

Arrow belt

<https://collections.pacmusee.qc.ca/en/objects/arrow-belt-2019-001-002-014/>

Collections / From the Conquest to the founding of Canada / arrow belt



CC BY-NC-ND 4.0 license

Arrow and lightning motif or zigzag belt.

Accession Number 2019.01.02.14

Date 1860 c

Materials fiber, wool

Technique hand-woven

Measurements 17,5 x 350 cm

Historical context

The arrow belt appeared at the turn of the 19th century, when craftswomen in the L'Assomption region perfected the finger-weaving technique that produced the arrow or flame motif unique to this type of woollen belt. Tightened around the waist, it supports the wearer's back and keeps it warm. It also closes the hood. Fur companies ordered large quantities to supply their employees, as well as First Nations and Métis peoples in western Canada. Its heyday was between 1830 and around 1880. Now a symbol of the Québécois and Métis nations, only a few craftswomen still produce it using traditional techniques.

This L'Assomption arrow sash comes from Auguste-Cyrille Papineau (1828-1915), son of Denis-Benjamin (1789-1854) and nephew of Louis-Joseph Papineau (1786-1871), lawyer, seigneur, politician and patriot leader during the 1837-1838 Rebellions.

Auguste-Cyrille became a lawyer in 1851, handling the affairs of his uncle's seigneurie between 1852 and 1860, as well as operating a law practice in Saint-Hyacinthe. Appointed judge of the Superior Court of the District of Montreal in 1876, he retired in 1889. He lived on rue Saint-Denis in Montreal. He died at his daughter Marie's home in

Outremont on May 27, 1915.

© Pointe-à-Callière, Papineau fonds, donation by Denis St-Martin,

2019.001.002.014

Photo by Louis-Etienne Dore