

DIOGO ANTÓNIO: NEW CHRISTIAN COMENDADOR BETWEEN NAÇÃO AND KIN IN ROME

*James W. Nelson Novoa*¹

Over a century has gone by since Alexandre Herculano (1810-1877) saved some of the key players of the drama of the establishment of the tribunal of the Inquisition in Portugal from oblivion. His account of those early years and the struggle between the Portuguese court and Rome in order to obtain a tribunal based on the Spanish model had, as one of its chief protagonists, some of Portugal's New Christians, who, through diplomacy, bribery and subtle manoeuvring, managed, for over a decade (1532-1547) to tip the balance of power, posing a threat to king João III's (1521-1557) plans to install the tribunal which would work, unhindered by Papal interference, directed principally to the descendants of Portugal's Jews who were forcibly converted in 1497. The nineteenth century historian's gripping account of events identified some of the men behind the scenes which he portrayed as part of a loose and fledgling network organized to secure the reversal of the papal policy which had granted the Portuguese Inquisition in the first place².

Since Herculano, several scholars have drawn attention to the role played by Portuguese New Christian agents in the diplomatic tug of war between Portugal and Rome. Some have considered the role of these individuals from the perspective of Portuguese history in the early modern history such as João Lúcio de Azevedo (1855-1933³) and Charles-Martial de Witte⁴. Other, working from the perspective of Jewish history such as Meyer Kayserling (1829-1905)⁵ Cecil Roth (1899-1970)⁶, Yosef Haim Yerushalmi (1932-2009) and⁷ Aron Leone di Leoni (1932-2010)⁸ have

¹ PhD in Spanish Language and Literature, Universidad de Valencia. Researcher at Cátedra de Estudos Sefarditas 'Alberto Benveniste' /CLEPUL, Universidade de Lisboa. E-Mail: <jwnovoa@gmail.com>.

² HERCULANO, Alexandre, *História da origem e estabelecimento da Inquisição em Portugal*, 3 vols, Lisboa: Livraria Bertrand, 1975-1976. A more recent account of the early years to the tribunal is: MARCOCCI, Giuseppe, *I custody dell'ortodossia. Inquisizione e chiesa nel Portogallo del Cinquecento*. Roma: Edizioni di Storia e Letteratura, 2004.

³ AZEVEDO, José Lúcio de. *História dos Cristãos Novos Portugueses*. 2. ed. Lisboa: Livraria Clássica Editora, 1975, p. 71-87.

⁴ The New Christians in Rome figure predominantly in: DE WITTE, Charles-Martial (ed.). *La correspondance des premiers nonces permanents au Portugal 1532-1553*. Lisboa: Academia Portuguesa da História, 1980.

⁵ KAYSERLING, Meyer. *História dos judeus em Portugal*. Translated by Gabriele Borchardt Correa da Silva and Anita Novinsky. São Paulo: Livraria Pioneira Editora, 1971, p. 187-193.

⁶ ROTH, Cecil, *A History of the Marranos*. Philadelphia: The Jewish Publication Society, 1959, p. 25-35.

⁷ HERCULANO, Alexandre. *History of the origin and establishment of the Inquisition in Portugal*. Prolegomenon by Yosef Hayim Yerushalmi, Translated by John C. Branner. New York: KTAV, 1968, p. 38-42.

⁸ The following works make ample reference to New Christians in Rome: *La nazione ebraica spagnola e portoghese negli stati estensi. Per servire a una storia dell'ebraismo sefardita*. Rimini: Luisè Editore, 1992; *The Hebrew Portuguese Nations in Antwerp and London at the time of Charles V and Henry VIII – New Documents and Interpretations*. Jersey City: KTAV, 2005; *La nazione ebraica spagnola e portoghese a Ferrara (1492-1559)*. Firenze: Leo S. Olschki, 2011.

evoked the presence of New Christian agents in Rome as members of a network who solidified the sense of belonging to a New Christian *nação*, as veritable representatives sent to Rome to build the case against the Inquisition which was being established in Portugal and to defend the interests of individual Portuguese New Christians persecuted by it.

Among the men who converged on Rome was one Diogo António, a New Christian cleric, trained in Civil and Canon law at the University of Coimbra and a *comendador* of the hospital order of Our Lady of Roncesvalles. As will be made clear in this article António was motivated at once by his quasi official engagement on the part of New Christians of Portugal which was sanctioned by Rome, his commission on the part of New Christians in Portugal themselves in addition to his own interest as a New Christian for his kin which had borne the brunt of inquisitorial justice. As a recognized agent of the New Christians before the Roman Curia he was, in a sense, their public face, vying for their collective interests with a view to altering papal policy regarding the tribunal and obtaining social capital as a result in the city where he also established professional relations. At the same time he used the social capital accrued from his role as a sanctioned agent or procurator of the New Christians to obtain advantages for his own family. The case of Diogo António may thus be emblematic of that of other individuals who, officially present in Rome to represent the interests of the Portuguese New Christian *nação*, also used their status to protect their kin in Portugal.

Arriving some point after the end of 1534, António was the second such man known to historians after Duarte de Paz, the merchant, spy and *comendador* of the Order of Christ⁹. During his years in Rome (1532-1538) Paz made full use of his exemption deriving from his status as an officially recognized New Christian agent which had been spelled out in a papal brief made out on 20 July 1535. The terms of the brief granted these representatives a quasi diplomatic status as veritable agents and rendered them exempt from the regular jurisdiction of the tribunal along with their families, extended families through marriage¹⁰. This status was evoked by members of Paz's immediate and extended family in Portugal who had been accused in tribunals of the Inquisition¹¹.

Little is known of António's activities in Portugal before he left for Rome nor in the first few years after his arrival there. He is alluded to as working in favour of Portuguese New Christians shortly after Paz's departure from Rome in January 1538 when a papal brief granted him and his family the same immunity as Paz

⁹ On Duarte da Paz see: HERCULANO, *História da origem e estabelecimento...*, tomo 1, p. 255-259; VALENTIM, Carlos Manuel. "Duarte de Paz: um líder da comunidade sefardita portuguesa em meados do século XVI". In: *Rumos e Escrito da História. Estudos de Homenagem a A.A. Marques de Almeida*. Lisboa: Edições Colibri, 2007, p. 175-190; and NOVOA, James William Nelson. "The Departure of Duarte de Paz from Rome in the light of documents from the Secret Vatican Archives". *Cadernos de Estudos Sefarditas*, Lisboa, n. 7, 2007, p. 273-300.

¹⁰ The brief appears published in: SIMONSOHN, Schlomo. *The Apostolic See and the Jews*, vol. 4, Documents: 1522-1538). Toronto: Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies, 1990, p. 2083-2084.

¹¹ On the matter see: NOVOA, James William Nelson. "A luta e a *nação*: autoconsciência e autodefinição nos primórdios da experiência cristã-nova portuguesa". In: *Estudos inquisitoriais: história e historiografia*. Salvador: Eduneb, 2014 (in print).

had enjoyed on the basis of his status as an agent of the New Christians¹². After Paz's departure from Rome in February 1538 he is mentioned repeatedly in the correspondence between the papal secretary Alessandro Farnese (1520-1589) and the acting papal nuncios in Portugal, Girolamo Recanati Capodiferro (1502-1559) and Luigi Lippomano (1500-1559) as *il dottore*, in which it makes clear that he was active as an agent of theirs, something which earned him and his family the same immunity as Paz had enjoyed, in a papal brief of January of that year¹³. Paz had left the city under a cloud of suspicion, accused by the New Christians of Portugal he was said to represent of extortion and corruption and in curial circles of the same kinds of dubious practices. On leaving the city and heading on to Ferrara and later to Venice he apparently published a pamphlet with libellous remarks against Diogo António, certainly seeing him as a rival, possibly a usurper, of his role as a New Christian agent, something which earned Paz a condemnation to death in 1540 if he set foot in the Papal States¹⁴.

António's known years in Rome during which he acted as a New Christian agent (1538-1551) coincided with the first critical phase of the tribunal in Portugal. It received several reversals in which representatives like him played a role though ultimately, from 1547, it was to function, largely unhindered, from Rome. Though the struggle against the tribunal itself had been lost it was still possible to intervene in individual cases of people who were being menaced by inquisitorial justice as it had been since the early years of the tribunal.

A New Christian lawyer in the Roman Curia and a suit from Rome

Like Paz before him, António had made important inroads in curial circles, pressing his case as a representative of the New Christians of Portugal under the provisions for it which were sanctioned by Rome. Undoubtedly his legal and clerical background contributed to giving him a legitimacy in the intricate curial world he had to work in to attain his objectives of, in some way influencing papal policy regarding the tribunal in Portugal and receiving concessions of freedom from Inquisitorial prying for people back in Portugal. He could boast of a background which Paz was not privy to and could put forward reasons behind his demands which could be argued in the parlance of civil and canon law.

Proof of his influence in those curial circles, which reached the pope himself, is a brief of 26 May 1540, in which Paul III, writing to Martinho de Portugal, the bishop of Funchal (1532-1547), made it known that Diogo was demanding 3,200 ducats for expenses incurred during years in Rome from three New Christian merchants living in Lisbon: Jorge Lopes Bixorda, Nuno Henriques and Tomas Serrano¹⁵.

¹² SILVA, Luiz Augusto Rebello da (ed.). *Corpo Diplomático Portuguez contendo os actos e relações políticas e diplomáticas de Portugal con as diversas potencias do mundo desde o século XVI até os nossos dias* - vol. 3. Lisboa: Typographia da Académia Real das Sciencias, 1868, p. 220-222.

¹³ DE WITTE, *La correspondence...*, vol. 2, p. 271-451.

¹⁴ HERCULANO, *História da origem e estabelecimento...*, tomo 2, p. 236-237. NOVOA, "The Departure of Duarte de Paz...", p. 287-288.

¹⁵ The brief is published in: NOVOA, James William Nelson. "The Vatican Secret Archive as a source for the history of the activities of the agents of the Portuguese New Christians (1532-1549)". *Miscelanea di Studi dell'Archivio Segreto del Vaticano*, Vatican City, n. 3, 2009, p. 192-193.

Several months later, on October 15, 1540, another papal brief was drawn up, this time directed to João III, informing him that the matter had been communicated to the bishop of Funchal, asking him to see to it that justice was done and that the suit be made public in the parishes of the three men¹⁶. The day a brief was made out to the bishop of Lisbon, Fernando Meneses Coutinho e Vasconcelos (1480 ca-1564), requesting him to intervene to obtain the settlement of Antonio's just demands¹⁷. On October 27, 1540 yet another brief was made out to the king of Portugal. Apparently a representative of Antonio's, Balthazar Gomes, had been entrusted with presenting the suit in Portugal before bishop Martinho and had been arrested by orders of João III. Paul III insisted on Gomes' release from prison and that the suit be carried through¹⁸.

The matter was resolved before Sebastiano Pighino (1500-1553), an auditor of the Apostolic Chamber, in whose home a document was drawn up on 20 April 1541, which oversaw the terms by which Diogo António made peace with the three New Christian merchants. It was agreed that they, and others who were not specified, should pay up to 10,000 ducats for all of Diogo's Roman expenses. Additional signatories were Alessandro Cesarini, a cardinal and the bishop of Albano (d. 1542); a Portuguese New Christian layman named Diogo Fernandes Netto, who is recognized in the document as an agent of the New Christians and of the merchants concerned; a notary; and two witnesses¹⁹. Alexandre Herculano mistakenly surmised that the Diogo Fernandes Netto replaced Diogo António upon the latter's appearance on the scene in Rome²⁰. Fernandes Netto, a merchant, who had grown up in Madeira and left for Rome at some point between the end of 1540 and the beginning of 1541, to represent the three New Christian merchants in their legal spat with Diogo António. Two years later he was the subject of a trial for defamation in the tribunal of the Governor of Rome on account of secret correspondence between himself and a New Christian in Portugal in which he implicated, among others, the papal nuncio Luigi Lippomano (1500-1559) who had left for Portugal in the Spring of 1542, in accepting money in exchange for concessions to New Christians during his diplomatic mission there. The trial won him the enmity of the New Christians of Rome who (Diogo António among them) testified against Fernandes Netto and resulted in his imprisonment and banishment from Rome in November 1543²¹.

That players so highly placed in the curial world that Diogo António was manoeuvring in would take an active interest in the matter is an indication of his importance in those circles, an indication of how he had successfully used his status as a New Christian agent to his advantage. Consecrated as a procurator of the *nação* in Rome, as their defender in the face of Inquisitorial justice, António could flaunt his role as a *bona fide* representative, someone with a mission, almost akin

¹⁶ The brief is published as document 1 in the appendix.

¹⁷ The brief is published as document 2 in the appendix.

¹⁸ The brief is published as document 3 in the appendix.

¹⁹ The brief is published as document 4 in the appendix.

²⁰ HERCULANO, *História do estabelecimento...*, tomo 2, p. 280.

²¹ The trial is published in: NOVOA, James William Nelson. "The Trial of Diogo Fernandes Netto by the Tribunale del governatore di Roma". *Hispania Judaica*, Jerusalem, n. 7, 2010, p. 277-316.

to quasi diplomatic status, working in their collective and individual interests. The successful outcome of the suit against the three New Christians provoked bitter exchanges between Portugal and Rome, involving figures of the highest levels in its resolution. It obviously solidified his claims to being one of the veritable New Christian agents present in Rome, during those decisive years for the implantation of the tribunal in Portugal.

Diogo António as a defender of kin

Diogo António was joined in Rome by a brother, Hector António, who, in 1540, managed to escape Portugal where he joined the cleric in his efforts against the Inquisition in Portugal, bringing fresh news with him about the abuses which were being perpetrated by the tribunal²². His brother was not the only family member whose life was in some way affected by the tribunal. His father, António Fernandes was apparently harrassed, in some way, by the tribunal the following year, in retaliation for his two son's work in Rome along with one Diogo Rodrigues, a fellow inhabitant of Coimbra. A certain Antonio da Costa, the vicar of the church of Pedrogão Grande, took to his defense, doing what he could to ensure that the matter was referred to Rome, something which earned Costa a trial by the Inquisition of Lisbon which began on 11 November 1541 and only ended on 7 July 1543²³.

As in the case of Diogo António legal squabble with the three New Christian merchants, a series of papal briefs were made out which addressed the matter. Thus, on 18 February 1542 Paul III sent one to the vicar of the bishop of Viseu, stating that it had been brought to his attention that Fernandes, Rodrigues and da Costa had been unjustly disturbed by the Inquisition and that they were not to be subject to Inquisitorial prying due to the two brother's status as agents of the New Christians in Rome²⁴. This was followed by another, on 22 April 1542, this time addressed to the Agostinho Ribeiro, the bishop of Lamego (1540-1549) which insisted on Diogo António's status as an agent of the New Christians in Rome which was also shared by his kin and extended family²⁵. Another, dated 27 April 1542 was addressed to the bishop of Portugal, reiterating the terms of the two previous briefs, insisting that their contents be enforced in Portugal²⁶. A subsequent brief, made out to the bishop of Methone, Luigi Lippomano who had been named nuncio in March 1542, left Rome in June of that year, but only reached the Portugal at the beginning of 1543 as the scandal caused by the allegations in Diogo Fernandes Netto's letter provoked the refusal of João III to allow him to enter the kingdom²⁷.

The whole matter dragged on for years, with Diogo António taking an active interest in the outcome in his capacity as a New Christian representative in Rome. He continued to demand that his father be freed as part of the exemption which

²² SILVA, *Corpo Diplomático Portuguez...*, vol. 4, p. 271-273.

²³ The trial began on 11 November 1541. Inquisição de Lisboa, processo 7814, Arquivo Nacional da Torre do Tombo, Lisboa.

²⁴ The brief is published as document 5 in the documentary appendix.

²⁵ The brief is published as document 6 in the documentary appendix.

²⁶ The brief is published as document 7 in the documentary appendix.

27 The brief is published as document 8 in the documentary appendix.

was his as such an agent. It situation also continued to occupy the correspondence between the papal secretary and Lippomano who regularly pressed the Portuguese court to have Rome's demands on António's behalf be met. It was only resolved in 1544 when João III finally acquiesced, expelling António Fernandes from Portugal from which he went to Spain²⁸. António himself laboured on, continuing on in his role of New Christian agent, one of several, by the decade of the 1540's, whose presence was recognized by Rome²⁹. He was later confirmed as an agent, with the full privileges incumbent upon that role in a papal brief by pope Julius III (1549-1555) on March 25, 1551³⁰.

As in the suit launched against the three New Christian merchants Diogo António's efforts in favour of his father evince the degree to which he had made important inroads in the circles of the Roman Curia thanks to his status as a New Christian agent. It was ostensibly his *raison d'être* in Rome, the role he presented himself in, sanctioned by the terms of the papal document of 1535. It gave him an official title and role, bestowing on him responsibilities which were paramount to that of a quasi diplomat. He could flaunt the status at will, obtaining advantages for himself in Rome where his presence was official and he was obviously known in Portugal, much to the chagrin of the court.

Both instances evoked here and the related documents, also reveal the double facet of his role there. On the one hand it entitled him to charge for his services, as he was actively lobbying for advantages in his capacity as a representative of New Christians back in Portugal. On the other hand as such an agent he was entitled to a series of exemptions from the jurisdiction of the Inquisition which was beginning to act in earnest in the kingdom, exemptions which extended to his family. As their advocate in Rome he was able to demand that these privileges be respected however complicated this might be as is evinced in the episode of his father. He was at once then the public face of the *nação*, an individual who presented their collective and individual demands in Rome against the designs of the Portuguese court and a representative of his kin, on whose behalf he was advocating as well. Both aspects were complimentary and overlapped. As is displayed in the case of Diogo António presented here, the New Christian agents present in Rome could often be moved to act by reasons of economic interest, a sense of general loyalty or responsibility towards their shared interests as members of the *nação* and in the defense of their immediate and extended families.

Rome, as the seat of the Catholic church and a European court in its own right, gave them a unique base of operations. It allowed these individuals to pursue a myriad of possible professional side interests along with their official sanctioned role as agents there. It also gave them an unparalleled projection, as sanctioned representative of the New Christians of Portugal. Men like Diogo António, some

²⁸ DE WITTE, *La correspondence...* vol. 2, 451-452.

²⁹ On other representatives see, for example: NOVOA, James William Nelson. "I procuratori dei cristiani nuovi a Roma e i retroscena dei privilegi di Cosimo de Medici di 1549". *Cadernos de Estudos Sefarditas*, Lisboa, n. 10-11, 2011, p. 281-296.

³⁰ LEAL, José da Silva Mendes (ed.). *Corpo Diplomático Portuguez contendo os actos e relações políticas e diplomáticas de Portugal con as diversas potencias do mundo* - vol. 7. Lisboa: Typographia da Académia Real das Sciencias, 1884, p. 09-10.

of whose names are known to us, most of whose are not, gave the New Christians of Portugal a place on the European stage which they did not have before. Their presence there, where they figured as veritable agents of a what had been, before them, a group whose confines were basically limited to Portugal made of them a group which figured in European diplomacy at some of its highest levels, and not only between Portugal and Rome. It was, at least in part, moved by economic and collective interests in addition to the desire to safeguard ties of kinship that, in part, the *nação* received a universal projection in the Early Modern period.



DOCUMENTARY APPENDIX

Document 1

Carissimo in Christo filio nostro Iohanni Portugallie et Algarbiorum regi illustri.

Paulus papa iii

Carissime in Christo fili noster, salutem, etc.

Dudum pro parte dilecti filii Didaci Antonii clerici Columbriensis, utriusque iuris doctoris, nobis exposito quod, licet alias ipse in Romana curia diversa negotia et causas noviter ad Christi fidem conversorum tui regni Portugallie fideliter et laudabiliter pertractans non mediocrem pecuniarum summam ad tria millia et ducentos auri ascendentem a diversis banchariis dicte curie recepisset et in eisdem negotiis et causis exposuisset, nichilominus dicti sic noviter conversi ingratitude et avaritie vicio obcecati non solum litteris cambiorum pro satisfactione dictarum pecuniarum eis directis tempore solutionis adveniente non satisfecerant, verum etiam super non solvendis dictis pecuniis quidam Georgius Lopez Vixerda, Nunius Henriquez et Thomas Serrano ex dictis noviter conversis eidem Didaco ad solutionem dictarum pecuniarum obligati litem contra dictum Didacum Antonium per certos eorum procuratores seu syndicos movere non erubuerunt. Et propterea prefatus Didacus Antonius coram dilecto filio <curie> causarum Camere apostolice generali auditore et illius locumtenente contra dictos Georgium Lopez Vixerda, Nunium Henriquez et Thomam Serrano in contumaciam procedendo, censuras et mandatum executivum obtinuerat, prout in publicis documentis desuper confectis dicebatur plenius contineri. Nos, ut dictus Didacus Antonius in dictam executionem eo celerius consequeretur, quo desuper nostra auctoritas interveniret, supplicationibus nobis tunc porrectis inclinati venerabili fratri Martino archiepiscopo Funchalensi per alias nostras in forma brevis litteras commisimus et mandavimus quatenus ad censurarum et mandati predictorum executionem iuxta dictorum documentorum continentiam et tenorem auctoritate nostra procederet, faciens presertim in se esset ut dicto Didaco Antonio de suo credito cum effectu satisfieri, prout in eisdem litteris plenius continetur. Cum autem postmodum, sicut dictus Didacus Antonius nobis nuper exponi fecit, prefatus auditor sive eius locumtenens super negocio principali

procedens diffinitivam in favorem dicti Didaci Antonii et contra prefatos eius adversarios, que nulla provocatione suspensa in rem transivit iudicatam, protulerit et ad ulteriora usque ad brachii secularis decretum inclusive» ad id per privilegia |111r| et indulta, deinde in vim specialis nostre commissionis «a nobis emanate» ad specialis interdicti in parrochialibus ecclesiis, infra quarum districtus «prefati Georgius, Nunius et Thomas» commorantur, appositionem processerit, nos «licet non dubitamus» quod tua serenitas in hiis, que iusticie executionem concernunt, «presertim quando ab hac sancta Sede emanant, iuxta maiorum tuorum et tuum morem tuam auctoritatem sis impartitura» «eandem tamen serenitatem tuam rogandam duximus ut» Didaco Antonio, «quem preter id, quod doctrina non vulgari ornatus est, etiam quia tue serenitatis est devotissimus et observantissimum semper se ostendit, ita per ministros tuos adesse velis ut quod sibi debetur absque ulteriori mora recuperare valeat». In quo tua serenitas rem «maiestate dignam et» nobis non parum gratam efficiet.

Dat. Rome, xv octobris 1540.

(Arm. XLI, 19, fols. 110-111. Archivio Segreto Vaticano.)

Document 2

Dilecto filio vicario venerabilis fratris archiepiscopi Ulixbonensis in spiritualibus generali.

Paulus papa iii

Dilecte fili, salutem, etc.

Nuper pro parte dilecti filii Didaci Antonii clerici Columbriensis, utriusque iuris doctoris, nobis «expositum fuit quod, licet» dilectus filius «curie» causarum camere apostolice «generalis» auditor vel illius locumtenens ad ipsius Didaci Antonii instantiam contra dilectos «etiam» filios Georgium Lopez Vixerda, Nunium Henriquez et Thomam Serranum «mercatores Ulixbonenses» ex noviter conversis regni Portugallie super certis notabilibus pecuniarum summis per eundem Didacum Antonium in diversis eorum causis in Romana curia de commissione eorundem Georgii, Nunii et Thome fideliter agitatis et procuratis expositis et dicto Didaco Antonio debitis procedendo censuras «ecclesiasticas promulgaverit» et mandatum executivum decreverit; et deinde, cum dicto Didaco Antonio de suo credito non satisfaceret «et dicti eius adversarii censuras in eos ut prefertur latas parvipendere viderentur», prefatus auditor sive eius locumtenens super eadem summa diffinitivam in favorem dicti Didaci Antonii et contra prefatos eius adversarios que nulla provocatione suspensa in rem transivit iudicatam, «sententiam» promulgaverit et ad ulteriora usque ad brachii secularis decretum inclusive; et deinde dictorum Georgii, Nunii et Thome crescente contumacia, in vim specialis nostre commissionis a nobis emanate ad specialis interdicti in parrochialibus ecclesiis, infra quarum districtus prefati Georgius, Nunius et Thomas commorantur, appositionem processerit. Ipsi tamen Georgius, Nunius et Thomas cotidie magis in eorum duritia et pervicacia perseverans, prefato Didaco Antonio de dictis pecuniis satisfacere non curant, sed censuras et interdictum, non absque animarum suarum periculo et christifidelium illarum partium scandalo, spernunt et contempnunt. Quare dictus Didacus

Antonius nobis humiliter supplicari fecit ut pro sua indepnitate super dicti interdicti observatione ad hoc, ut alii, qui ex hoc in divinis patirentur, prefatos Georgium, Nunium et Thomam ad parendum mandatis apostolicis inducant auctoritatem nostram interponere de apostolica benignitate dignaremur. Nos igitur tam ut iustitie locus sit quam ut huius sancte Sedis auctoritas secuetur, quantum in nobis est providere volens tibi sub indignationis nostre pena per presentes committimus et mandamus ut omnem operam et diligentiam adhibeas quod dictum interdictum in ecclesiis, in quibus appositum est, omnino servetur ad hoc, quod dictus Didacus Antonius suum consequetur et scandalus apud dictos christifideles cesset. Non obstantibus quibuscumque, etc.

Dat. Rome, 16 octobris 1540.

(Arm. XLI, 19, epist. 917, fols. 134 r-135 r. Archivio Segreto Vaticano.)

Document 3

Charissimo in Christo filio nostro Iohanni Portugallie et Algarbiorum regi illustri.

Paulus papa iii

Charissime in Christo fili noster, salutem, etc.

Intelleximus quod, postquam nos per alias quasdam nostras in forma brevis litteras serenitatem tuam rogandam duximus ut dilecto filio Didaco Antonio utriusque iuris doctori ad hoc, ut contra dilectos etiam filios Georgium Lopez Vixerda, Nunium Henriquez et Thomam Serrano mercatores Ulixbonenses executionem iuxta tenorem brachii secularis contra eos super summam trium millium et ducentorum ducatorum in negociis noviter ad christifidem tui regni conversorum de dictorum Georgii, Nunii et Thome commissione in Romana curia per dictum Didacum expositorum per dilectum filium curie camere apostolice generalem auditorem decreti obtinere posset, tuum favorem impartiri velles rogaveramus. Dilectus etiam filius Balthasar Gomez eiusdem Didaci procurator ex eo, quod contra prefatos Georgium, Nunium et Thomam executionem dicti brachii secularis coram venerabili fratre Martino archiepiscopo Funchalensi, cui etiam per alias nostras in forma brevis litteras eandem executionem commiseramus, petierat, nonnullorum eiusdem serenitatis tue ministrorum iussu captus et carceribus mancipatus extitit. Quod certe non multum differat ab eo, quod maiores tui et ipsamet maiestas tua in huiusmodi casibus facere censuevistis, nullo modo adduci possemus ut de mandato aut scientia tua factum esse credamus. Nos itaque spe freti has ad eandem auctoritatem tuam scribendas duximus ipsum enixe rogantes et in Domino requires ut prefatum Balthasarem Gomez in dicti Didaci et sue iusticie preiudicium ac in nostrum et huius sancte Sedis contemptum non solum dimitti et liberari mandes et facias, sed etiam eundem Balthasarem seu alios quoscumque dicti Didaci Antonii procuratores, qui executionem predictam suo nomine petierint et procuraverint eandemque executionem ita per tuos ministros teneri ac favoribus prosequi facias ut prefatus Didacus Antonius quod sibi debetur recuperare valeat. Erit autem hoc tali principe qualis maiestas tua dignum et nobis certe gratissimum.

Dat. Rome, 27 octobris 1540.

(Arm. XLI, 19, epist. 932. fol. 174. Archivio Segreto Vaticano.)

Document 4

Die XXVIII Aprilis MDXLI

Constitutus coram reverendo patre domino Sebastiano Pighino iuris utriusque doctore reverendi patris domini curie causarum Camere Apostolice generalis auditoris locumtenente magnificus dominus Didacus Antonius doctor commendatarius Beate Marie de Roncisvalle in Portugallia, ad cuius instantiam vigore specialis commissionis Sancti Domini Nostri per acta mei notarii lis et causa contra dominos Georgium Lopez Bisorda, Nunium Henriquez et Thomam Sarrano et forsan alios de populo novorum christianorum dicti regni Portugallie ipsumque populum de et super mercede, salario et premio ipsi commendatori, ut pretendit, pro negociis et rebus pro dicto populo et dictis particularibus personis huiusque factis gestis et procuratis debitis et ad scuta decem millia per eundem estimatis mota et coram eodem domino auditore versa ac in qua ad nonnullos actus citra cause conclusionem processum fuit. Volens dictum populum novorum christianorum et illius particulares personas predictas favore privilegii, et imprimis charitate et amore Christi ac deinde intuitu reverendissimi et illustrissimi domini Alexandri de Cesarinis episcopi Albanensis Sancte Romane Ecclesie et illius mediante persona ac etiam quia de cetero in causis et negociis ipsius populi et particularium personarum predictarum se intromittere, impedire nec immiscere intendit aliisque dignis respectibus motus sponte etc. Liti iuri et cause supradictis qualitercumque motis et instructis ac quas ratione dictorum salarii, mercedis et premii contra dictum populum et illius particulares personas predictas movere posset, cessit et dictum salarium, mercedem et premium ad dicta scuta decem millia, ut premititur, estimata et que omnino via iuris consequi volebat eidem populo et particularibus personis gratiose ac ex sua liberalitate remisit de eisdemque decem millibus scutis et toto salario, mercede et premio supradictis eidem populo et particularibus personis supradictis absentibus domino Didaco Fernandez Nepto ipsius populi et particularium personarum predictarum agente presente et una mecum notario publico, uti publica et autentica persona, pro eisdem populo et particularis personis stipulantibus, acceptantibus et recipientibus specialem et generalem ac specialissimam et generalissimam fecit quietantiam quam ad cogitata et incogitata dicta de causa extendi et ampliari voluit. Promittens ulterius in negociis, causis et rebus dictorum populi et novorum christianorum deinceps nullo umquam tempore se intromittere, impedire nec immiscere nec pro eis directe vel indirecte quovis quesito colore aut ingenio procurare neque sollicitare quinimmo ab eorum negociis et causis omnino se ipsum retrahere et abstinere faciendo quietantiam generalem de omnibus et singulis per eum quomodolibet hactenus pretensis tam ratione expensarum quam aliis quibuscumque cogitatis et incogitatis usque in presentem diem, cum facultate dictam quietantiam amplissime extendendi totiens quotiens per dictum Commendatorem aliquid pretenderetur intra predictam diem cum clausulis oportunis et consuetis et etiam secundum consilium sapientis dicti domini Didaci Fernandez extendendi. Hanc autem cessionem, quietantiam, promissionem et omnia supradicta dictus commendator fecit ex causis supradictis ac quia de octingentis ducatis in dictum reverendissimum cardinalem dicti commendator et Didacus asseruerunt factum fuisse compromissum. Pro quibus omnibus et singulis sic ut prefertur inviolabiliter tenendis et observandis dictus commendator

se ipsum suosque heredes et in posterum successores ac sua et illorum bona omnia et singula, mobilia et immobilia, presentia et futura in ampliori forma Camere Apostolice obligavit et hypotecavit et tactis Scripturis sacrosanctis ad sancta Dei evangelia iuravit petens a dicto domino locumtenente et iudice, ut suam et dicti eius officii auctoritatem ordinariam et decretum interponere dignaretur. Qui dominus locumtenens predictus causa cognita petitioni annuens illam et illud interposuit. Super quibus etc. Actum Rome in domo reverendi patris domini auditoris Camere et in studio dicti domini locumtenentis, presentibus dominis Gregorio Bauher iuris utriusque doctore dicti reverendissimi cardinalis auditore et Nicolao Driel clerico Coloniensis diocesis testibus.

(Notai dell'A.C. busta 1111, fol. 267. Archivio di Stato di Roma.)

Document 5

Dilecto filio vicario venerabilis fratris nostri episcopi Visentini in spiritualibus generali.

Paulus papa III

Dilecte fili salutem etc. Exponi nobis nuper fecerunt dilecti filii Didacus Antonius miles militie beate Marie de Roncesvalles Portugalensis et Hector etiam Antonius fratres germani in Romana curia presentes ac Antonius Fernandez et Didacus Rodriguez cives Columbrienses quod, licet alias nos bone memorie Didaco de Silva olim archiepiscopo Bracharensi tunc in humanis agenti nostras in forma brevis litteras dederimus tenoris subsequens, a tergo videlicet: «Venerabili fratri Didaco etc.» et prefatus Didacus Antonius in vim litterarum in litteris Didaci archiepiscopi huiusmodi insertarum, antequam littere eiusdem Didaci archiepiscopi emanarent, per unum ex executoribus in eisdem insertis litteris deputatis processum in forma decerni obtinuerit ac prefati Antonius Fernandez et Didacus Rodriguez vigore clause in processu huiusmodi de more apposite, antequam de litteris Didaci archiepiscopi huiusmodi notitiam haberent, dilectum filium Antonium da Costa perpetuum vicarium parrochialis ecclesie do Pedrogan Columbriensis diocesis in subexecutorem earundem insertarum litterarum assumpserunt ipseque Antonius da Costa subexecutor inquisitoribus et iudicibus in eisdem litteris nominatis ac aliis officialibus inquisitionis huiusmodi in Columbriensi et Egitanensi diocesis deputatis, ne de contentis in eisdem litteris se quovis modo intrmitterent, sub censuris in eisdem litteris contentis inhibuerit et propterea contra ipsos Antonium Fernandez et Didacum Rodriguez aut alios sub eisdem litteris comprehensos vel ipsum Antonium da Costa subexecutorem nihil fuisset aut esset in premissis attendandum seu innovandum, nihilominus inquisitores prefati contra mandata nostra in nostrum et apostolice Sedis contemptum cornua exigentes promotorem inquisitionis in dicta diocesi Columbriensi ad accusationem dicti Antonii da Costa subexecutoris coram eis et exhibitionem libelli contra eum admiserunt, quasi eum propterea quod executionem nostrarum litterarum susceperit, condemnare velint ex quo dictus Antonius da Costa subexecutor metuens ne deteriora sibi contingerent, ab ulterius in huiusmodi negotio procedendo desistere coactus fuit. Quare, cum prefati Didacus Antonius et Hector Antonius ac Antonius Fernandez et Didacus Rodriguez necnon ceteri in eisdem litteris nominati seu sub illis comprehensi,

videntes subexecutorem litterarum apostolicarum eis concessarum hoc modo tractari, dubitant se et consanguineos ac affines suos occasione premissorum in partibus, presertim cum postmodum dictus Didacus archiepiscopus, quem eiusque in dicta ecclesia successores super premissis ut prefertur iudices deputaverimus, sicut Domino placuit, diem suum clauserit extremum sicque potestas illi per preinsertas litteras attributa expiraverit, ulterius indebite vexari et propterea, cum de eorum vita et honore ac toto denique statu agatur, cupiant quascumque causas contra eos et in eisdem litteris nominatos seu sub eis comprehensos necnon quondam Guiomaram Rodriguez et Guiomaram Nunnez dicti Antonii Fernandez sorores in eisdem litteris sub nomine Catherine Fernandez et Beatricis Nunnez expressas occasione contentorum in dictis litteris quomodolibet motas et movendas in Romana curia, ubi non est acceptio personarum, decidi et terminari et ad hoc dicti Didacus Antonius et Hector Antonius coram dilecto filio curie causarum Camere apostolice generali auditore se et omnes alios supradictos in premissis innocentes esse docere seque et eos, si opus fuerit, representare et etiam in carceribus constituere promiserint et se superinde obligaverint ac tam pro se quam omnibus aliis in preinsertis litteris nominatis seu sub eis comprehensis predictis idoneam cautionem de mandato nostro prestiterint, nobis humiliter supplicari fecerunt ut eis in premissis opportune providere de benignitate apostolica dignaremur. Nos igitur attendentes prefatos Didacum Antonium et Hectorem Antonium iam pluribus annis in dicta curia laudabiliter moram traxisse et nobis ac apostolice Sedi in diversis fideliter inservivisse ac etiam de presenti inservire ac de eisdem Antonio Fernandez et Didaco Rodriguez nobis a diversis fidedignis optimam relationem factam fuisse et insuper, cum huiusmodi christianis ad fidem Christi noviter conversis mitius agendum eosque blanditiis alliciendos et non asperitatibus deterrendos esse, cupientes personam rectam et nemini suspectam loco eiusdem Didaci archiepiscopi in premissis surrogari, huiusmodi supplicationibus inclinati te, in quem cum ordinarii officium geras nulla cadere potest suspitio, super premissis iudicem apostolica auctoritate tenore presentium deputamus tibi que in virtute sancte obedientie et sub excommunicationis ac privationis beneficiorum per te obtentorum penis per te nisi presentibus parueris eo ipso incurrens per presentes committimus et mandamus quatenus ad executionem singularum preinsertarum litterarum, quas plenam roboris firmitatem obtinere ac quibusvis tam sub eis quam presentibus comprehensis personis suffragari volumus alias presentium litterarum forma servata in omnibus et per omnia, perinde ac si ille tibi directe fuis-

|fol. 230r |

-sent, auctoritate nostra procedas necnon quascumque accusationes contra nominatos in eisdem litteris seu sub illis comprehensos per quoscumque, non tamen inquisitores aut promotorem seu alios officiales officii inquisitionis huiusmodi, proponendas et faciendas iuxta dictarum preinsertarum litterarum tenorem et continentiam dicta auctoritate recipias et admittas, ita quod postquam cautio predicta coram prefato auditore Camere, ut premititur, prestita est, neminem ex nominatis in litteris huiusmodi seu sub illis comprehensis carceribus mancipes aut mancipari facias, quinymo si aliquis vel aliqui eorum hactenus quovismodo ad quorumvis instantiam carceribus mancipati fuerint, eos illico sub cautione hic ut prefertur prestita relaxes et relaxari mandes et facias ac in accusationibus predictis usque ad instructionem causarum super eisdem accusationibus monendarum, ita quod solum supersit sententiam iusticia foyente

proferre eadem auctoritate procedas. Et deinde quoscumque, tam per te quam forsan dictum Didacum archiepiscopum in premissis habitos et formatos processus, clausos et tuo sigillo munitos, ad eundem auditorem Camere, cui omnes et singulas premissorum occasione, tam motas quam imposterum movendas causas, per eum fine debito secundum iusticiam terminandas per presentes committimus, expensis eorum, qui accusati fuerint, ut exinde quod terminatum fuerit iuxta cautionem ut prefertur prestitam executioni demandari possit secure et tute transmittas. Et nihilominus omnibus et singulis executoribus singularum litterarum et processuum predictorum ac notariis et tabellionibus publicis quibuscumque, qui super executione earundem insertarum et presentium litterarum pro parte nominatorum in eisdem litteris seu sub illis comprehensorum aut alicuius eorum fuerint requisiti quotiens opus fuerit sub maioris excommunicationis, a qua nisi a nobis et successoribus nostris canonice intransibus aut in mortis articulo constituti absolvi non possint, ac privationis omnium et singulorum beneficiorum et officiorum ecclesiasticorum per eos quomodolibet obtentorum ac inhabilitatis ad illa ac alia imposterum obtinenda necnon quinque millium ducatorum auri penis per eos nisi tibi in premissis paruerint eo ipso incurrendis, districtius precipiendo mandes quatenus singulas litteras et processum huiusmodi, prout opus fuerit, contra quoscumque dignitatis, status, gradus, ordinis vel conditionis existant, etiam si episcopali, archiepiscopali aut alia maiori dignitate ecclesiastica prefulgeant, debite exequantur ac omnia et singula in premissis et circa ea necessaria seu alias opportuna faciant et expediant. Non permittens eos propterea per dictos inquisitores aut alios officiales officii inquisitionis huiusmodi seu alios quoscumque quomodolibet perturbari, vexari, molestari aut etiam via facti impediri. Contradictores quoscumque et rebelles, quos nos ex nunc prout ex tunc sententias, censuras et penas predictas usque alia declaratione incurrere volumus et decernimus, per easdem sententias, censuras et penas ac alia opportuna iuris remedia quacumque appellatione postposita compescendo, invocato etiam ad hoc, si opus fuerit, auxilio brachii secularis. Nos enim ex nunc quibusvis inquisitoribus et locorum ordinariis eorumque delegatis et subdelegatis ac aliis iudicibus et officialibus etiam regiis sub sententiis, censuris et penis predictis per eos ut prefertur incurrendis et non nisi ut premititur relaxandis districtius inhiemus ne contra nominatos in litteris huiusmodi seu sub illis comprehensos aut eorum aliquem occasione premissorum, etiam si sententia vel sententie iam desuper late sint, quovis modo procedere seu sententias ipsas exequi aut procedi vel exequi facere seu eosdem nominatos in litteris huiusmodi aut sub illis comprehensos accusare aut illorum nomina seu illos accusantium recipere vel admittere seu describi facere aut permittere quoquo modo presumant. Decernentes ex nunc omnes et singulos processus, inquisitiones testium et probationum receptiones, accusatorum admissiones seu predictorum nominum in libris seu prothocolis notariorum descriptiones necnon sententias, censuras et penas ac quecumque alia per inquisitores ordinarios, delegatos, subdelegatos ac alios iudices et officiales etiam regios ac ceteros quoscumque contra presentium tenorem in preiudicium nominatorum in litteris huiusmodi seu sub illis comprehensorum quavis auctoritate pro tempore facta et attentata ac quicquid secus super his scienter vel ignoranter disponi contigerit, irrita et inania nulliusque roboris et momenti fore. Sique in premissis omnibus et singulis per quoscumque iudices et commissarios quavis

auctoritate fungentes ubilibet commorantes, in quavis causa et instantia, non expectata a nobis super hoc alia mentis nostre declaratione ac sublata eis et eorum cuilibet quavis aliter iudicandi et interpretandi facultate et auctoritate iudicari et interpretari debere. Non obstantibus premissis ac constitutionibus et ordinationibus apostolicis necnon facultate ipsius Didaci in dicta ecclesia Bracharensi successoribus per easdem preinsertas attributa, quam per presentes eis auferimus et ablatam esse decernimus necnon |fol. 231r| omnibus illis, que in ipsis preinsertis litteris volumus non obstare ceterisque contrariis quibuscumque. Ceterum, quia difficile foret singulorum, quibus presentes aut littere desuper per te decernende intimande erunt, presentias habere, volumus et apostolica auctoritate prefata decernimus quod intimationes huiusmodi in eorum solitarum habitationum domorum aut parochialium ecclesiarum, sub quibus pro tempore degent, valvis fieri possint ipseque intimationes sic facte eosdem inquisitores et alios, quibus ille faciende erunt, arcent in omnibus et per omnia perinde ac si illis personaliter facte fuissent. Quacumque constitutione in contrarium edita non obstante.

Datum Rome, 18 februarii 1542, anno 8.

De mandato sanctissimi domini nostri vidi et considerata mente preinsertarum litterarum necnon visis etiam publicis instrumentis inobedientie inquisitorum contra litteras apostolicas predictas, videtur ita posse expediri. Petrus Paulus cardinalis Parisius.

Blos.

(Arm. XLI, n. 23, ff. 229r-231r, Archivio Secreto Vaticano.)

Document 6

Romae, 1542 apr. 22

Venerabili fratri Augustino, episcopo Lamacensi.

Paulus papa III

Venerabilis frater salutem, etc.

Nuper fraternitatem tuam, personam gravem et nobis cognitam et de cuius fide, integritate et prudentia plurimum in Domino confidimus, in locum dilecti filii vicarii venerabilis fratris nostri episcopi Visensis, quem dudum iudicem in rebus et negotiis dilecti filii Didaci Antonii, militis militie Beate Marie de Roncesvalles Portugalen., et parentum ac certorum aliorum tunc nominatorum consanguineorum et affinium suorum per quasdam deputaverimus, quoad iudicium in rebus et negotiis Didaci et aliorum huiusmodi per alias nostras in forma brevis litteras surrogavimus, prout in singulis litteris predictis plenius continetur. Hortamur itaque eandem fraternitatem tuam per presentes sibi nihilominus sub penis et censuris in dictis litteris contentis mandantes, quatinus pro nostra et huius Sedis reverentia et ac iusticie cultu litteras nostras [ti]bi directas [huius]modi [...]be[...]entes acceptes [...] prompte exe[qu]aris iuxta illarum [cont]inentiam et [te]norem preterquam [...]um quod iustitie [de]bito satisfacies et nobis, qui eadem iustitie causa monemur, rem efficies gratam et acceptam.

Dat. Rome, etc. 22 aprilis 1542, anno 8°.

Vidi de mandato sanctissimi domini nostri et potest expediri.

P., cardinalis Parisius.

Blos.

(Arm. XLI. N. 24. epist. 342, fol. 89 r. Archivio Secreto Vaticano.)

Document 7

Romae, 1542 apr. 27

Venerabili fratri episcopo Portugalensi.

Paulus papa III

Venerabilis frater salutem, etc.

Cum superioribus diebus pro defensione personarum et iurium dilectorum filiorum Didaci Antonii, militis militie Beate Marie de Roncesvalles Portugalen., et eius genitorum, consanguineorum, affinium ac diversarum aliarum tunc expressarum personarum diversas nostras ad bone memorie Didacum, olim archiepiscopum Bracharensem, primo ac deinde ad dilectum filium vicarium venerabilis fratris episcopi Visensis in spiritualibus generalem, et postremo ad venerabilem fratrem episcopum Lamacensem dederimus in forma brevis litteras diversasque eidem episcopo Lamacensi mandaverimus et commiserimus ac insuper, cum per inquisitores heretice pravitatis in diocesibus Columbriensi et Egitaniensi deputatos nonnullae iniurie et molestie in personam dilecti filii Antonii de Costa, perpetui vicarii parochialis ecclesie do Pedrogam dicte Columbriensis diocesis, qui in subexecutorem certarum aliarum nostrarum in favorem prefati Didaci super premissis emanatarum litterarum assumptus ad illarum executionem procedebat, illate fuissent, dilectus filius modernus, curie causarum Camere Apostolice generalis auditor, in vim specialis commissionis a nobis desuper emanate procedens eisdem inquisitoribus, ne prefato Antonio da Costa ulterius iniurietur seu eum molestent vel contra eum procedant inhibuerit litterasque inhibitorias desuper decreverit et, ut super premissis iusticia mediante procedat a nobis in mandatis habuerit.

Nos cupientes, ut singule nostre et prefati auditoris littere ac omnia in eis contenta debite executioni demandentur, et qui eas pro tempore exequentur ab indebitis iniuriis et molestiis eorundem inquisitorum, qui in nostrum et Apostolice Sedis contemptum [...] contra ministros nostros [...]gere audent et presumunt, opportune preserventur, fraternitatem tuam, de cuius probitate in nos et hanc sanctam Sedem reverentia plurimum in Domino confidimus per presentes hortamur, tibi nihilominus per apostolica scripta mandamus, quatinus tua auctoritate, qua in istis partibus et apud charissimum in Christo filium nostrum Ioannem, Portugalie et Algarbiorum regem illustrem, merito polles, per te vel alium seu alios eidem Didaco Antonio et Antonio da Costa ac aliis in singulis litteris predictis nominatis necnon ipsarum litterarum executoribus et subexecutoribus auctoritate nostra assistas nec permittas eos aut aliquem eorum per ipsos inquisitores aut quosvis alios contra singularum litterarum predictarum tenorem quomodolibet turbari aut molestari. Et insuper, si opus fuerit et pro parte Didaci Antonii et Antonii de Costa aut aliorum predictorum seu alicuius eorum requisitus extiteris, singulas nostras et auditoris huiusmodi

litteras per tuos notarios et officiales exequi et executioni debite demandari facias. In hoc enim et iusticie et tui officii debito satisfacies et nobis etiam, qui eodem iusticie zelo monemur, rem admodum gratam et acceptam efficies. Non intendimus tamen propter hoc iurisdictioni prefato episcopo Lamacensi a nobis per dictas litteras, ut premittitur, attribute in aliquo preiudicare; nec etiam te onere iurisdictionis causarum in singulis litteris predictis contentarum gravare. Dat. Rome, 27 aprilis 1542, anno 8.

Vidi de mandato sanctissimi domini nostri et potest expediri.

P. Pa., cardinalis Parisius.

Blos.

(Arm. XLI, n. 24, fol. 116. Archivio Secreto Vaticano.)

Document 8

Romae, apud S. M., 1542 iulii 22

Venerabili fratri Aloysio, episcopo Metonien., ad charissimum in Christo filium nostrum Iohannem, Portugalie et Algarbiorum regem illustrem, nostro et Apostolice Sedis nuntio in regnis Portugalie.

Paulus papa III

Venerabilis frater salutem etc. Superioribus mensibus plures nostras in forma brevis litteras tuitionem et defensionem dilecti Didaci Antonii, militis militie beate Marie de Roncesvalles, eiusque genitorum, consanguineorum et affinium et aliarum tunc nominatarum personarum concernentes tam bo. me. Didaco, archiepiscopo Bracharen., tunc in humanis agenti, quam dilecto filio officiali Disen., et postremo venerabili fratri nostro episcopo Lamacen., direximus et deinde, postquam dilectus filius curie causarum Camere Apostolice generalis auditor in vim specialis commissionis nostre inquisitoribus heretice pravitatis in diocesi Colimbrien. et Egitanien. deputatis, qui dilectum filium Antonium de Costa, perpetuum vicarium parochialis ecclesie do Pedrogam, Colimbrien. dioc., subexecutorem quarundam litterarum apostolicarum in favorem predicti Didaci Antonii emanatarum ad ipsarum litterarum executionem protendentem indebite molestabant, ne ipsum Antonium molestarent per eius inhibitorias litteras inhibuerat, cupientes tam nostras quam auditoris litteras huiusmodi earum effectum sortiri, venerabilem fratrem episcopum Portugalen., de quo ob auctoritatem, qua in dicto regno pollet, confidebamus, prout confidimus, per alias nostras etiam in forma brevis litteras hortati fuimus, ut Didaco Antonio et Antonio predictis necnon aliis in predictis litteris nominatis huiusmodi ipsarumque litterarum executoribus et sub executoribus assisteret et eos molestari non permetteret et, si opus esset, singulas litteras predictas per eius notarios exequi faceret, prout in singulis nostris litteris predictis plenius continetur. Cum autem te postmodum ad clarissimum in Christo filium nostrum Iohannem, Portugalie et Algarbiorum regem illustrem, nostrum et Apostolice Sedis nuntium destinaverimus, nos etiam te, de cuius probitate et doctrina nobis notis plurimum in Domino confidimus, Didaco Antonio et genitori ac Antonio et aliis nominatis predictis in premissis adesse volentes tibi in virtute sancte obedientie precipiendo mandamus, ut omnia illa, que pro litteris huiusmodi exequendis necessaria vel opportuna erint,

cures, facias et mandes ac prompte exequaris necnon eisdem Didaco Antonio et aliis predictis efficacis defensionis presidio assistes, facias eos et eorum quemlibet dictis litteris et in eis contentis quibuscumque pacifice frui et gaudere, non permittes illos ab inquisitoribus contra dictarum litterarum tenorem quomodolibet indebite molestari, contradictores etc.

Non obstantibus constitutionibus et ordinationibus apostolicis ac omnibus his, que in dictis litteris volumus non obstare ceterisque contrariis quibuscumque.

Datum Romae, apud S. M., 22 iulii 1542, a° 8.

(Arm. XLI. N. 24, epist. 613, fol. 479. Archivio Secreto Vaticano.)



RESUMO

Este artigo apresenta o caso de Diogo António, um agente cristão novo, presente em Roma nos primórdios do tribunal da Inquisição em Portugal. Atuava aí como um representante quem podia apresentar as razões dos cristãos novos, perseguidos pelo tribunal em Portugal e trazer as suas apelações a Roma. Ao mesmo tempo dito papel garantia a ele e aos seus parentes uma isenção especial da jurisdição regular do tribunal. As atividades de Diogo António refletem as facetas múltiplas de alguns dos agentes em Roma que se encontravam aí como representantes de cristãos novos acusados perante tribunais em Portugal, da parte da nação no seu conjunto e aí para assegurar que os termos da isenção sejam estendidos as suas famílias.

Palavras Chave: Agente; Cristão Novo; Roma; Nação; Parentesco.

ABSTRACT

The article presents the case of Diogo António, a New Christian agent, present in Rome in the early years of the tribunal of the Inquisition in Portugal. He acted there as a representative who could put forward the cases of New Christians, persecuted by the tribunal in Portugal and bring their appeals to Rome. At the same time this role entitled him and his kin to a special exemption from the regular jurisdiction of the tribunal. Diogo António's activities there reflect these multiple facets of some of these agents in Rome who were at once there as advocates for individual New Christians accused before the tribunals in Portugal, on the part of the *nação* as a whole and there to ensure the extension of the terms of the exemption to their families.

Keywords: Agent; New Christian; Rome; Nação; Kin.

Artigo recebido em 04 abr. 2014.

Aprovado em 17 mai. 2014.