

Document #1739-07-22-01 – Pierrot is Promised Away

K4BL Abstract: An enslaved man named Pierrot was sold to enslaver Michèl Brosset by Claude Boisson ("tailladier en cette ville," tool maker in this city) and his wife, Magdelaine Chenier, who had acquired Pierrot as a *pièce d'inde* from the Company of the Indies.¹ However, Pierrot went missing after having gone maroon. Boisson and Chenier promise to catch Pierrot for Brosset in exchange for cash upon delivery, which they succeed in accomplishing.

<https://lacolonialdocs.org/document/4312>

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Year 1739, July 22
pp. 11687-88-89-90
11689

LHC Abstract: Sale of negro by Claude Boisson and wife to Michele Brosset. Authorization to sell to Claude Boisson by Fauçon du Manoir, agent of the Company.

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Names: White - Boisson, Claude; Bosson, Claude; Chenier, Magdelaine; Brosset, Michèl; Jahan, François; Roumier, François; Henry, Nicolas; Sr. Acquérue; Sr. Dumanoir; Manoir, Fauçon du; Henry, greffe
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¹ "In 1728, Jean-Baptiste Labat described the *pièce d'Inde*, the primary measure of commercial exchange on the West African coast as a "measure of potential labor." The *pièce d'Inde* derived from the *pieza de India*, which entered circulation during the first centuries of slave trading under the Spanish and Portuguese," writes Johnson, *Wicked Flesh: Black Women, Intimacy and Freedom in the Atlantic World* (Penn Press, 2020), 80. "By the eighteenth century, for French traders, a *pièce d'Inde*, according to Labat, was a male slave, between eight and thirty years old, with all of his digits and limbs, as well as 'eyes, ears, teeth,' and was not 'hunchbacked or lame.'"

Transcription (French, diplomatic)	Translation (English, modern)
<p>[feuille 1 recto] [digital2]</p> <p>[Marginalia:] 22 Juillet 24 7^{bre} 1739. ~ Brosset Bosson Vente a Brosset (2652.) f^o 13</p> <p>[Corps:]</p> <p>(11687.) furent Presence Claude Boisson taillandier en cette Ville et Magdalaine Chenier son Epouse q^l autorisé a leffet des presenttes lequels____ Par CeS presentes ont VendueS et promettent____ Livrer aSieur Michel Brosset habitant En cette Ville un Negre piece dInde Nommé____ Pierrot Le garantir de touS troubleset Empechements envers et Contre touS quil appartiendra____ Et Comme le^d Negre est marron les^d____ VendeurS soblignent de la Remettre en mains dudS^r Acqueruer desquils auront pour Lattrapper Led acqueruer Connoissant parfaitement Led Negre et En Estant Content a leffet</p>	<p>[page # 1] [digital2]</p> <p>[Marginal note:] July 22nd September 24 1739 ~ Brosset Bo[i]sson Sale to Brosset (2652) file 13</p> <p>[Body:]</p> <p>(11687) Present were Claude Boisson, tool maker in this city, and Magdelaine Chenier, his wife, who authorized for these proceedings which, per those present, have sold and promise to deliver to <i>Sieur</i> Michèl Brosset, resident in this city, a <i>nègre pièce d'inde</i> named Pierrot, guaranteed from all troubles and impediments [to whom] against all odds [he] will belong. And as the aforesaid <i>nègre</i> has runaway, the said sellers oblige themselves to take him back into their hands from the said <i>Sieur</i> Purchaser, as soon as they will [have a chance to] catch him.</p>

du Jouir Luy et les sieurs connu dunbien
 aluy appartenant ainsy que'n a Jouyled.
 Boisson qui la aquis deLa Comp^e des Indes
 aqui Il aetté payé suivant lepermis Cy____
 Joins duS dumanoir agent delaComp^e____
 endatte du Vingtun dupresent lad
 Vente et Cession ainsy faite moyennant
 Leprix et somme deQuinze Cent____
 Livres que ledS Brosset promet

[f. 1 verso] [dig.3]

[Marginalia:] (11688.)

[Corps:]

Luypayé Comptant ala Remise dud
 Negre ~~Et~~ au moyen de quoy le present Vaudra
 quittance et Ce son autre formalité attendu
 q^ll nya aucun Luy poraqui special sur led
 Negre et LedS^r Brosset demeurera bien et
 Libre possession sain que pour Raison du
 Il puisse estre Inquieté dequi queue____
 passeestre generalmente quelonquisde
 promettant Lesd Vendeurs le garantis
 et Indeminise Envers et Contre tous q^l
 appartiendra aussy q^ll a été Convenu

The said purchaser, knowing perfectly well
 the said *nègre* and being happy as the result of
 being able to enjoy him, and the gentlemen [who
 have] known [of him] as property
 belonging to him as well as the said
 Boisson, who acquired [him] from the Company
 of the Indies,
 to whom [he] was paid, according to the attached
 license
 from *Sieur* Dumanoir, agent of the Company,
 dated the twenty first of present [year]. The said
 sale and transfer thus [is] made by means of
 the price and sum of fifteen hundred
livres that the said Brosset promises

[p. # 2] [dig.3]

[Marginal note:] (11688)

[Body:]

to pay him in cash upon delivery of the said
nègre by means of which these proceedings
 will constitute receipt. And another formality,
 as expected, given there is no special claim on the
 said *nègre*, the said *Sieur* Brosset will retain free
 and clear possession without which, for any
 reason,
 [possession] can be disturbed,
 as is generally typical [for] whomever is the
 promisee [party]. The said sellers guarantee
 and indemnify against any and all

<p>Entre les parties Car ainsy promet oblig^eetRenon^e faitetPassé a la Nlle orleans en Etudes Lan mil sept cent trente neuf Le Vingt deux Juillet presence de Sieurs francois Roumier et francois Jahan temoins y demeurant et ont lesd. Boisson et Sa femme déclaré ne Scavoir Ecrire ny Signer du Enquis Suivant L'ord.^e</p> <p>[Signé:] Brosset [Signé:] marque de X Claude Boisson [Signé:] marque de X Madelaine Chainé [Signé:] Roumier [Signé:] Jahan [Signé:] Henry Greffe</p> <p>[f. 2 r] [dig.4]</p> <p>(11690.)</p> <p>sont Comparus En Etude Le S^r Claude Boisson et____ magdelaine Chenier son Epouse lesquels Reconnoissant et Confesser Cejour lejourdhuy Recu Comptant enNos presences____ Lesomme de quinze Cent Livres porté en Lavente Cydessus</p>	<p>by virtue of title, as it has been agreed between the parties, thus, the promisee obliges and forswears. [It was] done and passed at New Orleans in ministerial office in the year one thousand seven hundred thirty nine, the twenty second of July, in presence of the gentlemen François Roumier and François Jahan, witnesses residing there [in the city], and [before] the said Boisson and his wife, declaring not knowing how to write nor sign of [which has been] inquired, in accordance with the law.</p> <p>[Signed:] [Michèl] Brosset [Signed:] x-mark, Claude Boisson [Signed:] x-mark, Magdelaine Chenier [Signed:] [François] Roumier [Signed:] [François] Jahan [Signed:] [Nicolas] Henry, Notary</p> <p>[p. # 3] [dig.4]</p> <p>(11690)</p> <p>Having appeared in the ministerial office, <i>Sieur</i> Claude Boisson and Magdelaine Chenier, his wife, whom are appreciative [of the council] and avow [on] this day today [to have] received money in our presence [of] the sum of fifteen hundred <i>livres</i> brought [forth] in the above [stated] sale.</p>
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<p>Comme ayant le^d S Brosset Reconnu avoir Recu led[^]____ Negre au moyen de quoy le S^r Brosset Reste bien et Libre possesseur du^d Esclave sans que apour Raison de Il puisse estant Inquieté de qui que a soit generalement aquele onquin ainsy q^l a été Convenu Car ainsy promets-oblige et Renon fait et-passé Levingt quatre septembre mil sept Cent trente Neuf presence desieurs françois Roumier et françois Jahan temoins y demeurant Et ont le^d Boisson____ etsa femme déclaré Nescavoir Ecrire ny signer du Enquis suivant L'ord.[^]ee.</p> <p>[Signé:] Roumier [Rubrica, Roumier] [Signé:] Jahan [Signé:] Henry [Rubrica, Henry] N[^]n</p>	<p>As [of] that, the said <i>Sieur</i> Brosset [also] recognized having had received the aforesaid <i>nègre</i> by means of which the aforementioned <i>Sieur</i> Brosset [shall] retain free and clear the possession of the aforesaid slave without which, for any reason, it may be possibly be disturbed as it is generally [understood under the law] [and as] which as it has been agreed, thus, the promisee [party] obliges and forswears. [It was] done and passed [on] the twenty-fourth of September one thousand seven hundred thirty- nine [in the] presence of the gentlemen François Roumier and François Jahan, witnesses, residing there [in the city] and the aforesaid Boisson and his wife, declaring not knowing how to write nor sign of [which has been] inquired, in accordance with the law.</p> <p>[Signed:] [François] Roumier [Rubric, Roumier] [Signed:] [François] Jahan [Signed:] [Nicolas] Henry [Rubric, Henry] Notary</p>
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