

Genevan Sex Crimes Database, c. 1440-c. 1790

*this document has been created by the History Data Service
and is based on information supplied by the depositor*

During a ten-week period in the summer of 2000 a thorough examination was made of the cases relating to sexual deviance (crimes ‘against nature’) in the Genevan State Archives (*Archives d’État de Genève*). The documentation was read folio by folio. As a touch typist, I put most of the information directly into my laptop in the form of transcriptions of the original material. Where cases were very long and/or repetitive, information was, at times, entered simply as précis notes. Upon my return to Aberdeen, this material and additional material gathered in a similar manner during previous research trips, was printed and then these hard copies were used as the basic raw material for compiling the database.

The individual fields were selected to provide the largest amount of raw data to anyone accessing the database. These fields are:

Reference	Reference relates to the actual trial dossier or volume as listed in the appropriate archive. This allows anyone to order the actual documentation without any trouble
Trial Year	The actual year(s) for the trial
Surname	Surname(s)
Given names	Given names
Alias(es)	Alias(es). Many people were known by nicknames based on their occupation, place of origin, or prominent physical feature(s)
Gender	Gender
Age	Age, where noted in the record, is given. Often this is, at best, an approximation since the individuals rarely knew exactly how old they were
Civic status	Civic status is given. In Genevan there were four basic legal types of status. These were: <i>citoyen</i> (native born either to <i>citoyen</i> or <i>bourgeois</i> parents), <i>bourgeois</i> (naturalised citizen), <i>habitant</i> (legal resident), <i>natif</i> (local with no civic status)
Occupation	Occupation is given where noted
Place of origin	Place of origin is given where noted
Marital status	Marital status (married, widowed, divorced, single) is given where noted
Father's name	Father's name is given where noted. The names of parents and spouses are most often given for females participants in a given trial
Father's civic status	Father's civic status (see Civic status above) is given where noted
Mother's name	Mother's name is given where noted
Mother's civic status	Mother's civic status (see Civic status above) is given where noted
Spouse's name	Spouse's name is given where noted
Spouses civic status	Spouse's civic status (see Civic status above) is given where noted
Charge	Charge is given as noted in the dossier
Modern terminology	Modern terminology is given where the original charge might be misleading. For example, in early modern Geneva the abuse of a young boy is called sodomy and that of a young girl rape. In both cases, this field lists the modern terminology as paedophilia
Tortured?	Tortured records if the trial record notes the application of torture (which includes its threatened use, i.e., the presentation of the implements of torture to the defendant).

Verdict	Verdict is given where noted, i.e., guilty, acquitted, not-proven
Sentence	Sentence is given where noted
Dates	Starting date and closing date of each trial (the year already given in the second field)
Primary document type	Major type of document (e.g., interrogation transcripts)
Secondary document type	Other types of documentation in the dossier (e.g., depositions)
Comments	Anything of particular interest or peculiar about the trial
Additional remarks	Details from legal/medical reports or any cross-referencing to other dossier
Cross references	References to other trials (made by researcher or referred to in sources)
Archive	Particular place for the document. When used in conjunction with the first field any trial can be located.