

## 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.<sup>1</sup> 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>

### **LHC Card:**

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**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.

### **Metadata:**

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Names: White - Boisson, Claude; Bosson, Claude; Chenier, Magdelaine; Brosset, Michèl; Jahan, François; Roumier, François; Henry, Nicolas; Acquèrue, Sr.; Dumanoir, Sr.; Manoir, Fauçon du; Henry  
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Transcription (French, diplomatic)	Translation (English, modern)
<p>[feuille 1 recto] [digital 2]</p> <p>[Marginalia:]</p> <p>22 Juillet 24 7<sup>bre</sup> 1739. ~</p> <p><b>Brosset</b> Bosson Vente a Brosset (2652.) f° 13</p> <p>[Corps:]</p> <p>(11687.) furent Presence Claude Boisson taillandier en cette Ville et Magdalaine Chenier son Epouse q<sup>l</sup> 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<sup>d</sup> Negre est marron les<sup>d</sup> ____ Vendeurs sobligent de la Remettre en mains dud. S<sup>r</sup> Acqueruer desquilS auront pour Lattrapper</p>	<p>[page #1] [digital 2]</p> <p>[Marginal note:]</p> <p>July 22nd September 24 1739 ~</p> <p><b>Brosset</b> 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</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<sup>e</sup> des Indes  
aqui Il a etté payé suivant le permis Cy\_\_\_  
Joins dus dumanoir agent delaComp<sup>e</sup> \_\_\_  
endatte du Vingtun du present lad  
Vente et Cession ainsy faite moyennant  
Le prix et somme de Quinze Cent\_\_\_  
Livres que leds Brosset promet

[f. 1 verso] [dig.3]

[Marginalia:]

(11688.)

[Corps:]

Luy payé Comptant a la Remise dud  
Negre ~~Et~~ au moyen de quoy le present Vaudra  
quittance et Ce son autre formalité attendu  
q<sup>l</sup> nya aucun Luy poraqui special sur led  
Negre et Led S<sup>r</sup> Brosset demeurera bien et  
Libre possession sain que pour Raison du  
Il puisse estre Inquieté dequi queue\_\_\_

from the said *Sieur* Purchaser, as soon as they will  
[have a chance to] catch him.

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,

passe estre generalmente quelonquisde  
promettant Lesd Vendeurs le garantis  
et Indeminise Envers et Contre tous q<sup>l</sup>  
appartiendra aussy q<sup>l</sup> a eté Convenu  
Entre les parties Car ainsy promet<sup>[tant]</sup>  
oblig<sup>[eant]</sup> Renon<sup>[çant]</sup> 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.<sup>cc</sup>

[Signé:] Brosset

[Signé:] marque de X Claude Boisson

[Signé:] marque de X Madelaine Chainé

[Signé:] Roumier

[Signé:] Jahan

[Signé:] Henry Greffe

[f. 2r] [dig.4]

(11690.)

sont Comparus En Etude Le S<sup>r</sup> Claude Boisson  
et \_\_\_\_  
magdelaine Chenier son Epouse lesquels  
Reconnoissant

[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.

[Signed:] [Michèl] Brosset

[Signed:] x-mark, Claude Boisson

[Signed:] x-mark, Magdelaine Chenier

[Signed:] [François] Roumier

[Signed:] [François] Jahan

[Signed:] [Nicolas] Henry, Notary

[p. #3] [dig.4]

(11690)

Having appeared in the ministerial office, *Sieur*  
Claude Boisson and  
Magdelaine Chenier, his wife, whom are  
appreciative [of the council]

<p>et Confesser Ce jour lejourdhuy Recu Comptant  en Nos presences____  Le somme de quinze Cent Livres porté en La  vente Cy dessus  Comme ayantle<sup>d</sup> S Brosset Reconnu avoir Recu  le<sup>d</sup>____  Negre au moyen de quoy le S<sup>r</sup> Brosset Reste bien  et Libre possesseur du<sup>d</sup> Esclave sans que a pour  Raison  de Il puisse estant Inquieté de qui que a soit  generalement  aqueleonquin ainsy q<sup>l</sup> a été Convenu Car ainsy  promets-oblige et Renon fait et-passé  Le vingt quatre septembre mil sept Cent trente  Neuf presence desieurs francois Roumier et  francois  Jahan temoins y demeurant Et ont le<sup>d</sup> Boisson____  etsa femme déclaré Nescavoir Ecrire nysigner du  Enquis suivant L'ord.<sup>ce</sup>.</p> <p>[Signé:] Roumier [Rubrica, Roumier]  [Signé:] Jahan  [Signé:] Henry [Rubrica, Henry] N<sup>re</sup></p>	<p>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.  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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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. “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.’”