

Button

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This round white diaper pin badge features a blue circle with white lettering in the center, and blue illustrations around it. Two blue fleurs-de-lis are designed on the left and right. Issued for Quebec's national holiday.

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Fabricant / Éditeur Belmont Plastiques

Date 1981

Materials metal, paper, plastic

Measurements 5,3 cm

Historical context

Saint-Jean-Baptiste, as a patriotic and national holiday, has been celebrated in Quebec since 1834, at the instigation of journalist Ludger Duvernay, at a banquet held in Montreal on rue Saint-Antoine, where today's Windsor Station is located. This patron saint's day quickly became very popular, but it wasn't until 1977 that June 24 officially became Quebec's Fête nationale, retaining the name Saint-Jean-Baptiste.

This button was produced as part of the celebrations in 1981.

Between 1981 and 1983, the Saint-Jean-Baptiste celebrations were tinged with gloom, partly because of the referendum defeat in 1980, and partly because of criticism of the big show planned at the Old Port, where collusion and abuse of fees caused scandal. Across Quebec, celebrations were marked by a return to tradition.

On this button, there's a reference to the fortifications of the city of Montreal. From 1701 onwards, the fear of native attacks shifted to English ones. For this reason, the wooden fortifications protecting the city were replaced with stone. Construction of the new fortifications lasted from 1717 to 1744. The walls remained in place for between 70 and 100 years, and were gradually demolished between 1804 and 1817.