

# Dinner service

## *Hôtel Windsor*

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Set of 6 pieces of white ceramic dinnerware with blue border from the Windsor Hotel in Montreal. This lot includes two cereal bowls, two cups with their saucers. Inscription under the dishes.

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Accession Number 2021.47.13.1-6

Fabricant / Éditeur Wood & Sons

Date 1980 an

Materials ceramics

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## Historical context

This set of tableware comes from the Windsor Hotel in Montreal. According to the inscriptions on the bottom of the pieces, they were made in the 1980s by Wood & Sons in Burslem, England. Founded in 1865 by Abaslom Wood and his son Thomas Francis Wood, the company expanded well into the 20th century, becoming one of the largest in the region. Wood & Sons produced tableware until 2005.

Built from 1875 and inaugurated on January 28, 1878, this Second Empire-style hotel was designed by American architect William Boyington. The establishment is located at the intersection of Peel and René-Lévesque streets, in an area of rapid commercial and financial development. For more than a century, the Windsor was one of Montreal's most prestigious hotels, an essential component of the city's public and social life. Numerous personalities stayed there, including Queen Elizabeth II, John F. Kennedy and General Charles de Gaulle, who made his first speech there after the liberation of France in 1944. On December 10 and 11, 1957, a major fire devastated the hotel, causing extensive damage and leading to the demolition of part of the building in 1959. After some time, the Windsor closed its doors in the face of extensive renovations. In the 1980s, the ten-storey building was transformed into a prestigious office space. Today, only part of this Montreal architectural heritage building remains, following the construction of the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce tower.

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