

# Sock relief sock relief

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Collections / sock relief



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Sock relief depicting Jacques Cartier.

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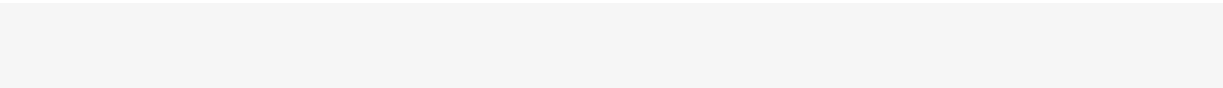
Accession Number 2012.07

Materials plaster

Technique molded

Measurements 95 x 37 x 10 cm

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## Historical context

Present since Antiquity, sock-relief sculpture is common today on the facades of monuments and public buildings in large cities like Montreal, to present an important historical moment in the life of a person or place.

J. Grécore's depiction of Jacques Cartier takes us back to his initial exploration of the Montreal region during his second voyage in 1535. Recounted in his travel diaries, Cartier and his crew, in September, travelled by boat upriver from Lake Saint-Pierre to the rapids opposite the island of Montreal. Unable to continue, Cartier disembarked on the island and met St. Lawrence Iroquoians who led him to the village of Hochelaga. In his notebooks, Cartier relates that it was here that he met Chief Agouhana, read the Gospel to the Iroquoians, took notes on the characteristics of the village and its people, and visited the mountain on which the village was built, which he named Mount Royal. His writings mention that he left the next day to spend the winter in Stadaconé. Using Cartier's account, cartographer Giacomo Gastaldi creates *La Terra de Hochelaga Nella Nova Francia*, the first map of an Iroquoian village to be published in Europe. Although the map was drawn from the perspective and experiences of the French explorers on Cartier's voyage, it also became the first written representation of Montreal in the collective consciousness of Europeans.

Although Ville-Marie was not founded until 1642, Cartier's brief visit to Hochelaga represents the first essential steps in the history of Montreal in the making.

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