About the Artist

Alfred Laliberté (1878–1953)

Alfred Laliberté is one of Quebec's best-loved artists. Born in Ste-Élisabeth-de-Warwick in 1878, he studied fine art in Montréal and Paris. In 1907, he became a professor at the Conseil des arts in Montréal and taught at the École des Beaux-Arts from its opening in 1922.

A prolific artist, Laliberté's oeuvre includes over 900 sculptures, many depicting the heroes and people of his beloved province. He completed many commissions, including six statues for the façade of the Parliament Building in Québec and the tomb of Sir Wilfrid Laurier in Ottawa. His sculpted portraits of influential figures in history and political life are well known. Especially admired, however, is his series of 214 bronzes celebrating the lives and customs of the people of New France.

Alfred Laliberté died in Montréal on January 13, 1953.

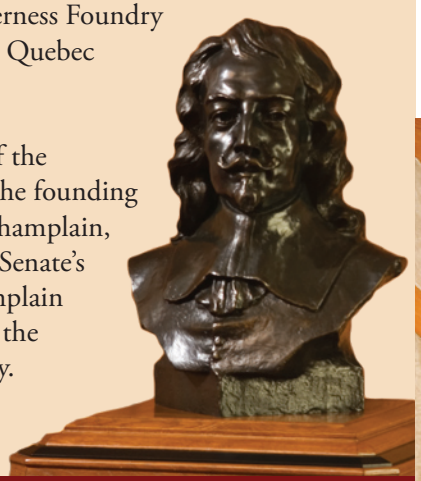
Photo: BAnQ — Centre d'archives de Québec, P1000,S4,D83,PL25

The Senate of Canada

Celebrates the Foundational Role of Samuel de Champlain

The Bust Presented to the National Assembly

The bronze bust of Samuel de Champlain presented by Speaker of the Senate Noël A. Kinsella to the National Assembly was cast from a plaster model made by Quebec artist Alfred Laliberté circa 1930. In order to cast the fragile plaster bust in bronze, the model was scanned using laser technology in 2003.
It was cast at the Inverness Foundry near Thetford Mines, Quebec in 2008.



A commemoration of the 400th anniversary of the founding of Québec City by Champlain, the gift expresses the Senate's clear regard for Champlain as a seminal figure in the history of our country.

A Key Figure in the Senate's Decorative Program

The Senate of Canada has long honoured Champlain's foundational role in our history. Two representations of this great historical figure can be found in the Senate precinct in the Centre Block on Parliament Hill.

In the Senate Chamber, three pointed arches open the south wall to the public galleries. It is here that one finds, in high relief, a representation of Champlain. This was realized under Canada's first Dominion Sculptor, Cléophas Soucy, during the period of 1936–37.

Another likeness of Champlain can be found in the Salon de la Francophonie, a meeting room a few steps from the Senate Chamber. Along with portraits of New-France-era French kings, the room features a life-sized bronze bust of Champlain. This bust is the perfect twin of that presented to the National Assembly, cast from the same digital model.

The Salon de la Francophonie