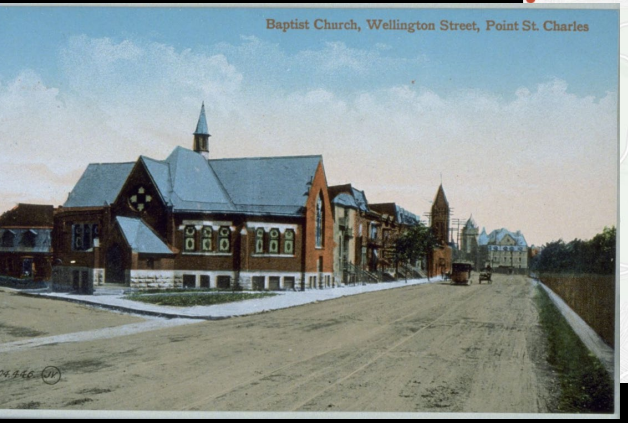
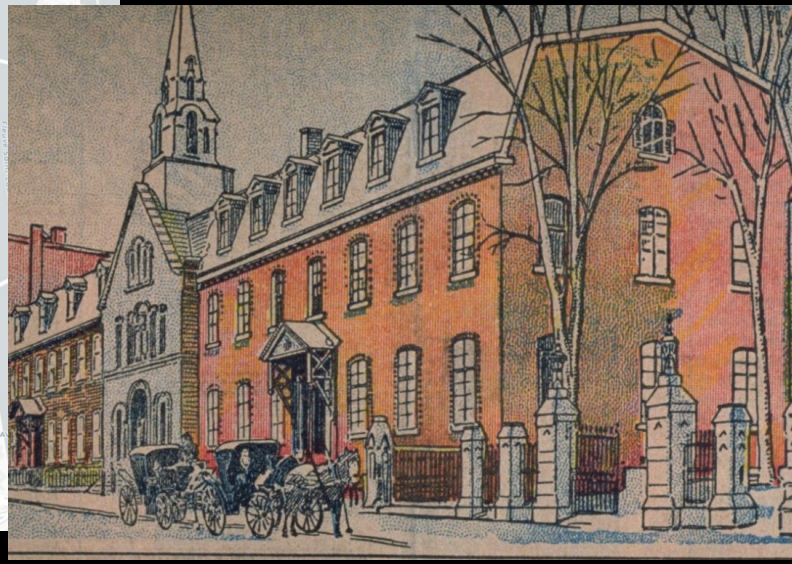
Geolocating Old Images of Montreal: The Power of Partnerships in Digital Humanities

CRKN Conference, October 3 2022

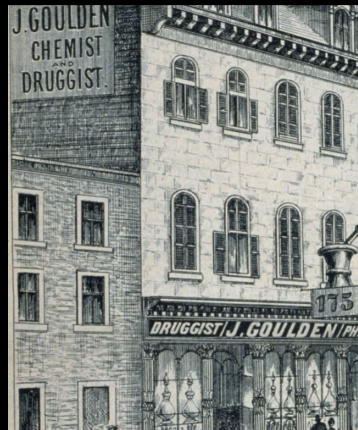




Jean-François Palomino, cartothécaire-coordonnateur
Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec
jean-f.palomino@banq.qc.ca

@jfpalo

Iconographic sources to understand and tell the history of cities



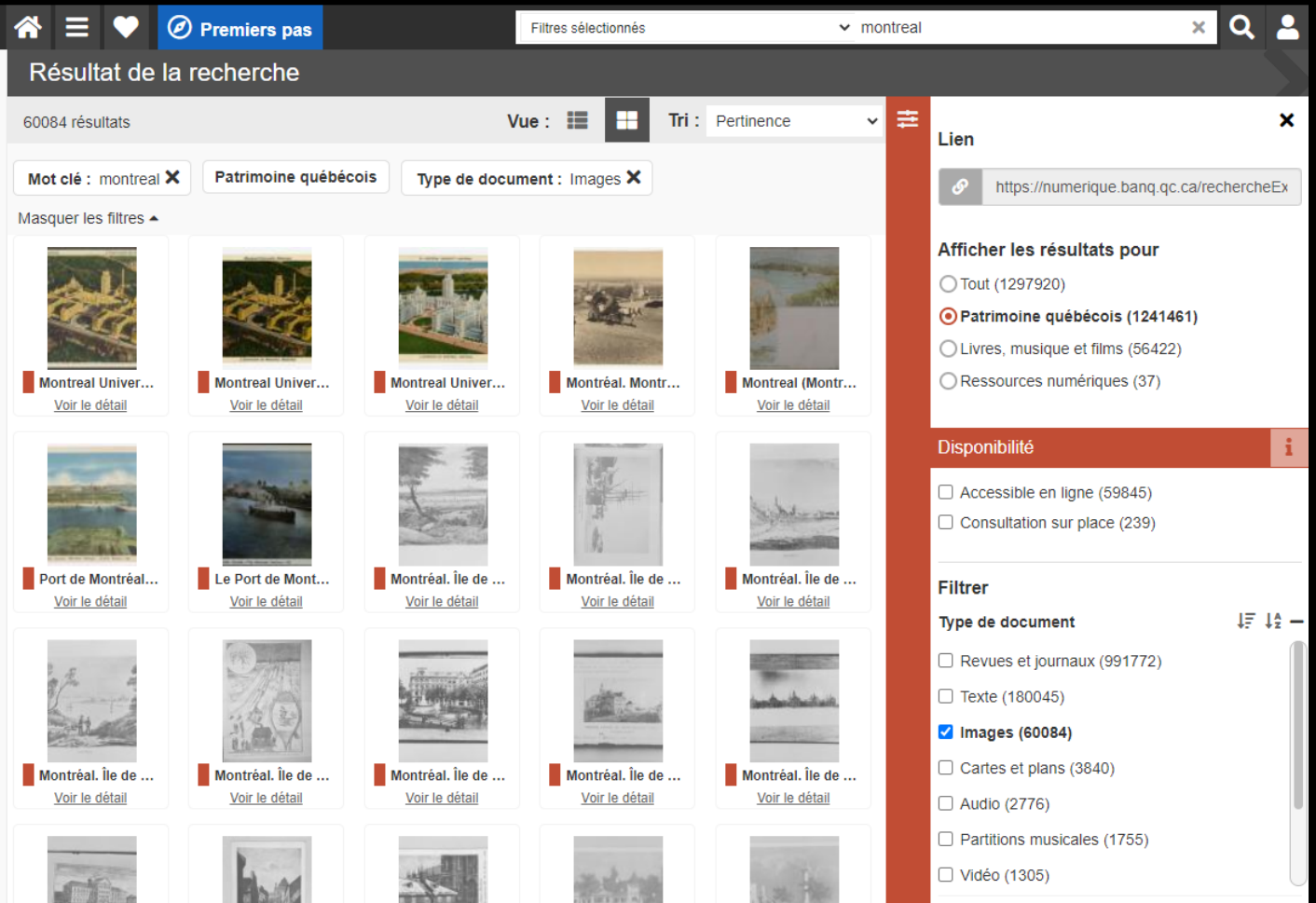
The self-critical examination

- **Does BAnQ implement best practices in terms of discoverability and access to collections?**
- **What technological innovations offer opportunities for improvement and development?**

The pitfalls of researching urban iconographic sources

- The lack of uniformity in the choice of terms to describe a place.
- The lack of precision of the available terms.
- Name changes, including street name changes.
- Administrative boundary shifts.

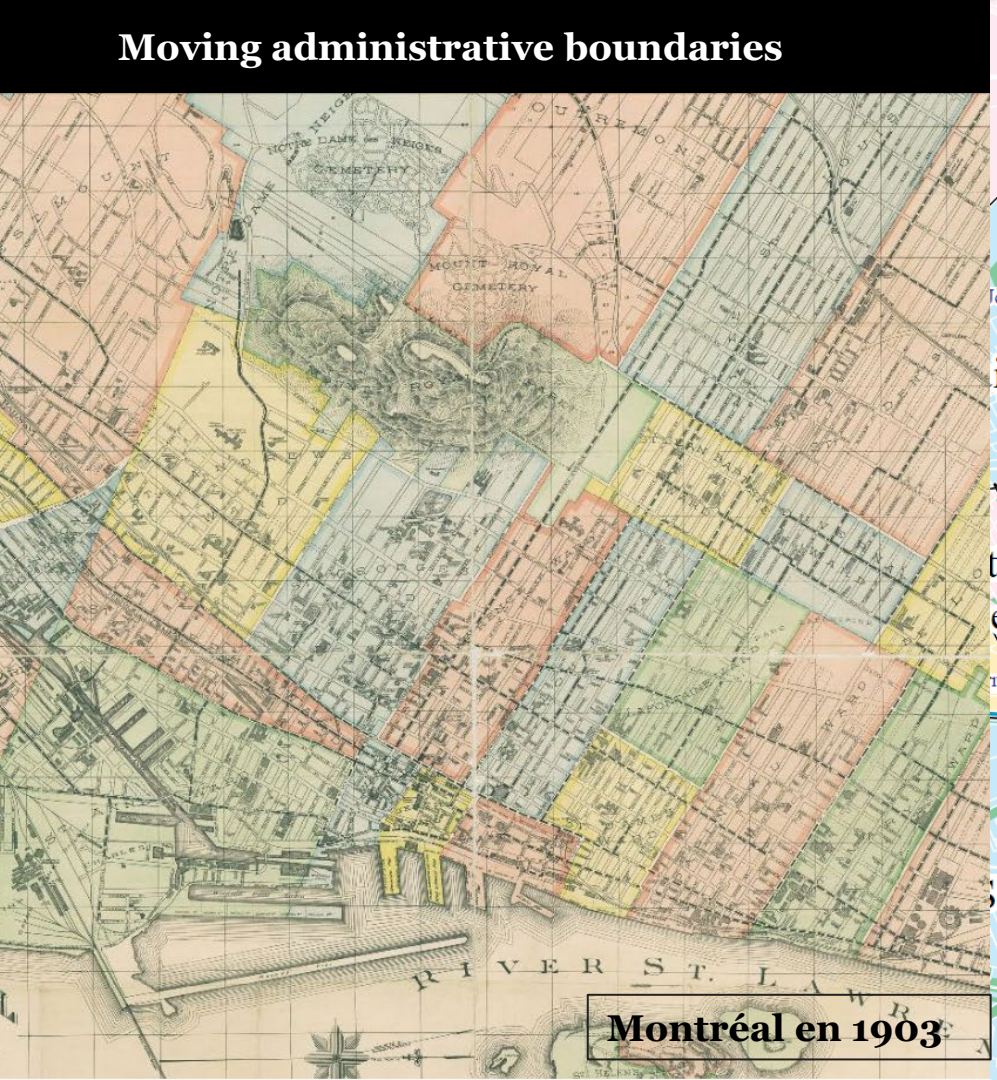
Numérique



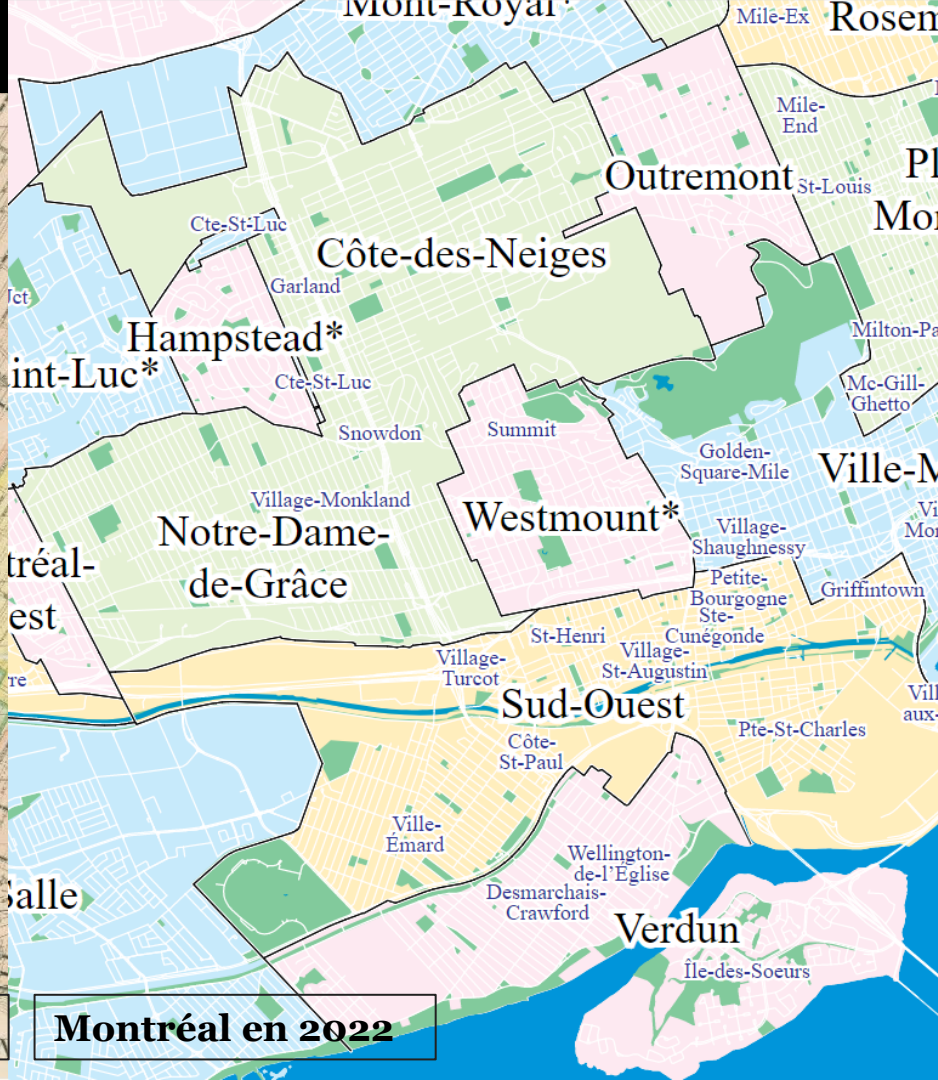
Search results in BAnQ Numérique

More than 60,000 iconographic documents identifiable with the term Montreal

Moving administrative boundaries



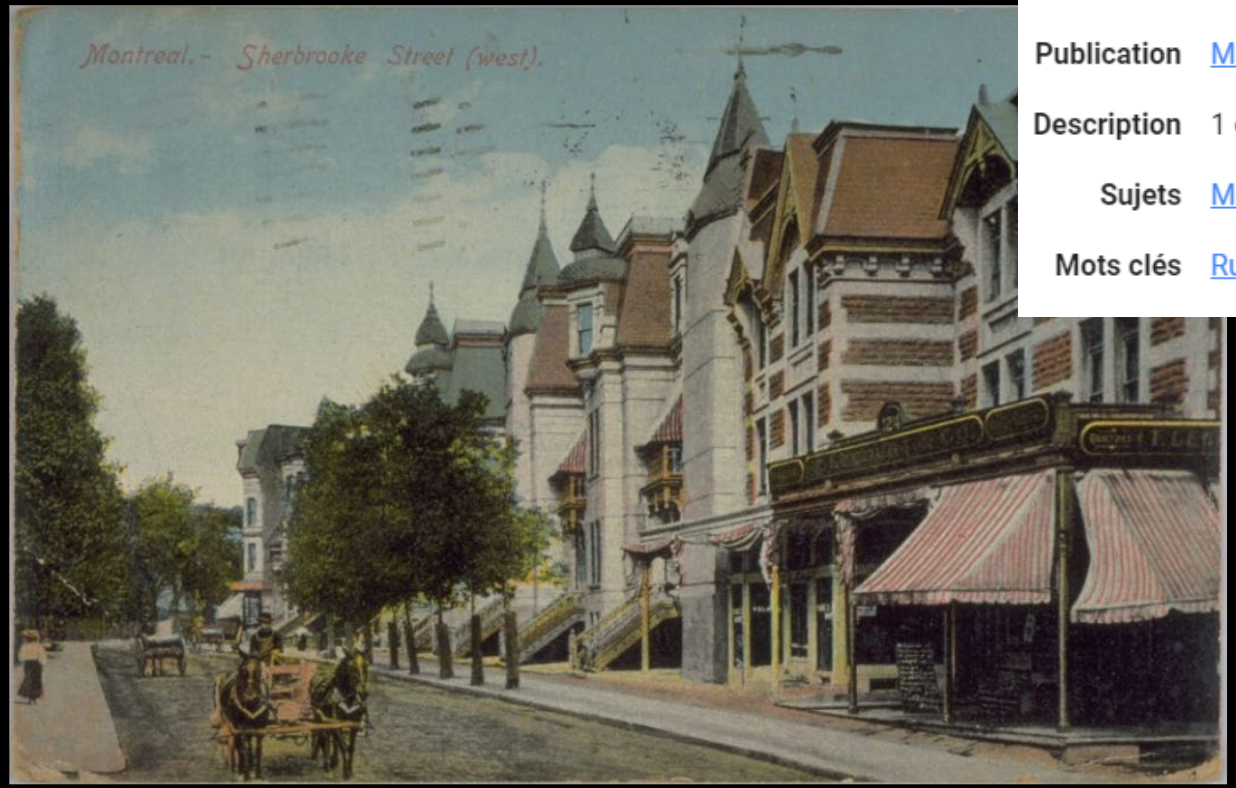
Montréal en 1903



Montréal en 2022

Filter the results with the “place represented” index

Includes more circumscribed geographical entities, such as the name of a park, a district, a square, a street, etc.



Titre	Montreal. Sherbrooke Street (west)
Publication	Montréal : Illustrated Post Card Co., [19–?] [1138]
Description	1 carte postale
Sujets	Montréal (Québec) [101806]
Mots clés	Rue Sherbrooke (Montréal, Québec) [514]

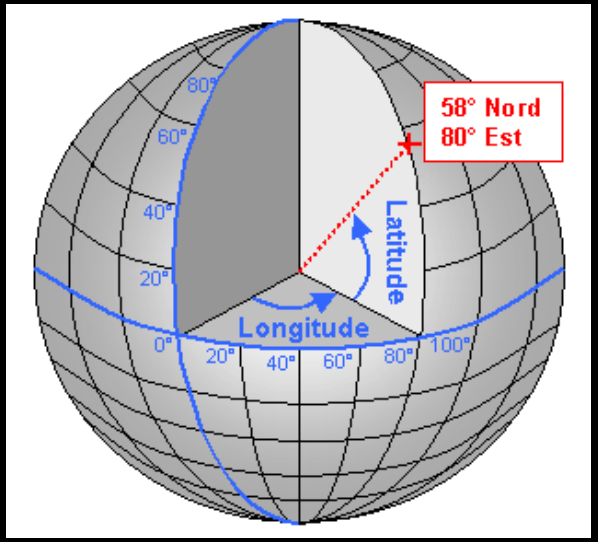
Geographical entities that are better defined, but which sometimes remain vast: Sherbrooke Street, for example, is more than 30 km long…

Emblematic places vs unknown places, often more difficult to locate via a classic catalog

Basilique Notre-Dame sur la rue Notre-Dame

Théâtre et cinéma Parisiana sur la rue Sainte-Catherine, 1908

Geolocalisation



- Origins at the time of ancient Greece
- The dazzling developments of the last 20 years

Work hypothesis

- *To make the search for urban iconographic sources more efficient, geolocation is a promising avenue, offering a useful and intuitive access key to all types of researchers.*

The good news

- Recent modification to MARC 21 cataloging standards:
- it is now possible to save geographic coordinates for any type of resource.

The main problem

- The virtual absence of detailed geographic metadata

L’Arpenteur / Bibliothèque nationale de France

{BnF Gallica

Aide À propos

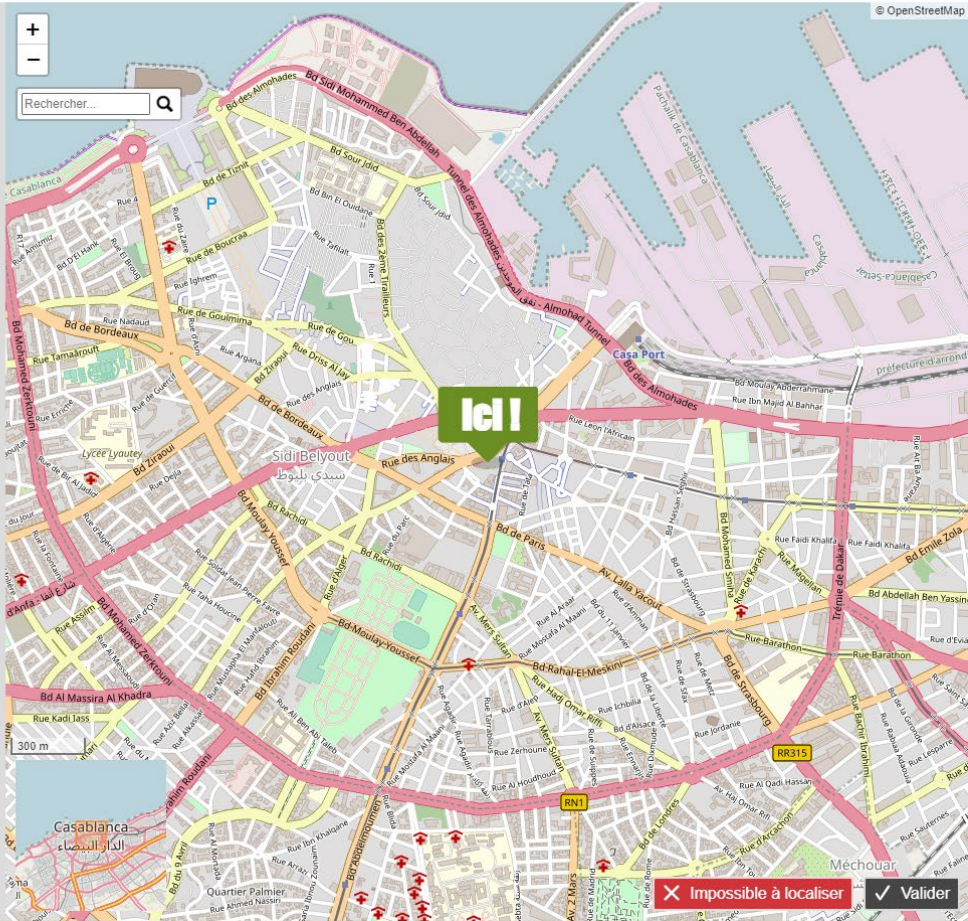
[Grue dans le port de Casablanca] : [photographie de presse] / [Agence Rol]

Voir en haute résolution sur Gallica

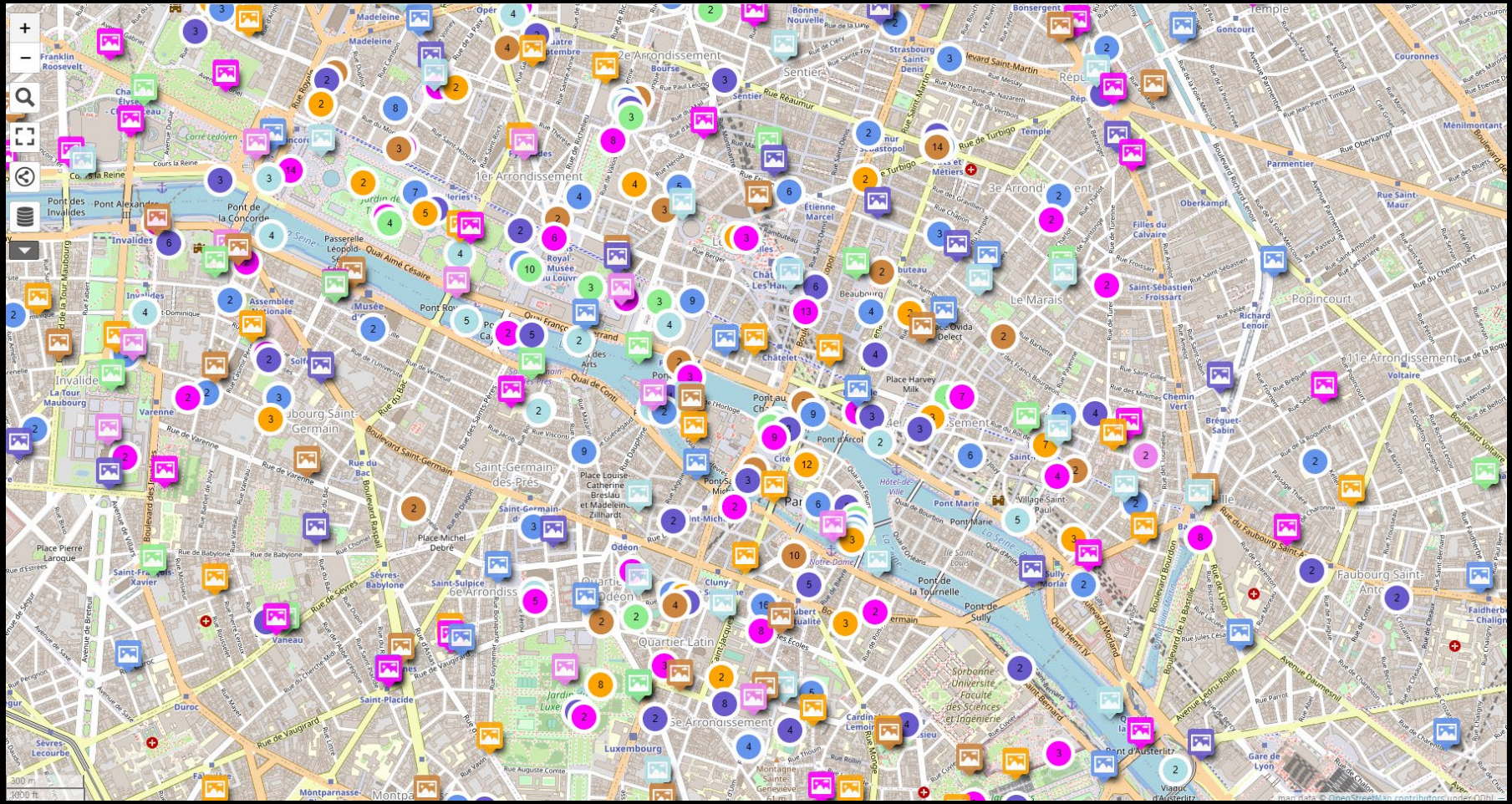
Sujets : Grues (appareils) -- Maroc / Navires de commerce -- Maroc / Transport de marchandises -- Maroc / Barques -- Maroc / Ports -- Maroc -- Casablanca (Maroc) / Casablanca (Maroc) / Paysages de mer -- 1914-1945

Source gallica.bnf.fr / Bibliothèque nationale de France

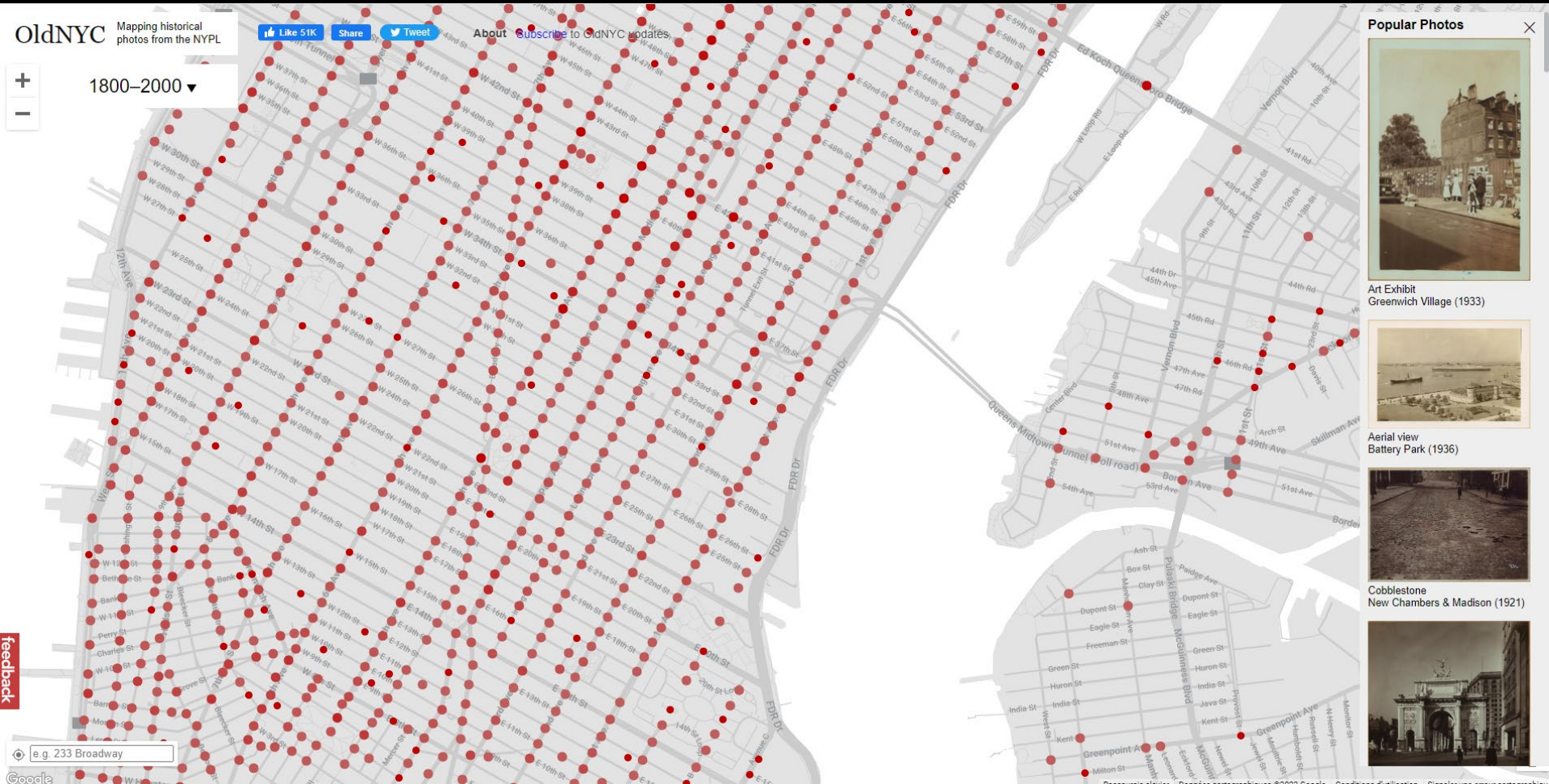
Nouvelle image



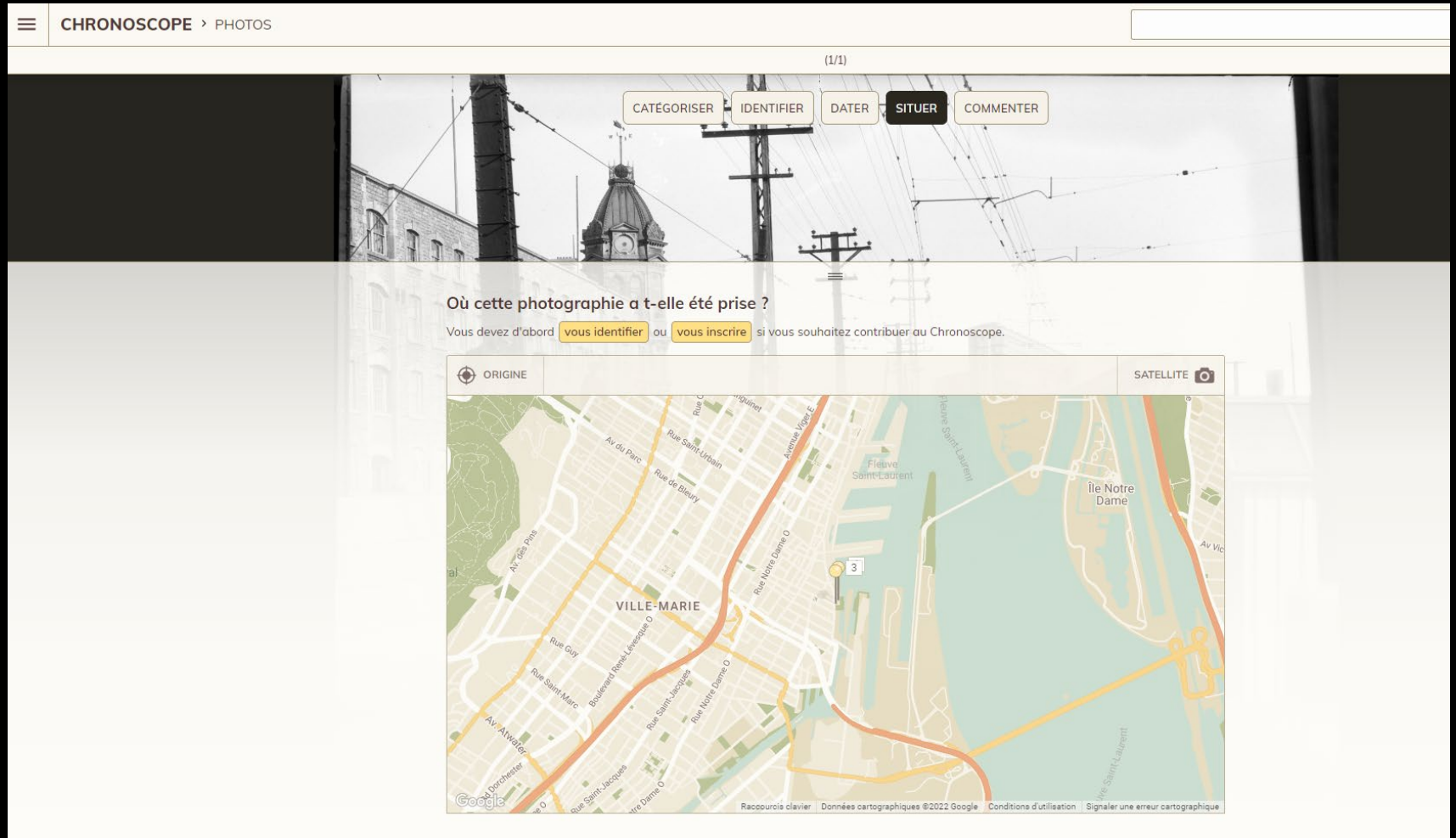
L’Arpenteur / Bibliothèque nationale de France


1er Arrondissement
2e Arrondissement
3e Arrondissement
Le Marais
Quartier Latin
Saint-Germain-des-Prés
Odéon
Châtelet
Pont Neuf
Pont Marie
Pont de la Tournelle
Pont de Sully
Pont d'Austerlitz
Pont de la Concorde
Pont Alexandre III
Pont des Invalides
Pont Royal
Pont au Change
Pont d'Arcole
Quai de Conti
Quai Aimé Césaire
Quai de Grenelle
Quai Henri IV
Quai d'Orsay
Quai de la Rapée
Quai de Bercy
Rue de Rivoli
Rue de Turbigo
Rue Réaumur
Rue Saint-Martin
Rue du Bac
Boulevard Saint-Germain
Boulevard Voltaire
Boulevard Richard Lenoir
Boulevard Bourdon
Boulevard de la Bastille
Avenue Daumesnil
Avenue Ledru-Rollin
Rue de Lyon
Rue du Faubourg Saint-Antoine
Rue de Sèvres
Rue de Vaugirard
Rue de Babylone
Rue de Varenne
Rue de Grenelle
Rue de Solférino
Rue de l'Université
Rue de Lille
Rue de Bellechasse
Rue de Rennes
Rue de Seine
Rue de Buci
Rue de Vaugirard
Rue Saint-Jacques
Rue Saint-Antoine
Rue Saint-Maur
Rue Oberkampf
Rue Parmentier
Rue Jean-Pierre Timbaud
Rue Saint-Ambroise
Rue Saint-Sébastien
Rue Froissart
Rue Vieille du Temple
Rue des Francs Bourgeois
Rue des Archives
Rue des Rosiers
Rue Pavée
Rue Vieille du Temple
Rue de Rivoli
Rue de la Verrerie
Rue Saint-Martin
Rue Beaubourg
Rue Quincampoix
Rue Aubry le Boucher
Rue Saint-Denis
Rue Montorgueil
Rue Réaumur
Rue Etienne Marcel
Rue Turbigo
Rue Meslay
Rue Notre-Dame de Nazareth
Rue du Temple
Rue Charlot
Rue de Bretagne
Rue Vieille du Temple
Rue Saint-Gilles
Rue des Minimes
Rue des Tournelles
Rue de la Roquette
Rue Saint-Maur
Rue Oberkampf
Rue Parmentier
Rue Jean-Pierre Timbaud
Rue Saint-Ambroise
Rue Richard Lenoir
Rue Breguet
Rue Sedaine
Rue de la Folie Méricourt
Rue de Ménilmontant
Rue Voltaire
Rue Faidherbe
Rue Chaligny
Rue de Charonne
Rue de Crussol
Rue Keller

OldNYC / New York Public Library



Chronoscope

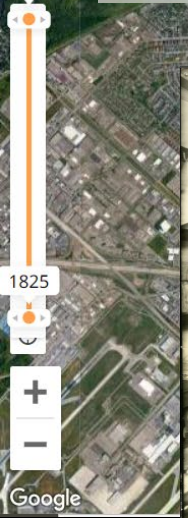


historypin

Over 250,000 barrels of whis
The Home of
Golden Wedding
PURE RYE WHISKEY
AND
OLD LOG CABIN
Bourbon
DISTILLERS CORPORATION LIMITED
MONTREAL CANADA

THÉÂTRE
NATIONAL

Montréal.--Gare C. P. R. Mile End.
(C. P. R. Mile End Station.)


2015
1825
Google

SCHEMA Platform

Made available to BAnQ by the Montreal History and Heritage Laboratory

Édouard-Zotique Massicotte (1867-1947)

- Historian
- Archivist
- Librarian
- Collector

The collection

- Contains over 6000 Montreal images
- Listed by street names
- Collection sold to the Saint-Sulpice Library in 1915 for $100, for fear of losing it in a fire
- Now kept at the National Archives in Montreal

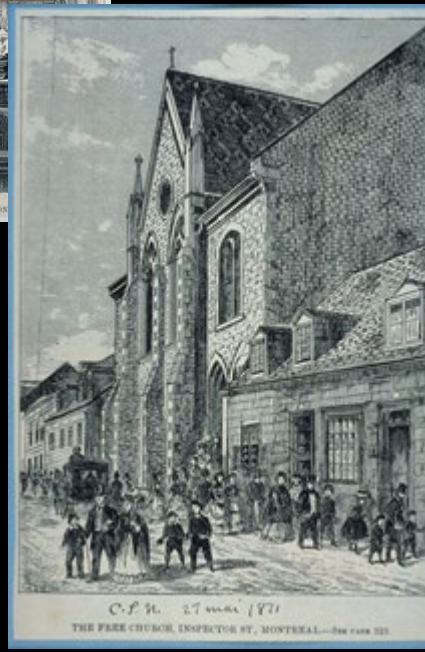
THE BEST REPRESENTED STREETS

Rue Notre-Dame (598)
Rue Sainte-Catherine (432)
Rue Saint-Jacques (391)
Rue Sherbrooke (280)
Rue Dorchester (175)
Rue Saint-Laurent (141)
Rue Craig (131)

The collection

Newspaper clippings, extracts from books or brochures, postcards, photographs taken by Massicotte

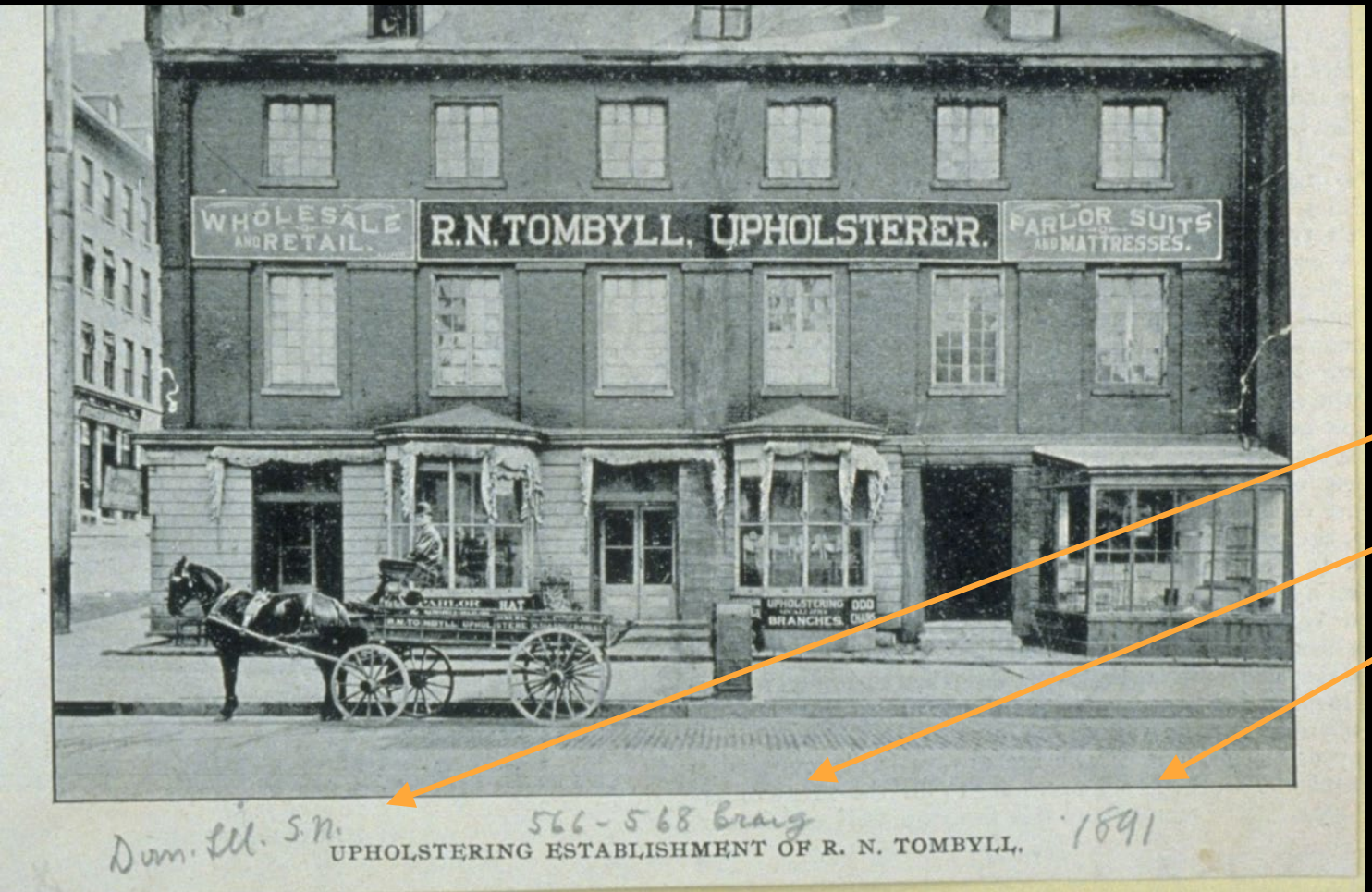
The oldest images: many engraved drawings taken notably from the *Canadian Illustrated News*



First photographs dated to the 1870s

É.-Z. Massicotte, his assistant and … the pair of scissors

Image cropped and annotated by É.-Z. Massicotte or his assistant



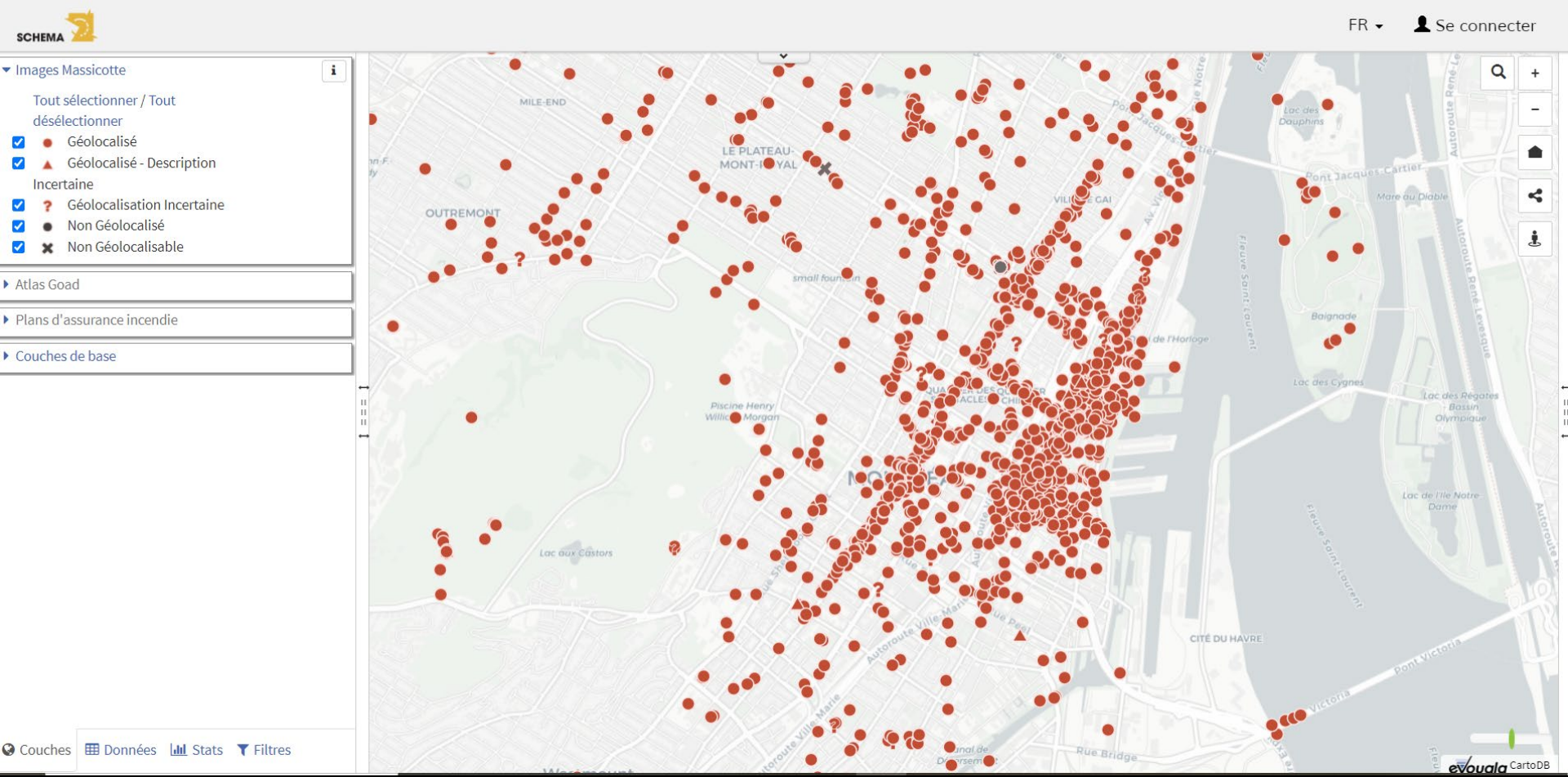
The annotations

Provenance

The address

The year

Geolocation interface for images from the Massicotte collection



ATLAS

OF THE

CITY OF

MONTREAL

FROM SPECIAL SURVEY

AND OFFICIAL PLANS,

SHOWING ALL BUILDINGS & NAMES OF OWNERS

CHAS. E. GOAD,

CIVIL ENGINKER

102, ST. FRANÇOIS XAVIER ST. — MONTREAL.

MONTREAL ATLAS VOLUME I.

REVISED TO JUNE 1890.

1

CHAS. E. GOAD, C.E.

CIVIL ENGINEERS

MONTREAL & TORONTO, CANADA

AND LONDON - ENGLAND

INSURANCE PLAN OF CITY OF MONTREAL

QUEBEC CANADA

VOLUME I

SURVEYED-APR. 1908

REVISED TO JUNE 1914

POPULATION - 653,000

1

WATER WORKS.

Extensive system of Water Works consisting of High and Low Level services. High Level service supplies mostly all that part of the city north of Sherbrooke Street and also the High Pressure Hydrants, as shown on plan. The Low Level Service supplies mostly all that part of the city south of Sherbrooke Street. The water is conveyed from River St. Lawrence by 9 feet concrete conduit 5½ miles long to pump house (Sheet 103, Vol. IV), also auxiliary 6 feet iron pipe from Lachine Canal to pump house. An Aqueduct 130 feet wide at top, 60 feet at bottom, 17 feet deep, 5½ miles long is being constructed. From the pump house the water is pumped directly into the distributing mains and to the McTavish Street (Low Level) Reservoir, capacity 37,000,000 Imperial gals., 203 feet above river through the 2.28 ins., 2.30 ins., and 1.36 ins. rising mains by seven (7) steam pumping engines with a total capacity 78,000,000 gals.; from there it is pumped to the Peel Street (High Level) Reservoir, capacity 1,750,000, 424 feet above river by 2 electric and 2 steam pumps. Total capacity 14,500,000 gals. The electric pumps (11,000,000 gals.) are in ordinary use, the steam pumps being kept in reserve. Upper Level Reservoir situated in Mount Royal Park, capacity 200,000 Imp. gals., supplied by Cedar Avenue or upper level pumps (2 electric pumps, combined capacity 1,000,000 gals. per 24 hours) 212 feet above High Level Reservoir. There is also a Booster pump (electric), 3,000,000 gal capacity, situate on Papineau Ave 500 feet south of Mantin Street.

Four Hydraulic Water Wheel Pumps at the Low Level Pump House with a total capacity of 15,000,000 gals. are put of commission until such time as aqueduct is completed.

Water is also supplied by the Montreal Water & Power Company to the following Municipalities and Wards of the City of Montreal: City of Westmount, Towns of Outremont and Maisonneuve and the Wards of St. Paul, St. Henry, St. Cunegonde, Mount Royal, Laurier, St. Denis, Villeray and Delorimier with an aggregate population of about 300,000. The water is taken at a point beyond midstream opposite Nun's Island in St. Gabriel Ward in 3 foot steel conduit, and is pumped from there by direct pressure to the various districts supplied. There are two system supplied from the main pumping station; the lower levels lying in front of the mountain being on one system, and the higher levels to north and east of mountain on the other. These are supplied by 8 pumps, 1 steam, 15,000,000 gals. capacity and 8 electric, 60,000,000 gals. capacity. The still higher levels in Westmount, Outremont and Mount Royal Ward are supplied by second pumping from second system at Clarke Ave. pumping station by 3 pumps, one electric; 2 steam, 9,000,000 gals. capacity, to the 6,500,000 gals. Reservoir situate on Cote des Neiges Hill at an elevation of 470 feet. The extreme high levels in Westmount and Mount Royal ward are supplied by the mountain top system—4 pumps located at Cote des Neiges Reservoir (2 electric, 1,150,000 gals., and 1 gasoline, 500,000 gals. capacity), and a tank (80,000 gals. capacity) at an elevation of 610 feet. There is under construction at Maplewood Ave. and Bellingham Road, Outremont, a Reservoir of 45,000,000 gals. capacity 300 feet above river.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

is composed of 20 Fire Stations

— HORSE DRAWN APPARATUS — 1 Water Tower, 25 Steam Fire Engines, 2 Combined Fire Engine & Hose Wagons, 28 Hose Wagons, 2 Hose Wagons, 2 Salvage Wagons, 1 Service Wagon, 2 Chemical Engines, 2 Ladder Trucks, 2 Aerial Ladder Trucks, 1 Coal Wagon, 1 Supply Wagon, 1 Coal Wagon, 1 Cart for Chief & Officers

— AUTOMOBILE APPARATUS — 3 Steam Fire Engines, 2 combined Fire Engine & Hose Wagons, 3 Hose Wagons, 2 Salvage Wagons, 1 Service Wagon, 1 Aerial Truck, 1 Hook & Ladder Truck, 1 Water Gas Truck, 1 Coal Wagon, 1 Supply Wagon, 1 Coal Wagon, 1 Car for Chief & Officers

HEAD Pop. of 75 Carlton Rubber Lined Hose

— FIRE BRIGADE — 1 Chief, 2 Deputy-Chiefs, 5 District Chiefs, 1 Chief Engineer, 1 Chief Inspector, 1 Instructor, 16 Captains, 16 Lieutenants, 16 Engineers, 16 Assistant Engineers, 582 Firemen and 72 Fire Alarm Hands.

Fire Alarm Telegraph Boxes, 988
2,238 Miles of Wire in City System.
1,340 " " H. & P. & C. P. System

MONTREAL, QUE. Vol. I.

Surveyed - APRIL 1908

REVISED TO JAN 1916

(Sheets 7 and 15 Reprinted)

For Population, Water Works, Fire Protection &c. See Below Title.

Change of population since previous map and such as are natural allowances by cessation also.

CHAS. E. GOAD CO. Civil Engineers, Toronto, Montreal Winnipeg & London, Eng.

INSURANCE PLAN OF CITY OF MONTREAL

QUEBEC, CANADA

VOLUME II MAY, 1915

FOR INFORMATION REGARDING POPULATION OF MONTREAL, WATER WORKS AND FIRE PROTECTION,

SEE TITLE SHEET OF VOLUME I

CHAS. E. GOAD CO.

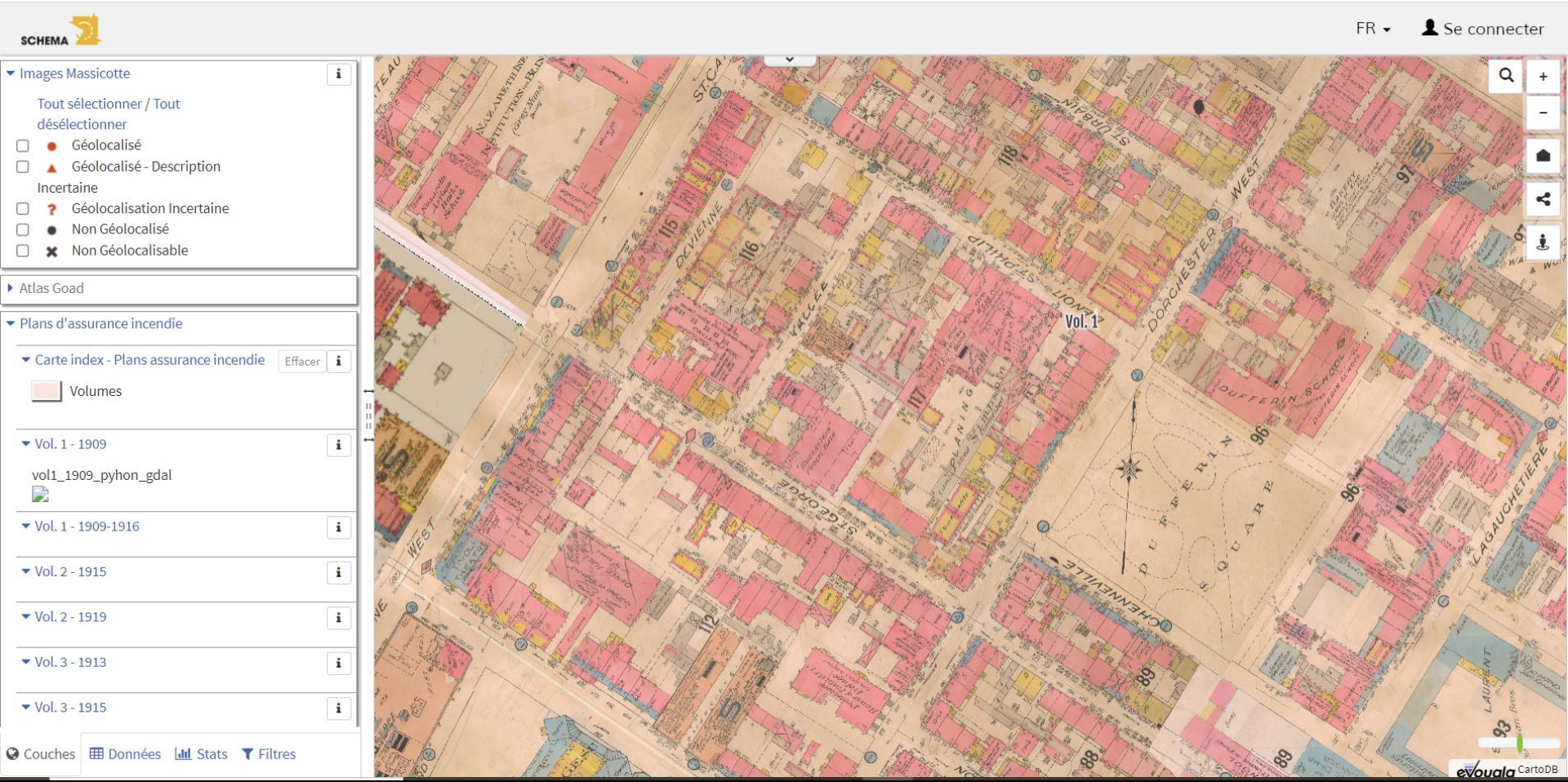
CIVIL ENGINEERS

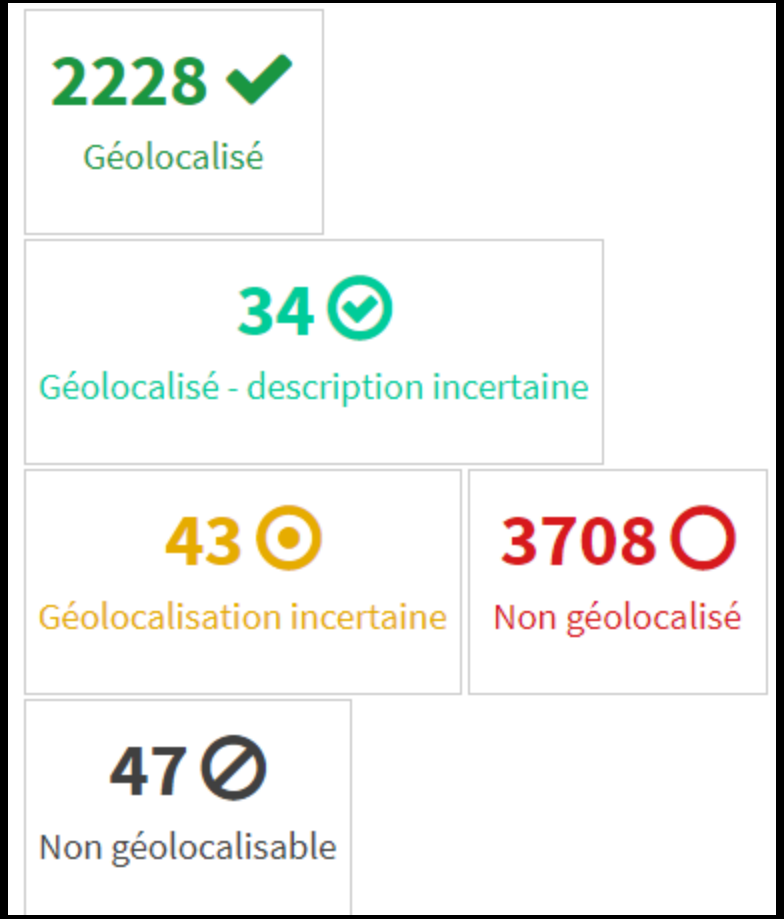
MONTREAL & TORONTO, CANADA

AND LONDON, ENGLAND.

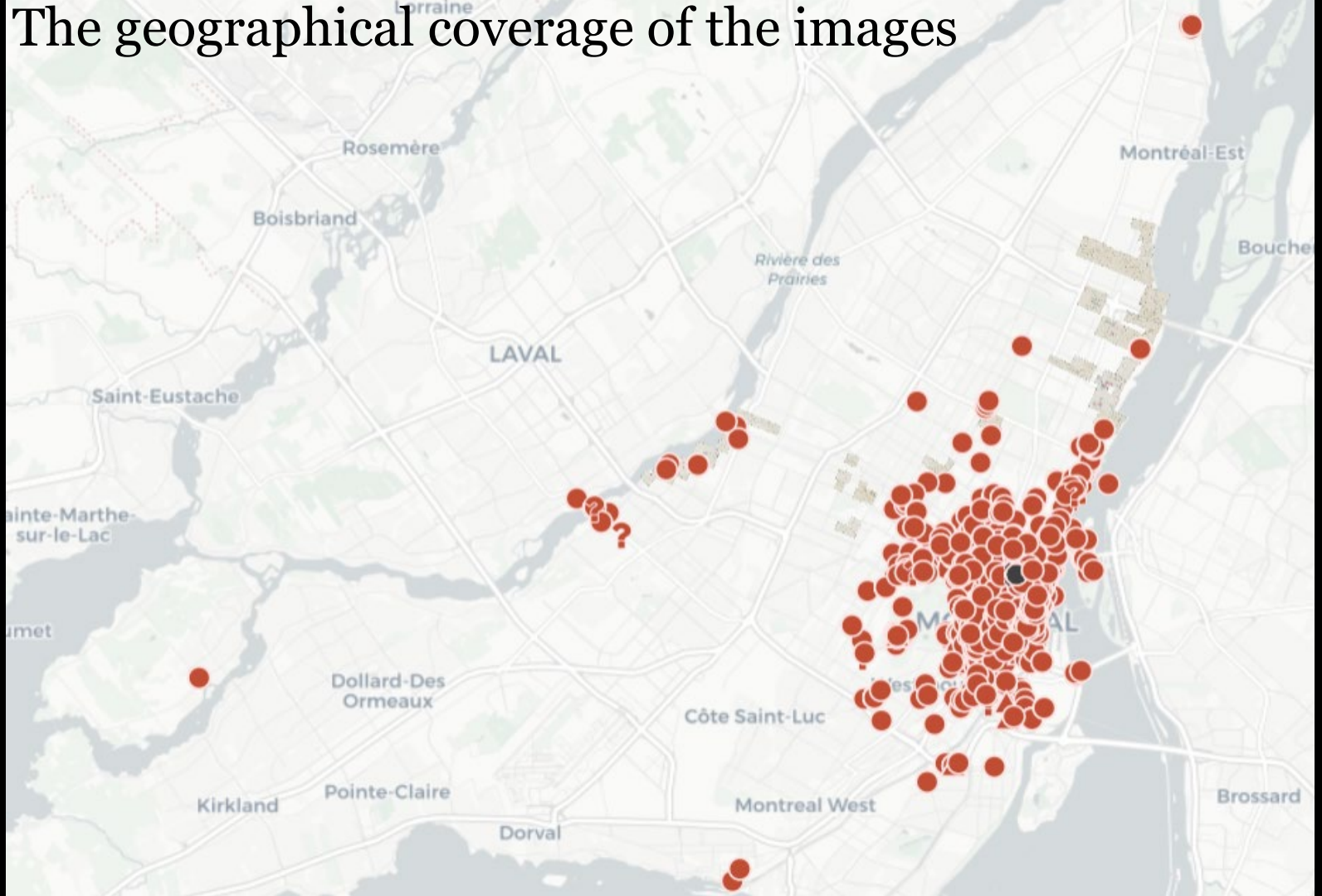
MONTREAL Que.

Geolocation interface for images from the Massicotte collection

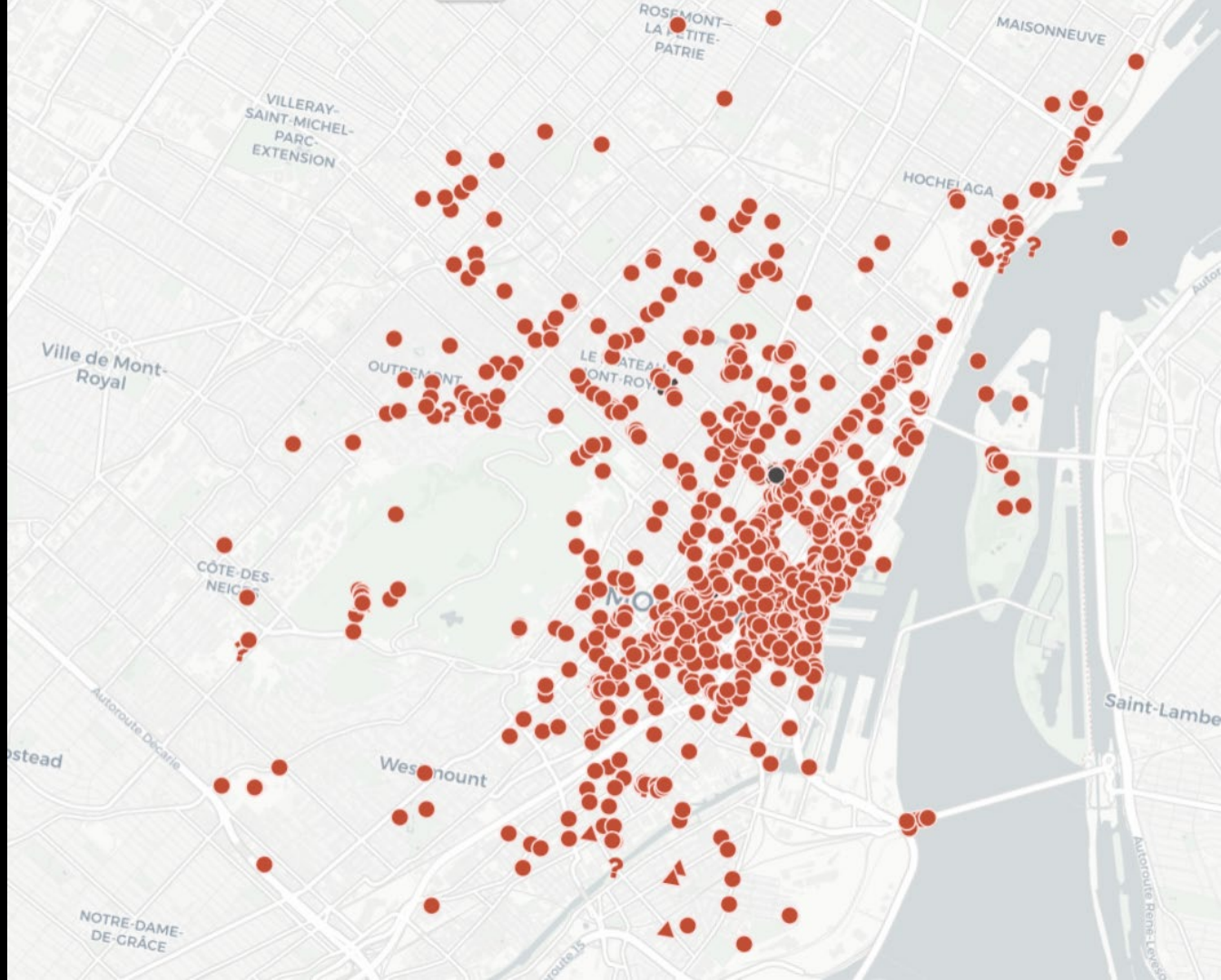



2228
Géolocalisé
34
Géolocalisé - description incertaine
43
Géolocalisation incertaine
3708
Non géolocalisé
47
Non géolocalisable

The geographical coverage of the images



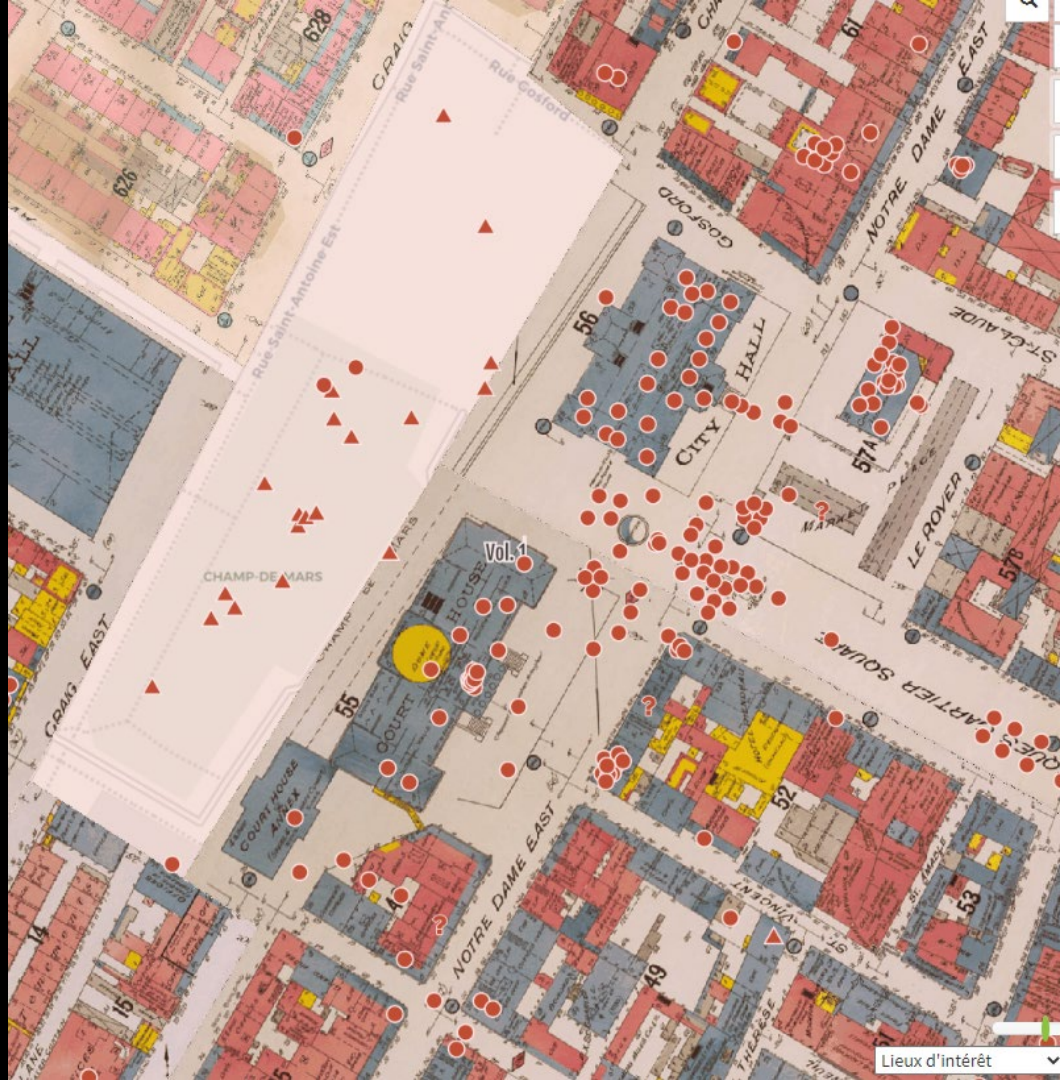
The geographical coverage of the images



rue Saint-Denis
VILLERAY
HOCHELAG
SAINT-MICHEL
PARC-
EXTENSION
Piscine Médéric-
Martin
Piscine et
pataugeoire
Laurier
Rue Sherbrooke Est
Av. De Lorimier
PARC-
EXTENSION
MILE-END
Pont Jacques-Car
LE PLATEAU-
MONT-ROYAL
Piscine John-F.-
Kennedy
VILLAGE GAI
OUTREMONT
Pateaugeoire
Quai de l'Horlo
QUARTIER DES
SPECTACLES
QUARTIER
CHINOIS
Piscine Henry
William Morgan

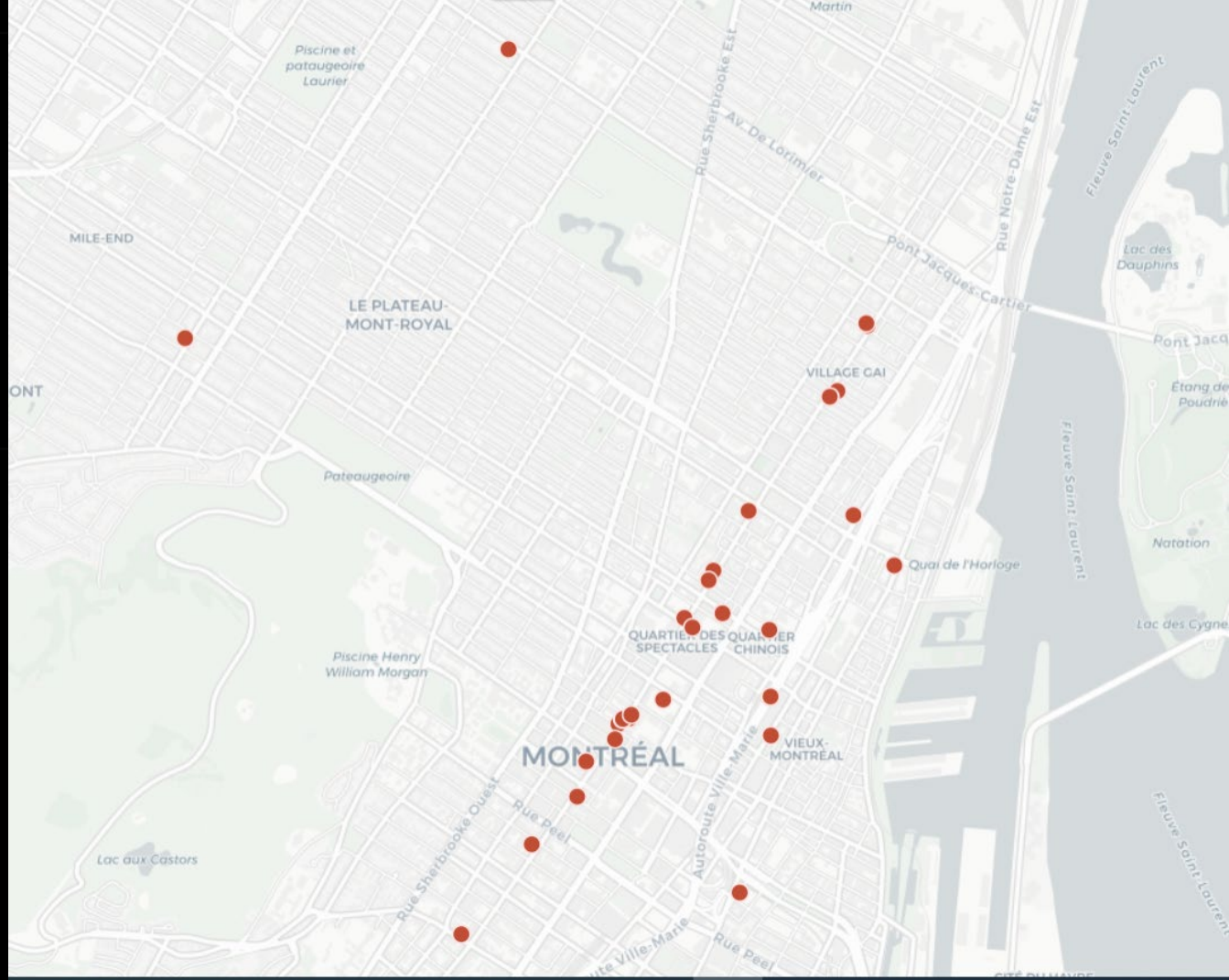
rue Sainte-Catherine
OUTREMONT
LE PLATEAU-MONT-ROYAL
Pateaugeoire
Piscine Henry William Morgan
aux Castors
Rue Sherbrooke Ouest
MONTRÉAL
QUARTIER DES SPECTACLES
QUARTIER CHINOIS
VIEUX-MONTRÉAL
Autoroute Ville-Marie
Rue Shearer
Av. De Lorimier
Rue Notre-Dame Est
Pont Jacques-Cartier
Fleuve Saint-Laurent
Lac des Dauphins
Étang de la Poudrière
Quai de l'Horloge
Natation
Lac des Cygnes
Autoroute René-Lévesque

Les environs de l’Hôtel de ville



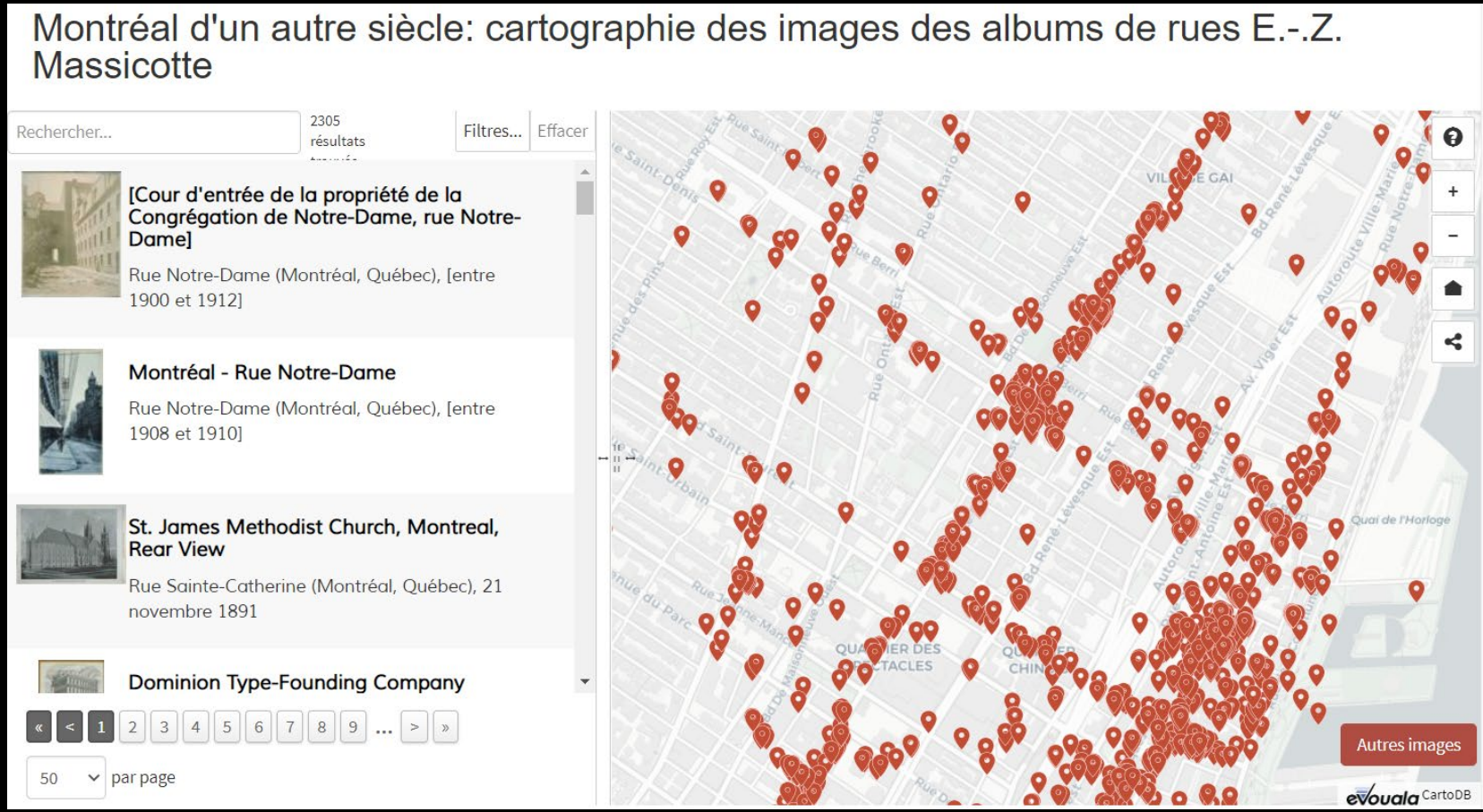
Localisation de bibliothèques à Montréal avant 1915

Location of theaters in Montreal before 1915

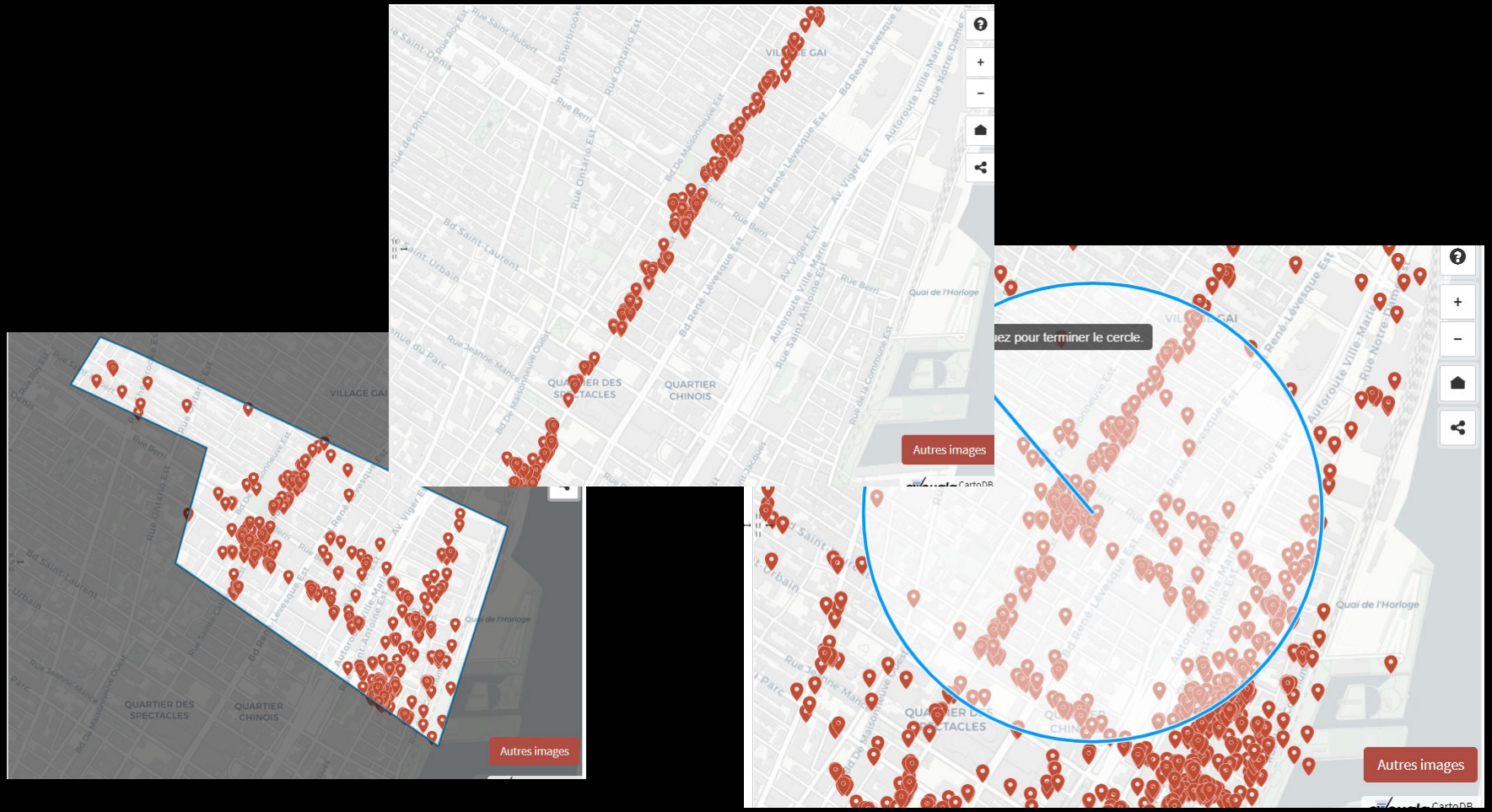


Map search interface: home screen

https://numerique.banq.qc.ca/p/cartographie_massicotte.html



Cartographic search interface: spatial filters



House where Massicotte was born in 1867 at the corner of Saint-Antoine and Cathedrale streets

Source: Google Map

Shop of the father of Edouard-Zotique Massicotte, shoe merchant on rue Notre-Dame

EDOUARD MASSICOTTE

MARCHAND DE

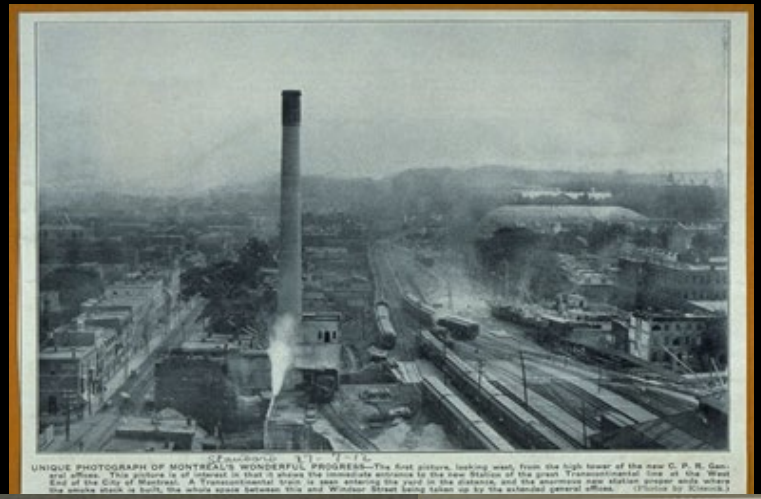
CHAUSSURES

883, Rue St. Joseph,

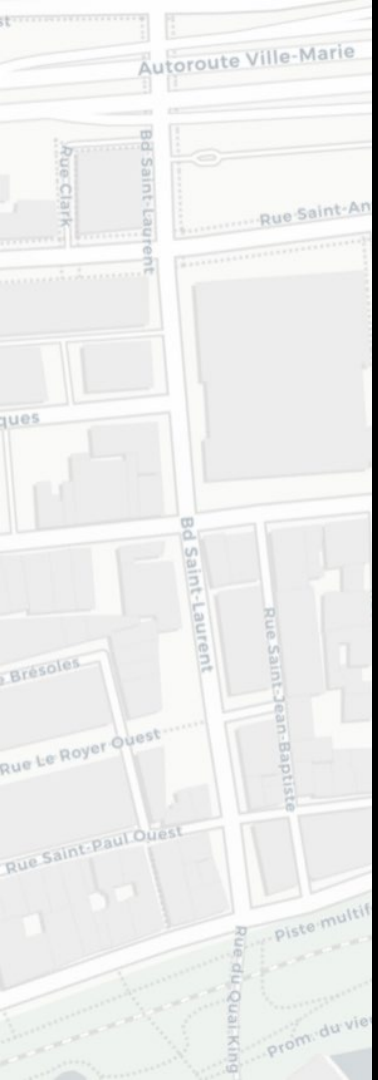
STE. CUNEGONDE

E. MASSICOTTE tient toujours en mains un assortiment des plus complets de Chaussures de première qualité pour hommes, femmes et enfants, à des prix modérés.

New shot possibilities (from skyscrapers, grain elevators). Views that reflect the modernity of the city, the height of the buildings, the air pollution.



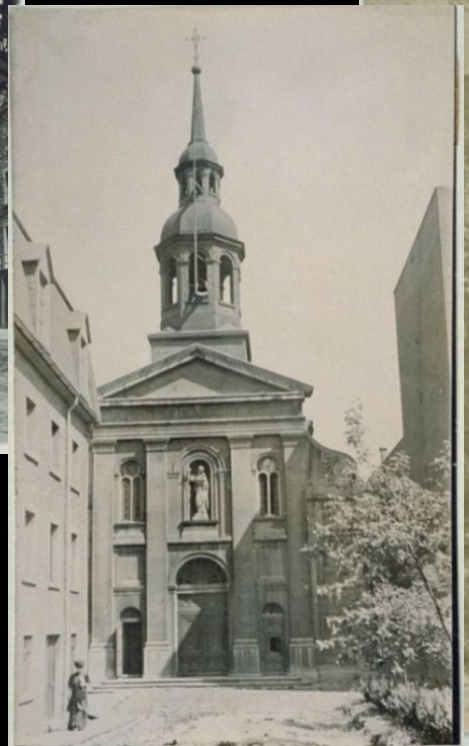
Boulevard Saint-Laurent in 1909 does not go to the port

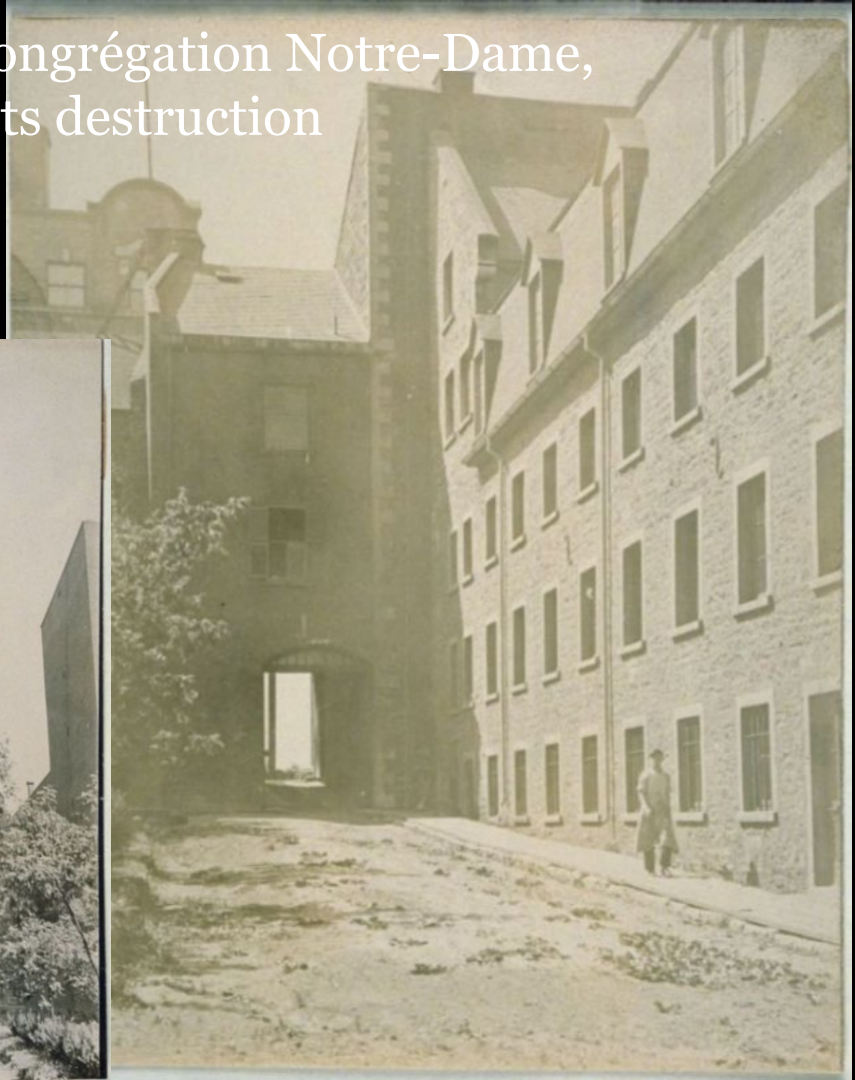


2022

1909

Conventual ensemble of the Sisters of the Congrégation Notre-Dame, photographed by Massicotte in 1911 before its destruction





Small frame workshop on boul. St-Laurent

AVIS

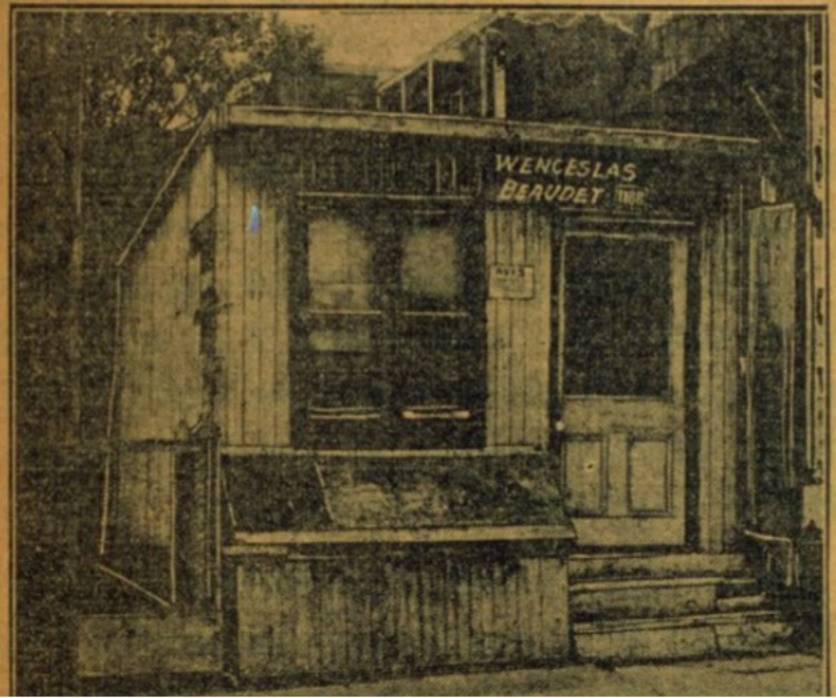
"Cette cabane m'appartient. Ceux à qui appartient le terrain voudront bien se faire connaitre. Je serai ici tous les samedis jusqu'à ce que je sache à qui payer loyer. — Wenceslas Beaudet, 1188 Boulevard Saint-Laurent."

La Presse, 19 mai 1910

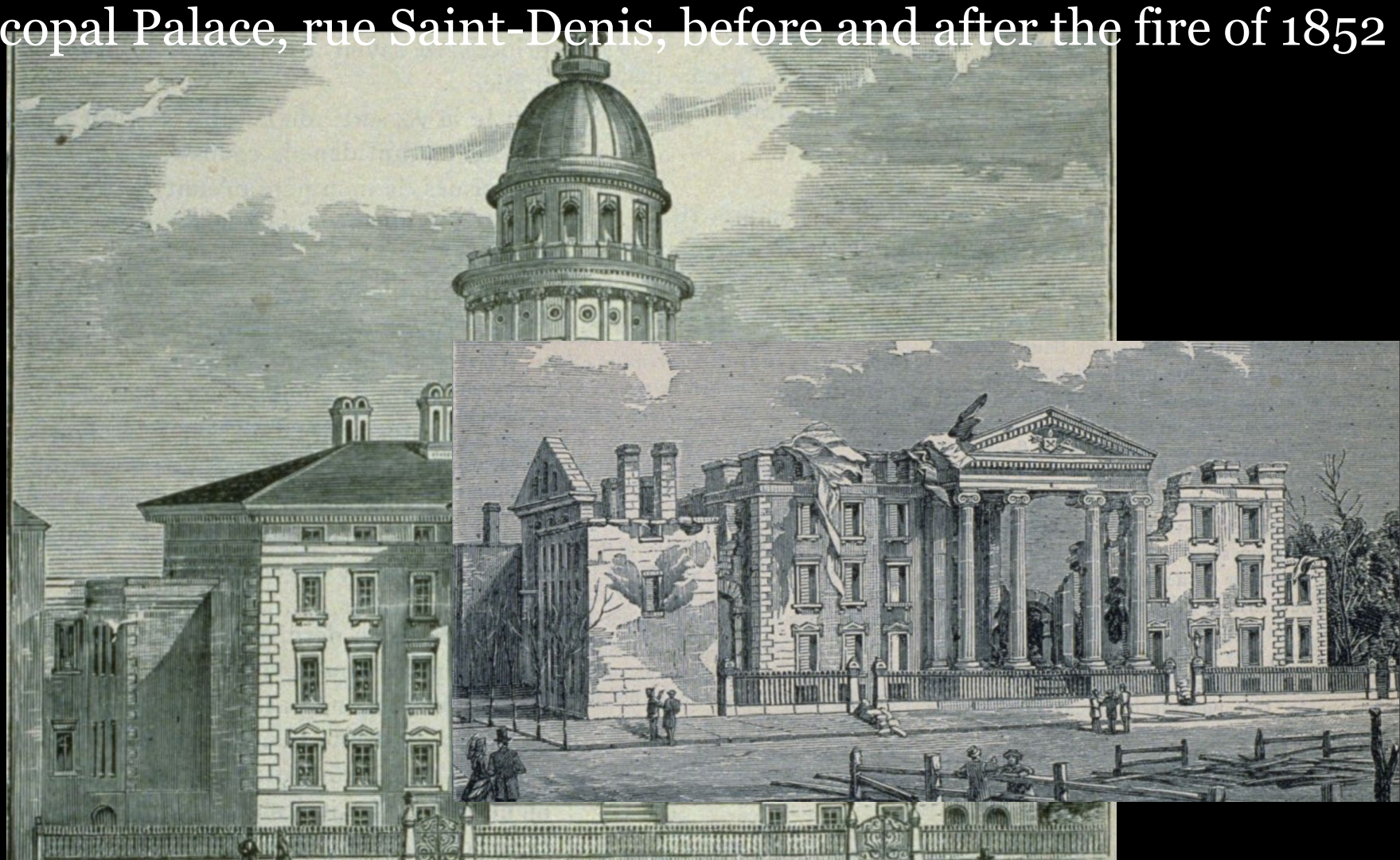
AVIS ORIGINAL EN PLEIN BOULEVARD ST-LAURENT

Presse

Le moyen employé par un encadreur pour découvrir le propriétaire du terrain sur lequel est bâtie son échoppe, et payer son loyer. --- Vaines recherches depuis 3 ans. 19-5-10



Episcopal Palace, rue Saint-Denis, before and after the fire of 1852



Hôpital Notre-Dame, rue Notre-Dame

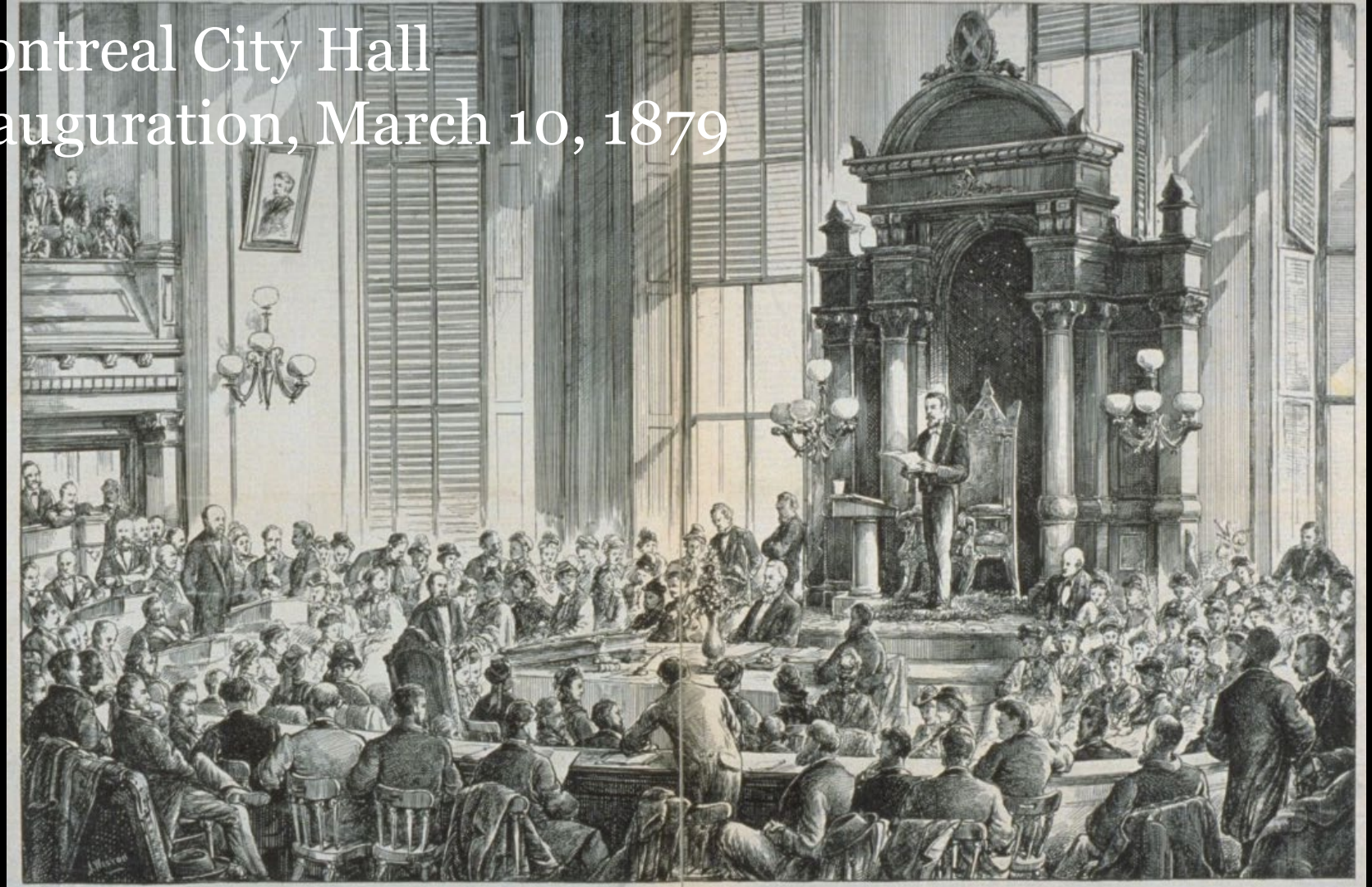
L'arrivée de l'ambulance à l'hôpital Notre-Dame

Orphanage Saint-Alexis, rue Saint-Denis at the corner of rue de Montigny (Maisonneuve)

Around the corner from Dorchester
Pharmacy J. Goulden

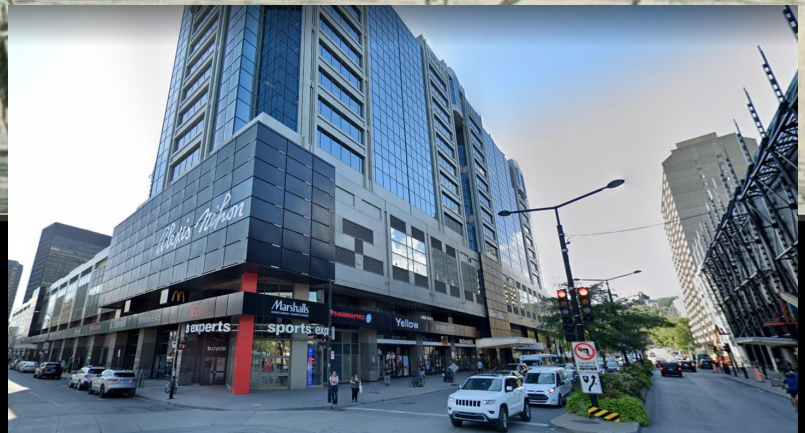
rue Notre-Dame, flood of 1886

Montreal City Hall
Inauguration, March 10, 1879

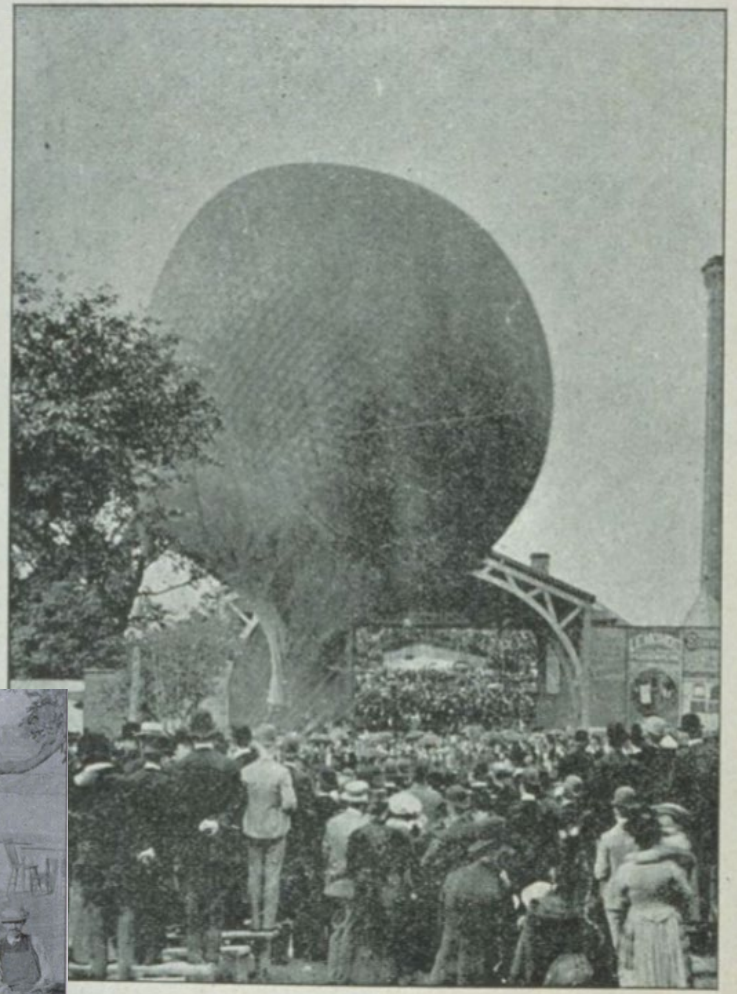


The old courthouse, rue Notre-Dame

Shamrock club lacrosse field (at the corner of Sainte-Catherine and Atwater)



Sohmer park



SOHMER PARK: A BALLOON ASCENSION. 26-7-90

Dominion park

Place Ville-Marie in 2022

Rue Sainte-Monique, now defunct

Parisiana theater and cinema on Ste-Catherine street, 1908

Crystal Palace, rue Ste-Catherine, between McGill College and University

John Murphy store (now the Simons store on Sainte-Catherine Street)

Saint-Jean-Baptiste Procession, Saint-Laurent Boulevard, 1894

Le Monde illustré. Photo J.-N. Laprés

Montrealers are taking the city by storm

Parade of workers on Labor Day, September 1903

Montrealers are taking the city by storm

In 1912, thousands of Chinese celebrate the establishment of a republic in China by Sun-Yat-Sen

A few words in conclusion

Acknowledgments

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