

Document #1737-03-02-03 – Pierre Almanzor Seeks Care

K4BL Abstract: To seek treatment for his infection, a free *nègre* named Pierre Almanzor sought help from the king's doctor. Exhausting other resources, Almanzor depended on Prat to cure him. Pierre Almanzor negotiated an agreement so that once he became healthy again he would work for five years for Doctor Prat without wages in return for the treatment he received.

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LHC Abstract: Contract between Monsieur Prat, physician and one Pierre Almauzor, a free negro, suffering from a disease necessitating treatment with extreme remedies (“les grands remedes”).

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Names: Black - Pierre Almanzor

Names: White - Jean Prat (medecin du Roy), Couturier, François Gautreau; Nicolas Henry

Names: Native - n/a

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Transcription (French, diplomatic)	Translation (English, modern)
<p>[feuille 1 recto] [digital 2]</p> <p>[Marginalia:] Mars 2 1737</p> <p>almanzor negre Engagement A M^r. prat</p> <p>(2004.) F^o. S</p> <p>(7960.)</p> <p>fut present en sa personne pierre almanzor Negre Libre Lequel se trouvant attaqué dune maladie venerienne et estant yndispensable partous les sintomes [symptômes] de la faire passer par les grands Remedes nous a declaré quil n[‘]avez [n’avait] pour se faire traitter cequil desire cependant attendu le Risque ou Il est de perir Indubitablement [;] et pour cet Effet s[‘]est Engagé volontairement et sans Contrainte pour servir M^r. Prat medecin du Roy pendant</p>	<p>[page # 1] [digital 2]</p> <p>[Marginal note:] March 2nd 1737</p> <p>Almanzor <i>negre</i> Engagement To <i>Mr</i> Prat</p> <p>(2004.) F^o. S</p> <p>(7960.)</p> <p>[Before the Council] Pierre Almanzorⁱ himself, free <i>nègre</i>, finding himself afflicted by a venereal diseaseⁱⁱ and [it] being essential, because of all the symptoms, to cure it with the great remedy [mercury]ⁱⁱ, declared to us that although he does not have enough [money] to be treated, he nevertheless desires this, without a doubt, even given the risk of dying[;] and for this purpose he has committed himself voluntarily and without constraint to serve <i>Monsieur</i> Prat, doctor of the king, for five years either as a cook or in any</p>

<p>L[‘]espace de Cinq ans soit en qualité de Cuisinier ou autres choses a quoy Il pourra se Rendre utile excepté a travailler a la hache et a la terre et ce moyennant le tem[p]s et espaces de cinq années devolues et accomplies [;]</p> <p>lesquelles commenceront a courir du tem[p]s quil sera parfaitement guery pendant lequel tem[p]s monsr. sieur</p> <p>Prat L’entretiendra suivant sa qualité, au moyen de quoy</p> <p>Il s[‘]oblige de le traiter medicamenter et alimenter et luy</p> <p>Fournir tous les remedes nouritures et ustenciles qui luy seront necessaires pendant sa maladie et luy</p> <p>donner tous ses soins pour tacher de le guerir Radicalement ainsy quils sont convenus[;]</p> <p>promet[tant]</p> <p>Obligéant [&] Renon[cant] fait et passé a la n^{[ouvel]le} orleans [faded]</p> <p>En [L’]Etude lan mil sept cent trente sept le deuxieme</p> <p>mars presence des sieurs francois gautreau [page déchirée] [garde magasin]</p> <p>du Roy et Couturier temoins y demeurant et led^[it] almanzor déclaré ne scavoir [page déchirée] [Ecrire] ny Signer</p> <p>de ce Enquis suivant l[‘]ord^{[onnan]ce}.</p>	<p>other capacity in which He will be able to make himself useful, except</p> <p>working with the axe and on the land, and this, in return for the</p> <p>time and interval of five years allotted and completed;</p> <p>which will run once he is completely cured, during which time <i>Monsieur</i></p> <p>Prat will maintain him as befits his position, by which he obliges himself to treat, medicate, and feed him and to</p> <p>provide him all the remedies, food and utensils which will be necessary for him during his illness and give him all his care in order to attempt to cure him</p> <p>completely, such as they have agreed, promising, obliging, and renouncing, made and approved in New</p> <p>Orleans</p> <p>in the notary’s office, the year one thousand seven hundred and thirty-seven, the second of</p> <p>March, [in the] presence of <i>Sieurs</i> François Gautreau [page torn] [store guard]</p> <p>of the king and Couturier, witnesses residing there, and the aforementioned Almanzor declared not knowing how [page</p> <p>Torn] [to write] nor to sign,</p> <p>in accordance with the ordinance.</p> <p>[Signed:] Couturier</p> <p>[Signed:] [Jean] Prat</p> <p>[Signed:] [François] Gautreau</p> <p>[Signed:] [Nicolas] Henry</p>
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[Signé:] Couturier	
[Signé:] Prat	
[Signé:] Gautreau	
[Signé:] Henry	

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 <https://docs.k4bl.org/bestpractices>.

- i. The name Almanzor potentially signals Pierre Almanzor's connection to the Islam faith. If Almanzor is understood as a cognate of "al-Mansur," this Arabic name refers to he who was chosen by God.
- ii. By the time the *Académie Française* published the fourth edition of their dictionary in 1762, the word *remède* included a line for *grand remède* which it defined as "mercury, which is given to cure venereal diseases." See the *Dictionnaire de l'Académie Française* 4ème édition, t.2, (1762).