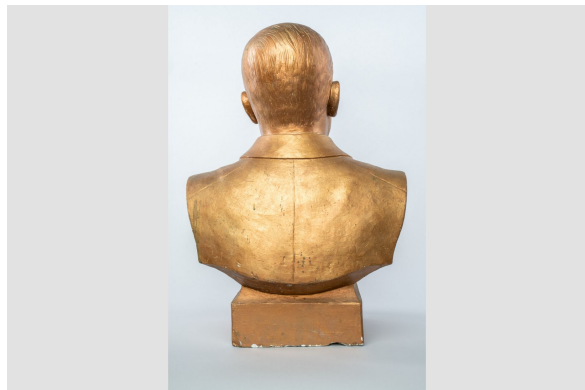
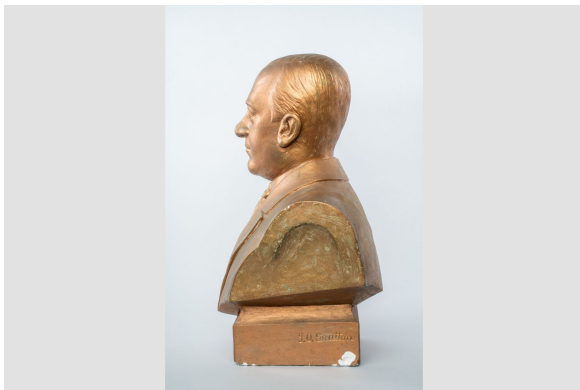
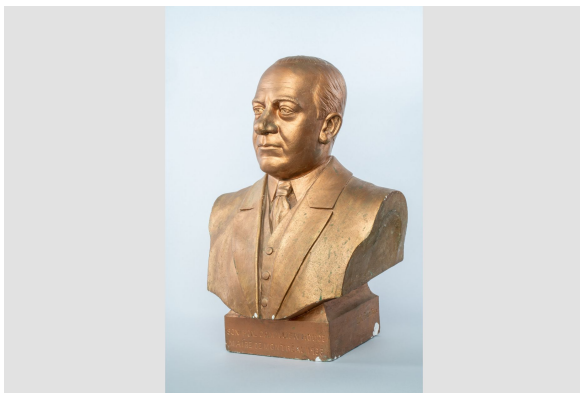


# Bust

## *Son honorable Camillien Houde, Maire de Montréal* 1938

<https://collections.pacmusee.qc.ca/en/objects/bust-2022-017-053/>

Collections / Democratic and political life / bust





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The sculpture is a bust of Camillien Houde. He is bald and wears a suit. It is covered with a bronze patina.

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Accession Number 2022.17.53

Artiste / Auteur Gratton, Olindo

Materials paint, plaster

Measurements 55 x 40 x 30 cm

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## Historical context

Olindo Gratton's sculpted bust portrait of Camillien Houde. He was born in the working-class neighborhood of Saint-Henri, Montreal, on August 13, 1889, and died in the same city on September 11, 1958. After commercial studies, he became a clerk, then a bank manager and, later, an insurance agent. Pierre-Joseph Dufresne, one of his former employers, was one of five Conservative Party members of the Quebec Legislative Assembly, which led him to take an interest in politics and run for office. He became a member of the Quebec Conservative Party in 1923, and remained a member for some ten years, serving as a member of the Quebec Legislative Assembly for the riding of Montréal Sainte-Marie from 1923 to 1927 and from 1928 to 1931, and as an independent member for the same riding from 1939 to 1944. He was elected as an independent member of the Canadian House of Commons for the riding of Papineau in 1949. i slique also tentative o, emise and cravate. montréalais.50), Ville de Montréal, ucs, des bains publics, des vespas However, he pursued his career mainly at the municipal level as mayor of Montréal, from 1928 to 1932, from 1934 to 1936, from 1938 to 1940, and from 1944 to 1954. In this capacity, he relieved the population affected by the economic crisis of the 1930s by mandating the Saint-Vincent-de-Paul Society to distribute \$100,000 to the less fortunate. He launched major construction projects to stimulate the economy, including the Botanical Garden, cottages on Mount Royal and in Parc La Fontaine, as well as the public urinals for men known as Camilliennes. His opposition to national registration, which paved the way for conscription at the start of the Second World War, led to his arrest and imprisonment in Ontario for four years. Upon his release, he returned to Montreal and was re-elected mayor of the city for his final

term, until 1954. Camillien Houde remains a dominant figure in Montreal politics to this day. He is buried in Notre-Dame-des-Neiges cemetery. In Montreal, the belvedere on Mount Royal is named belvédère Camillien-Houde in his honor.

Olindo Gratton's sculpture is a late work by the artist. According to the 1938 inscription on the bust's base, Camillien Houde is depicted at the age of 49, at the end of his penultimate term as mayor of Montreal. He is dressed in full regalia, including jacket, shirt and tie. The portrait is official and recognizable, but his expression is serious, unlike many of the photographs where his flamboyant personality is palpable.

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Photo by Victor Diaz Lamich