

# Print

## *The Changing Scene / Changement de Scène*

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Lithograph reproduction. This narrow corner is where rue St-Jacques (Montreal's Wall Street) begins. Known to many English-speaking citizens as "Dead Man's Corner" – French-speaking Montrealers call it "Le Goulot". The old Palais de Justice is on the left, and the building on the right stands on the site of the city's first Presbyterian church. In the days when streetcars were in vogue, children delighted in traveling around this corner – there seemed to be only a few inches between the streetcar and either wall.

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Artiste / Auteur Wilson, Richard Dinnis

Date 1965 c

Medium and Support ink, paper

Measurements 38,4 x 32,3 cm

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## Historical context

This lithograph by Montreal artist-engraver Robert Dinnis Wilson was originally published in Eric McLean's 1964 book *The Living Past of Montreal*. The book contained 46 similar lithographs by Wilson of buildings and streets in Old Montreal. It was published at a time when this district, affected for several years by the decline of port activities, was facing the demolition work surrounding the construction of the new courthouse (1965-1971). In this context, McLean and Wilson's aim was to document the historical heritage of Old Montreal, which was perceived as being on the verge of disappearing. It was also to offer readers a slice of history: Wilson faithfully reproduces not only the architecture of the buildings and the layout of the streets, but also the atmosphere of the district at the time. The engraving itself shows a view of Little St. James Street, which connected Saint-Jacques and Notre-Dame streets not far from Place Jacques-Cartier. The buildings on the right of the image were all demolished in 1964 to make way for the new courthouse, which considerably changed the atmosphere of this little street.

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Photo by Richard D. Wilson