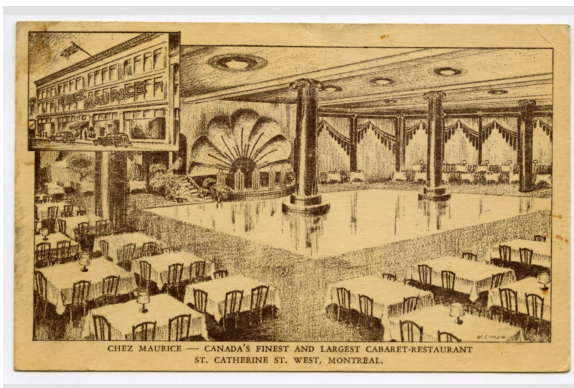


Postcards

Postcard

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Sepia postcard.

Accession Number 2013.30.11.379

Medium and Support ink, cardboard

Technique industrial process

Measurements 8,9 x 14,3 cm

Historical context

This postcard symbolizes the glory and elegance of Montreal, rivaling the best New York has to offer. Chez Maurice, shown here, was one of downtown Montreal's night spots. The supper club Chez Maurice attracts upper-class jazz fans. With its huge dance floor, the big bands had their place. Orchestral music, swing and jazz entertain guests in tuxedos and chic dresses. At the top of its class, Chez Maurice generated enough money to bring the biggest stars to Montreal. In its heyday, it was home to jazz luminaries, influencers, leaders and musical innovators such as Cab Callaway, Louis Armstrong, Ella Fitzgerald and others too numerous to mention. Despite the high class of black nighttime entertainment, it wasn't intended for black pleasure.

Whether from out of town or local residents, blacks were not allowed into Maurice's or any other downtown nightclub, nor into the popular clubs further east. These clubs practiced a policy of exclusion, where black stars could be entertained and titillated, but the average black man couldn't have a good time. Instead, when these downtown clubs closed for the night, these same musical legends would rush out to play in the black nightclubs of the Saint-Antoine district, to the delight of black and white revelers alike.