

Stereoscopic map

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Views of the Bonsecours Market.

Accession Number 2010.37

Period 1st quarter of the 20th century, 3rd quarter of the 19th century

Materials paper

Technique glued

Measurements 8,7 x 17,6 cm

Historical context

This stereoscopic map shows the front of Bonsecours Market facing Rue des Commissaires (now de la Commune) and the St. Lawrence River – the rails running along Rue des Commissaires can be seen behind the horse-drawn vehicle in the front row. It was produced between 1867 and 1881 by John Hampden Field, an Ontario-born photographer and chemist, who at the time ran a photographic supplies business on rue De Bleury. Stereoscopic cards bear two slightly different photographs, designed to appeal independently to each eye, and thus create an impression of relief when viewed through a Holmes stereoscope. The first stereoscopes, those of Wheatstone and Brewster, were box-shaped and could be cumbersome: Oliver Wendell Holmes (1809-1894) therefore created a new, lightweight and inexpensive design that was very popular, and was produced until 1939. Its use could be recreational – which is what this particular card was intended for – or ophthalmological. Indeed, it was used to test degrees of near vision and correct certain types of strabismus.