

# Business card

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Black and white photograph of Charles-Joseph Coursol (1819-1888). Canadian politician. Mayor of Montreal from 1871 to 1873. In the photo, he is standing next to a chair.

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Accession Number 2018.11.85

Fabricant / Éditeur C. Dion

Period 2nd half of the 19th century

Medium and Support silver print, paper; cardboard

Technique glued, printed

## Historical context

The calling card portrait, patented in Paris in 1854, spread rapidly throughout Europe and North America. To create one, a portrait on photographic paper was glued onto a card the same size as the calling cards in use. These portraits were distributed to family, friends and acquaintances.

This calling card shows Charles-Joseph Coursol (1819-1888), lawyer, civil servant, militia officer, politician and businessman. He was councillor for Montreal's Saint-Antoine ward from 1853 to 1855. Mayor from 1871 to 1873, he took a keen interest in the city's health and helped create public parks such as Mont-Royal, La Fontaine, Île Sainte-Hélène and Dominion Square. In 1874, as head of the Association Saint-Jean-Baptiste de Montréal, he organized the largest francophone gathering known up to that time. He was a Conservative member of Parliament from 1878 until his death in 1888.

Charles Dion (1828-1918), author of the photo, originally from Chambly, Quebec, moved to Montreal as a daguerreotypist and then photographer around 1853. He took this photo of Coursol between 1858 and 1862, when his studio was located at 210 Notre-Dame Street. According to the Lovell directory, he was the city's only French-speaking photographer.

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