

Accident gare de l'Ouest (aujourd'hui gare Montparnasse) le 22 octobre 1895



Léopold Louis Mercier

Accident gare de l'Ouest (aujourd'hui gare Montparnasse) le 22 octobre 1895

En 1895

Aristotype (épreuve au citrate)

H. 22,6 ; L. 17,1 cm.

Don de M. Jacques-Paul Dauriac, 2000

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Léopold Louis Mercier (1866 - 1913)

📍 Artwork not currently exhibited in the museum

→ [Other artworks from artist](#)

On 22 October 1895, there was a particularly spectacular railway accident at the Gare de l'Ouest, later re-named the Gare Montparnasse. The 26 October issue of **L'Illustration** reported the event as follows: "The No.56 train arriving from Grandville hurtled into the station at a speed of 40 to 60 kilometres an hour, and, unable to stop, ploughed through the buffers at the end of the platform. Its engine crashed through the façade of the station building, [...] and fell down on to the Place de Rennes. [...] The only fatality was a newspaper vendor on the square, who was killed by a piece of falling masonry".

For several days, gaping onlookers crowded around the locomotive, stranded in the middle of Paris. Among them were many photographers, both professional and amateur. Here they found an opportunity to use their cameras to prove that sometimes truth is stranger than fiction. The Musée d'Orsay print, which has no professional stamp on the back, is undoubtedly the work of one of these amateurs.

The sensational nature of the accident ensured a wide distribution for this image, in many versions. Even today, a postcard of the **Railway accident at the Gare de l'Ouest** is an absolute must for tourists in Paris.



Resume

Artist(s)

Mercier Léopold Louis

auteur

Angers , Pays de la Loire (France), 1866 - Cabourg (France), 1913

Title(s)

Accident gare de l'Ouest (aujourd'hui gare Montparnasse) le 22 octobre 1895

Accident du train Granville-Paris, gare Montparnasse, 22 octobre 1895

Date

En 1895

Inventory number

PHO 2000 7

Description

Aristotype (épreuve au citrate)

Dimensions

H. 22,6 ; L. 17,1 cm.

Complementary informations

Place of conservation

Musée d'Orsay

Designation

Positif
