

The Information of Giles Creech, 1638

The paper I will be presenting to the group takes as its starting point the information provided to the authorities by the London cutler Giles Creech in 1638. Three separate copies of his information survive; one of them begins “This Creech hath confessed that he hath actually p[ro]fessed, and been of fowerteene severall Religions before he was a Catholique and hath now been a Catholique this year and halfe, or thereabout, being yet but a young man.” The transcript here is drawn from the copy of Sir John Lambe, Dean of the Arches, who investigated Creech’s allegations. Lambe’s marginal comments are rendered below in italics.

“[fol. 126r]The ffamilists of the Mount. They doe hold that all things are Common, & doe live in Contemplacon alltogether denyinge all prayers & the Resurrection of the body, or any heaven or hell, but what is in this life & what the Scripture doth speake of is begun and ended in their bodies here as they doe live: As heaven is when they doe laugh & are merry & hell when they are in sorrowe & paine, And at last they doe beleue that all things doe come by nature, & what they leave undone is because they would not be shamed among men; This did they hold when I did beare them Company, & many other things as bad or worse. As for my owne part wth a great deal of Sorrowe I doe repent my selfe of the knowledg of their damnable opinions; But I thanke the Lord I went to White Hall one Sunday and when I came there my Lord his Grace of Canterbury did preach there then & wth hardnes of hart I did heare him, but before hee had done his Sermon my harte was much troubled ffor my wicked opinions that I had helf before; his text was in Hosea & there hee did shoue that there is a god & that god is offended for the Sinns of men, ever since that tyme I have left thoughts for meer eronious opinions & I hope in the Lord ever shall.

<H: N:> his bookes & the rule of pfection but especially that cursed booke called THEOLOGICA GERMANICA there are of them in Latine & manuscripts. There is one ffiser a Barber in the old Bayley doth write them & sell them. *<he selles old bookes e got Theolog Germanica translated into English by a minister at Grendleton: called Brierly or Tenant Crech bought it of Wolstan in Ch: Lane: e leant it to Dr Everard who was in translating it e ~~did~~ did 2 of them, one for. E. of Holland e another for E. Mulgrave>* And one Woulston a Scrivener in Chancery Lane doth all soe sell them to these poore people *<he writes for Dr Everard: e is of ye family of vallye:>*

one Edward Hill a Taylor & his wife in seething lane hard by Tower hill: / *<he is a cheif man of the family of y^e Mount>*

one young a Wine Cooper in marke Lane in London/

one dauson a Ironmonger in ffoster Lane by Cheape s~~h~~ side./

A Comfitt maker over against the Poultry Coumpter at the lower end of Cheapsid

One Mr. ffaldo and one Mr Dren a lynnenn drap both in one house at the signe of the harrowe in Watling Street./

One Booth a taylor in WhiteChappell hard by the Church./ *<a cloke-maker>*

One Steven Proud loue that doth sell smale wares wth^{out} Bishops gate street <in an alley>
<he travailes up e downe to faires &c:>

One George Hutton a Chandler in old Streete. <an Aleseller>

One James Bagg a heelemaker in litle Allollowes in Theames Streate./

One Edward Webbster a shomaker in green Arboure in St. Pulchers pish his wife an Antinoman./

There is one M^r. Lekerish a rich man wth in Criplegate w^{ch} was a desciple unto James Thomas w^{ch} was the greatest of them all: James is dead./

One Harford a booke binder in Pater noster Roe in an alley./ *<he bindes D^r Everard his bookes ec knowes all his waies:>*

One Callo a pfumer in Cloath ffayre neere Smithfeild and his wife an Antinomion *<one of them y^t Veisie catch, & was wth S^r henry marten>*

[126v] Now for the ffamilists of valley

They doe hold that all things are done according unto the will of God but denying the resurrection of the body and that there are noe devills but their selves denying all prayers & giving of god thanks for any thinge eyther for this life or the life to Come.

There is one Wollston a Scrivener in Chancery Lane./

One Richardson a weaver in Bushops gate streete./

One Morgan a wayter at the Customhouse; *<a tidesma D^r Ev: got him y^e place of S^r Abr. Dawes:]*

One Abbut a bookeseller in white Chappell. *<hath bene a hodgekin: & is contrary to them>*

One young a me<a>ll man in white Chappell.

One goodwife Brothrenton a widdowe in gossell street by the Charter house *<she that first Discou[er]ed to hodgekin.>*

One Margaret ~~amayde~~ a mayde starcher in S^t Martines London

<M^r Shaw e after M^r Gray a young minister were great on this way.>

Now for the Sensuallists.

W^{ch}. had their opinion from one M^{ris}. dunbar a Scotch woman w.^{ch} they doe hold there is noe sinne at all but what is done god doth all in what kinde soever it is./ <good or ill>

Ther is one will[iam] Lee a Taylor in Lumber Street <a cheif man>

And one Loky a Tayler in Lymestreet this man doth say ~~what sinn~~, what sinn, there is noe sinne illegible man at all & wth. all did say that the Alter doth stand like a Cookes dresser board & hath many meetings up and downe, & will spend twenty or Thirty shillings at a meeting <in feastinges>; his Cheife place is in dukes place at a widdowe womans house that doth dress oxes Cheekes.

One Tilles a Marchant on London Bridge./ <a cheif man>.

A Tallow Chandler in Parpole Lane. by Graies Inne/ <ready in the Discou[er]y>

One M^r. Knightly a ly[nen] drap[er] at friday street end in Cheapeside. <he hath y^e ~~The~~ Essentiall will of god translated by a minister in Essex: viz he y^t wrott y^e first e 2 part of rule of p[er]fection>

2 leather sellers in one house in Paules churchyard one his name is Richard as you goe into Cheape side <the next shoppe to the gate>: there are more of that Company w^{ch}. I know not

Now for the famuly of the Antenomeans

As for that opinion it is well knowne in yo^r. Courte as well as I can relate it

One Howse a booke bynder in Lumber Street in an alley.

One Brokke a Carpenter in Kings Street

[127r] One Robert Wilkinson a Tayler in ffleetstreet.

One Partrige a Smyth wth. in Bushops gate.

One Terre and his wife in Silver Street in London./

One farthing Jane a victulers wife at great St. Bartholomews gate neere Smyth<feild>
<she gave inform[ation] ag[ains]t them>

One Robert Coxe a p[er]fumer in Cloath fayre neere Smithfeild [p[ar]tener with Callow]

One Gooddy Evans in golden lane./

One Smith a Miller in Gleene alley in Southwarke nere the bridge.

One Hall a glover in Aldersgate Streete in an alley.

One Bunn a Tayler on Colledgehill./

There is an old man wth. in Bride well in London that doth hold his head to one side his name I knowe not./

One Layne a Meale man in drury Lane./

A widdowe woman in dukes place in the Churchyard shee doth dress oxe Cheeks
one M^{rs}. Heiway; a shomaker in S^t. Martines did mary her these did hold these opinions
and whether they doe nowe I knowe not; for the most p[ar]te I was acquainted wth. them
& knew them to hold these opinions./

I doe not this out of Envy or mallice but by Commaund.

*<M^r Hodges is lecturer iust behinde ye Exchange, he hath all these bookes Theol:
Germanic: &c ye rule of p[er]fection &c>*