

Medal

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Collections



This medal was issued by the Collège de Montréal in 1885. The obverse of the medal depicts the main façade of the Collège de Montréal building. The medal is surmounted by the coat of arms of the Compagnie des prêtres de Saint-Sulpice de Montréal, two lions facing each other on either side of a shield bearing the Sulpician monogram.

**Accession
Number**

Date

Measurements

Historical context

Still active today, the Collège de Montréal is an important educational institution in Quebec, with its roots in the Sulpician seigniorial regime. Founded in 1767 by Jean-Baptiste Curatteau, a priest from Nantes, it was one of the first educational institutions in North America. The first college opened in Longue-Pointe, but the building was demolished in 1856, and the Collège subsequently moved three times. The building shown on this medal corresponds to the site occupied by the institution from 1806 to 1861, known as the Petit Séminaire, on what is now McGill Street.

In 1861, British troops took possession of the Collège to install garrisons, and the institution moved to the Grand Séminaire on rue Boyer. It wasn't until 1870 that the Collège de Montréal finally had its own buildings on the Sulpician de la Montagne estate, which it still occupies on Sherbrooke Street. The purpose of this medal is to commemorate the site of the Petit Séminaire, demolished in 2017. This building was the first to be constructed to meet the needs of a school mission.

Even today, although teaching is provided by a lay team, the Collège de Montréal bears this Sulpician past in its coat of arms.