

ACV Fn 367 Délimitation de fiefs, bailliage de Moudon, commissaires David Ballif and Pierre Viret, 1665.

Abstract prepared by John W. McCoy (RealMac@aol.com) © 2025.

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Exactly what this volume as presently constituted was supposed to accomplish is not easily explained. The introductory folio reads as follows:

“Ce present livre concerne le Ballivage de MOUDON, et est divisé en quatre parties, dont

“La premiere desquelles contient une description & delimitations des territoires, districts, & confins tant de la ville dudict Moudon que des villages & seigneuries dudict Ballivage.

“La seconde concerne tous les dixmes dudict Ballivage: avec une delimitation & specification tant de ceux qui appartiennent à L.Exc. que des exceptions: entant & autant qu’il a esté requis & possible de faire.

“En la troisieme est contenue la delimitation & specification des chasteaux & domaines de Moudon, Lucens, & Villarzel, avec toutes leurs appartenances.

“Et dans la quatrieme partie, sont les delimitations des domaines des cures dudict balliage avec une specification des pensions & benefices annuels dont jouissent les sieurs ecclesiastiques, puis aussi une narrative de leurs charges et devoirs.

“Et sur la fin une specification & denombrement des hommages deubz à L.Exc. par les seigneurs vassaux dudict Ballivage.”

The répertoire is followed by two unnumbered folios that precede the actual beginning of the volume. The second of these, entitled “Observations sur les restatz des delimitations des territoire de riere le bailliage de Moudon”, bears a clear marginal notation, “Ces observations ne devoyent pas avoir esté inserées icy”! The “observations” in question list the areas where establishing clear boundaries with neighboring communes or territories had not been successful, due to the lack of authorized negotiating partners from Fribourg, etc., to reach a settlement.

The main text sets out the results of a project involving several notables from Moudon to describe the boundaries or “délimitation”, completed 20 apr 1665. The descriptions for each commune involve roads, natural features such as various named rocks, and “bornes” or stone markers in various places identified by their respective property holders, who, however, could easily have changed over time. Without a map, these descriptions would be extremely difficult to comprehend, let alone enforce.

Nevertheless, they contain many names of individuals and families, and even an occasional observation from antiquity, such as a mention on fol. 6v that the a certain property at Sottens, on

the boundary with Moudon, had been in the Dubrit family at least since it was the subject of an authentic parchment dated 07 apr 1479.

In spite of the inevitable duplication – each boundary is of course also the boundary of an adjoining commune – , the process continues for each commune within the bailliage of Moudon, as far away as the Combremonts.

At fol. 166, there is a section describing the dîmes within the Ballivage de Moudon, in pursuit of which the commissaires obtained depositions from “des anciens et preud’hommes de chasque lieu”, during the years 1663-1668. The specifics for the individual dîmes are preceded by general observations (fol. 167) on the nature of the dîmes, the crops to which they apply, etc., and a decree from Their Excellencies of Bern regarding the correct documentation required to support any alleged exceptions from the dîme.

The folio numbers are irregular here. Fol. 169v is followed by a repeat of folio numbers 152-169. A *Nota* to this effect is found on the first fol. 152: “Nota que apres 169 suit derechef 152, pour le Dixme de Moudon”. The ACV has numbered the *sides* of these folios for the digitization project as 160vaa through 169vbj. Normal foliation resumes at fol. 170.

The descriptions of the dîmes are complicated by the fact that some of them were collected by more than one entity, such as the balliage along with a particular feudal seigneur, or a part by the charitable hospital of Moudon, etc. The properties subject to any particular dîme might be quite small, hence the need to cite individual property holders and the holders of adjoining properties. The descriptions rely first on particular lieux-dits, and then on the individual properties within each lieu-dit, thus creating a partial census by lieu-dit, at least for those properties and property holders that were subject to the dîme.

In the course of describing the dîme of Seigneux, the first maps are introduced, on fols. 192v-194, including a parcel of 1 pose held by Jeanne Rouge, relicte de feu Michel Buttin. A few other small maps are scattered through this section.

At fol. 214, a document in an older script and with the signature and paraphe of N. J. (?) Morattel, dated 09 aug 1592, describing the dîme of Sassel, collected within the territory of Granges, as well as the dîmes of the church of Granges and the Chapter of Lausanne, naming numerous residents. The document is clearly an original, and it has a notation at the end, “Double pour tenyr aux archives du chasteau de Lausanne”, with the paraphe of Morattel. The document seems not to be noted in the inventory of the ACV nor in the separate inventory of the communal archives of Vaud. The verso of the cover sheet of this document (labeled by the ACV as 216vb) is the original inscription that appeared on the outside of the folded document as it was received by the commissaires: “Designation du diesme du chappitre de Lausanne qui s’admodie soubz la tiltre de Sassal, et ce seullement de ce que se percoyt ryere le terroyr de Granges, faict en l’an 1592”. At this point, again, the foliation is irregular. The end of the previous section, fol. 212v, was followed by the insertion and subsequent numbering of the three folios and the cover sheet for the document of 1592, followed by another fol. 212, where the descriptions of the various dîmes of the 1660’s resume, with that of Lovattens. The foliation assigned by the ACV

again attempts to bridge the gap with folio sides numbered 216vc-216vl, until the true fol. 217 is reached.

At fol. 294, a section describing various dîmes held by the ministers, deacons, and regents (school teachers) of Moudon and the other parishes within the balliage begins, with summaries of the incomes from those holdings, and including inserted correspondence (some in German) as late as 1706. This section is notable in listing the offices in each parish where the salary came from dîmes and similar sources, and also in listing the names of the surrounding villages belonging to each parish.

At fol. 315, there is a section listing the properties, rights, and revenues of Their Excellencies within the balliage of Moudon, formerly subject to the châteaux of Moudon, Lucens, and Villarzel, with some additional notations as late as 1723.

A final section consists of correspondence and original documents (generally with signatures) bound with the rest of the volume, in French and German, with various dates as late as 1749, and with some marginal folio references to other parts of Fn 367.

It is to be noted that a number of dîmes, notably the important and contentious dîme of the Dutoit family and its “condiviseurs” at Chavannes-sur-Moudon, are not described in this volume. This situation is explained in the répertoire, where a number of villages listed in the section for the dîmes lack a folio number. A notation at the bottom says “Ceux où il n’y a pas de fueuill marquez, sont les dixmes habergez, et se pourront tenoriser en un cahier sur la fin du livre, à forme des habergements”. These were dîmes over which Their Excellencies of Bern had ultimate jurisdiction, but they had been, sometimes over many centuries and long before the Bernese occupation of 1536, granted by the house of Savoie to various nobles, and subsequently sold, divided, mortgaged, bequeathed, or auctioned, with the result that the income was by now widely dispersed. For the particular case of Chavannes, there had already been extended litigation in the 15th Century when questions about the long history of that dîme arose (see the analysis of [ACV P Cerjat \(I\) B 2503](#)), and repeated challenges and settlements well into the 18th Century, by which time the income from the dîme had become so divided as to become virtually unmanageable. Even the best mind in Moudon at that time, the notary, physician, and banneret Isaac Dutoit, found the arithmetic extremely challenging and containing at least one unresolvable error, see the analysis of [ACV P Cerjat \(I\) A 44](#). It was so complex, in fact, that Dutoit found it necessary to express the fractional shares in units of $1/138,240^{\text{ths}}$ of the whole, the least common denominator.

END.