

# Business card

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Collections / From federalism to the end of the Second World War / business card



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Black and white photograph showing seven small oval portraits. In the center, a priest surrounded by 6 soldiers (Zouaves pontificaux).

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Period 2nd half of the 19th century

Medium and Support silver print, paper

Technique printed

Measurements 9,7 x 6,7 cm

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## Historical context

In the 1860s, the Papal States were fighting against the unification of Italy initiated by Piedmont. Fervent Catholics flocked from various countries to defend the Pope's land possessions. A regiment of pontifical zouaves, with a distinctive uniform, incorporated these volunteers. Quebec, on the initiative of Mgr Ignace Bourget, bishop of the Montreal diocese, sent just over 500 volunteers, equipped and paid by the parishes, between 1868 and 1870, when the Pope surrendered his arms.

This calling card features photographic portraits of six Papal Zouaves surrounding a priest. The priest may be Joseph Michaud, chaplain to the Canadian Zouaves. An estimated 46% of Quebec volunteers – the majority – came from the Montreal diocese. Some 20,000 people – a third of Montreal's French-speaking population – came to greet the departure of the first contingent in 1868, while some 50,000 cheered their return in 1870. Zouave associations, which became parish guards for ceremonies and special occasions, continued to exist in Quebec until 1993.