**Alexis Boyer**

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**Alexis Boyer** (March 1, 1757 – November 23, 1833) was a [French](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/France) [surgeon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Surgery), born in [Corrèze](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Corr%C3%A8ze).

He was the son of a tailor, and he obtained his first medical knowledge in the shop of a [barber surgeon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barber_surgeon). When he moved to [Paris](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paris), he had the good fortune to attract the attention of renowned surgeons [Antoine Louis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Antoine_Louis) (1723–1792) and [Pierre-Joseph Desault](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pierre-Joseph_Desault) (1744–1795). Boyer persevered at his profession, and became notorious for his anatomical knowledge and surgical dexterity. At the age of 37 he was appointed second surgeon to the [Hôtel-Dieu](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/H%C3%B4tel-Dieu_de_Paris) in Paris. On the establishment of the [École de Sante](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=%C3%89cole_de_Sante&action=edit&redlink=1), he was named chair of operative surgery, but soon exchanged it for the chair of clinical surgery. Boyer specialized in [urological pathology](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Urology), especially disorders of [micturition](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Urination).

Boyer was a cautious and finicky physician, not always trusting of new innovations in treatment. He practiced and wrote with skill and sense. His two masterworks are *Trait complet de l'anatomie* (in 4 vols., 1797–1799), of which a fourth edition appeared in 1815, and *Trait des maladies chirurgicales et des operations qui leur conviennent* (in 2 vols., 1814–1826), of which a newer edition in seven volumes was published in 1844–1853 with additions by his son, [Philippe Boyer](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Philippe_Boyer&action=edit&redlink=1) (1801–1858).

In 1805, [Napoleon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Napoleon) promoted Boyer to the status of imperial family surgeon, and, after the successful campaigns of 1806 and 1807, conferred on him the [Legion of Honor](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Legion_of_Honor), with the title of baron of the empire and a salary of 25,000 francs. On the fall of Napoleon, Boyer's merits secured him the favor of the succeeding sovereigns of France, and he was consulting surgeon to [Louis XVIII](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Louis_XVIII_of_France), [Charles X](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_X_of_France), and [Louis Philippe](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Louis-Philippe_of_France). In 1825 Boyer succeeded J. F. L. Deschamps (1740–1824) as surgeon-in-chief at [Hôpital de la Charité](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/H%C3%B4pital_de_la_Charit%C3%A9), and was chosen a member of the [Institute](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Institut_de_France). He died in Paris in 1833.

**References**

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