

MEMORIES IN BRONZE

the statues in the facade
of the Parliament Building



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The statues in the facade of the parliament building

The Parliament Building is the masterpiece of Eugène-Étienne Taché (1836-1912). It was built between 1877 and 1886.

It consists of four wings around a square courtyard. At the centre of the main facade is a 50-metre tower that long overshadowed all other buildings in the city. The tower is dedicated to Jacques Cartier, who is not represented by any of the bronze statues. Two projecting sections flank the tower. The section on the south side pays tribute to the city of Québec and its founder, Samuel de Champlain, while the one on the north side is dedicated to the city of Montréal and its founder, Paul de Chomedey de Maisonneuve.

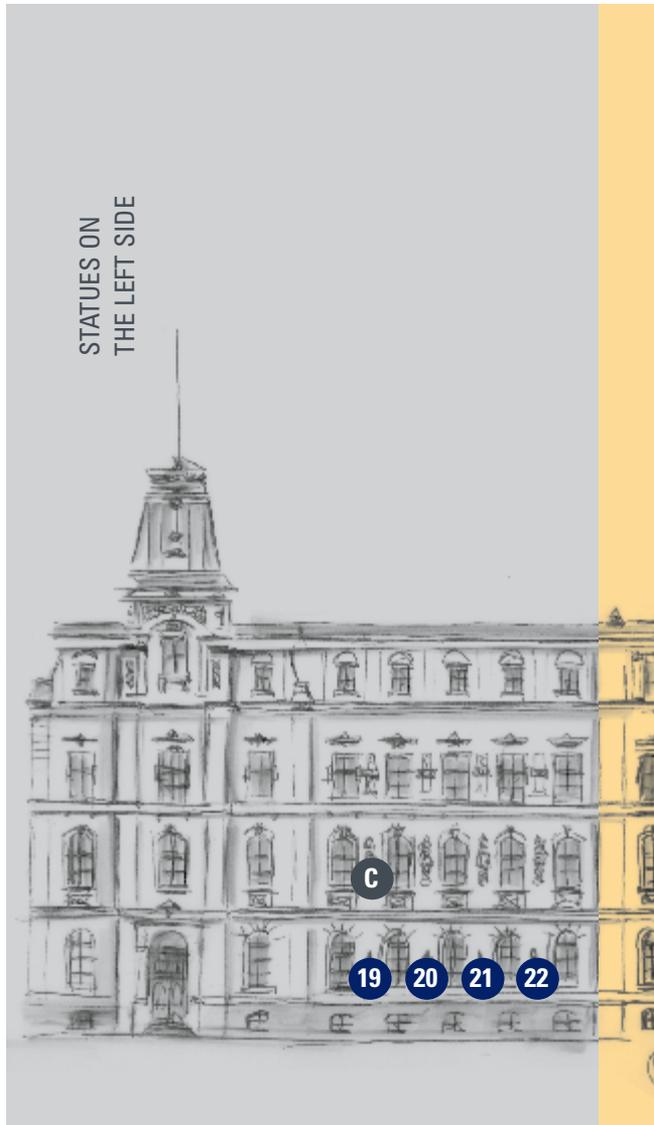
Eugène-Étienne Taché designed to provide a striking illustration in stone of Québec's origins. The south, west and north wings are in a strict French Second Empire style, with a symmetrical, horizontal layout and a mansard roof. The central tower bears an oval shield containing the coat of arms of the United Kingdom, surmounted by the letters VR (for Victoria Regina) and the imperial crown. Beneath the shield are giant, sculpted roses and other decorative elements in relief.

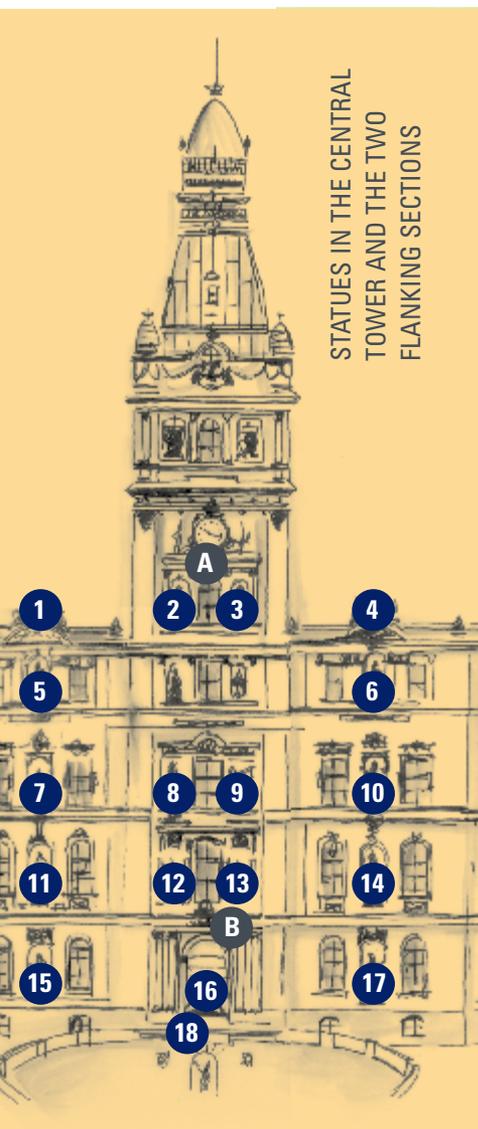
The Parliament Building is also a monument to the memory of the men and women who made their mark on the history of Québec and French America. The 26 statues in the facade represent key historical figures, including founders, explorers, soldiers, missionaries, politicians and public administrators.

All took part in the same great adventure and shared the same dream; they illustrate various facets of Québec's motto *Je me souviens* ("I remember"), engraved over the main entrance beneath the Québec coat of arms.

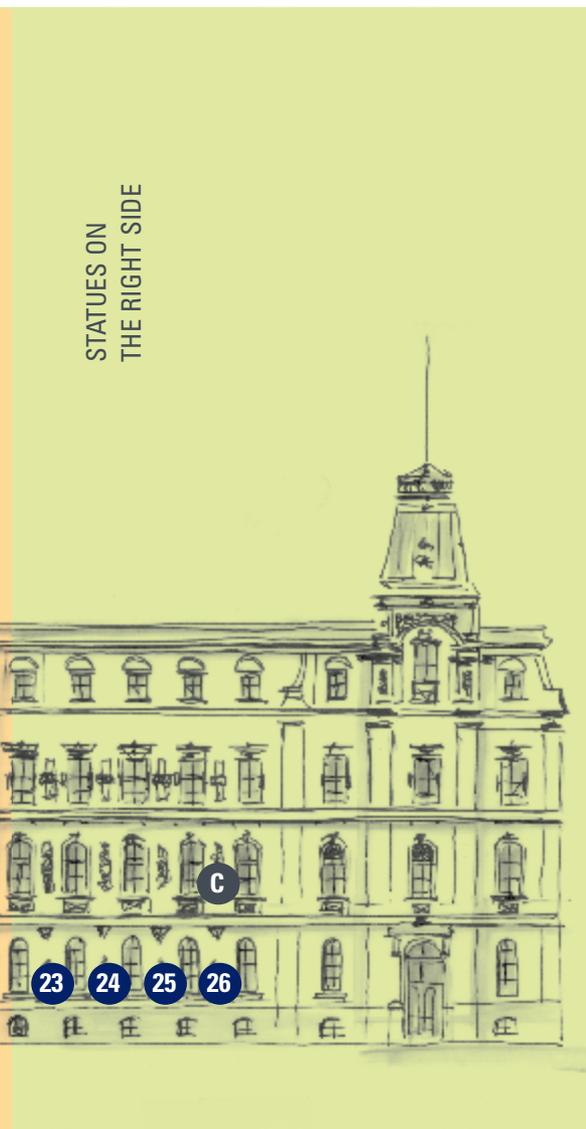


- 1 POETRY AND HISTORY
- 2 MARIE DE L'INCARNATION
- 3 MARGUERITE BOURGEOYS
- 4 RELIGION AND COUNTRY
- 5 CHAMPLAIN
- 6 MAISONNEUVE
- 7 MONTMORENCY LAVAL
- 8 BRÉBEUF
- 9 VIEL
- 10 OLIER
- 11 FRONTENAC
- 12 WOLFE
- 13 MONTCALM
- 14 LÉVIS
- 15 ELGIN
- 16 A HALT IN THE FOREST
- 17 SALABERRY
- 18 THE NIGOG FISHERMAN
- 19 BALDWIN
- 20 DORCHESTER
- 21 BOUCHER
- 22 TALON
- 23 IBERVILLE
- 24 LA VÉRENDRYE
- 25 MARQUETTE
- 26 JOLLIET





STATUES IN THE CENTRAL
TOWER AND THE TWO
FLANKING SECTIONS



STATUES ON
THE RIGHT SIDE

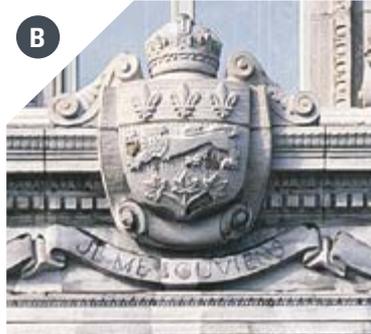


A) CLOCK

A monumental clock, surrounded by flames that symbolize the passage of time, was installed by master clockmaker Cyrille Duquet with dials on three sides of the main tower. The clock mechanism is linked to a bell that has chimed the hours since July 1881.

**B) QUÉBEC COAT OF ARMS**

When he drew up the plans for the Legislative Building (today known as the Parliament Building) in 1883, Eugène-Étienne Taché created the motto *Je me souviens* and had it engraved under the Québec coat of arms above the main entrance.



Québec's first coat of arms (1868) used fleurs-de-lys to emphasize the French origin of most of the population, a leopard or lion passant guardant in gold on a red field to recall Québec's links with Great Britain, and a branch with three maple leaves, the symbol of Upper and Lower Canada.

In 1939, the government adopted the current coat of arms, which emphasizes the major periods in Québec's history: the French regime (fleurs-de-lys in gold on a blue field), the British regime (a lion passant guardant in gold on a red field), and the Canadian period (a branch of maple leaves).

**C) COATS OF ARMS OF LIEUTENANT GOVERNORS**

Above the niches for the statues, between the first-floor and second-floor windows, the coats of arms of the first lieutenant governors and the names of famous families from Québec history are carved into the stone.

BAILLEUL, JEAN

(1876-1949)

Jean Bailleul was born in Lille, France, and was a student of Barrias, Boutry and Contran. He arrived in Canada in 1914 and became the first director of the École des beaux-arts in Québec City (1921-1929), where he also taught modelling and statuary art. He returned to France in 1930, leaving behind few of his works.

BRUNET, ÉMILE

(1893-1977)

Émile Brunet was born in Huntingdon, Québec. After leaving the École des arts et manufactures in Montréal, he studied at the Chicago Art Institute while teaching drawing at the Chicago Decorating Company. In 1924, he moved to Paris to complete his training at the École des beaux-arts.

DAOUST, SYLVIA

(1902- 2004)

Sylvia Daoust was born in Montréal, where she studied drawing and modelling at the École des arts et manufactures before entering the École des beaux-arts in 1923. A sculptor and portrait artist, she also taught modelling and drawing at the École des beaux-arts in Québec City (1930-1943), and later sculpture at the École des beaux-arts in Montréal (1943-1968).

HÉBERT, LOUIS-PHILIPPE

(1850-1917)

Louis-Philippe Hébert was born in Sainte-Sophie, in Megantic County, Québec. He was a student of Napoléon Bourassa for six years before moving to Paris to train as a sculptor in 1880. Beginning in 1886, he worked on several bronzes destined for the facade of the new Parliament Building. He also completed a large number of commemorative monuments and sculptures on religious themes.

HUNTER, RAOUL

(1926-...)

Raoul Hunter was born in Saint-Cyrille, in L'Islet County, Québec. He studied at the École des beaux-arts in Québec City, and later at the École nationale supérieure des beaux-arts in Paris. He taught at the École des beaux-arts in Québec City for 13 years before becoming a political cartoonist for the Le Soleil daily newspaper in Québec City. Besides his work at the National Assembly, he also created sculptures for the basilica in Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupré.

LALIBERTÉ, ALFRED

(1878-1953)

Alfred Laliberté was born in Sainte-Élizabeth, in Arthabaska County, Québec. He studied at the École des arts et manufactures in Montréal, and then at the École des beaux-arts in Paris. After returning to Canada in 1907, he was appointed to a teaching position at the Conseil des arts et manufactures. He produced several official monuments and sculptures, and also a series of 215 bronze statuettes representing legends, customs and traditional crafts.

PARÉ, CLÉMENT

(1918-...)

Clément Paré was born in Deschambault, and studied from 1939 to 1944 at the École des beaux-arts in Québec, where he concentrated on sculpture. He had a long teaching career, in particular in St. John's, Newfoundland, and at Laval University and the École des beaux-arts, both in Québec City.

SOUCY, ELZÉAR

(1876-1970)

Elzéar Soucy was born in Saint-Onésime, in Kamouraska County, Québec. He worked in the sculpture studios of Arthur Vincent and George W. Hill in Montréal, while continuing to study in the evenings at the École des arts et manufactures. In 1910, he opened his own studio where he produced fine cabinetwork and a large number of wood sculptures and bronze busts. He also taught modelling for 30 years at the Conseil des arts et métiers in Montréal, and wood carving at the École du meuble.

SUZOR-COTÉ, MARC-AURÈLE DE FOY

(1869-1937)

Marc-Aurèle de Foy Suzor-Côté was born in Arthabaska, and began painting in Québec before making several trips to Europe, where he studied at the École des beaux-arts in Paris and the Académie Julian. As a painter, illustrator and sculptor he won several awards both in Canada and abroad. He is often considered to be one of the founders of impressionism in Canada.

STATUES ON
THE LEFT SIDE

STATUES IN THE CENTRAL
TOWER AND THE TWO
FLANKING SECTIONS

See description of statues
on following page [➤](#)





BALDWIN, ROBERT
(1804-1858)

Robert Baldwin was born in York, Ontario (today's Toronto). A lawyer and member of the Reform Party, he, like Louis-Hippolyte La Fontaine, was an ardent defender of ministerial responsibility, the principle that requires ministers to account for their administration to the members of Parliament rather than to the Sovereign or the Governor. In 1843, he was elected to represent the riding of Rimouski in the Parliament of United Canada.

SCULPTOR: Alfred Laliberté



DORCHESTER, GUY CARLETON, LORD
(1724-1808)

Lord Dorchester was born in Strabane, Ireland. He became Lieutenant-Governor, and then Governor, of Québec. He was one of the first statesmen to defend the principle of greater political freedom for the French Canadian people, and he played an important role in the adoption of The Quebec Act in 1774. He defeated an American invasion in 1775-1776, and during his term of office saw the adoption of the Constitutional Act, 1791 that gave Lower Canada its first legislative assembly.

SCULPTOR: Alfred Laliberté

21

BOUCHER



BOUCHER, PIERRE (1622-1717)

Pierre Boucher was born in Mortagne, France. He was fluent in Native languages, and was a soldier and interpreter for the Compagnie des Cent-Associés in Trois-Rivières. He later became a captain, the Governor of Trois-Rivières, the founder and Seigneur of Boucherville, a royal judge and a King's councillor. In 1653, he saved Trois-Rivières from destruction by the Iroquois, thus doubtless saving the entire colony. His understanding of the problems of New France made him the ideal choice for a mission to France, where he met with Colbert, Condé and Louis XIV. In 1664, he published a fascinating natural history of New France.

SCULPTOR: Alfred Laliberté

22

TALON



TALON, JEAN (1625-1694)

Jean Talon was born in Châlons-sur-Marne, France. As the Intendant of New France, he undertook a vast program in 1665 to develop the colony. He reorganized the justice system and colonial administration, encouraged immigration (especially of young unmarried women known as *filles du roy*), promoted large families, and developed farming, fisheries and trade. He even built a brewery in Québec City. He set up a three-way trading system between New France, the Caribbean and France, and, under his administration, exploration of the west and the south gave New France the dimensions of an empire, covering three quarters of the North American continent.

SCULPTOR: Alfred Laliberté



1 POETRY AND HISTORY

Poetry is shown in the declamatory pose of a speaker or musician, while History, holding a parchment in her left hand, meditates on the destiny of peoples and civilizations.

SCULPTOR: Louis-Philippe Hébert

POETRY AND HISTORY

The two allegorical figures surmounting the flanking section to the left (south) of the tower represent Poetry and History. The two female figures, sculpted in bronze, recall classical models by the treatment of their faces and their lightly draped clothing.



5 CHAMPLAIN

CHAMPLAIN, SAMUEL DE (C. 1570-1635)

Samuel de Champlain was born in Brouage, France. An explorer, cartographer and geographer, he became the lieutenant of several viceroys and held the position of commander at Québec and other sites in New France. Between 1603 and 1633, he made twenty-one trips across the Atlantic, exploring the St. Lawrence valley, Acadia and the New England coast. He founded the city of Québec in 1608. After leading several military expeditions, he devoted his energy from 1620 on to the administration of the colony. The sculptor has given him a traditional appearance since no authentic portrait of Champlain has survived.

SCULPTOR: Raoul Hunter

7
MONTMORENCY LAVAL



**MONTMORENCY LAVAL,
FRANÇOIS-XAVIER DE**
(1623-1708)

François-Xavier de Montmorency Laval, a French priest, was named Vicar Apostolic for New France in June 1658. He landed at Québec in June of the following year, and immediately set to work to establish a Canadian church. This involved founding parishes and the Québec seminary, a training school for future priests. He was appointed as the first Bishop of Québec in 1674, a position he held until 1688.

SCULPTOR: *Émile Brunet*

11
FRONTENAC



**FRONTENAC,
LOUIS DE BUADE, COMTE DE**
(1622-1698)

The French soldier Louis de Buade, Comte de Frontenac, was born in Saint-Germain, France, and died at Québec. He served as Governor of New France for two separate terms, promoting its expansion westwards to profit from the fur trade, and organizing its defence against the English colonies and the Iroquois confederation. In 1690, he saved the colony from an English attack by repulsing the army of General Phipps. Louis-Philippe Hébert has depicted him here at the moment he gave his famous reply to Phipps' envoy: "I have no reply to make to your general other than from the mouths of my cannon and my muskets." The sculptor had to imagine what Frontenac looked like since no authentic portraits exists.

SCULPTOR: *Louis-Philippe Hébert*



15

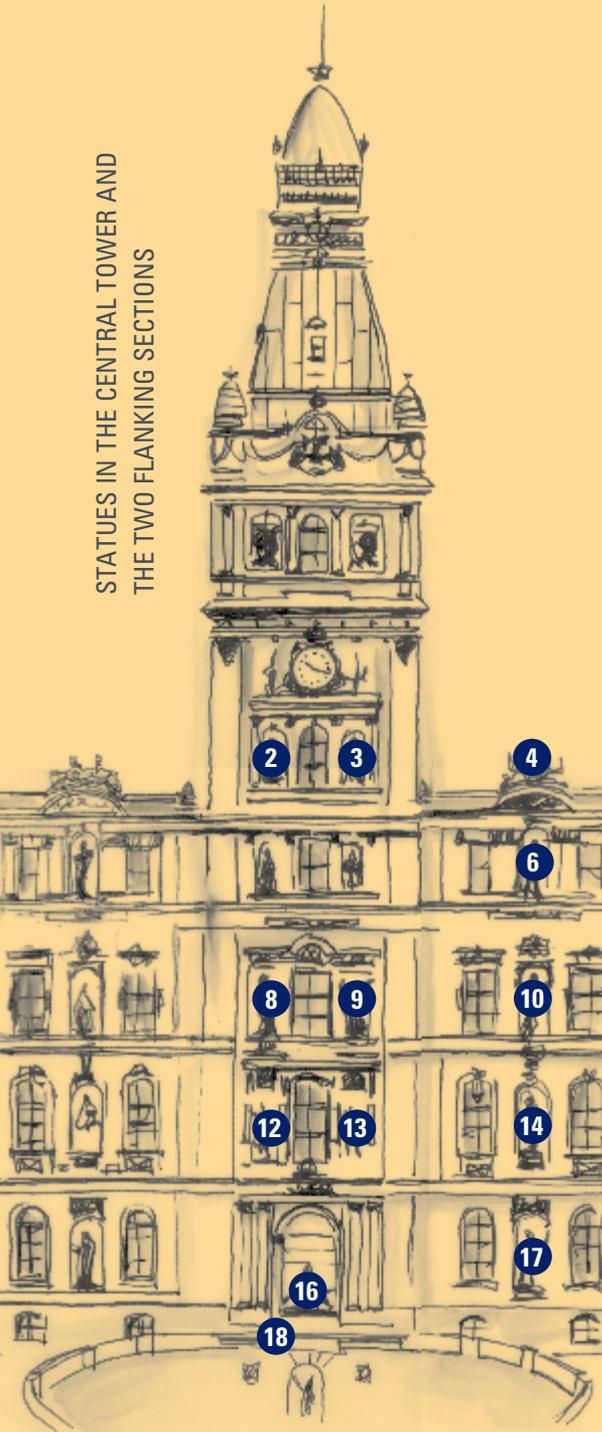
ELGIN

ELGIN, JAMES BRUCE, LORD (1811-1863)

James Bruce, Earl of Elgin, was born in London, England. He was appointed Governor of Canada in 1846, and asked Louis-Hippolyte La Fontaine and Robert Baldwin to form a government in 1848. He thus officially recognized the first responsible government in Canadian history, one with several prominent French Canadian members. He also supported the government's move to pass legislation to compensate the inhabitants of Lower Canada for damages suffered during the military suppression of the 1837 and 1838 rebellions. A mob of Tory demonstrators reacted by sacking and burning the parliament buildings in Montréal. In 1849, Lord Elgin opposed the annexation of Canada by the United States. He left Canada in December 1854. Louis-Philippe Hébert has sculpted him holding the Rebellion Losses Bill.

SCULPTOR: Louis-Philippe Hébert

STATUES IN THE CENTRAL TOWER AND
THE TWO FLANKING SECTIONS



See description of statues
on following page >

STATUES ON THE RIGHT SIDE



2

MARIE DE L'INCARNATION



**INCARNATION,
MARIE GUYART DITE DE L'**
(1599-1672)

Marie Guyart, known as Marie de l'Incarnation, was born in Tours, France, and sailed to New France in 1639. As the founder and Superior of the Ursuline monastery and convent in Québec City, she devoted her time to the education of young girls, both French and, especially, Indian. From behind her cloister walls, she witnessed the unremitting struggle of the French to gain a solid foothold in North America. Her collected correspondence provides an astonishing chronicle of everyday life in New France. Here, she is shown holding the house of Madame de la Peltrie in her hand, the building that she used as her first school and that stood on the site of the present-day Ursuline convent.

SCULPTOR: *Émile Brunet*

3

MARGUERITE BOURGEOYS



BOURGEOYS, MARGUERITE
(1620-1700)

Marguerite Bourgeoys was born in Troyes, France, and landed at Québec in 1653, from where she travelled on to Ville-Marie. She set up several schools and a mission in Indian territory. Besides education, her main concern was the foundation of a non-cloistered community, the Congrégation Notre-Dame, for which letters patent were issued in 1671. A great educator, she founded a boarding school in Ville-Marie (Montréal) in 1676, and established a school for girls in Québec City's Lower Town in 1692.

SCULPTOR: *Émile Brunet*



4 RELIGION AND COUNTRY

RELIGION AND COUNTRY

The two allegorical figures on the flanking section to the right (north) of the tower represent Religion and Country. Unlike the two figures to the south, they break with classical tradition. Their faces are no longer those

of inspired muses, but rather of ordinary women, their heavily draped clothes hiding their chaste bodies. Religion points the way with one hand, and holds a Credo in the other. Country wears armour and holds a sword.

SCULPTOR: *Louis-Philippe Hébert*



6 MAISONNEUVE

MAISONNEUVE, PAUL DE CHOMEDEY DE (1612-1676)

Paul de Chomedey de Maisonneuve was born in Neuville-sur-Vanne, France. He was Governor of the Island of Montréal for 23 years. In 1642, he founded Ville-Marie (Montréal) and, with the help of settlers, built a fort, hospital and chapel. In 1663, when the fragile colony was under constant Iroquois attack, he established the Sainte-Famille militia, and under its protection Montréal was at last able to grow.

SCULPTOR: *Clément Paré*

**8****BRÉBEUF**

BRÉBEUF, JEAN DE
(1593-1649)

Jean de Brébeuf was born in Condé-sur-Vire, France. He was ordained as a priest and joined the Society of Jesus in 1622. He was mainly concerned with the conversion of the Native population, and in 1626 founded a mission in Huronia (the area around present-day Midland, Ontario). During a war between the Hurons and the Iroquois he was taken prisoner and died a martyr, along with seven companions, at the hands of the Iroquois in Bourg Saint-Ignace (close to Midland). Brébeuf was one of the authors of the famous Relations, a journal kept by the Jesuits that records 17th century Amerindian culture as seen through European eyes.

SCULPTOR: Alfred Laliberté

**9****VIEL**

VIEL, NICOLAS
(...-1625)

Nicolas Viel was a Recollet missionary whose date of birth is unknown. He left his native province of Normandy and travelled to New France in 1623. He spent two years with the Huron, learning their language and completing the French-Huron dictionary started by Father Joseph Le Caron. He was murdered on Rivière des Prairies (at a place still called Sault-au-Récollet) by three Indians during a canoe trip to Québec City, and became the first “martyr of the faith” in New France.

SCULPTRESS: Sylvia Daoust

10
OLIER



OLIER, JEAN-JACQUES
(1608-1657)

Jean-Jacques Olier, a Sulpician priest, was born in Paris, France. He is the only person represented here who never came to New France. However, he contributed to the development of Ville-Marie (Montréal) by helping to set up the Société Notre-Dame de Montréal, which sent settlers and Sulpician priests to New France beginning in 1642.

SCULPTOR: Émile Brunet

12
WOLFE



WOLFE, JAMES
(1727-1759)

James Wolfe was a career soldier, a native of Westerham, England. After winning the battle of Louisbourg, he laid siege to the city of Québec for two and a half months before joining battle with Montcalm's troops on the Plains of Abraham in September 1759. After an initial reverse to the west of the Montmorency River, he landed at dawn on September 13 in Anse au Foulon and scaled the cliff to reach the Plains of Abraham. The English army quickly decimated the French troops to win a famous victory. Wolfe was hit in the chest and died on the battlefield.

SCULPTOR: Louis-Philippe Hébert

**13****MONTCALM**

**MONTCALM,
LOUIS-JOSEPH, MARQUIS DE**
(1712-1759)

Louis-Joseph de Montcalm was born in Candiac, France. As Major General, and later Lieutenant General, for New France, he led several victorious military campaigns. His first defeat came on the Plains of Abraham on September 13, 1759. His army, caught by surprise when the English suddenly appeared on the Plains, was quickly routed. Montcalm himself was fatally wounded during the battle and died the following day.

SCULPTOR: Louis-Philippe Hébert

**14****LÉVIS**

LÉVIS, FRANÇOIS-GASTON, DUC DE
(1719-1787)

François Gaston de Lévis was born in the castle of Ajac, France. As a military commander, he helped defend New France under the orders of Montcalm, and successfully resisted an attack by Wolfe's soldiers at the Montmorency River in July 1759. The Duc de Lévis was not at Québec during the battle of the Plains of Abraham, but after taking command following the death of Montcalm, he won the battle of Sainte-Foy in the spring of 1760. He was unable to recapture Québec, and was forced to surrender at Montréal in September 1760. Here, his statue shows him at the time of his surrender at Montréal in 1760; he has broken his sword, and his facial features show his despair.

SCULPTOR: Louis-Philippe Hébert



SALABERRY, CHARLES-MICHEL DE (1778-1829)

Charles-Michel de Salaberry, a career soldier and officer, was born in Canada at Beauport. Leading the Voltigeurs canadiens, an elite group of French-Canadian soldiers, he repulsed two invasion attempts by American forces. The most famous, in 1813, ended at the battle of Châteauguay, where the courage of the small Canadian army and the skilful manoeuvring of its leader led to the retreat of an American army three times larger. Salaberry is shown here in action on the battlefield.

SCULPTOR: Louis-Philippe Hébert



16 A HALT IN THE FOREST

THE NIGOG FISHERMAN AND A HALT IN THE FOREST

In his plans for the Parliament Building, Eugène-Étienne Taché reserved a key place in the decorative scheme for the first inhabitants of Québec. Directly in front of the main facade, Louis-Philippe Hébert placed two bronze sculptures that he modelled and cast in Paris.



18 THE NIGOG FISHERMAN

Behind the basin of the fountain, *The Nigog Fisherman* shows a Native whose feet are bathed by running water as he prepares to spear a fish with his nigog, a type of harpoon.

In front of the main entrance stands the sculptor's most important work, *A Halt in the Forest*. It represents an Indian family: the noble father, the mother busy kindling a fire and the young girl, all looking towards the point where the adolescent son is aiming his arrow.

SCULPTOR: Louis-Philippe Hébert



23

IBERVILLE

IBERVILLE, PIERRE LE MOYNE, SIEUR D' (1661-1706)

Pierre Le Moyne, a soldier, sailor and explorer, was born in Ville-Marie (Montréal). After fighting against the English in Acadia, he led brilliant campaigns in the Hudson Bay and the Caribbean, captured Newfoundland, discovered the mouth of the Mississippi, sailing up the river from the Gulf of Mexico, and then founded Louisiana in 1699 and became its first Governor.

SCULPTOR: Elzéar Soucy



24

LA VÉRENDRYE

LA VÉRENDRYE, PIERRE GAULTIER DE VARENNES, DE (1685-1749)

Pierre Gaultier de La Vérendrye was born in Trois-Rivières. A fur trader, he is best known for his exploration of western Canada. With his sons, he undertook four trips in search of the western sea and a passage to Asia, travelling as far as present-day Manitoba, North Dakota and Wyoming. As he pushed the frontier of New France westwards, he took possession, on behalf of the King of France, of the immense tracts of land that are today Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and the western United States.

SCULPTOR: Jean Bailleul



25

MARQUETTE

MARQUETTE, JACQUES

(1637-1675)

The Jesuit priest, Jacques Marquette, was born in Laon, France. He is best known for helping Louis Jolliet discover the Mississippi in 1673, although his own objective was to find more Indian nations to convert to Christianity.

SCULPTOR: Alfred Laliberté



26

JOLLIET

JOLLIET, LOUIS

(1645-1700)

Louis Jolliet was born in Québec. On behalf of the King of France, he took possession of the Great Lakes area and, accompanied by Marquette, discovered the Mississippi in 1673. Together, they travelled down the river and discovered that it flowed into the Gulf of Mexico. Their trip covered 2,000 km, reaching the present-day border between Arkansas and Louisiana. Louis Jolliet was a cartographer and hydrographer to the King, and a teacher of hydrography at Québec. He also explored the northern regions, from Hudson Bay to Labrador.

SCULPTOR: Marc-Aurèle De Foy Suzor-Coté



General information

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