



## Pierre A. Boyer Collection C4349

**Collection Number:** C4349

**Collection Title:** Pierre A. Boyer Collection

**Dates:** 1942-1992, bulk 1978-1988

**Creator:** Boyer, Pierre A., 1910-2000

**Abstract:** Collected papers of Pierre “Pete” Boyer, a French Missouri storyteller and musician of French extraction. Includes publicity, performance information, biographical materials, historical research files, newspaper clippings, flyers, announcements, photographs, and an interview with Boyer on three audiocassettes.

**Collection Size:** 2.6 cubic feet  
(125 folders, 3 audiocassette tapes)

**Language:** Collection materials are in English with some materials in French.

**Repository:** The State Historical Society of Missouri

**Restrictions on Access:** Collection is open for research. This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Columbia](#). If you would like more information, please contact us at [research@shsmo.org](mailto:research@shsmo.org). Collections may be viewed at any research center.

**Restrictions on Use:** The Donor has given and assigned to the University all rights of copyright, which the Donor has in the Materials and in such of the Donor’s works as may be found among any collections of Materials received by the University from others.

**Preferred Citation:** [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Pierre A. Boyer Collection* (C4349); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Columbia [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Columbia].

**Donor Information:** The papers were donated to the University of Missouri by Pierre A. Boyer on July 22, 1993 (Accession No. CA5333).

**Processed by:** Processed by John Konzal, March 13, 2018.

### **Historical Note:**

Pierre “Pete” Boyer was born on May 19, 1910, in Racola, Missouri, in Washington County’s Old Mines area to John Lucien Boyer and Mary Elizabeth Lizzie Declue. He developed an early interest in preserving the French culture. As a young man he served as guide and assistant to the French-Canadian scholar Joseph Medard Carriere, who had come to Missouri to identify and record the Missouri French Folktales still remembered in the area. Throughout the rest of his long life as a father of 10 children, member of the St. James Catholic Church of Potosi, and a watch repairman and owner of a jewelry shop in downtown Potosi, Pete continued his interest in the music and lore of his community. After retirement, he devoted his time to sharing his music, his stories, and his knowledge of the culture of his community with audiences throughout the state and the nation. Pierre Boyer died on June 23, 2000 at the age of 90.

### **Arrangement:**

The collection has been arranged into the following eight series:

- Correspondence
- Events and Performances
- Historical
- Photographs
- Pierre Boyer Biography
- Publications
- Stories
- Audio

### **Scope and Content Note:**

#### **Correspondence**

This series contains correspondence related to Pierre Boyers’ music and storytelling performances. Includes discussions of specific events, reference to French folktale and music activities. Also includes fan mail from children at schools and places where Boyer performed. 1978-1989.

#### **Events and Performances**

This series is the bulk of the collection and consists of materials pertaining to Boyer’s music and storytelling. Materials consist of brochures, newspaper clippings, articles, newsletters and flyers. 1978-1993.

#### **Historical**

This series contains printed material discussing the history of the “Old Mines” area, settled by French immigrants in the 1700s, and the French influence and development in Missouri. Also included are Pierre Boyer’s notes on the French history in the area. 1973, 1978, no date.

## Photographs

This series contains photographs taken mainly of Pierre Boyer playing his fiddle, but there are some group shots taken at various events in the 1980s. Photographs can also be found in other parts of the collection.

## Pierre Boyer Biography

This series focuses primarily on Pierre Boyer's life as a musician and storyteller, no date.

## Publications

This material consists of various publications on the subject of storytelling and other items of historical significance. The publications include: *Cleaning Coins*, *Bill Hardey's Songs of the Gay Nineties*, *Eighteenth Century Silhouettes*, *National Directory of Storytelling*, *World Folk Songs*, *City Guide and Map of St. Louis*, *The Story of Old Ste. Genevieve*, *French Phrase Book*, *The Ozarks Mountaineer*, *La Gazette de Louisiane* (Newsletter in French), *Story Telling Magazine*, *Yarnspinner* newsletter. 1942-1993.

## Stories

This series consists of stories told by Pierre Boyer as handed down from his parents and relatives. Some have numerous versions. Themes include animals, monsters, princesses and princes, knights, no date.

## Audio

This series, on three audiocassette tapes, contains an interview with Pierre Boyer conducted on January 15, 1998.

## Container List:

- f. 1-4 Correspondence, 1978-1989
  - f. 1 Rose Mary Thomas, etc., 1978, 1982-1983
  - f. 2 Correspondence, General, 1979, 1980-1982, 1987
  - f. 3 Correspondence, fan mail, 1982, 1983
  - f. 4 Correspondence, thank you cards, Jefferson College Child Care, 1989
- f. 5 -72 Events and Performances, 1978-1993
  - f. 5 Events and Performances, Newspapers, 1978-1984
  - f. 6 Events and Performances, French Origins, 1978-1990
  - f. 7 Events and Performances, Old Mines, 1979-1983
  - f. 8 Events and Performances, Events, Fairs, Etc., 1979-1991
  - f. 9 Events and Performances, Missouri Library, St. Joseph, MO. 1980
  - f. 10 Events and Performances, 1980, 1982
  - f. 11 Events and Performances, Local-St. Louis, 1980-1984
  - f. 12 Events and Performances, Ste. Genevieve-Perryville Area, 1980-1984

- f. 13 Events and Performances, Storytelling, 1980-1985
- f. 14 Events and Performances, Fort de Chartres, 1980-1989
- f. 15 Events and Performances, Jonesborough, Tennessee, Festival, 1981, 1982
- f. 16 Events and Performances, Mackinac Island, 1981, 1983
- f. 17 Events and Performances, Bonne Terre, 1981-1984
- f. 18 Events and Performances, Illinois Letters, Conservation, 1981-1986
- f. 19 Events and Performances, National Association for the Preservation and Perpetuation of Storytelling (N.A.P.P.S.) Featured, 1980
- f. 20 Events and Performances, Advertising, Newspapers, Newsletters, 1981-1991
- f. 21 Events and Performances, Announcement, Programs, Articles, 1981-1992
- f. 22 Events and Performances, Americana, 1982
- f. 23 Events and Performances, *Mozark* Magazine, 1982
- f. 24 Events and Performances, Historic Preservation, 1982, 1983
- f. 25 Events and Performances, Old Mines, 1982-1985
- f. 26 Events and Performances, Feast of Hunters Moon, 1982-1986
- f. 27 Events and Performances, Pierre and Advertising, 1982-1989
- f. 28 Events and Performances, Pierre and Advertising, 1982-1992
- f. 29 Events and Performances, Bucheit's, Farmington Senior High School, 1983
- f. 30 Events and Performances, 'Geo' Magazine, 1983
- f. 31 Events and Performances, Les Francais, Franco-Americans, 1983
- f. 32 Events and Performances, Wal-Mart Photos, 1983
- f. 33 Events and Performances, Diary/Travel Log, 1983-1985
- f. 34 Events and Performances, Old Fort River Festival, Fort Smith, Arkansas, 1983, 1986
- f. 35 Events and Performances, Brochures, Flyers, Newsletters, 1983-1987
- f. 36 Events and Performances, Frontier Folklife Festival, Kimmswick Historical Society, Pierrimont School, Knox County Chamber of Commerce, Lee's Summit Chamber of Commerce, Buchheit's, Missouri Folklore Society, 1983-1988
- f. 37 Events and Performances, Pierre and Advertising, 1983-1989
- f. 38 Events and Performances, Fort Massac, 1983-1990
- f. 39 Events and Performances, Heritage Days, Lewis and Clark Community College, 1984
- f. 40 Events and Performances, Long Elementary, Boy Scouts Crestwood, Missouri, 1984
- f. 41 Events and Performances, Rolla, Chamier, 1984
- f. 42 Events and Performances, Branson, Ozark Mountain Visitor, 1984, 1985
- f. 43 Events and Performances, Hannibal, 1984, 1985
- f. 44 Events and Performances, Missouri Folklore Society, 1984-1989
- f. 45 Events and Performances, Ste. Genevieve, 1984-1993
- f. 46 Events and Performances, Ozark Mountain Visitor, 1985
- f. 47 Events and Performances, Cole Younger Days, 1985

- f. 48 Events and Performances, Fete Au Renault, 1985
- f. 49 Events and Performances, Golden Raintree Apple Shed, 1985
- f. 50 Events and Performances, 3 Rivers College, 1985
- f. 51 Events and Performances, 3 Rivers and Other Publicity, 1985
- f. 52 Events and Performances, Trappers Magazine, 1985
- f. 53 Events and Performances, Florissant, 1985, 1986
- f. 54 Events and Performances, Santa-Cali-Gon, Independence, 1985, 1986
- f. 55 Events and Performances, Schools, Pioneer Day, 1985-1989
- f. 56 Events and Performances, Fete Au Renault, 1985-1990
- f. 57 Events and Performances, Kimmswick, 1985, 1990
- f. 58 Events and Performances, Pierre and Advertising, 1985-1990
- f. 59 Events and Performances, Missouri Humanities, 1986
- f. 60 Events and Performances, Rend Lake, 1986
- f. 61 Events and Performances, Tall Tale-Rural Living, Photograph, 1986
- f. 62 Events and Performances, Potosi, Missouri, Scenes, Etc., 1986, 1987
- f. 63 Events and Performances, Fort Crevecoeur, 1986-1988
- f. 64 Events and Performances, KMOX Potosi, Missouri, Tour, 1986, 1990
- f. 65 Events and Performances, Events, 1986-1992
- f. 66 Events and Performances, Kirkwood Greentree Festival, 1987, 1988
- f. 67 Events and Performances, Univ. of MO. St. Louis Storytelling Festival, 1988
- f. 68 Events and Performances, Missouri State Park Festival, Children's Festival, 1988
- f. 69 Events and Performances, Smithsonian Institution Programs, 1989-1991
- f. 70 Events and Performances, Elderhostel, 1990
- f. 71 Events and Performances, State Parks Summer Programs, 1991
- f. 72 Events and Performances, Pictures, Silhouettes, 1993
- f. 73-78 Historical
  - f. 73 Historical, French History in North America
  - f. 74 Historical, Notes, Territory of Mines
  - f. 75-76 Historical, Old Mines, Missouri, History
  - f. 77 Historical, Old Mines, Missouri, History, Stories, 1973
  - f. 78 Historical, Notes, 1978
- f. 79 Photographs, Pierre Boyer and Fiddle
- f. 80 Pierre Boyer Biography
- f. 81-89 Publications
  - f. 81 Publications, *Cleaning Coins, Bill Hardey's Songs of the Gay Nineties, 18<sup>th</sup> Century Silhouettes*, 1942, 1962, 1987
  - f. 82 Publications, *National Directory of Storytelling, World Folk Songs*, 1964, 1993
  - f. 83 Publications, *City Guide and Map of St. Louis, The Story of Old Ste. Genevieve, French Phrase Book*, 1967, 1979
  - f. 84 Publications, *The Ozarks Mountaineer*, 1988
  - f. 85 Publications, *La Gazette de Louisiane* Newsletter-French, 1992

- f. 86 Publications, *StoryTelling Magazine*, 1992
- f. 87 Publications, *StoryTelling Magazine*, 1992, 1993
- f. 88 Publications, *Tradition, Univ. of MO. Cultural Heritage Ctr.*, 1992
- f. 89 Publications, *Yarnspinner Newsletter*, 1992, 1993
- f. 90-126 Stories
- f. 90 Stories, *Fiddle and Pumpkin, Road Runner and Hiss the Rattler*
- f. 91 Stories, *How Mr. Rabbit Lost His Tail and Mr. Possum Got his Grin, Egg Cracking and Easter, The Accident Along Highway 8*, etc.
- f. 92 Stories, *Old Mines Area, La Pin Pi Bouki, The Poor Knight Sir Charles, The Hunter, His Wife With No Children, Beau Soleil, The Girl With the Long, Long Golden Hair, and the Giant in the Forest, The Seven Headed Beast, The Fiddler, Jean San Peur (Fearless John)*
- f. 93 Stories, *Golden Blackbird, Carambot, Chasse Galettie (The Great Hunter), Jean Bete, (Stupid John), Little John and His Animals, Dummy and His Golden Goose*
- f. 94 Stories, French Stories in Old Mines or French Belt
- f. 95 Stories, *Barbe Blue (Blue Beard)*
- f. 96 Stories, *Beausoleil*
- f. 97 Stories, *Belle Jour, Belle Nuit*
- f. 98 Stories, *Boy Prince and Large Worm*
- f. 99 Stories, *Carambot*
- f. 100 Stories, *Chasse Galettie (The Great Hunter)*
- f. 101 Stories, *De Book*
- f. 102 Stories, *De' Old Mine or La Vielle Mine*
- f. 103 Stories, *Fair Margaret*
- f. 104 Stories, French Folklore, Text and Notes: *The Skunk in Tante Odette's Oven*
- f. 105 Stories, *Girl With Golden Hair*
- f. 106 Stories, *Golden Blackbird, John Bete (Stupid John)*
- f. 107 Stories, *The Grinding Machine*
- f. 108 Stories, *How The Rooster Lost His Horns, Eat Worms For Breakfast*
- f. 109 Stories, *The Hunter and His Wife With No Children*
- f. 110 Stories, *Jean L' Ourse*
- f. 111 Stories, *Lapin-Pi Bouki*
- f. 112 Stories, *Little Bull With The Golden Horns*
- f. 113 Stories, *Little John and His Animals*
- f. 114 Stories, *Monsters*
- f. 115 Stories, Old Mines and History Notes
- f. 116 Stories, *An Old Mines Tall Tale*
- f. 117 Stories, *An Ozark Story*
- f. 118 Stories, *The Poor Knight Sir Charles*
- f. 119 Stories, *Prince Cochon Blanc-Prince White Hog*
- f. 120 Stories, *Prince Rover, The King and His Three Sons*
- f. 121 Stories, *The Rabbit and The Tiger*
- f. 122 Stories, A Recollet Tall Tale
- f. 123 Stories, *Stories To Be Remembered*

f. 124	Stories, <i>Stupid John</i>
f. 125	Stories, <i>The Woodchopper's Daughter and the Lion</i>
a.c. 1-3	Audio
a.c. 1-3	Interview with Pierre Boyer conducted on January 15, 1998.

**Index:**

Index Term	Folder	Mediums
Fort Smith (Ark.)	34	
Boyer, Pierre A., 1910-2000	1-125	a. c. 1-3
Folk music	1-125	
Folklore	1-125	
Fort Massac Encampment	38	
Fort Creve Coeur Rendezvous	63	
Fort de Chartres Rendezvous	14	
Bonne Terre (Mo.)	17	
Crestwood (Mo.)	40	
Farmington (Mo.)	29	
Hannibal (Mo.)	43	
Kimmswick (Mo.)	36, 57	
Kirkwood (Mo.)	66	
Lee's Summit (Mo.)	36	
Old Mines (Mo.)	7, 25, 75-77, 94, 115, 116	
Perryville (Mo.)	12	
Potosi (Mo.)	62, 64	
St. Joseph (Mo.)	9	
St. Louis (Mo.)	11, 67, 83	
Ste. Genevieve (Mo.)	12, 45, 83	
Performing arts	1-126	
Schools	3, 4, 29, 36, 40, 50, 55, 67, 88	
Storytelling	1-125	
National Storytelling Festival	15	