

Plate

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Restaurant oval plate from the Dupuis Frères store. White in color, it has a blue border around the rim. The Dupuis Frères logo is affixed to the rim.

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Marchand Dupuis Frères

Fabricant / Éditeur The Grindley Hotel Ware Co. Ltd.

Period 2nd quarter of the 20th century

Materials ceramics, fine glazed earthenware

Historical context

This oval plate, designed by The Grindley Hotel Ware Co. Ltd, an English manufacturer founded in 1908 in Stoke-on-Trent, is part of a dinner service that once belonged to the restaurant of Montreal department store Dupuis Frères, as its logo indicates. Although the English manufacturer generally produces similar models for the hotel trade, the specific color of this object is unique to Dupuis Frères, making it a very special piece.

Depending on the period, Dupuis Frères has different batches of crockery. Although closely similar, they can be identified by the logo used. The one on this plate, featuring two fleur-de-lys, a motto and a maple leaf, was not used until 1930.

These dishes were used in the store's various restaurants. Although a lunch counter was present before the 1920s, it was during the 1923 expansion that Dupuis Frères added a restaurant. The company added 116,000 feet to its original 88,000 feet. The 1920s represented the golden age of Western department stores, which Dupuis Frères also enjoyed.

Over time, the restaurant service diversified: there was an employee restaurant on the 6th floor, a snack bar in the basement, and a restaurant for clergy and distinguished guests.

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