

# Hat brush

<https://collections.pacmusee.qc.ca/en/objects/hat-brush-2008-002/>

Collections / Economic activities / hat brush



CC BY-NC-ND 4.0 license

Hat brush from the John Henderson & Co. company, located on Notre-Dame Street in Montreal in the 19th century (1834-1889). One of the most famous hat and fur stores of the period was the John Henderson Company.

---

Accession Number 2008.2

Marchand John Henderson & Co.

Period 19th century

Materials hair, wood

Measurements 3,5 x 3,3 x 15 cm

---

## Historical context

A brush. A humble object for the care of prestigious garments, hats and furs that the well-to-do like to adorn themselves with.

A name, a profession, an address. In 1834, Irish-born businessman John Henderson opened his hat and fur business on rue Saint-Jacques, in the commercial and financial heart of Montreal. Over the course of the 19th century, a number of specialized stores sprang up, offering luxury goods to a wealthy, mostly English-speaking, bourgeois clientele. Close to the banks, fabric and haberdashery stores rubbed shoulders with tailors', cabinetmakers' and watchmakers' workshops, which were also well established.

A new era, a new downtown, a new thoroughfare. John Henderson & Co. left the area in 1912 to set up shop on Sainte-Catherine Street, where retail trade was booming. Henderson also joined forces with Georges Richard Renfrew, founder of the prestigious Holt Renfrew stores, renowned as Canada's luxury mecca.