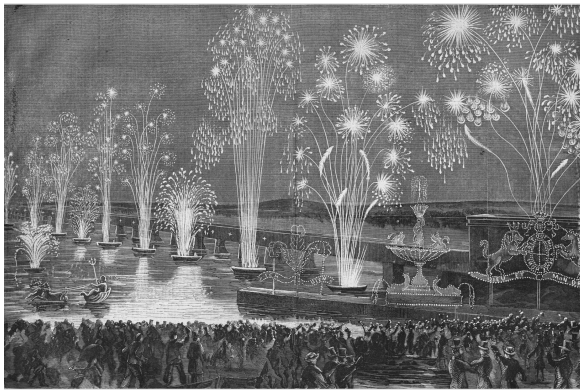


Periodical

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Copy of Harper's Weekly (vol. IV, no. 192) from Saturday, September 1, 1860. Contains a depiction of the inauguration of the Victoria Bridge.

Accession Number 2022.24

Fabricant / Éditeur Harper & Brothers

Date 1860

Materials paper

Technique printed

Measurements 39 x 28 cm

Historical context

The American weekly magazine Harper's Weekly was published in New York by Harper & Brother from 1857 to 1916. It featured foreign and domestic news, essays on a variety of subjects and a touch of humor. Thomas Nast, considered one of the fathers of American political cartooning, published his cartoons here from 1859 to 1860 and from 1862 to 1886.

In this edition, published on September 1, 1860, we find an engraving by G. A. Lilliendahl that captures the effervescence of the festivities surrounding the inauguration of the Victoria Bridge, specifically the finale of the fireworks display in honor of the Prince of Wales, who had come for the occasion. First used by a freight train in 1859 and measuring 2.79 km, the Victoria Bridge is the longest railway bridge in the world, and is considered the eighth wonder of the world. Its construction, by the Grand Trunk Railway, took five years and involved over 3,000 Irish, English and French-Canadian workers. This influx of people had an impact on the urban development of Pointe-Saint-Charles and Saint-Lambert, located at either end of the bridge. Initially

covered by an iron tunnel to protect trains from wind and rain, the bridge was renovated in 1898: the tube, damaged by coal smoke, was removed, and a railway track and two side tracks were added to allow the passage of pedestrians and vehicles.

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