

Date: 1519, September 15

Theme: Inquiry-questionnaire in *juicio de residencia* or audit of Santo Domingo's colonial officials

Source: Archivo General de Indias, Justicia 43, Número 1, fos. lxxi (71r.) – lxxiii^o (74r.). CUNY DSI
Dominican Colonial Documents Collection

[fo. 71r.]

71 /

Report given to Figueroa /
of []s in regards to the [] /
[] [complaint] about the said Zuazo and [] /
report about it witnesses before [notary]

[crossed out] / r In the city of Santo Domingo, on fifteen days of the month of September /
of one thousand and five hundred and nineteen years. The noble *señor licenciado* /
Orduña / Rodrigo de Figueroa, above said judge, gave and delivered to me Francisco de Orduña, /
notary of their highnesses and notary of the said audit inquiry a sheet and part /
r of another writing about certain warning that he said had been given /
for this audit inquiry by me the said Francisco de Orduña. /
Also from other notaries of his audiencia he received certain witnesses. The /
content of all of it, one after the other, is this that /
follows:

as to the falcons /

i [] time ago Fernando Cerón and Gonzalo Rascón /
Denizen of the village of San Juan de la Maguana gave to the licenciado Alonso /
Zuazo, while being judge of this Española island, six very good/
halcones/ r falcons, which were brought to him by the said Gonzalo Rascón to this /
city at his expense. The said licenciado received them without /
paying for them. They could be worth two hundred pesos of gold, a bit /
more or less. The [witnesses] must say what whappens and they know about this /
and what they could be worth /

ii Also, whether they know, etc., that the said licenciado had the said /
falcons in his house a long time in his house until he /
sent them to the kingdoms of Castille with a servant with many /
halcones other things, and cats and parrots that he also /
mandated to be given to him /

iii Also whether they know that, at the time he received from the said Fernando Ceron /
and from the said Gonzalo Rascon the said falcons, the said Fernando /
Cerón was imprisoned and had three slaves imprisoned because, /

[71v.] following his orders, they had killed a man beating him with a stick. The *licenciado*, /
in agreement with the said Fernando Cerón, and because the señora vicerein ordered him to
do it this way, he sentenced them with vanishing from this island and having their feet
severed /.

iiii^o r Also, whether they know, etcetera, that the said *licenciado*, after thus /
sentencing them to have their feet severed, mandated and pointed out to /
sever only part of the tips of the toes from /
the nails onwards, which was done accordingly, so that the said /
slaves did not receive any punishment in what was severed /
from them, rather they said whether they were removing *niguas*, making /
fun they [themselves] and others of what been thus done. /
The said slaves were sent by the said Hernando Cerón to the island /
of Cuba, where with much difficulty there is license for carrying /
slaves, because there they are worth much more than here [] . /

In the matter of the twenty five pesos of gold /
of Diego Fernández, merchant /

v r Firstly they must be asked whether they know that Juan Medina /
maestre , it may be about a year ago more or less that he brought /
a white slave with some letters on the face to be sold /
in this island of Santo Domingo, which the said *licenciado* wanted /
to buy from him, and because he did not want to give him /
to him for the price that he wanted, he begged the said Diego /
Fernández, merchant, to buy him for the said *licenciado*. /
He bought him and dished out from his house twenty five pesos /
of gold, the *licenciado* knowing it, besides what the said *licenciado* /
gave him, to please him, because at the time he was looking over a law-suit /
with Antonio de Herrera about certain houses in which he favored him /
a lot. [The witnesses] must say what they know and happens about this. /

vi r Also, whether they know, etcetera, that the said *licenciado* also /
received, during the said law suit, from the said Diego Fernandes /
a very expensive parrot that he had bought from a Gonzalo Roros that lives at /
the Four Streets. The said Diego Hernandes also has given /
him many other things. [The witnesses] must say what they know and happens /
about this and what the said parrot may be worth. /

[fo. 72r.] In the matter of the pearls of Francisco Dorta /

vii r Firstly, they must be asked whether they know that Francisco Dorta /
it may be [] ago, a bit more or less, that he gave the said *licenciado* /
Zuazo, while he was a judge, and he received it, half a marco of very /
good pearls, which he never paid him for. And whether they know that /
also the said Francisco Dorta gave the *alguaciles* of the said *licenciado* /
Zuazo pearls and other things. [The witnesses] must say and declare what /
in regards to this happens and they know of, and what the above said /
may be worth. /

In the matter of *maestre* Cansino /

viii^o r Also, whether they know, etcetera, that Cansino, *maestre*, gave to the said *licenciado*/
certain [big] quantity of pearls, among which there was one of great /
value, and that he also gave him certain cats and small deers and /
parrots and other things, and that the said *licenciado* received it /
without paying him for it. [The witnesses] must say and declare what is it /
that the above said might /
be worth and [what] they know. /

ix r Also whether they know that at the time and point that the said *licenciado* /
received the above mentioned, there was upon him a law suit between the Royal /
Justice and the said Cansino, in degree of appeal of a sentence /
that the *licenciado* Sancho Velázquez, judge in the island of San Juan, /
had issued against the said Cansino, by which he condemned him in a /
great amount of pesos of gold for the *Cámara* and to inhabilitation and/
other penalties that will appear as per the trial. And whether they know that, /
while the said trial was pending, the said *licenciado* Zuazo issued license /
to the said Cansino so that he could go on a navy to The Pearls /

[fo. 72v.] as its captain and to barter *guanines*, being as it has been said/
inhabilitated so that he could not to the said bartering /
for having committed fraud in the said trading of the pearls /
and later he freed him /

In the matter of *factor* Juan de Anpiés /

x r Also whether they know, etcetera, that the said *licenciado* Zuazo received,
when he was a judge, some cart loads of wood,
sheep and other things from *factor* Juan de Anpiés. [The witnesses] must say /
what happens in regards to this and [what] they know. /
[...]

In the matter of Castillo's female hound dog /

xi r Firstly they must be asked whether they know that the said *licenciado*, /
while he was a judge, received from Castillo, son-in-law of Juan Fernández de /
las Varas, a very good female hound dog from Ireland and other/
things [] /

xii r Also whether they know, etcetera, that, at the time that he so received it, the said /
Castillo was bringing a law suit at the city council of this city in which /
the said *licenciado* damaged a lot the said city council and had a /
secret inquiry made very damaging against the said city council members in/
favor of the said Castillo [] /

In the matter of the Carib slave of Diego Caballero/

- xiii r Firstly, [they] must be asked whether they know that the said /
licenciado received from Diego Caballero a Carib slave at /
a price of fourteen or fifteen *pesos* of gold, which at the time /
was worth forty pesos of gold, and whether they know that the said /
Diego Caballero was offered more than thirty pesos of gold for him /
- xiii^o r Also whether they know, etcetera, that the said Diego Caballero had /
given and promised to the said *licenciado* some other things so that /
he gave him license to bring slaves from Tierra Firme when it was /
prohibited, or for other reasons, [and he] gave him the said license. /
Also whether they know that he offered to give the said *licenciado* some part /

[73r.]

73

- xv r of the slaves of the said navy. [The witnesses] must say and declare what /
happens and they now about this []. /

In the matter of Jácome Castellón /

- xvi r Firstly, they must be asked whether they know that the said *licenciado* /
while being judge, received from Jácome de Castellón many /
cats and parrots and other things, especially that he received /
a big parrot for which they offered to the said Jácome /
fifteen *pesos* of gold [] /

In the matter of Juan Fernández de las Varas/

- xvii r Firstly, they must be asked whether they know that the said *licenciado*, /
while being judge, received from Juan Fernández de las Varas much /
velvet and *raso* and *pañó* and other things in large quantity, /
especially a piece of *pañó de Valencia* that the /
said Juan Fernández gave to him for a *tabardo* and a *sayo* that the /
said *licenciado* wears, and whether they know that he received from the said /
Juan Fernández amounts of *pesos* of gold and *pipas* of wine and *tocinos* and preserves /
and many other things. [The witnesses] must say and declare what /
happens and they know about this. /
- xviii^o r Also, whether they know, etcetera, that the said *licenciado* has had or has /
while being a judge a company with the said Juan Fernández in some /
farms and businesses and navies, especially in a navy that went to the islands /
to barter, of which Fernán Dianas is veedor in which many damages /

have been done and are done to the Indians, with the said licenciado having / the benefit of having part in the said navy. [The witnesses] must say and declare / what damages and offenses they make to the said indians. /

Also whether they know, etcetera, that while it was prohibited to bring / slaves from Tierra Firme, the said licenciado gave license / to the said Juan Fernández to go to Tierra Firme to barter slaves. /

[fo. 73v.] the said one sent a ship for the said bartering in which the said licenciado / has part. [The witnesses] must say what happens and they know.

In the matter of Cazalla, in Seville /

xix r Firstly, they must be asked whether they know that, while the said / licenciado Zuazo was in Seville about to come to this island with the post of / justice in it, he received from Gonzalo de Cazalla, who had been / in this island and was returning at the time to it, certain amount of money / and things of value. [The witnesses] must say what he received and [what] they know. /

In the matter of the Aviles of Avenillas /

xx r Firstly, they must be asked whether they know that the said licenciado , / while he was a judge, took a gold ring with a large, very good turquoise / from Gonzalo de Avenillas, giving him seven or eight pesos of gold / when it was worth twenty pesos of gold a bit more or less /

xxi r Firstly, they must be asked whether they know that the *señor Almirante* / *don* Diego Colón, while in Castille after the said *licenciado* / being appointed as judge in these parts, gave him one thousand pesos of gold or / one thousand *ducados*, with which the said *licenciado* bought a large property / while being a man in need and who did not have moneys nor had earned / them from the *colegio*. [The witnesses] must say and declare what happens / and [what] they know and have heard in regards to this, and in for how much / he bought the said property and how much money did the *Almirante* gave him [] /

xxii r Also, whether they know, etcetera, that after the said licenciado had arrived / in this island with the post of justice, the lady *doña* María / de Toledo, by means of a letter of the *señor Almirante*, paid three hundred *ducados* / a bit more or less to Pedro de Aguilar, factor of Gaspar / Centurión, who had given them to the said licenciado as per / a letter and order from the said *señor Almirante*. [The witnesses] must say / what happens and they know in regards to this /

xxiii r Also whether they know, etcetera, that the said licenciado, as soon as he /

[fo. 74r]

74

arrived at this city of Santo Domingo, he came to dwell at a /
house that at the time was of the said Almirante because he had bought it /
from Juan de Villoria, who later bought and took it again /
from the said Almirante. In those houses the said /
licenciado has lived, while being at the said post, for two and a half years /
that [merited/accrued] two hundred pesos of gold in rent for all the said time, /
rent that he has not paid, because if he had paid it, /
the witnesses would have seen it and would know it /¹
[...]

¹ Immediately after these questions, in the following *folios* or sheets of the proceedings of the “jucio de residencia” or audit-trial of the colonial government officials’ performance, the answers-depositions given by a series of witnesses are recorded. Each witness responded to a varied selection of the questions, and some responded to more questions and/or in lengthier manner than others.