

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.

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Year 1739, July 22
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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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[feuille 1 recto] [digital 2]	[page #1] [digital 2]
[Marginalia:]	[Marginal note:]
22 Juillet	July 22nd
24 7 ^{bre}	September 24
1739.	1739
~	~
Brosset Bosson	Brosset Bo[i]sson
Vente a	Sale to
Brosset	Brosset
(2652.)	(2652)
f ^o 13	file 13
[Corps:]	[Body:]
(11687.)	(11687)
furent Presence Claude Boisson taillandier en cette Ville et Magdalaine Chenier son Epouse q ⁱ autorisé a leffet des presenttes lesquels____ Par Ces presentes ont Vendues et promettent____ Livrer a Sieur Michel Brosset habitant En cette Ville un Negre piece dInde Nommé____ Pierrot Le garantir de tous troubles et Empechements envers et Contre tous quil appartiendra____ Et Comme le ^d Negre est marron les ^d ____ Vendeurs sobligent de la Remettre en mains dud. S ^r Acqueruer desquilS auront pour Lattrapper	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

<p>Led acqueruer Connoissant parfaitement Led Negre et En Estant Content aueffet du Jouir Luy et les sieurs connu dun bien a luy appartenant ainsy que'n a Jouy led. Boisson qui la aquis deLa Comp^e des Indes aqui Il a etté payé suivant le permis Cy____ Joins dus dumanoir agent delaComp^e____ endatte du Vingtun du present lad Vente et Cession ainsy faite moyennant Le prix et somme de Quinze Cent____ Livres que leds Brosset promet</p> <p>[f. 1 verso] [dig.3]</p> <p>[Marginalia:]</p> <p>(11688.)</p> <p>[Corps:]</p> <p>Luy payé Comptant a la Remise dud Negre Et au moyen de quoy le present Vaudra quittance et Ce son autre formalité attendu q' n'ya aucun Luy poraqui special sur led Negre et Led S^r Brosset demeurera bien et Libre possession sain que pour Raison du Il puisse estre Inquieté dequi queue____</p>	<p>from the said <i>Sieur</i> Purchaser, as soon as they will [have a chance to] catch him.</p> <p>The said purchaser, knowing perfectly well the said <i>nègre</i> 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 <i>Sieur</i> 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 <i>livres</i> that the said Brosset promises</p> <p>[p. #2] [dig.3]</p> <p>[Marginal note:]</p> <p>(11688)</p> <p>[Body:]</p> <p>to pay him in cash upon delivery of the said <i>nègre</i> by means of which these proceedings will constitute receipt. And another formality, as expected, given there is no special claim on the said <i>nègre</i>, the said <i>Sieur</i> Brosset will retain free and clear possession without which, for any reason,</p>
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<p> passe estre generalmente quelonquisde promettant Lesd Vendeurs le garantis et Indeminise Envers et Contre tous q^l appartiendra aussy q^l a été Convenu Entre les parties Car ainsy promet^[tant] oblig^[cant] Renon^[çant] fait et Passé 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.^{ce} </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. 2r] [dig.4] </p> <p> (11690.) sont Comparus En Etude Le S^r Claude Boisson et ____ magdelaine Chenier son Epouse lesquels Reconnoissant </p>	<p> [possession] can be disturbed, as is generally typical [for] whomever is the promisee [party]. The said sellers guarantee and indemnify against any and all 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) Having appeared in the ministerial office, <i>Sieur</i> Claude Boisson and Magdelaine Chenier, his wife, whom are appreciative [of the council] </p>
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<p>et Confesser Ce jour lejourdhuy Recu Comptant en Nos presences____</p> <p>Le somme de quinze Cent Livres porté en La vente Cy dessus</p> <p>Comme ayant^d S Brosset Reconnu avoir Recu le^d____</p> <p>Negre au moyen de quoy le S^r Brosset Reste bien et Libre possesseur du^d Esclave sans que a pour Raison</p> <p>de Il puisse estant Inquieté de qui que a soit generallement</p> <p>aqueleonquin ainsy q^l a été Convenu Car ainsy promets-oblige et Renon fait et-passé</p> <p>Le vingt quatre septembre mil sept Cent trente Neuf presence desieurs françois Roumier et françois</p> <p>Jahan temoins y demeurant Et ont le^d Boisson____</p> <p>etsa femme déclaré Nescavoir Ecrire nysigner du Enquis suivant L'ord.^{ce}.</p> <p>[Signé:] Roumier [Rubrica, Roumier]</p> <p>[Signé:] Jahan</p> <p>[Signé:] Henry [Rubrica, Henry] N^{re}</p>	<p>and avow [on] this day today [to have] received money in our presence</p> <p>[of] the sum of fifteen hundred <i>livres</i> brought [forth] in the above [stated] sale.</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</p> <p>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]</p> <p>[and as] which as it has been agreed, thus, the promisee [party] obliges and forswears. [It was] done and passed</p> <p>[on] the twenty-fourth of September one thousand seven hundred thirty-</p> <p>nine [in the] presence of the gentlemen François Roumier and François</p> <p>Jahan, witnesses, residing there [in the city] and the aforesaid Boisson</p> <p>and his wife, declaring not knowing how to write nor sign of [which has been]</p> <p>inquired, in accordance with the law.</p> <p>[Signed:] [François] Roumier [Rubric, Roumier]</p> <p>[Signed:] [François] Jahan</p> <p>[Signed:] [Nicolas] Henry [Rubric, Henry] Notary</p>
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Please note that what appear to be typos (missing spaces, abbreviations, misspellings, strikeouts, superscript) appear in the original manuscript, but are corrected in the more modernized translation. For more on our editorial practices see [insert xxx link here].

i. “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.’”