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Glossary of French terms used in Huguenot records

Common abbreviations in the Quarto Series

anc.	ancien	elder
bap.par	baptisé par	baptised by
deff.	deffunt/deffunte	the late
dem. tous deux en la par.	demeurant tous deux en la paroisse	both living in the parish of
f.de	fils de	son of
ff.de	filie de	daughter of
M.	marraine	godmother
mar.par	mariés par	married by
Min.	ministre	minister
n. de	natif/native de	native of
orig.de	originaire de	native of
P.	parrain	godfather
Past.	Pasteur	Pastor
sig.	signature	signature
tém.	témoin	witness

Common vocabulary in the Quarto Series

à côté de	next to
abjuration, une	conversion from R.C. to Protestant
aveugle	blind
ayant perdu l'usage de ses membres	to be paralysed
ayant perdu la vue	to be blind
billet, le	document certifying entitlement
bourgeoisie, la	middle class
consistoire, le	consistory
de son etat	by profession
diacre, le	deacon
enterrement, un	burial
femme, épouse, une	wife
feu/feue	the late
gentilhommes, les	aristocrats/well off
ledit/ladite/lesdits/lesdites	the aforesaid
mari, le	husband
méreau, le	Holy Communion token
mort/e, décédé/e	deceased
mort-né/	stillborn
ne/nee	born on (<i>followed by date</i>)

noblesse, la	the nobility
orphelin/e	orphan
Pâques	Easter
pauvres, les	the poor
pouvoir gagner sa vie	to be able to earn a living
promesse de mariage, une	betrothal, engagement
reconnaissance, une	renewal of loyalty to the Protestant religion
remercié	thanked
soussigné	undersigned
témoignage, le	proof of Protestant allegiance
temple, le	French Protestant/Huguenot church
veuf/veuve	widower/widow
vis-à-vis	opposite

Trades and Professions (all masculine gender)

boulangier	baker
boutonnier	button maker
chapelier	hatter
chirurgien	surgeon
cordonnier	boot/shoe maker
drapier	draper
homme de journée	day labourer
horloger	clock/watch maker
maître d'école	schoolmaster
marchand	merchant/shopkeeper
médecin	doctor
orfèvre	gold/silversmith
ouvrier en soie	silk worker
perruquier	wig maker/barber
tailleur	tailor
tapissier	tapestry worker
tisserand en soie	silk weaver
verrier	glassmaker

Huguenot Institutions

Le Comité Français	The French Committee, which, overseen by an English Committee, distributed the Royal Bounty (money provided by the Crown for the relief of French Protestants in England, Edinburgh, the Channel Islands and Ireland).
La Providence	The French Hospital, founded in 1718, now at its fourth home in Rochester, Kent.
La Soupe	Soup kitchens that operated in London in the 18 th Century for poor Huguenots.

Notes:

Married women were often referred to by their maiden names.

Spelling of words and names is often inconsistent; other names are anglicised. Cross referencing is therefore essential.

See the following page for examples of the usage of the above vocabulary. Much more information can be gleaned from Huguenot church register entries than from English equivalents of the same period.

Baptism entries from the register of St Jean, Spitalfields

BAURIN. 1690, 28 Fév. Abraham, f. de Pierre Beaureins et de Marie Cugner, bap. Par Mr. J. Lions, Min. de cette ég. P. Pierre Prevost. M. Marie Colanpe. Téms. Pierre Baurin, Pierre Privo, Jacqs Menil, Ancien. La marque de Marie Colan.

Translation: BAURIN. 1690, 28 Feb. Abraham, son of Pierre Beaureins and Marie Cugner, baptised by Monsieur J. Lions, Minister of this church. Godfather. Pierre Prevost. Godmother. Marie Colanpe. Witnesses. Pierre Baurin, Pierre Privo, Jacques Menil, Elder. The mark of Marie Colan.

Note the variant spellings for Baurin, Prevost, and Colanpe.

PIGNET. 1695, 29 Oct. Mary Magdelainne, ff d'Ely et d'Ysabeht Paillar; bap. par Mr Pegorier, Min. P. Pierre Hebrade. M. Magdeleine l'Huilier. Tous au faubourg de Bichoguet. Tem. Madeleine l'Huillier.

Translation: PIGNET. 1695, 29 Oct. Mary Magdelainne, daughter of Ely (Pignet) and Ysabeht Paillar; baptised by Monsieur Pegorier, Minister. Godfather. Pierre Hebrade. Godmother. Magdeleine l'Huilier. All (living) in the suburb of Bishopsgate. Witness. Madeleine l'Huillier.

Note the variant spellings of Magdeleine and l'Huilier, also the erratic spelling of Bishopsgate. Place names are often misspelled in the registers.

The surname of the father is often, as here, not repeated in the text.

Marriage entries from the register of the church of La Patente de Spitalfields

FOUACHE/AUBE 1710, 11 Avril. Thomas Fouache, homme veuf, n. de Lion en Basse Normandie, dem. apresant in Black Egle Street, Stepenay – et Anne Aubé, ff. de feu Jacque Aubé et de Magdelaine Mortier, de Beuville en Basse Normandie; apresent demte en Monmouth street, Stepenay. T. Jean Fouache, Paul Martant, Jacob Aubé. T. Baignoux, min.

Translation: FOUACHE/AUBE 1710, 11 April. Thomas Fouache, widower, native of Lion in Low Normandy, living at present in Black Eagle Street Stepney – and Anne Aubé, daughter of the late Jacques Aubé and Magdelaine Mortier, of Beuville in Low Normandy; at present living in Monmouth street, Stepney. Witnesses. Jean Fouache, Paul Martant, Jacob Aubé. T. Baignoux, minister.

Note: Black Eagle Street was in 1710 still part of the parish of Stepney, since Spitalfields was not created as a parish until the 1720s.

PELLON/MARONNEAU 1711, 23 SEPT. Samuel Pellon, veuf de feue Ester Marié, woivre, orig. de la province de Poitou en France, f. de feux Daniel Pellon et Susanne Bridonneau, - avecque Marié Maronneau (sig. Maronnie), orig. de la province de Hainault dan le pays Bas, ff. de feus Etienne Maronnié et Philipole Wilmar. T. Daniel Guion, P. Cabibél. Jn. Mérit. Delpech, min.

Translation: PELLON/MARONNEAU 1711, 23 Sept. Samuel Pellon, widower of the late Ester Marie, weaver, native of the province of Poitou in France, son of the late Daniel Pellon and Susanne Bridonneau, - with Marie Maronneau (signature Maronnie), native of the province of Hainault in the Netherlands, daughter of the late Etienne Maronnié and Philipole Wilmar. Witnesses. Daniel Guion, P. Cabibél. Jean Mérit. Delpech, Minister.

Note the inconsistent/incorrect spellings. This example gives both the trade of the bridegroom and the Christian names of his first wife.

Marriage entry from the register of the church of the Artillery

PERON/LALLY 1713, 15 Oct. Jacques Peron, homme veuf, de Niort en Poitou – Marie Laly, ff. de feu Jonas Lally, et de deff. Marie Monbalies, native de Cantorbery, dem. en While St.; mar. par Mr Crégut, Min. Annonces publiees en l'ég. de Paternostre Row; cert. signé par Mr Jemblin, Sec. Téms. F. Pontardant, John Dufour.

Translation: PERON/LALLY 1713, 15 Oct. Jacques Peron, widower, of Niort in Poitou – Marie Laly, daughter of the late Jonas Lally, and of the late Marie Monbalies, native of Canterbury, living in While Street; married by Monsieur Creguy, Minister. Banns published in the Paternoster Row church; certificate signed by Monsieur Jemblin, Secretary. Witnesses. F. Pontardant, John Dufour.

Note the use of both *feu* and *deffunt* within the same entry for *the late*, and the inconsistent spelling. 'While Street' is probably 'White's Row'.

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