

ABSTRACTS

I. PAPERS FROM THE CONFERENCE “PORT-ROYAL AND THE REPUBLIC: 1940-1629?”

Laurent FEDI

Port-Royal: an identification model for Third Republic philosophers and pedagogues

If we were to limit ourselves to doctrine, the Third Republic thinkers are well aware of the paradoxical nature of their interest in Port-Royal. But Port-Royal is more than a doctrine to them. It is an example of true devotion, of independence of mind, of resistance to power, of intellectual sociability, which makes sense beyond its historical contingency. It is a singular experience which, in different circumstances, could have changed the course of history. The reference to Port-Royal thus functions as an element of counterfactual history in the service of a symbolic genealogy of republicanism. Nonetheless this operation, which was very useful for legitimizing reforms in progress, goes through a selective appropriation including a detachment effect.

Keywords: Republicanism; Education

Simon ICARD

Port-Royal, the Church and the Republic: history of a union

The distinction or opposition of Port-Royal and eighteenth-century Jansenism which structures Port-Royal studies is the result of a lengthy process. The Republican assumption of Port-Royal and the progressive rallying of Catholics to Port-Royal were two critical milestones. These two movements converge in the 1920s and result in the institutional consensus on which studies of Port-Royal and Jansenism are still based today.

Keywords: Jansenism; Port-Royal

Philippe LUEZ

The child Racine or the Republic in danger?

In 1910 the inauguration of the statue of the child Racine at La Ferté-Milon, under the patronage of Jules Lemaître, was the occasion of a controversy which reached the national media. This campaign finds its place in the battles between secularism and clericalism at the start of the century, since the statue, desired by the clericals, honoured the Racine child of Port-Royal. It also raises the question of the reinterpreting Port-Royal's relationship with the Church.

Keywords: Jean Racine; Secularism

Guillaume MÉTAYER

Anatole France, Port-Royal and Pascal, or the thought in mind

A symbolic figurehead of the Republic at the turn of the 20th century, Anatole France maintained an ambivalent relationship with Port-Royal. Although he didn't hide his admiration for the education methods of the "Little Schools" nor for Jean Racine, his approach towards Pascal is symptomatic of the way in which the secular Republic had to come to terms with the nation's religious heritage in establishing its literary and philosophical canon.

Keywords: Anatole France; Blaise Pascal

Alexandre de VITRY

Port-Royal in the Cahiers de la quinzaine

In spite of the unequivocal anti-Jansenism of Péguy, who was hostile towards any doctrine restricting salvation, and despite his reservations in enlisting Pascal in the Republican struggle, it must be noted that his Republicanism is inseparable from his attachment to the *Provincial Letters*. In the *Cahiers de la quinzaine*, Port-Royal and Jansenism are cited as still strong resources. For Péguy and his contributors (Halévy, Benda, Suarès), as for numerous Republicans of the time, Port-Royal represents a form of utopia which can inspire us in the present. This is the case for the *Cahiers de la quinzaine*, whose collective nature only takes on meaning insofar as everyone finds personal fulfilment there, in a state of maximal liberty.

Keywords: Charles Péguy; *Cahiers de la quinzaine*

Christophe CORBIER

Renan and Port-Royal: freedom, science and the Republic

From protest to acceptance, Port-Royal's legacy was assessed in different ways by Ernest Renan. Beginning in the 1840s with a direct attack on the Port-Royal scholars and their admirers in the name of modern science, Renan then questioned Port-Royal's place in French political history. His two essays on Sainte-Beuve's work give him the opportunity to review the Port-Royal moment in light of his liberal principles, all the while contesting Guizot's liberalism, and Lamennais'. Lastly, in *Souvenirs d'enfance et de jeunesse*, Renan shows his rallying to the Port-Royal "party" shortly after his republican turning point, by forging links with his own spiritual and intellectual itinerary.

Keywords: Science; Liberalism.

Alain LAQUIÈZE

Port-Royal and the republicans of 1848

What the republicans of 1848 retain from Port-Royal's legacy and reinvented in their favour, is the refusal of a monarchist verticality of power in favour of the recognition of the sovereignty of the people and the prominent place of parliamentary deliberation; it is also the affirmation of individual liberties, beginning with the freedom of conscience, without forgetting the separation of Church and State as well as the defence of pluralism within the Catholic Church itself. All of these ideas stir up the 1848 constituents, although the atmosphere is not one of secularist struggle. Additionally, the construction of a republic, necessarily founded on virtue, as taught by Montesquieu, could inspire the Port-Royal followers who saw in its rigorist moral code, and Pascal's in particular, a source of inspiration.

Keywords: Freedom of conscience; republican moral codes.

Valérie GUITTIENNE-MÜRGER

The Gospel and Freedom: Port-Royal, the Civil Constitution of the Clergy and the history of the French Revolution under the Bourbon Restoration

Under the Bourbon Restoration, in the confrontation between defenders of the revolutionary heritage and their opponents, who never ceased condemning the Revolution or erasing its heritage, the Civil Constitution

of the Clergy, which had so sharply divided France, held a particular place. The clergy who had taken the oath were also included in the mass of those who had to atone for the crimes of the Revolution and for this purpose were subjected to all kinds of pressure, ranging from destitution to refusal of the sacraments. From the defence of the Civil Constitution by former oath takers gathered around Abbé Grégoire in the *Chronique religieuse*, to the first liberal histories of the French Revolution, while the intrusion of a clergy openly hostile to the Revolution in political life was being more and more violently denounced (missions, the Congregation, the Jesuits), a crossover study of these founding works, the press and manuscript sources held at the Port-Royal library reveal shared interpretations. It also raises the question of the influence that could have been exercised by the stigmatisation of the Civil Constitutional Clergy under the Bourbon Restoration, on the reading of the Civil Constitution of the Clergy, perceived as the work of Jansenists, and on the inclusion of the Port-Royal myth in the liberal historiographical field.

Keywords: Liberalism; Civil Constitution of the Clergy

Jean DUBRAY

Christianity and Republic: their strong affinities according to Abbé Grégoire

Abbé Grégoire was a major participant in the incident which drove France to abolish the monarchy and establish the Republic in September 1792. His attachment to this new regime was confirmed progressively through contact with political events and debates. Abbé Grégoire's originality, in a revolutionary context, is to shed light on the Republican motto's three terms, liberty, equality, fraternity, to which must be added the concept of the sovereignty of the people, from a Christian heritage perspective.

Keywords: Henri Grégoire; Republic

Monique COTTRET

From Christian Republic to citizen Republic: the innumerable political facets of so-called Jansenism.

In *Les Ruines de Port-Royal*, a work first published in 1801 while the Republic was in its death throes, Abbé Grégoire celebrated Port-Royal as model, mould and foreshadowing of Republican values all at once. Beyond nostalgic recollection, this text appears as a manifesto of opposition to

tyranny, looking towards the past in order to draw an outline of a better future. This could contribute towards explaining its historiographical fortunes.

Keywords: Henri Grégoire; *Les Ruines de Port-Royal*

Fabien VANDERMARCO

Peru in the North Sea. Nordstrand: a Jansenist utopia?

Following a storm which partially submerged it, the island of Nordstrand was the object of a rehabilitation programme led by some Dutch citizens at the request of the grand duke of Holstein. The friends of Port-Royal were associates in what they hoped would be a profitable investment. Unfortunately for them, the operation was a fiasco. Rumour had it they would have wished to retreat to the North Sea to found an independent state there. This rumour, which was groundless, was started by the mystic Antoinette Bourignon and passed on by Pierre Bayle. It could have contributed to fuelling the idea of a republican Port-Royal but also, paradoxically, could have served as a template for the accusations to which the Jesuits in Paraguay later fell victim.

Keywords: Nordstrand; Antoinette Bourignon

Laurent THIROUIN

The Republic and the number: Pascal, philosopher of plurality

The notion of *plurality* is a part of Pascal's political lexicon and of that of his time. Quickly lumped together with the idea of *majority*, the choice of plurality seems to us to anticipate democratic functioning. But what is presented, in the *Pensées*, as the best way turns out to be also the opinion of the less clever. After a lexicographical clarification, this study examines Pascal's arguments to make the number a political criterion, and the paradoxical nature of his defence of plurality.

Keywords: Plurality; Blaise Pascal

Laurence PLAZENET

The election of Port-Royal abbess: obedience to God, political contestation?

The establishment of three-yearly elections of the abbess constitutes one of the most impassioned motifs of the history of the reform led by

Mère Angélique. The measure is presented as a way to protect the latter facing the possible nomination by the king of an Abbess who would be hostile towards her: in this way she associates monarchist power and the exercise of a dangerous arbitrariness. Should we see further beyond that, in the choice of an election by a plurality of voices by the nuns of the community, the promotion of a political principle? The texts give scarcely any signs before 1665 for such an interpretation of the phenomenon. At this date, there is a transformation. The need for discretion for both the nuns and the historiographers of Port-Royal masks a much more incisive reality if we look at Angélique de Saint-Jean's unpublished works.

Keywords: Abbess election; Angélique de Saint-Jean

Clément VAN HAMME

Port-Royal and the Venice republic

The political myth of Venice, developed by its official historians in the 16th century, experienced a specifically French reception following the Venetian Interdict. Inside this reception, the Port-Royal authors are an exception. The republic, approached from a perspective which was more theological than political, appears in their writings in all of the complexity characterizing the situation concerning Papal authority. Must we see in this an identification model for the Augustinian community, also striking an ambivalent posture formed of loyalty and resistance before the Roman power? As anti-Jesuit centre, gateway to the Christian world and stopover to the East, Venice and its history provide arguments and examples to Port-Royal which help it to imagine itself.

Keywords: Venice; Anti-Jesuitism

Thierry ISSARTEL

A republican Port-Royal? Léonard de Marandé and the "Blackloists"

In the middle of the 17th century, under the influence of Dutch and more especially English examples, the meaning of the term "republic" moved progressively towards its contemporary meaning, namely a political regime which is not monarchist and in which he who governs is not designated hereditarily. After the Fronde, the Jansenists were accused of being rebels against both royal and papal authority, or even of being "republicans". Although the accusation is rather exaggerated, the study of Léonard de Marandé's writings shows, however, that it is not wholly

without substance, whether it be controversies with the “blackloists” group, denunciation of Jansenius’s writings or Antoine Arnauld’s personality.

Keywords: Léonard de Marandé; Blackloists

II. ADDITION TO THE CONFERENCE

Philippe SELLIER and Fabien VANDERMARCO
Pascal and Racine at Saint-Étienne-du-Mont

The “Journal” of the Saint-Étienne-du-Mont parish for the years 1898 and 1899 contains interesting details about some of those close to Port-Royal, including Racine and Pascal, buried in the vaults of the church and about the mass that was celebrated on the occasion of the second centenary of Racine’s death. In keeping with Jean Mesnard’s wish, the *Chroniques de Port-Royal* is publishing a photographic reproduction of these notes, accompanied by a transcription of the passages which concern more specifically Port-Royal.

Keywords: Jean Racine; Blaise Pascal

III. VARIA

Denis DONETZKOFF and Anne-Claire VOLONGO
A second autograph letter by Saint-Cyran at the Port-Royal library

The letter dated 14 August 1615, addressed by Jean Duvergier de Hauranne to Richelieu and purchased by the Port-Royal library last year, is one of only ten autograph specimens known to date. The relationship between the two men, which could be qualified at the outset as self-serving friendship, evolves progressively towards suspicion, then open hostility until the imprisonment of Abbé de Saint-Cyran in Vincennes dungeon. This letter allows a new perspective on the beginnings of this relationship.

Keywords: Abbé de Saint-Cyran; Cardinal de Richelieu

Pierre POISSANT

Expressiveness, or the “unfamiliar country” of Port-Royal translations

Port-Royal is one of the major translation centres in the 17th century, but what exactly is known about the “style” of these translations? The publication of the New Testament, known as the New Testament of “Mons”, in 1667, gave the opportunity to certain Jesuits, particularly Pères Maimbourg and Bouhours, to distinguish themselves in a controversy that was firstly theological, but which led to a quarrel that was strictly linguistic. In criticising, amongst other things, the “precious aspect” and the subversive nature of the language of the Port-Royal “Gentlemen”, the polemicists indirectly designate one of the salient features of Port-Royal style: the search for rhetorical strength, accentuating translation means that were in conflict with a certain doxy, and more capable of restoring in French the expressiveness of the original texts, and in particular of the sacred text.

Keywords: Translation; Linguistic quarrel

Olivier ANDURAND

The call of 1717: perspectives for analysis

After the fulmination of the *Unigenitus* bull, four French bishops chose to refer the constitution of Pope Clément XI to the supreme court of the Church: the General Council. Their appeal of 5 March 1717 is an important moment in the history of 18th-century Jansenism. Today it is necessary to replace the appeal of 1717 in a context of European intellectual history in order to highlight the particularities and the ecclesiological purposes. It is firstly a question of measuring its impact in the kingdom before seeing the real stakes laid down in the functioning of the Church. Finally it is necessary to restore to the question of the *Unigenitus* bull its true dimension in Catholicity by looking at the impact of this opposition in the European Christian world and, if we add the colonies, global.

Keywords: *Unigenitus* Bull; Ecclesiology