

Commemorative coins

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Collections / commemorative coins



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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: lacrosse, rowing, canoeing, cycling.

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Date 1974

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 1974 and feature illustrations by artists Anthony Mann and Ken Danby.

Ken Danby (1940-2007) was a Canadian painter considered one of the greatest realist artists. The popularity of his works, particularly his timeless images, brought him international recognition. Anthony Mann (1927-2013) was an English-born Canadian graphic designer, recognized for his crucial role in the history of modernist design in Canada.

The Olympic Games revived the tradition of the Olympic coin in 1952. 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.

The Montreal Olympic Games are keen to give a significant place to the Aboriginal Nations, as shown by the illustrations on the coins presented here. Numerous Aboriginal artists and artisans are contributing to the artistic and cultural programming of the Games. This involvement comes at a time when Canada is seeking to redefine its national identity and its relationship with Aboriginal nations.