

666

the antichrist's

almanac

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Third or Roman Inquisition (1542)

Catholic Church (WLD)

In 1517, German reformer Martin Luther (1483-1546) sparked a split in the church called the Reformation which saw Protestants declare war on Catholics.

25 years later, in 1542, Pope Paul III (1534-49) established the Holy Office as the final court of appeal in trials of heresy.

The establishment of the Holy Office launched the Third or Roman Inquisition whose aim was to eradicate Protestant influences in Europe ...

Paul's Inquisition introduced a new level of cruelty and barbarism that was said to have "repelled even the Turks and the Saracens".

In *The History of Torture*, George Ryley Scott cited a list of cruelties inflicted on victims of Paul's Inquisition

"A Protestant schoolmaster, Ferdmando, for teaching the principles of his faith to his pupils, was first tortured and then burnt.

"Another Protestant, named John Leon, and some Spaniards of the same faith, on endeavouring to escape to England, were captured by agents of the Inquisition, tortured, starved, and finally burnt.

"For refusing to take the veil and turn nun, a young lady was condemned to the flames.

"Christopher Losada, an eminent physician of his day, for professing the tenets of Protestantism, was racked and burnt.

"A monk of the monastery of St Isidore, Seville, who turned Protestant, was tortured and burnt.

"A Protestant writing master of Toledo, who had decorated the walls of a room in his house with a reproduction of the ten commandments in full, in his own handwriting, was burnt at the stake at Valladolid ..."

Scott said one poor victim, Tomas de Leon, was racked "until his left arm was broken".

"Another victim, Engracia Rodriguez, at sixty years of age, had one arm broken and a toe torn off in a device called a *balestilla*.

"Maria de Coceicao, a young lady from Lisbon, was racked three times before being publicly whipped and banished from her town.

"Antonia Lopez of Valladolid, was tortured for three hours until his arm was completely crippled."

Scott said the poor fellow "tried to commit suicide by strangling himself and died in prison within a month ...".

One of the saddest cases involved a Seville noblewoman,

Jane Bohorquia, who was arrested and imprisoned merely "for conversing with a friend about the Protestant religion".

"She was pregnant at the time," said Scott, "but immediately after the birth of the child, and while still in a lamentably weak state, she was racked with such severity that the flesh was cut through to the very bones and blood gushed from her mouth."

A week later she died.

"Jane Bohorquia was found dead in prison," said the official Inquisition report, "after which, upon reviewing her prosecution, the Inquisition discovered that she was innocent.

"Be it therefore known, that no further prosecutions shall be carried on against her, and that her effects, which were confiscated, shall be given to her heirs at law ..."

The heirs at law, according to Pope Innocent III's *Corpus juris*, were, of course, the church's treasurers ...

Read on ...

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*"Civilisation will not attain to its perfection
until the last stone from the last church
falls on the last priest"*
(*Emile Zola*)

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