

VOLUME VI : RHODES (1777- 1793)

N°	Reference	Sending from	Writing on	From	To	Subjects	Mentioned locations	Mentioned names	Summary of the letter	Comments
1	Vol. VI, ff 1-2	Rhodes	May 12, 1777	De Pothonier, consul	Commandeur des Pennes	Corsairs ; Trade ; Navigation ; Slaves	Rhodes ; Alexandria ; Constantinople	Comte de Joannis ; Captain Pelissery ; Emin	Comte de Joannis, who sailed under Monaco's or Sardinia's flag, captured between Rhodes and Alexandria a polacre of Rhodes with 46 crewmen on board and a total of 50,000 piastres belonging to various passengers. De Pothonier would have liked to be made aware of this armament because he still has frigates in his jurisdiction, but he recognizes that this is not enough and that it would be necessary to increase the number of these corsairs to save French trade, mistreated by the abuses of Muslims. He wrote to the minister about it. Despite the terror caused by the Comte de Joannis' armament, 7 Turkish ships left Rhodes last week for Alexandria and 8 others are loaded and ready to leave for Constantinople. P-S: there was in the Turkish crew a Genoese who deserted the ship commanded by Captain Pelissery. De Pothonier thinks that such desertors should be condemned to slavery because of their double crime. There is also a certain Emin, nephew of the Rhodes customs officer and whose father is very poor, whom Des Pennes must avoid being auctioned off so that his family can buy him back at a good price.	
2	Vol. VI, ff 3-4	Rhodes	June 9, 1777	De Pothonier	Commandeur des Pennes	Corsairs ; Trade ; Navigation	Damietta ; Constantinople ; Alexandria ; Jaffa		Two caravels of the Sultan have arrived in Rhodes, poorly armed despite their 64-gun capacity, to privateering against Monaco's corsairs, but for now they are mostly pretending to do trade between Damietta and Constantinople. The corsair frigate could easily defeat them if it crossed paths with them. They captured an old-fashioned Turkish brigantine, kept the cargo, and sent the ship to Malta with 10 crewmen, but it was retoken by a Rhodes xebec going to Constantinople to claim the price of its seizure. The frigate also went to Jaffa to ask for provisions from the Europeans but, having been recognized and caused a riot formed against them by the Pasha, they nearly caused the loss of all the Europeans. If the Maltese frigate were informed of the movements nearby, they could make a lot of catches between Rhodes and Camrania; for example six wheally laden Turkish ships coming from Alexandria remained for 3 days in the Rhodes channel, seven others left for Alexandria. They pass by every day, slow, defenseless, and it would be very easy for French navigation to destroy this Turkish caravan. This would render a great service to French but also European commerce, victim of many humiliations from the Turks. The European corsairs would have a thousand times more resources to supply themselves with in the neighboring islands of Camrania and in addition they would no longer compromise anyone. De Pothonier entrusts this letter to two Englishmen who have stopped at his home and who are going to Malta on a ship from Ragusa which they have chartered. P-S: not having time to share this news with the minister, he asks Seystres to give him a report.	
3	Vol. VI, ff 5-6	Rhodes	August 29, 1777	De Pothonier	Commandeur des Pennes	Slaves		Ahmet Yamazinoglu Emin ; Kergiolou ; Customs officer of Rhodes	He was asked for the release of Ahmet Yamazinoglu Emin, recently captured by a corsair from Modena on Kergiolou's ship. Up to 800 piastres are offered for him. His parents are poor, but his uncle is the Customs Officer of Rhodes and he is a little bit wealthier, but not that much. De Pothonier has at heart to help Rhodes' inhabitants, especially the most highly placed, and this release could please them.	
4	Vol. VI, ff 7-10	Rhodes	October 17, 1777	De Pothonier	Commandeur des Pennes	Corsairs ; Trade ; Navigation ; Slaves ; Personal request		Emin	He has not yet received details of Modena's corsair armament, otherwise he would have passed them on to the King's frigates and French merchant captains. He hoped that the armaments underway in Malta would be enough to capture the richly laden Turkish convoys leaving Alexandria, especially as the Sultan's fleet is always so badly defended that a frigate in poor condition could take two to that time. De Pothonier was more than willing to support any request to the governor to increase the number of corsairs as this would do considerable good to French and European commerce in general. The customs officer gave De Pothonier 500 piastres for his nephew's redemption and his most sincere thanks. He asks Des Pennes to free the said slave in three of the <i>qâd</i> so as not to spread the rumor that he escaped from Malta. P-S of November 11, 1777: he asks him to buy him six canaries, three males and three females, which are well. It's an order for the Governor of Rhodes.	
5	Vol. VI, ff 11-14	Rhodes	November 15, 1777	De Pothonier	Commandeur des Pennes	Slaves ; Corsairs	Malta ; Alexandria ; Stancho ; Rose ; Smyrna	Kergiolou Hadji Ibrahim ; Moulla Ali ; André the one-eyed ; Jorgachi Dimitri ; Mandaly ; Governor of Rhodes	The governor of Rhodes asked him to redeem Kergiolou Hadji Ibrahim, ra's of the ship captured by the Modenasi and bought 1050 Maltese crowns at public auction, as well as his companion Moulla Ali, bought for 650 crowns, by a certain André the one-eyed, black-smith. The governor had to provide 1,500 piastres for their ransom and Pothonier asked Seystres how much a Maltese crown was worth in Levantine piastre. He is very pleased to learn that they are among in Malta, he wishes to have the description of it and advises them to cross from Alexandria towards the island of Stancho where they will make considerable catches. He also recommends them the island of Rose, defenseless and populated by at least two millionaires Greeks who regularly ransom Europeans. However, they must not abuse of the French flag, and if they come to Rhodes it is better to arrive in the evening or at night. Pothonier reminds Seystres of his order of canaries, in 6 cages, with enough seeds to feed them because he will have to buy them from Smyrna. The governor of Rhodes and Pothonier are fond of canaries and will have to share them.	
6	Vol. VI, ff 54-55	Rhodes	November 17, 1777	De Pothonier	Commandeur des Pennes	Slaves ; Finance		Kergiolou Hadji Ibrahim Ra's ; Tapgi Ibrahim Aga ; Moulla Ali	He sends him letters for the Rhodian slaves who are in Malta. The one intended for Kergiolou Hadji Ibrahim Ra's must be delivered to him in person because he must approve the sale that Tapgi Ibrahim Aga made of his garden and his house to pay his ransom, from which he received 1000 piastres (500 for Moulla Ali and his companion, and 200 for the sailor boy).	
7	Vol. VI, ff 15-16	Rhodes	April 8, 1778	De Pothonier	Commandeur des Pennes	Slaves ; Finance		Yamazinoglu Emin ; Kergiolou ; Moulla Ali ; Hadji Effenen Ismet Kiaré	He had Yamazinoglu Emin's uncle informed that the latter would cost 98 <i>louis d'or</i> and, the Customs Officer having left for Constantinople, the redemption was postponed. De Pothonier asks Des Pennes not to release anyone until he has received all the money. For now he has only received 1900 piastres for Kergiolou and Moulla Ali, and 200 for the sailor boy Hadji Effenen Ismet Kiaré. He had all that money counted against Des Pennes on the Chamber of Commerce.	Duplicate
8	Vol. VI, ff 17-20	Rhodes	April 29, 1778	De Pothonier	Commandeur des Pennes	Slaves ; Finance		Emel Yamazinoglu Emin ; Kergiolou Hadji Ibrahim Ra's and Moulla Ali ; Hadji Effenen Ismet Kiaré (sailor boy) ; Topal Ali ; Berber Karazoufounou or Jéeni Berber Osman ; Amal Devenenoglu Mustafa ; Usin Daisacé ; Choula Abdulah Jéeni Osman ; Judé Usin Cardaché Dely Ismaél ; Ellebech Mehemet	A general quest was organized in the island to ransom the Rhodian slaves in Malta. De Pothonier asks Des Pennes to lower the price of the redemption because these slaves are at the moment horribly expensive, and he had spoken to him of a reduction of 900 crowns. He has a total of 8152 piastres. He asks him to pass on his order for canaries to his successor. Captain Icard arrived directly with the letters. Out of 100 ships that pass through the canal on their way to Alexandria, Syria or Cyprus, 90 stops in Rhodes. De Pothonier asked the Minister for leave to go to Court next year. ff. 19-20: account of the sums given by the inhabitants of Rhodes for the redemption of the slaves who are in Malta. De Pothonier is asked the price of the redemption of Mehemet Hadji Seziroglu who is all his mother has left, and he recommends that Des Pennes take care of little Choula Abdulah Jéeni who is too young and whose mother "cries blood". Judé Usin Cardaché Dely Ismaél's brother has undertaken to work 8 years for free in the service of the one who provided him with the 522 piastres. P-S: if it took a little more for Judé Usin Cardaché Dely Ismaél, De Pothonier can add up to 128 piastres, but Des Pennes will have to release him before the others.	
9	Vol. VI, ff 21-24								Duplicate of the preceding.	
10	Vol. VI, ff 25-28								Triplicate of the preceding.	
11	Vol. VI, ff 29-30	Rhodes	June 24, 1778	De Pothonier	Chevalier de Seystres-Caumont	Slaves ; Plague	Constantinople		He reminds him that he had written to his predecessor that he had 8152 piastres for the redemption of Rhodian slaves and that he wrote to the Chamber of Commerce to send this sum to Seystres. The plague made a small appearance in Constantinople but without major consequences, and as it should normally end around St. John's Day, Rhodes should be exempt.	
12	Vol. VI, ff 31-32	Rhodes	October 24, 1778	De Pothonier	Chevalier de Seystres-Caumont	Slaves ; Navigation		M. de Framond	He is desperate that he still hasn't received any answers to his letters about the Rhodian slaves. The King's frigate " <i>La Sulane</i> " (commanded by M. de Framond) is cruising nearby.	
13	Vol. VI, ff 33-38	Rhodes	January 7, 1779	De Pothonier	Chevalier de Seystres-Caumont	Slaves ; Corsairs ; Navigation ; Informations	Damietta ; Scarpento ; Malta	Captain Valentin Savarelli of Sorrento ; Sr. Coreil	He thanks him for taking care of the redemption of the Rhodian slaves. This request gives him more worries than the most complicated cases he has already had to manage during his career because he is urged by an ignorant and boorish people, and a government which only acts on the recommendations of this barbaric people. He obtained from the government that Seystres send Captain Valentin Savarelli of Sorrento, commander of the <i>pinque Notre Dame de Grâce et de Saint Gilles</i> , to Malta with a load of wheat as well as a few gold sequins to proceed with the redemption of the slaves. The Chamber of Commerce did not answer him about the 8279 piastres he had to send to Seystres. He also thanks the latter for taking care of his commission of canaries. Maltese corsairs behave indecently, especially Sr. Coreil who only follows his whims and rage to harm the nation that nurtured him. He was very ungrateful to the consul of Damietta. He recently captured a Turkish satque in which were 30 barrels of rice in each of which were 1000 sequins. Pothonier informs Seystres of this in secret so that he can make the best arrangements for this merchandise to reach him touched. It is essential that these corsairs respect the good law and do not pirate in areas where they could compromise the French flag. The corsairs who were on the islands of Scarpento and the other nearby Pothonier's jurisdiction committed horrors there when they came to get supplies (not to mention the gifts they were already receiving from the priests, enemies of the Turks), violating women and girls and stealing livestock and vegetable gardens. Pothonier is mortified by the lack of consequences for these acts. He is waiting for leave for France and he will have the opportunity, during his visit to Malta, to talk to Seystres about all the resources that the Maltese corsairs could draw from the surroundings of Rhodes. He also sends him two jars of Rhodes wine, once offered as a libation to the gods.	
14	Vol. VI, ff 39-40	Rhodes	February 13, 1779	De Pothonier	Chevalier de Seystres-Caumont	Slaves	Sorrento	Pasha Hussein Maraboutoglu of Rhodes ; Mehemet Feschi Hadji Ibrahimoglu ; Ismaél Chaouch ; Emin ; Capitaine Savarelli of Sorrento ; Capitaine Coste	Pasha Hussein Maraboutoglu of Rhodes sends Seystres a carpet and a basket of Mocha coffee as a token of his friendship and to ask him to grant his protection to two men he is sending to Malta: Mehemet Feschi Hadji Ibrahimoglu, attendant for the redemption of Rhodian slaves, and Ismaél Chaouch, cargo manager. De Pothonier reminds Des Pennes not to forget to free Emin, the nephew of the Customs Officer, his ransom having been paid, because the Pasha did not put him on the list of slaves to be freed because he argued with the Customs Officer. If Captain Savarelli cannot bring back the slaves, because he has not been able to leave Sorrento due to bad weather, Captain Coste, whom the Pasha has chartered for Tunis, will take care of it.	
15	Vol. VI, ff 41-42	Rhodes	February 14, 1779	De Pothonier	Chevalier de Seystres-Caumont	Recommendation		Ismaél Chaouch	Ismaél Chaouch harasses him for a letter of recommendation, so this is the subject of this letter.	

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16	Vol. VI, ff 43-46	Rhodes	October 2, 1779	De Pothonier	Chevalier de Seystres-Caumont	Corsairs ; Slaves	Tripoli of Syria	Saint-Priest ; Captain Joseph Caray	He received his letters of June 21 and July 18 concerning the slave case's conclusion and is saddened to hear that he has been accused of inaction because of the Muslims ingratitude. The slaves liberation was only possible by sending a negotiator to Malta by the Pasha and they returned claiming that they had done everything themselves, and even that Seystres had contributed to raising the ransom price. It is better not to answer any more any request of the Muslims after this affair. P-S: a brigantine from Malta was captured near Syria. Segond and the disgraced ask Seystres to have them released by writing to Saint-Priest. They went to Rhodes and De Pothonier made them distribute alms. If Seystres could arm a good corsair, the latter would make an huge wealth around Rhodes because the Turks do all their trade on purchased French ships and no one is taking charge of them. ff 43-44: a Maltese brigantine, "La Madonne des Carmes" (Captain Joseph Caray, corsair of Majorca), was taken to Rhodes on September 26, 1779. They were taken by four warships of the Pasha of Acre on July 13 at around 6 a.m while bearing the white flag at the thresholds of Tripoli in Syria to redeem Turkish slaves. Recognizing the Turkish armaments, they would then have changed flag to fly that of Malta and would have engaged in combat but the superiority of the Turks would have forced them to surrender after several men killed (including the captain and the third lieutenant) and wounded. The Turks enslaved the following 35 crewmen: Charles Segond, French, writer, Joseph François Bame, surgeon from Palermo, Joseph of Mary, of Rome, Joseph Zanca, Onofrio Caserta, François Carrion, Joseph Meignac (first lieutenant), and Joseph Sango (ensign), from Lipari; Charles Antoine Mangepain, Laurent Terziani, and Tounin Bouzetin (second lieutenant) from Livorno; Bathélemy Lozando, Antoine Patti, and Christophe Dastre (from Trepiano), in Sicily; Antonin Tissari, from Messina; Vincent Pannoffino, Antoine Caïa, and Balise Le Guidice, from Calabria; Lazare Puntar, of Trieste. Guillaume Chondello, from Naples; Gaetan Candidato, Jacques Chizzi, Salvo Vella, Matthieu Rizzo, André Busuttli, Cintio di Bono, Jean Misfud, Félix Briffa, Thomas Givata, and Antoine Bellanti, from Malta; Michael Mina, Greek; Etienne Sanguinetti from Genoa; Antoine Mourra and Jean Calvet, from Majorca.	
18	Vol. VI, ff 48-49	Rhodes	September 14, 1780	De Pothonier	David Souriano	Miscellaneous ; Finance		Captain Savarelli ; Chevalier de Seystres-Caumont ; Hoste	If he had read the reports saying that Souriano had behaved badly towards him in his absence, he would not have asked Seystres for the 50 piastres of connection with the Neapolitan captain Savarelli. Seystres has promised to withdraw this sum from the deposit that Savarelli will make and Souriano will only have to write to Hoste, a French merchant in Malta, who will give it to him. De Pothonier is only honoring his promise and rendering more service to Souriano than he deserves, according to the statements.	Letter attached to the following
19	Vol. VI, ff 50-51	Rhodes	October 27, 1781	Mille, vice-consul	Chevalier de Seystres-Caumont	Corsairs ; Finance	Simi	Mouroubou Oglou ; Hadji Vassili of Simi ; Simon ; Pothonier ; Souriano	Mouroubou Oglou, Governor of Rhodes, interested in Hadji Vassili of Simi's fate, the bearer of this letter, asked Mille to request Seystres assistance for the return of a ship stolen from this Greek by the Maltese corsair Simon. He attaches the copy of the letter that Pothonier wrote from Malta to the man named Souriano, second interpreter of this consulate. He does not know if this is the best time to give him the 50 piastres that Pothonier promised him, but if so, Seystres would want to give them to Hadji Vassili.	
20	Vol. VI, ff 52-53	Rhodes	April 2, 1793	De Pavillon, vice-consul	Chevalier de Seystres-Caumont	Recommendation ; Corsairs	Simi	Sr Mikail Yannis Angelo	After almost seven years in the Levant, this is the first time he can correspond with Seystres. He recommends to him Sr Mikail Yannis Angelo, bearer of this letter, who is coming to Malta to claim the restitution of a tartane which was taken from him last October as well as its cargo by a Maltese corsair whom he has very badly treated. De Pavillon asks Seystres to take into consideration the Greeks of the island of Simi who have always been recognized as owners of this cargo.	