

Commemorative plaque

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Commemorative plaque from the Catholic and National Union of Dupuis Frères employees at the store for the company's 60th anniversary. Made of metal, it has a hole in each corner. The inscriptions are in relief. The date is in the lower left-hand corner.

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Marchand Dupuis Frères

Date 1928

Materials metal, bronze?

Historical context

Founded in Montreal in 1868, Dupuis Frères became the French-Canadian department store, defending family, national and Catholic values. The company played a major role in the founding of the Catholic and National Employees' Union in 1919. When this plaque was created in 1928, nearly 900 workers were members. It is a point of pride for Dupuis Frères, on which the union is financially dependent.

The conditions for joining the union reflect the company's philosophy. Among other things, members must be Catholic and live a sober, respectable life. The union's adherence to this religion is an integral part of its political ideology: all decisions refer to it.

In particular, obedience to authority is *de rigueur*: good relations between employees and employers are encouraged. Within the union, company managers exercise a strong sense of paternalism, with senior executives attending union meetings. This social doctrine makes employees feel grateful to their employers. This is illustrated by the creation of the Saint-Dugal, named in honor of the assistant manager, and this commemorative plaque.

Union demands evolved slowly. The major changes took place after the Second World War: facing up to employers, the union modified the social significance of Catholicism and demanded justice for workers. The role played by women also changed drastically: they moved into strategic positions and took their rightful place.

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