

Document #1728-07-10-01 – Biron is Punished for Seeking Freedom

K4BL Abstract: An enslaved African man, Biron of the Bambara nation, is interrogated by the Superior Council for having run away from his enslaver and for resisting his recapture. This record highlights not only the violence of the French system of slavery, but also the limited rights afforded to enslaved people as well as the legal apparatus to enforce that enslavement while it was being developed in Louisiana.

<https://lacolonialdocs.org/document/1344>

LHC Card:

#328

Year 1728

July 10

LHC Abstract: Interrogation by Sr. Bruslé of Biron, negro slave fugitive, belonging to Soubagne [*sic*].

Metadata:

Record ID - 296

Document ID - d0296

Filing Date - 1728-07-01

Full Index # - 1728-07-10-01

Doc Type - Judicial Acts, Criminal Cases/Acts, Hearing - Runaway Slaves

Origin - New Orleans, Province of Louisiana

Language - French

Location - Louisiana Historical Center

Source - French Superior Council

LHQ - n/a

Names: Black - (Soubaigne), Biron; Samba Bambara

Names: White - Soubaigne, M.; Soubagne, M.; Soubaigne, Jean; Bruslé, Antoine; Périer, Étienne; La Chaise, Jacques de; Delachaise, Jacques; Fleuriau, François; Rossard, Michèl

Names: Native - n/a

Keywords - crime & punishment, fugitivity, imprisonment, *marronage*, seizure, translator, violence

Doc Selector - Olivia Barnard

Bias Set Reviewer - Leila Blackbird

Doc Transcribers - Chenise Calhoun, Olivia Barnard, Leila Blackbird

Doc Translators - Leila Blackbird, Olivia Barnard, Maya Hogarth, Holly Nelson

Editor(s) - Leila Blackbird, Jennifer Spear, Sophie White

Transcription (French, diplomatic)	Translation (English, modern)
<p>[feuille 1 recto] [digital 2]</p> <p>[Marginalia:]</p> <p>10 Juillet 1728 Interrogatoire dunégre Biron —</p> <p>[Corps:]</p> <p style="text-align: right;">N.^o 328</p> <p>Lan mil Sept Cent Vingt huit Le dix^e jour de juilles Deux heures de Relevee Par Devan nous antoine Bruslé Conseiller au Conseil Superieur de la Province de la Louisianne et ___ a la Req^{uê}te du procureur general du Roy demd et accusateur a été amené au greffe densa ___ personne par quatre fusiliers de Garde Le nomme Biron <i>negre</i> accusé a leffet destre Interogé auql a été procede ainsy que lensuite et attendu ql ne parle pas francaise Luy avons Nommé doffice Lenommé Samba <i>Negre</i> Bambara Chretein Leql apres Serment par luy faites de nouse Raporter fidellement Les Reponces du dit Biron sur les demandes que nous luy ferons Interrogé de son nom, domicile, et que lest ___ son maitre et son agé a dit senommer Biron <i>negre</i> Bambara et por</p>	<p>[page #1] [digital 2]</p> <p>[Marginal note:]</p> <p>July 10, 1728 Interrogation of the <i>nègre</i>, Biron —</p> <p>[Body:]</p> <p style="text-align: right;">No. 328</p> <p>[In] the year one thousand seven hundred twenty- eight [on] the tenth day of July [at] two o'clock in the afternoon, before us, Antoine Bruslé, advisor to the Superior Council of the Province of Louisiana, and at the request of the Attorney General of the King, plaintiff and accuser, were brought to the notary in person by four riflemen of the guard. The named <i>nègre</i>, Biron, the accused, for the purpose of being interrogated as to what has been carried out, and given that he does not speak French, we have appointed <i>ex officio</i> the named <i>nègre</i>, Samba Bambara, Christian, afterwhich [an] oath [was] taken by him to report faithfully to us the responses [given by] the said Biron upon the requests we will</p>

rest le S^r Soubannie

Interroge pourquoy jl a fait Maronz Souvent
Lynterprete nouse a Raporté ql dit quel est ___
que quoy ql Travaille a Ceql luy est ordonné
son maitre ne laisse pas que de Et fut ___
souvent fouettes

Interrogé a quel dessin Il sest jetté Sur le
fusil de son maitre Lors ql leur Ramener ___
dans sa maison

Lyntrepette nous a Raporté ql dit quil ___
nesestsaisy du fusil parceql Craignoit ___
que son maitre ne tirast sur luy et que ces ___
ne toit pas dans Le dessin de senservir ___
Contre son maitre et quen se saisist du fusil
il etoit casse

[Signé:] Bruslé

[f. 1 verso] [dig.3]

Lecture faite a Lynterprete du presente
Interrog^{[atio]n} Leql Layant Raporté au dit
Biron nous a Raporté ql a dit quil
Contient Verite qly a pusionne et ne Savent
Signer ny luy ny lautre de ce ynterpelle
sur lord^{[onnan]ce}

make of him.

[When] asked of his name, address, and who is
his master and his age,
he said his name, Biron, Bambara *nègre*, and for
the rest was *Sieur* Soubaigne.

[When] asked why he often ran away,
the interpreter reported to us that he said it is
that he does whatever work that is ordered
[by] his master, never leaves, and that [he] is
often whipped.

[When] asked to why he threw himself at the
gun of his master when he brought him back
to his house,
the interpreter reported to us that he said that he
grabbed the gun because he feared
that his master was going to shoot his gun at him
and that
it was not in [his] plan to use it
against his master, and when he grabbed the gun
it was broken [anyway].

[Signed:] Bruslé

[p. #2] [dig.3]

Reading made to the interpreter of the present
interrogation who, having reported it to the said
Biron, reported to us that he said that it
contains the truth that there is. And not knowing
how to sign, neither him nor the other one, of this
questioning,
[accordingly] under the law.

<p>[Signé:] Brusle [Rubrica, Bruslé] [Signé] Rossard Greffier</p> <p>Du 17 juillet 1728 Le Conseil ony les Con^{[s]eil} du proc general du Roy declare Led Biron Negre accuse et Commandu de Maronnage pour Reparation de quoy sera fouetté par Lexecuteur de la haute juystice au pied de La potence avis a luy de plus lavenir de plus faire le Maron soubien plus grande peines</p> <p>[Signé:] Perrier [Signé:] Delachaise [Signé:] Brusle [Rubrica, Bruslé]</p> <p>[Marginalia]:</p> <p>Je requiers pour Le roy que le^{d[iti]} Biron Soit fouette au pied De lechelle et renvoyé a Son maitre avec deffenses De recidiver sous peine de punction corperelle a la nle orleans le dix sept juillet mil sept cent vingt huit</p> <p>[Signé:] Fleuriau</p>	<p>[Signed:] [Antoine] Bruslé [Rubric, Bruslé] [Signed:] [Michèl] Rossard, Notary</p> <p>On July 17, 1728 The Council of the Attorney General of the King declares the said Biron <i>nègre</i> accused and arrested for Marronage for reparation of which [he] will be whipped by the Executioner of the High Justice at the foot of the gallows, [giving] notice to him that [any] future acts of going maroon [will] incur greater penalties.</p> <p>[Signed:] [Étienne] Périer [Signed:] [Jacques] Delachaise [Signed:] [Antoine] Bruslé [Rubric, Bruslé]</p> <p>[Marginal note]:</p> <p>I require [on behalf of] the King that the said Biron be whipped at the foot of the ladder and sent back to his master with the prohibition to reoffend under penalty of corporal punishment. At New Orleans [on] the seventeenth of July, one-thousand seven-hundred and twenty-eighty</p> <p>[Signed:] [François] Fleuriau</p>
--	--

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>.