

**JOHN IRWIN COOPER**

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*Printed in Canada*

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COOPER

**montreal**

A BRIEF  
HISTORY

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HISTORY**

JOHN IRWIN COOPER

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**T**his lively account of Montreal emphasizes the last 150 years of its history. It is the story of Montreal's people, of its various municipal administrations, and of its growth to the cosmopolitan centre it is today.

The late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries saw the reign of the monopolists: "In the classical life cycle, the Montrealer was born in a house made with Aitken's cement, was surfeited on McConnell's or Redpath's sugar, travelled on Forget's streetcar, paid his bills to Holt's electrical and gas company, smoked McDonald's (Macdonald's) tobacco and Davis's cigarettes, and was buried in a coffin from the casket trust."

More recently the corrupt municipal régimes of the 1940's and 1950's resulted in an orgy of commercialized vice, with the highly questionable operations of bawdy houses and gambling saloons openly tolerated by the police and the city administration. This "reign of thieves" was followed by a reform administration led by Lucien Saulnier and Jean Drapeau, who later, by bringing Expo 67 to Montreal, brought Montreal to the world.

"Modern Montreal presents a rich mosaic of peoples. . . . There are few cities in America where the geographical mingling of peoples has gone so far, and yet where the cultural identity is so vigorously maintained. Where but in Montreal could there be found a Notre Dame de Grâce kosher butcher shop?"

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