**History of the Artifact - Trolleybus (Montréal, QC., 1947)**

The artifact you see in front of you is CCF-Brill T44 trolleybus #4042, one of the only surviving Brill trolleybuses that served Montreal from 1937 to 1966.

[IMAGE]

Image of CCF-Brill trolleybus #4042, parked outside of the Canadian Railway Museum in Delson, QC. Photo by Lindsay Bridge of Australia, 1971.

The #4042 was made by the Canadian Car & Foundry Co., Ltd. of Fort William, Ontario in 1947. It was released into service in December 1947 until its retirement in April 1966. Used for the purpose of public transport, it is an example of the last electric-powered surface transit vehicle to operate in Montreal. The trolleybus is 12 metres long, 2.8 metres wide, and 3.1 metres tall.

The trolleybus ran route #26, which was 'rue Beaubien - 12e Ave.' The route led from the corner of rue Beaubien Est. and 12e Ave., ran down rue Beaubien Est to where it met Saint-Laurent Blvd., and then headed down Saint-Laurent Blvd. to run a loop along Saint-Laurent, Rue Bernard Ouest, Park Ave., and Saint-Viateur Ouest.

[IMAGE]

Map of route #26, Beaubien - 12e Ave., overlaid on a Shell Company street map. Montréal, QC., 1950.

Trolleybuses were used in Montréal from 1937 to 1966. On March 29, 1937, the Montreal Tramways Company put seven electric-powered trolleybuses into service to create one of the first trolleybus services in Canada. Rue Beaubien Est. was one of the earliest trolleybus routes.

[IMAGE]

An image of the route's inauguration ceremony in 1937. St. Denis Garage, Montreal, QC.

The system later expanded to Amherst St., Christophe-Colob Ave., and Belanger St. in 1949. Forty more trolleybuses were acquired and released into service that same year, eventually increasing to 105 trolleybuses by 1952. In 1951, public transit became the responsibility of the municipality, and Montréal chose to replace the trolleybus system with free-range busses, which required less infrastructure and were more flexible in their routes. The trolleybus era slowly came to an end after that.

After Montréal's retirement of the trolleybus system in 1966, most trolleybuses were sent to Mexico City to serve out the rest of their life. CCF-Brill T44 trolleybus #4042 was given to the Canadian Railway Historical Association, which put it on display at the Canadian Railway Museum in Delson, QC. The trolleybus resided there until 1983, when it came to the Canada Science and Technology Museum (now under the Ingenium umbrella) as part of a trade.

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