

Jug

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Two gallon stoneware jug with handle.

Accession Number 2012.45

Materials ceramics, stoneware

Measurements 38 x 28 cm

Historical context

In 1832, construction began on a new public market on what is now Place D'Youville, between McGill and Saint-Pierre streets. The first Marché Sainte-Anne, a prestigious two-storey building, opened its doors on July 1, 1834. The products offered there were intended to supply the neighborhoods crowded with Irish immigrants and French-Canadians newly arrived from the rural exodus.

Montreal's first indoor market, meat, fish, cereals, fruit and vegetables were sold in the stalls and storerooms on the second floor. The floor was leased to a number of socio-political organizations, including the Société Saint-Jean-Baptiste and the Corporation de Montréal. As many merchants set up shop on the surrounding streets, commercial space is not limited to the building.

This 7.5-liter jug is part of the inventory of a merchant operating near the Marché Sainte-Anne. These jugs are usually identified with specific merchants. This one, bearing the identification "E. McShane Wholesale retail grocer wines and liquors opposite St-Anns market Montréal" is in keeping with transactional habits in which consumers, having obtained them at the time of purchase, are obliged to reuse them at the same location or return them to collect the deposit.

In 1843, St. Anne's Market was converted into a parliament, as Montreal became the capital of the United Province of Canada. The legislature moved in in 1844 and sat there until April 25, 1849, when a fire ravaged the building.

Rebuilt in 1851, Marché Sainte-Anne expanded to include a number of commercial stores. In 1901, municipal authorities demolished the market to make way for a larger public space and a site dedicated to the memory of Marguerite d'Youville.

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