

Soup plate

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Small soup plate from the Dupuis Frères restaurant. White in color, with a blue border around the rim. The Dupuis Frères logo appears on the rim.

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Marchand Dupuis Frères

Fabricant / Éditeur The Grindley Hotel Ware Co. Ltd.

Date 1950 c

Materials ceramics, fine glazed earthenware

Historical context

This small soup 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 fleurs-de-lys and a motto, was not used until 1950.

It was used in the store's various restaurants. Although a lunch counter was present before the 1920s, Dupuis Frères added a restaurant as part of its 1923 expansion. Over time, this 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.

Curiously, many of today's plates can be found in Gaspésie, Quebec, a long way from Montreal and Dupuis Frères. During the 20th century, many Gaspésians traveled to Montreal. It was often an important trip. As Dupuis Frères was a prestigious institution, it's safe to assume that a few well-timed tourists would have surreptitiously left with a souvenir.

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