

Business card

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Black-and-white photograph of Philippe-Joseph Aubert de Gaspé (1786-1871). He was the last seigneur of Saint-Jean-Port-Joli and a Quebec writer, author of the novel *Les Anciens Canadiens*.

Accession Number 2018.11.53

Period 2nd half of the 19th century

Medium and Support silver print, paper; cardboard

Technique glued, printed

Measurements 11,6 x 7,8 x 0,1 cm

Historical context

Philippe-Joseph Aubert de Gaspé was born in 1786. He studied in Quebec City with, among others, Louis-Joseph Papineau, and became a lawyer. He played an active role in Québec City's cultural and financial life: vice-president of the Québec Literary Society, founding member of the Jockey Club, founding member of the Banque de Québec, etc. He also held various positions in the army and became sheriff of the Quebec district in 1816. Unfortunately for him, his lack of foresight led to him being taken to court for defalcation (failure to pay) in 1823. He was dismissed as sheriff and incarcerated for three years (1838-1841). On the death of his mother, the seigneuresse de Saint-Jean-Port-Joli, he became the fifth and last seigneur of the property.

At the age of 76, he wrote a historical novel: *Les Anciens Canadiens*. The story portrays seigneurial life at the time of the British Conquest. The work was an immediate success. It was even brought to the stage in 1865. Even today, the book's popularity is undeniable. The personal recollections added to the story give it a unique and irreplaceable touch. It could even be said that this French-Canadian classic inspired a nationalist revival in French-Canadian society.