honor of God, of the Church, and of religion.

He stated that he has never written anything whatsoever that could be censured.

Questioned as to whether it is not true that he distributed to the aforementioned persons, in a sheet of paper folded in four, the book entitled L'Escolle des filles.

He stated that yes.

Signé : HOURLIER, L'ANGE.

In order to regularize the imprisonment of L'Ange, carried out as early as 12 June and in execution of the *décret de prise de corps* issued against him the following day, the 13th, after the dismissal of his opposition, the Conciergerie's commitment register, under the date of 22 June, records :

On the said day, 22 June 1655

Jean Lange, arrested and committed to the said prisons of the Conciergerie by Pierre Bort, *huissier audientier* to the *bailli du*

Palais, by virtue of a *décret de prise de corps* issued by the lieutenant général to the said bailli on the 13th of the present month of June, to answer before the court.¹

VIII. 25 June 1655. SECOND ORDINANCE PUBLISHED TO THE SOUND OF THE TRUMPET, SUMMONING MILLOT TO APPEAR BEFORE THE BAILIFF OF THE PALACE, AND TO PRESENT HIMSELF, WITHIN EIGHT DAYS, AT THE PRISONS OF THE CONCIERGERIE, SENTENCING HIM TO A FINE OF SIXTY *LIVRES PARISIS* FOR THE THREE DEFAULTS ENTERED AGAINST HIM.

Millot refused to listen, and the second order had no more effect than the first.

Seen by us, Councillor of the King, Lieutenant General for civil and criminal matters of the said bailiwick, the defaults taken and obtained at the hearing of the said court on the 17th, 19th, and 22nd of the present month by the King's prosecutor, acting as accuser and complainant against the named Millot the elder, controller of the Swiss Guards, residing on the Île Notre-Dame on the Quai de Bourbon overlooking the Port de la Grève, duly summoned and in default for failure to appear and to surrender himself as an actual prisoner in the prisons of the Conciergerie of the Palace; the *procès-verbaux*, interrogations, and other criminal proceedings carried out at the request of the King's prosecutor on the 12th of June of the said year against the said accused; the *décret de prise de corps* issued by us on the basis of the said proceedings on the 13th of the said month against the said Millot; the *procès-verbal* drawn up of the search for the person of the said Millot in execution of the said decree; another summons at three brief days dated the 13th of the said month; our judgment of the 22nd of June ordering that the said defaults and criminal proceedings be placed in our

¹ Archives of the Prefecture of Police, prison registers of the Conciergerie, on the date.

hands; the demand and benefit of the said defaults submitted by the said King's prosecutor, concluding that those defaults be declared properly stated and duly obtained, and that accordingly the said Millot be summoned by sound of trumpet and public cry through the crossroads of this bailiwick and before the house where he resides, and be condemned to a fine of sixty *sols paris* payable to the King's prosecutor for each of the said defaults obtained against him; all having been considered: We declare that the said defaults were properly and duly obtained in accordance with the customary practice observed in the said bailiwick, by virtue whereof we order that the said Millot the elder shall again be summoned by sound of trumpet and public cry through the ordinary crossroads of this bailiwick and other places and locations customarily used for public proclamations, including before the house where the said accused Millot resides, situated on the Quai de Bourbon overlooking the Port de la Grève, by the sworn crier and the ordinary trumpeters of this city of Paris, to appear in person and to surrender himself within eight days in the prisons of the Conciergerie of the Palace, to answer at law, to be interrogated, and to respond to the conclusions of the King's prosecutor; declaring and notifying to the said accused that if he does not appear within the said time and does not actually surrender himself as a prisoner in the prisons of the Conciergerie of the Palace, proceedings shall be taken against him according to the full rigor of the ordinances enacted against contumacious defendants. And we have condemned the said accused to the sum

of sixty *livres parisis* for each of the three defaults entered against him.

Signé : HOUPLIER,

Delivered to the King's prosecutor on the twenty-fifth of June 1655.

IX. 13 July 1655. THE BAILIFF OF THE PALACE
ORDERS THE CONFRONTATION OF L'ANGE
WITH CHAUVEAU, FRAMERY, AND PIOT.

Seen by us, Councillor of the King, Lieutenant General for civil and criminal matters of the said bailiwick, our procès-verbal of 12 June last, drawn up at the request of the King's prosecutor, containing, among other things, the imprisonment of the person of Mr. Lange, so-called gentleman in the service of His Majesty, in the prisons of the Conciergerie, accused along with other accomplices of having composed, sold, and distributed a book entitled *L'Escolle des filles*. Interrogation of the said Lange on the said day, containing his responses, confessions, and denials; other interrogations taken before us by François Chauveau, engraver, Louis Framery, master binder, and Louis Piot the younger, master printer in Paris on the said day, likewise containing their responses, confessions, and denials; *décret de prise de corps* issued by us on the 13th of the said month against the said Lange and the named Millot; another interrogation of the said Lange on the said thirteenth day, likewise containing his responses, confessions, and denials, and other documents; the conclusions of the King's prosecutor – all having been considered, It shall be declared that the said Chauveau, Framery, and Piot shall be confronted with the said

accused Lange, and that this having been done and communicated to the King's prosecutor, the proper orders shall be issued accordingly.

Done on 13 July 1655.

Signé : HOURLIER.

X.— 14 JUILLET 1655. CONFRONTATION DE LANGE AVEC CHAUVEAU ET FRAMERY

This confrontation is nothing sensational. L'Ange denies that Chauveau spoke the truth in stating that the frontispiece of *L'Escole des Filles* was commissioned from him without his knowing to which work the frontispiece was destined. It is a disconcerting assertion. Is L'Ange mishearing, or has he lost his memory? In his interrogation (the second of 13 June), he had fully confirmed Chauveau's statements; he also denies—but here he does not contradict himself, since he remained silent on the matter—that he refused to disclose the text of *L'Escole des Filles* to Framery. Chauveau and Framery maintain their previous depositions.

The confrontation with Piot did not take place. Was there a fear that he might inadvertently betray himself before his accomplice? In any case, Hourlier upheld the promise made by the King's prosecutor to the reporting printer.

Confrontation conducted by Claude Hourlier, etc., at the request of the King's prosecutor at the said court, complainant and accuser, of the persons of François Chauveau, engraver, and Louis Framery, master binder in Paris, and Jean Lange, accused, prisoner in the prisons of the Conciergerie of the Palace, at which confrontation we attended in the said Conciergerie, to which purpose we were transported, assisted by Master Charpentier, principal clerk of the said court, according to and

by virtue of the sentence rendered by us this day in the customary form and manner, as follows.

14 July 1655

Presented and confronted with the said Lange, François Chauveau, engraver, after having sworn to speak the truth, the said Lange having been warned of the ordinance which requires that if he has any reproach to make against the said Chauveau, he must state it immediately, and that it will be recorded accordingly.

The said Lange, accused, declared that he has no reproaches to make against the said Chauveau.

Confronted again, Lange, accused, to whom we read the interrogation of the said Chauveau.

Declared that the contents of the interrogation of the said Chauveau are untrue as far as he is concerned.

The said Chauveau repeats that what he stated in his interrogation is the truth, and that he recognizes the said Lange as the one who had him make the said plate.

Sig : FRANÇOIS CHAUVEAU, LANGE, HOURLIER

Confrontation of the said Lange with Louis Framery.

He declared that he has no reproach to make against the said Framery.

He stated that the said interrogation, insofar as it concerns him, is untrue, and that it is not true that he delivered to him twenty-four copies of the book entitled *L'Escolle des filles* to be

bound without making him aware of what the said book contained.

The said Framery maintained that it was entirely true, and recognizes the said Lange as the one who delivered to him the said twenty-four copies for binding.

Signé : LANGE, L. FRAMERY, HOURLIER.

XI, 4 August 1655, DEPOSITION OF ROBERT II BALLARD BEFORE CLAUDE HOURLIER AND THE COUNSELLORS OF THE BAILIWICK OF THE PALACE

The investigation had been idle from 14 July to 3 August. It resumed on the 4th, with the deposition of Robert Ballard, recounting the denunciation by Piot who, fearing the vengeance of Millot and L'Ange, had deemed it prudent to leave Paris on 13 June.

Piot appears as guilty as Millot, and more guilty than L'Ange. *L'Escole des Filles* lived thanks to him. His request to Ballard was based on an equivocation. Certainly, he had insisted with Millot and L'Ange for the privilege, fully aware that it was impossible to request it, much less to obtain it; it is not without reason, we repeat, that he had placed at the foot of the title: *A Leyden*, and not his own address.

Is it the same Piot who reoffended in 1663? A decree of the Parlement of 29 January banished him for ten years from the City of Paris and condemned him to a fine of one thousand livres, together with Du Fresne, bookseller, and Langlois, printer, for having printed a pamphlet: *Le Tombeau de la Messe*, by David Derodon, with the false address: *Printed in Geneva, at Pierre Aubert, 1654* (instead of 1663).

A question arises regarding Louis Piot. Lottin cites him as a bookseller and not as a printer¹; He does not appear in

¹ The learned author of the *Gallia Typographica*, M. Lepreux, does not

the reception procès-verbaux of the latter. Had he used a clandestine press for *L'Escole des Filles*? It is doubtful, although the disreputable nature of the man allows one to regard as plausible all the hypotheses least favorable to his morality.

On Wednesday, 4 August 1655, at ten o'clock in the morning, in the chamber of the Bailiwick of the Palace in Paris, before us, Claude Hourlier, Esquire, Seigneur de Méricourt, Councillor of the King and Lieutenant General for civil and criminal matters in the said bailiwick, together with Nicollas de Hazay and Javard,... Regnard, Parmentier, also Councillors of the King and deputies of the Attorney General, proceeding with the judgment of the criminal case brought at the request of the King's prosecutor against Jean Lange, prisoner in the Conciergerie, and his accomplices, the King's prosecutor summoned Robert Ballard, syndic of the master booksellers, to inform the Company of the order he had received from the Attorney General to arrest those whom he (Ballard) would indicate to the Lieutenant General. Robert Ballard of Autun, consul and syndic of the Community of Master Booksellers and Printers of Paris, appeared and declared that the printer Louis Piot, after having printed the book entitled *L'Escole des filles*—which those who had entrusted it to him for printing had promised would receive the Civil Lieutenant's permission—had been told that without such permission he could distribute none of the copies. Piot further stated that, learning that Lange was distributing the book daily to various individuals, he had immediately gone to inform Ballard, explaining that he had been surprised in the act of printing, and that at the outset he had told Lange he could not proceed without a permit, which Lange had promised to provide, a promise that continued throughout the printing. Since the permit had never been delivered, Piot believed it his duty and his conscience to inform Ballard, provided he received assurance that no harm would come to his person or property. Ballard, syndic, promised that nothing would be

believe that he was a printer. We shall be definitively settled on this point if his series on the printers of Paris and the Île-de-France is published one day.

done against Piot, and that he would do his utmost to give full knowledge of the author, the copies, and those to whom they had been entrusted. Ballard gave notice of this to the Attorney General, who issued written orders to arrest those indicated by Piot. In execution of that order, Ballard summoned the printer to his house, providing him full assurances regarding his person and property. Piot informed Ballard that Lange and Millot had delivered the copies to him and corrected the proofs together, that Lange resided on Rue des Roziers with Dame Faret, and Millot on the Île Notre-Dame, on the quay overlooking the Port au Foin, and that in Millot's house attic they would find many of the books still in blank. Printing was complete, and Lange had distributed some, producing 250 copies on common paper and 50 on fine paper. Piot stated that he would fully disclose all he knew when interrogated and would assist in apprehending Lange and Millot. Ballard reassured him that he had nothing to fear and should appear when summoned. This procedure was executed on 12 June, when Piot was summoned to Ballard's house and interrogated before us; he was again told to have no fear and to appear when called. Nevertheless, intimidated by Millot or other individuals who caused him apprehension, Piot absented himself.

Signé : HOURLIER, BALLARD

XII. – AUGUST 4, 1655. – THIRD INTERROGATION OF L'ANGE

This interrogation concerns chiefly the *Bulle orthodoxe*, that is to say a notice bearing that title and intended to replace the privilege, a notice that appeared at the end of the original edition of *L'Escole des Filles*. The *Bulle orthodoxe* had nothing orthodox about it and left no doubt as to the purpose of *L'Escole des Filles*: to appeal to the senses and to be nothing more than a practical manual of eroticism. The bailiff of the Palais was quite right to wish to know the author of the *Bulle*; but L'Ange evades the ques-

tion by repeating what he has said several times, that *L'Escole des Filles* belongs to Millot alone. Millot, being absent, cannot defend himself. The *Bulle orthodoxe* flowed from the pen of L'Ange, or perhaps from that of Claude Le Petit; it is an extraneous piece, like the latter's *Madrigal*.

L'Ange wrote in his own hand the sums he paid to Framery for the binding of the distributed copies of *L'Escole des Filles* and confirms that Millot and he went to Piot's to negotiate the printing, promising a privilege. L'Ange does not defend himself against Piot; he is still unaware of Piot's odious role, otherwise it would have been easy for him to ruin that wretch, his accomplice, by insisting on the rubric *A Leyden*. By putting neither his name nor his address on the title of *L'Escole des Filles*, Piot knew perfectly well that the work would be sold only under the counter.

In the year 1655, on the third day of August in the morning, in the chamber of the bailiwick of the Palais at Paris, before us, Claude Hourlier, esquire, lord of Méricourt, Counsellor of the King, Lieutenant General in civil and criminal matters of the bailiwick of the Palais at Paris, Nicolas de Ilazay, Counsellor in the said court, Javard, Parmentier, and Regnard, also Counsellors, at the request of Monsieur the Procureur General, while proceeding to judgment in the criminal case brought at the request of the King's prosecutor against Jean Lange, prisoner in the Conciergerie of the Palais, and others, we ordered the said Lange to be brought before us; judgment having been rendered and reviewed, and he having been interrogated as follows.

First, we questioned him as to his name, age, and status.

He said that his name is Jean Lange, esquire, gentleman in the service of the King, residing at the time of his imprisonment at the house of Dame Faret, Rue des Roziers, aged forty-five years or thereabouts, who, after having taken the oath.

Was asked whether the manuscript found in his chamber, and which had previously and now again been presented to him, was not written in his own hand, whether he was not the author of it, and whether he had not instructed the said Piot, bookseller, to insert at the bottom thereof the Bulle orthodoxe.

He said that he acknowledges having written it, but that it is the said Millot who is the author or translator thereof, and that the copies are not in conformity with the manuscript.

Thereupon we showed him two sheets of paper, one folded and the other single, on which are written several names and sums that were paid for the binding of the said books which were distributed.

He said that he acknowledges having written the said memoranda, which were by him signed on the spot.

He was asked whether he had any letters from the said Millot, or writings by means of which one might know that the correction which he puts forward is in the hand of the said Millot.

He said that he has none; but that when writing of the said Millot is found, it will be recognized as conforming to the correction of the said book.

He was asked whether the truth is not that it was he, the respondent, who charged the said Piot, printer, with the printing of the said book entitled L'Escolle des filles.

He said that the truth is that he went with the said Millot to the said Piot for the printing of the said book.

Whether Piot did not ask him for a privilege in order to print the said book.

He said yes.

Signé Hourlier, L'ange

XIII. AUGUST 5, 1655. – CONCLUSIONS OF THE KING'S PROSECUTOR

In the previous document, reference is made to the conclusions of the public prosecutor, “the judgment having been made and finalized”; however, these conclusions are dated August 5, whereas Lange’s interrogation took place on August 4.

We will see, from the sentence, that the bailiff of the Palace and his advisors did not accept all of the aforementioned conclusions, especially with regard to L’Ange.

Seen by the King’s Procurator, the criminal trial conducted against Jean Lange, self-styled gentleman in the service of His Majesty, prisoner in the Conciergerie of the Palais at Paris, and

the said Millot, paymaster of the Swiss, accused concerning the composition, sale, and distribution of the book entitled *L'Escolle des filles*; the procès-verbal drawn up by Monsieur the Lieutenant General at the said Bailliage on 12 June 1655, containing the seizure by him of several copies of the said book; the interrogation of the said Lange of the said day, his responses, confessions, and denials; other interrogations of those named François Chauveau, engraver, Louis Framery, book-binder, and Louis Piot the younger, master printer, of the same day; decree of arrest (prise de corps) against the said Lange and Millot of the 13th of the said month; another interrogation of the said Lange of the same day; procès-verbaux of summons and citation to appear within three short days given to the said Millot on the 14th of the said month; the sentence of the 25th of the said month ordering that the said Millot should again be called by sound of trumpet and public cry at the customary crossroads of the said bailliage and before the house where he was residing; procès-verbal of Canto, sworn town crier, of 26 June and 4 July following; confrontation made of the said Lange with the said Framery and Chauveau; other procès-verbal of the 4th of the present month; and all that has been communicated to me. I require, for the King, that the libel in question in the proceedings, entitled *L'Escolle des filles*, together with the libel inserted at the end of certain copies entitled *La Bulle orthodoxe*, be declared impious, injurious to the Christian religion and contrary to good morals; and, as such, that they be burned in the Cour du Palais by the executioner of high justice; that all persons whatsoever be forbidden to sell, distribute, or purchase the said book, and all persons to keep or retain it in their houses, upon pain of death; and forasmuch as the said Millot the elder and the said Lange, prisoner, have composed, written, and caused to be printed the said books or libels, and have sold and distributed them to several persons, that they be condemned—namely, the said Millot the elder to be hanged and strangled on a gallows erected in the same place where the said copies shall be burned, to which gallows shall be affixed an effigy on account of the said Millot's flight, within which effigy shall be inserted the cause of his condemnation, and to a fine of eight livres paris payable to the King; and with regard to

the said Lange, that he make honorable amends before the portal of the Church of Notre-Dame, bareheaded and barefoot, in his shirt, holding in his hand a burning torch weighing two pounds, where, kneeling, he shall say and declare that wickedly, scandalously, and against good morals he has contributed to bringing to light and distributing the said book and libel, for which he will repent and ask pardon of God, of the King, and of Justice; this done, that he be condemned to serve the King in his galleys as a convict for the term and space of five years, and further condemned to a fine of four hundred livres paris to be applied to the repairs of the Chamber of this bailliage; and with regard to the said Piot, printer, that he be taken and apprehended in person for his trial to be made and completed in the customary manner. Done the fifth of August 1655.

Signed : R. DE CHENEVIÈRES.

XIV. – 7 AUGUST 1655. SENTENCE OF THE
BAILIFF OF THE PALAIS, ASSISTED BY HIS
COUNSELLORS, AGAINST MILLOT AND
LANGE. 9 AUGUST. EXECUTION OF THE SEN-
TENCE UPON MILLOT

On 7 August, the civil and criminal lieutenant of the bailliage of the Palais, assisted by his counsellors, delivered his sentence against Michel Millot, contumacious, and L'Ange. He did not accept, as we have said, all the conclusions of the King's Procurator General: *L'Escole des Filles*, together with *la Bulle orthodoxe*, were to be burned by the executioner of the high justice, not in the courtyard of the Palais, but on the Pont-Neuf, near the Bronze Horse. Millot was to be hanged and strangled in effigy, likewise on the Pont-Neuf, with a placard attached to the gallows recalling the causes of the condemnation; his property was to be confiscated and forfeited to the King; the fine of 800 livres was reduced to 400 livres. As for L'Ange, the penalty demanded against him was greatly mitigated;

he was still to make honorable amends, but bareheaded only; there was no longer any question of his being in his shirt holding a burning torch weighing two pounds; this honorable amends was to take place in the Chamber of the bailliage of the Palais and not before the portal of the Church of Notre-Dame; instead of five years in the galleys, he was sentenced only to three years' banishment from the Paris provost court; finally, the fine fell from four hundred livres to two hundred livres parisis.

The sentence ended by ordering the arrest of Piot; the latter, having in his pocket or with Ballard the written undertaking of the King's Procurator guaranteeing the informer against any harm "to his person and to his goods," did not have to concern himself about it.

A note added informs us that the execution of the sentence against Millot took place on 9 August; the honorable amends of L'Ange, delayed by the parliamentary recess, was not carried out until the following 8 October.

Is it possible to fix approximately the number of copies of *L'Escole des Filles* that were burned with Millot hanged in effigy? Let us try to establish it:

The edition had been printed in three hundred copies. Of the three hundred, L'Ange had received seventy-five and Millot two hundred and twenty-five. Of L'Ange's seventy-five copies, twenty-two were bound by Framery, of which eight went to Scarron and two to Chauveau. There remained twelve: that is the number of copies seized at L'Ange's; on the other hand, Framery deposited twenty-four (two dozen) coming from L'Ange with the syndic of the booksellers—making, in all, forty-six. There therefore remained twenty-nine copies in sheets to complete Lange's seventy-five. What became of them is unknown. In Millot's apartment, Hourlier had gathered such a quantity that it would have sufficed to make up "the load of a porter"; does this quantity correspond to the two hundred

and twenty-five forming his share? That is more than doubtful.

In sum, only the eight bound copies belonging to Scarron unquestionably escaped justice. The twenty-nine copies in sheets belonging to L'Ange, whose fate is unknown, were very probably destroyed by their holder, as were those of Millot not included in the "load of a porter." The bonfire of 9 August 1655, if it did not annihilate almost all the copies of *L'Escole des Filles*, left so few in circulation that the original edition has not appeared, for two and a half centuries, in any library sale catalogue. This licentious work exists today only thanks to the fairly numerous reprints made of it in the seventeenth, eighteenth, and nineteenth centuries; those of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries are exceedingly rare. (See Bibliography.)

Seen by us, Counsellor of the King, Lieutenant General civil and criminal, assisted and having taken the advice of the Counsellors, the criminal proceedings brought at the request of the King's Procurator against Jean Lange, self-styled gentleman in the service of His Majesty, prisoner of the provost of the Conciergerie of the Palais, and the named Millot, paymaster of the Swiss, accomplices and accused on account of the composition, sale, and distribution of the book entitled *L'Escole des filles*; the procès-verbal drawn up by the said Lieutenant General on 12 June 1655 containing, among other things, the seizure made by him of the manuscript and several copies of the book entitled *L'Escole des filles* found in the houses of the said Lange and Millot; the interrogation of the said Lange of the said day, containing his answers, confessions, and denials; the interrogations of François Chauveau, engraver, Louis Framery, master bookbinder; the interrogation of Louis Piot, master printer at Paris, of the said day, likewise containing their answers, confessions, and denials; the decree of arrest issued against the said Lange and Millot at the request of the said King's Procurator; another interrogation of Lange of the said day, the 13th, likewise containing his answers, confessions, and denials; the procès-verbal of the search of the person of the said Millot and the summons to appear within three short days given to him on the said 13th

day of the month of June; the sentence rendered by us on the 25th of the said month of June, at the request of the said King's Procurator, against the said Millot, by which, among other things, we ordered that the said Millot should again be called by sound of trumpet and public cry through the customary crossroads of this bailliage, other places and accustomed locations, and before the house of the said Millot situated in this city of Paris, Île Notre-Dame, on the quay facing the Grève, there to be and appear and to surrender himself into the prisons of the Conciergerie of the Palais, so that his trial might be made and completed; together with the ordinances and procès-verbal drawn up by Canto, sworn town crier in this city, dated the 26th day of the month of June and the 3rd of July of the said year, containing the proclamation made by him against the person of the said Millot; another sentence rendered by us on the 13th of July of the said year ordering that the said Chauveau, Framery, and Piot should be confronted with the said Lange; the confrontation made of the said Lange with the persons of the said Chauveau and Framery; another procès-verbal of the fourth of August made at the request of the King's Procurator, the case being on the bench, containing the declaration of Robert Ballard, syndic of the booksellers; the conclusions of the King's Procurator, to whom the whole has been communicated; the interrogation of the said Lange of the same day, the case being on the bench; all things considered:

We declare that the book entitled *L'Escolle des filles*, together with *la Bulle orthodoxe* inserted in certain copies printed from the manuscript remaining in the registry of this bailliage for the instruction of the proceedings against the other accomplices, is declared contrary to good morals and Christian discipline, and as such is to be burned by the hands of the executioner of high justice on the Pont-Neuf near the Bronze Horse. We forbid all booksellers and printers to sell, display, or distribute it, upon pain of death, and all other persons, of whatever quality or condition they may be, to keep it; and for having the said Millot the elder and Lange contributed to having the book printed and distributed, we have condemned the said Millot, as contumacious and in default, to be hanged and strangled if he may be apprehended, otherwise to be hanged in effigy upon a gallows which shall be erected in the same place where the said

book entitled *L'Escolle des filles* shall be burned, and a placard shall be affixed to the said gallows on which shall be written the causes of the condemnation of the said Millot, whose goods shall remain forfeited and confiscated to the King; and with regard to the said Lange, for the matters resulting from the proceedings, we have condemned him to appear in the Chamber and there, kneeling and bareheaded, to declare that rashly, maliciously, and as ill-advised, he caused the said book in question to be printed, knowing it to be contrary to good morals and Christian discipline, for which he asks pardon of God, of the King, and of Justice; this done, to be banished for three years from the provostship and viscounty of Paris, and we enjoin him to observe his banishment upon pain of death; and we have condemned the said Millot and Lange, namely the said Millot to four hundred livres parisis and the said Lange to two hundred livres parisis, applicable to the repair of the Chamber of this bailliage, which for this purpose shall be placed in the hands of Michel Vildot, master of the works of the King's buildings; we order that the said Piot the younger shall be taken and apprehended in person.

HOURLIER, JAMART,
REGNARD, DU HAZAY, PARMENTIER.

Pronounced to the said Lange, for this purpose summoned before the substitute of the complaining Procurator, he said that he is ready and offers to carry out the present sentence, this 7th of August 1655.

Signed : L'ANGE

By the King

And by Monsieur the Bailiff of the Palais

Be it made known that Millot the elder, paymaster of the Swiss, has by sentence of the said bailliage been duly found guilty and convicted of having composed the book entitled *L'Escolle des filles*, and of having had it printed and distributed.

In reparation whereof he is condemned to be hanged and strangled if he may be taken and apprehended, otherwise in effigy upon a placard attached to a gallows which shall be erected at

the point of the Île du Palais, where the copies of the said book shall be burned, all his goods forfeited and confiscated to the King.

Of the 9th of August 1655

And on the ninth day of the said month of August the said Millot was executed in effigy at the point of the Île du Palais, and the copies found in the house where he dwelt were burned. On the same day, the commitment register of the Conciergerie records the execution in effigy of Millot:

Of the said day, 9 August.

Effigy of the named Millot the elder, paymaster of the Swiss, by sentence of the bailiff of the ninth of the present month of August declared duly found guilty and convicted of having composed the book entitled *L'Escolle des filles*, and of having had it made and distributed, in reparation whereof he is condemned to be hanged on a gallows which shall be erected at the place of the point of the Île du Palais at Paris, if he may be taken and apprehended, otherwise in effigy, with a placard attached to the said gallows; all and each of his goods forfeited and confiscated to the King, and the copies of the said book burned. Pronounced the said day by Master Charpentier.¹

XV. 11 AUGUST 1655. APPEAL BY MILLOT AGAINST THE SENTENCE OF THE BAILIFF OF THE PALAIS

Condemned on 7 August and executed in effigy on the 9th, Millot lodged an appeal on the 11th. In his appeal, he claimed to be employed in the King's service in his army in Lombardy! Evidently, Millot was hiding in Paris and not

¹ Archives de la préfecture de police, registres de la Conciergerie, à la date.

in Lombardy; but he nevertheless forgot to pursue his appeal. There is a libertine who paid for his audacity!

My Lords,

I, Michel Millot, state that the named Lange, having been accused of having caused an indecent book to be printed, for which reason he was made a prisoner, took the time and occasion of the fact that the suppliant is employed in the King's armies to discharge his crime onto him; and that, under pretext of the accusation against the said Lange, a criminal trial was brought against the suppliant at the bailliage of the Palais, where he was condemned by default and contumacy by sentence of the ninth of last August, from which sentence the suppliant has been advised to lodge an appeal. These things considered, my lords, may it please you to receive the suppliant as appellant from the said sentence of the ninth of last August, to hold him as duly relieved therefrom, to order that upon the said appeal the parties shall proceed before the Court, to which Court the proceedings, charges, and informations shall be brought, to which end the clerk shall be compelled by arrest; meanwhile, to forbid the execution of the said sentence and any further steps to the prejudice of the said appeal, offering to place himself at the Court's disposal at such time as it shall please the Court, inasmuch as at present he is employed in the King's service in his army of Lombardy. And you will do well Let this be shown to the King's Procurator General. Done in Parliament the 11th of August 1655.

I do not oppose, for the King, that the suppliant be received as appellant, held to be duly relieved, permitted to serve notice upon whom he shall think fit, hearing upon the appeal given to the parties on the first day, and moreover that the charges and informations be brought, to which end the clerk shall be

compelled to produce them for communication to me, so that I may take such conclusions thereon as reason shall require. Let the informations be brought, to which end the clerk shall be compelled by arrest. Done in Parliament the 13th of August 1655.

Signed : GILLET.

Served on the 13th of August 1655 upon Master Charpentier, clerk of the bailliage of the Palais, to whom I gave command to bring forthwith to the registry of the Court the charges and informations mentioned, and for his privilege I left twenty *sols*.

Signé : TANCARD (?).

XVI. August 13, 1655 – Louis Barbotte claims the prize for the effigy of Millot.

Monsieur le Bailly of the Palais humbly petitions Louis Barbotte, clerk in the Court, stating that he had, in accordance with your sentence, supplied the effigy of the named Millot, condemned to be hanged at the tip of the Île du Palais, for which he had to bear the expenses. These things considered, Sir, in view of the above, may it please you to order that he be paid the sum of twenty livres parisis assigned to him, or otherwise to advise what is proper and do justice.

Signed : L. BARBOTTE

Awarded to the suppliant the sum of sixteen livres parisis, to be taken from the amount deposited in the hands of the clerk of the prison of the Conciergerie, to be enforced by all due and

reasonable means, notwithstanding any oppositions or appeals, and without prejudice thereto ; done the 13th of August 1655.

Signed : HOURLIER

XVII. – 8 OCTOBER 1655. HONORABLE
AMENDS MADE BY L'ANGE IN THE CHAMBER
OF THE COURT OF THE BAILLIAGE OF THE
PALAIS IN EXECUTION OF THE SENTENCE OF
7 AUGUST 1655, AND HIS RELEASE

On 7 August 1655, L'Ange had been condemned to appear in the chamber of the court of the bailliage of the Palais, and there, kneeling and bareheaded, "to declare that rashly, maliciously, and as ill-advised, he had caused the said book (*L'Escole des Filles*) to be printed, which he knew to be contrary to good morals and Christian discipline, for which he asked pardon of God, of the King, and of Justice." This formality did not take place until 8 October, that is, two months later; it had been postponed on account of the judicial recess.

In the register of sentences of the bailliage of the Palais, following the text of the notice posted on 9 August 1655, in the King's name, in Paris, by the bailiff of the Palais, and reproduced after the sentence of the 7th, one reads:

And on the eighth of October of the said year the said Lange, led into the Chamber, made the declaration in accordance with the said sentence.

The same mention was inscribed in the margin opposite the paragraph of the commitment register of the Conciergerie of 12 June 1655 concerning L'Ange (see p. 18).

Order of Monsieur the King's Procurator General at the Bailliage, issuing this order.

On 8 October 1655, the said Jean Lange was released and set free from the prisons, after he had satisfied the sentence rendered at the bailliage on 7 August 1655, delivered by M. Charpentier, which is in my files.¹

Neither *La Muse Historique de Loret*, nor *Les Epitres du libraire Lesselin*, nor any of the verse gazettes from 1655 that we were able to consult mention the proceedings brought against the author of L'Escole des Filles and his accomplice, nor the conviction of Millot and L'Ange.

¹ Archives of the Prefecture of Police, prison registers of the Conciergerie, dated June 12, 1655. In the margin, it reads: "Effigy, executed on the same day."

BIBLIOGRAPHIE DE *L'ESCOLE DES FILLES*

I have expanded somewhat the list that Lachèvre provided in his original text, omitting the few translations he notes, and concentrating instead on clandestine French texts only, and ignoring openly published modern editions. I suspect that Lachèvre relied mainly on the list provided by the entry for *L'Escole des filles* in the second volume of Graesse, *Trésor de livres rares et précieux* (1861). The notes in smaller type to the earlier editions are Lachèvre's.

1. L'Escolle des Filles, ou la philosophie des dames. Divisée en deux dialogues ; Agere et Pati. *A Leyden* (Paris) 1655, In-12, frontispice de Chauveau. [Lachèvre A.]

Epistre invitatoire aux filles (in prose); *Argument des deux dialogues*; *Table mystique et allégorique...*; followed by a notice; *A monsieur Militot sur son Escole des Filles*, an anonymous madrigal of eleven lines (this madrigal is by Claude Le Petit and was in fact included by him in his *Bordel des Muses*); text of the two dialogues; and, at the end, *Bulle orthodoxe*. This original edition was to have contained the two obscene poems that conclude *L'Escole des Filles* in the edition bearing the imprint: Imprimé à Fribourg, chez Roger Bon Temps, l'an 1668. They are likewise to be attributed to Claude Le Petit; in any event, it is probable that these are the same pieces referred to in the record of the seizure of the original manuscript, carried out on 12 June 1655 at the residence of Jean L'Ange, *gentilhomme du roi*.

No copy of this original edition is now known; despite the imprint "A Leyden," it was in fact printed in Paris by Louis Piot.

Here is the title as given by *La Bibliographie des Ouvrages relatifs à l'Amour, aux femmes et au Mariage...*, by the C. d'I... (d'Ideville [actually, Jules Gay]), fourth edition entirely revised, enlarged, and brought up to date by J. Lemonnyer, vol. II, p. 62: "L'Escole des Filles, ou la philosophie des dames (or, in subsequent editions, des femmes), leur indiquant le secret pour se

faire aimer des hommes, quand même elles ne seroient pas belles, et le plus sur moyen d'avoir du plaisir tout le temps de leur vie, en deux dialogues, par A.D.P. Paris, 1655, avec frontispice gravé de Chauveau." We strongly doubt that this is the exact title, and for that reason we have not reproduced it above; moreover, the notice which the C. d'I..., as supplemented by M. Lemonnier, devoted to this work is in large part inaccurate. *L'Escole des Filles en dialogues* (Paris, Chamhoudry, 1672), is not a reprint of Millot's book; it would rather appear to be its counterpart.

2. Id., suivant la copie imprimée à Paris (probablement Amsterdam, Jansson), 1665. Fr. gr. De Chauveau. [Lachèvre B.]

This edition is known to us—or perhaps even an earlier one—thanks to the reference made to it in *Description de la Ville Amsterdam, en vers burlesques*, by Pierre Le Jolle, Amsterdam, 1666 :

Le Secret pour jouer aux quilles
Joint avec L'Escolle des Filles.

3. Id., suivant la copie imprimée à Paris (Amsterdam, Jansson), 1665. Petit in-12. [Lachèvre C.]

4. L'Escolle des Filles, ou la philosophie des dames. Divisée en deux dialogues ; Agere et Pati. Corrigé & augmenté, d'un combat du V[it] et du C[on], Dialogue entre le f[outeur] et Perrette ; & une instruction des Curiositéz, dont la methode de trouver, est marqué par leurs nombres suivant les tables. *Imprime à Fribourg : chez les Roger bon Temps*, 1668. 12mo. pp. [xxxii]+224. [Lachèvre D. – British Library P.C.29.a.16.]

This 1668 edition, which we believe conforms to the original, was reprinted three times in the nineteenth century.

5. Id., Suivant la Copie imprimée à Paris, (en Allemagne), 1671. Petit in-12 de 162 pp. [Lachèvre E.]

6. L'Escolle des Filles, ou la philosophie des dames. 1672. 12mo. [Cited by Graesse, *Trésor de livres rares et précieux* (1859-1869), vol. 2, p. 461.]
7. L'Escole des filles, ou la philosophie des dames. [Foxon, *Libertine Literature in England 1660-1745*, p. 33, cites 'Campbell' for an edition imprinted 'Fribourg, 1676.' This refers to a three-volume MS bibliography of erotica compiled by James Campbell Reddie (1807-1878) which is today in the British Library at Add MS 38828-38829.]
8. L'École des filles. Enrichi du trente sept belle figure [sic] gravées en taille douce. *A Liège : et se trouve dans tous les Bibliothèques des Religieux & Religieuses de tout l'Universe*, 1000000 [Holland, c.1680]. 12mo. pp. xxiv+286. With 37 numbered engravings [Lachèvre G. – Eros Invaincou, 20. – Nordmann Auction, pt. 2, 186. – Dutel A-354, suggesting 'vers 1735' as the publication date.]
9. L'Escole des filles, ou la philosophie des dames. Divisée en deux dialogues ; Agere & Pati. Suivant la Copie imprimée à Paris, 1667 [c. 1685]. 12mo. pp. (12 ff)+156, [BNF *Enfer* 112.]
10. L'Escole des filles. Ou la philosophie des dames. Divisée en deux dialogues. Agere & Pati. *A la Ville Franche : Sous la Press des Paillards*, 1686. 12mo. pp. xxii+172. [Lachèvre F. – Galitzin 534.]
11. L'Ecole des filles, ou la Philosophie des dames, divisée en deux dialogues. *A Cythère : de l'imprimerie de Venus & se trouve chez Cupidon*, 1760. 8vo. [Dutel A-355.]
12. L'Ecole des filles, ou la Philosophie des dames, divisée en deux dialogues. *A Cythère* : 1776. [Lachèvre H.]
13. L'Escole des fille du Mililot [sic]. Réimpression complète du texte originale sur la contrefaçon hollandaise de 1668. Bruxelles : aux dépens des dames de la rue des Cailles

[Auguste Poulet-Malassis, 1864]. 12mo. pp. iv+189. Frontispiece by F. Rops. [Lachèvre II. – Galitzin 535. – BNF Enfer 386.]

14. L'Escole des filles de Mililot [sic]. Réimpression complète du texte originale sur la contrefaçon hollandaise de 1668. Bruxelles : aux dépens des dames de la rue des Cailles [Alphonse Lécivain or Poulet-Malassis, 1864]. 12mo. pp. iv+189. Frontispiece. [Dutel A-357. – Launey 297.]

15. L'Escole des filles, ou, La Philosophie des dames, en deux dialogues. Réimprimée sur l'Édition de Liège ; revue et complétée sur l'Édition de Fribourg, 1668. Précédée d'une notice bibliographique. *A Strasbourg : Imprime par les presses de la société* [Jules Gay], 1871. 12mo. pp. xi+153. [Lachèvre IV. – British Library P.C.27.b.52.(6).]

16. L'Escole des filles, ou la Philosophie des dames de Mililot [sic]. Réimpression complète du texte originale. *Liege [Bruxelles] : et se trouve dans tous les Bibliothèques des Religieux & Religieuses de tout l'Universe* [Vital Puissant], 0000 [c.1872]. 12mo. Two parts in one volume, pp. 99, 114. [Dutel A-359. – Galitzin 537.]

17. L'Escole des filles, ou la Philosophie des dames, divisée en deux dialogues. Agere & Pati. Corrigé et augmenté d'un combat du Vit et du Con, d'un dialogue entre le Fouteur et Perrette ; et une instruction des Curiositez, dont la méthode de trouver est marquée par leurs nombres suivant les tables. *Imprime à Fribourg [Bruxelles] : Chez Roger Bon Temps* [Alexis Christiaens], l'an 1668 [c. 1875].

18. L'Escole des filles de Mililot [sic]. Réimpression complète du texte originale sur la contrefaçon hollandaise de 1668. *Bruxelles : aux dépens des dames de la rue St-Laurent* [Gay et Doucé, c. 1881]. 8vo. pp. 208. [Lachèvre III. – Dutel 266.]

19. L'Escole des filles de Mililot [*sic*]. Réimpression complète du texte originale sur la contrefaçon hollandaise de 1668. In-18. [Dutel 267 : "Edition publiée à Bruxelles en 1882 ou 83 par A[uguste] Brancart."]

20. L'Escole des filles, ou la Philosophie des dames. In-18. Two volumes. [Dutel 268 : "Edition non répertoriée, publiée à Amsterdam par A[uguste] Brancart vers 1889."]