

Commemorative coins

<https://collections.pacmusee.qc.ca/en/objects/commemorative-coins-2016-002-002-1-8/>

Collections / Post-war to present day / commemorative coins



CC BY-NC-ND 4.0 license

Light blue rectangular case containing 4 coins commemorating the 1976 Montreal Olympic Games. Each coin features an illustration representing a discipline. From left to right: soccer, boxing, fencing and field field hockey.

Accession Number 2016.02.02.1-8

Date 1976

Materials metal, silver

Measurements 3 x 7 x 22 cm

Historical context

Coins commemorating the 1976 Montreal Olympic Games were issued between 1973 and 1976. The coins presented here date from 1976 and feature illustrations by artists Shigeo Fukuda and Elliott John Morrison. Shigeo Fukuda (1932-2009) was a Japanese design prodigy and versatile artist. Notably a sculptor, graphic designer and poster artist, he exerted great influence as a designer of optical illusions.

First used in ancient Greece, it wasn't until 1952 that the Olympic Games revived the tradition of the Olympic coin. At the initiative of the Finnish government, specific coins were issued for the Helsinki Games. Subsequent editions followed suit, including the Montreal Games in 1976. However, the Royal Canadian Mint was the first to issue a series of 28 silver and 2 gold coins to finance the event.

Held from July 17 to August 1, 1976, these Olympic Games marked a historic moment for Canada, with Montreal becoming the first city in the country to host the event.

Although Canada did not win a gold medal, the team did collect 11 medals, doubling its previous record. The program for the Montreal Games included 21 sports, 4 of which can be seen here. Field field

hockey, shown in the last piece, was played on synthetic turf for the first time, bringing about a tactical and technical revolution in the sport.

© Pointe-à-Callière Collection, 2016.002.002.1-8

Photo by Victor Diaz Lamich