

STUDENT HANDOUT

“Landscapes of Yesterday and Today” Activity



Saint-Lambert, 2005



Dominion Square, Montréal, 1937

Marie-Ève Bourget,
15 years old,
Collège Durocher
Saint-Lambert,
2005¹

Description:

You can contribute to the knowledge surrounding our heritage by photographing a local cultural landscape and then linking it to an historical photo found in the *Notman Photographic Archives* on the McCord Museum Web site. You will then have to present your photographic pair and explain your choices.

If you are a student in Quebec and your teacher has entered your class in the *Photographic Experience of Heritage Contest* (run by the *Conseil des monuments et sites du Québec*, registration deadline: Dec. 16, 2005)², the McCord Museum may publish your photographic pair on its Web site. To qualify, you must email the name of your photographic pair to the Museum (deadline: March 31, 2006). Prizes will be awarded for the three best photographic pairs (each finalist will receive a framed copy of his or her photographic pair).

¹ To view this pair of photos, check out the following address: www.mccord-museum.qc.ca/eduweb, then choose « Contest » and « 2005 Edition ».

² For *Photo Contest* information, visit www.cmsq.qc.ca/photos.htm.

“Landscapes of Yesterday and Today” WEB Activity, Virtual Exhibition “The Studio of William Notman”
McCord Museum, December 2005, www.mccord-museum.qc.ca/eduweb

TECHNICAL INSTRUCTIONS

1. PHOTOGRAPH A LOCAL LANDSCAPE AND SAVE IT ON A COMPUTER

Photograph a local cultural landscape. A cultural landscape is an area showing signs of human activity (or "territorial appropriation"³). Cultural landscapes might include a park, road, bridge, dam, municipal area, building, house, memorial or public art work, as well as engineering works or ruins. Choose a cultural landscape and reflect on the emotions it may inspire. Note the location you have chosen.

- Digitize your photo in JPEG format, with a resolution of 300 dpi and a total maximum weight of 350 kb.
- Save your work in order to access it later (on your computer, the school server or on CD).

2. CHOOSE AN HISTORICAL PHOTOGRAPH FROM THE MUSEUM WEB SITE

Visit the McCord Museum Web site (www.mccord-museum.qc.ca) using a computer that has your photograph on file and a high-speed connection (if possible). Under the **COLLECTIONS** tab, select "Advanced Search", and then "Notman Photographic Archives".

Search through this database of more than 63,000 images to locate one or more historical photographs that have something in common with your own photo. For example:

- Subject, region, or physical markers;
- Landscape evolution;
- Composition or atmosphere.

When you find some interesting images, select them by clicking on "Select image". Each time you do this, a message will appear to confirm your selection.

³ In this program, the term landscape means "an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors." (*Ministère de l'Éducation du Québec [MÉQ], 2004. Quebec Education Program, Secondary School Education, Cycle One, p. 308*). "Landscapes of Yesterday and Today" WEB Activity, Virtual Exhibition "The Studio of William Notman" McCord Museum, December 2005, www.mccord-museum.qc.ca/eduweb

3. SAVE YOUR SELECTION OF IMAGES

View your selection by clicking on the "Display my Images Selection" icon (found in the upper side of the screen).

- Click on "Create a Folder".
- A dialogue box will appear. Enter the information requested (name and password) and save.
- **Make careful note of your folder's name and password so that it may be accessed later on.**

4. INTEGRATE YOUR DIGITIZED PHOTOGRAPH

Once you have created your folder, a workstation becomes available for you to add your digitized photograph.

- Click on "Add an image" and follow instructions.
- Save.

5. COMPLETE YOUR PRESENTATION

In your folder, delete unwanted images (if any) and write your text:

- In the Introduction, present your work (name, age, school, photo club [if applicable], and municipality);
- Present your original photograph and give it a title. Explain why you chose this particular landscape. Describe your treatment of this subject by explaining which aspects you tried to emphasize. Reflect on the emotions that such a landscape might inspire;
- Next, explain why you chose this historical photo; describe how it relates to your original photo (in terms of subject, region, physical markers, composition or atmosphere);
- If relevant, describe the complexity of the territorial issue, by specifying the role of certain natural and human factors of the past and present.
- Choose how you would like to view your folder (tour, lightbox, album).

You may view your presentation at any time on the McCord Museum Web site. Under the **MY FOLDERS** tab, choose "View my Folders" and enter your folder's name.

You may also re-access your folder in order to modify it. Under the **MY FOLDERS** tab, choose "Modify My Folders" and enter your folder's name and password.

6. CONTINUING THE ACTIVITY: PUBLISHING YOUR PHOTOGRAPHIC PAIR ON-LINE

If you are a student in Quebec and your teacher has entered your class in the *Photographic Experience of Heritage* Contest (run by the *Conseil des monuments et sites du Québec*), your photographic pair may be published on the McCord Museum Web site. For this to happen, you must email the name of your folder as it appears on the Museum Web site and your contact information (including your postal address) and, to marie-claude.larouche@mccord.mcgill.ca prior to April 15, 2006.

At the close of the school year, the McCord Museum will award prizes for the three best photographic pairs (a framed copy of photographic pairs).