

# Commemorative coins

<https://collections.pacmusee.qc.ca/en/objects/commemorative-coins-2016-002-005-1-8/>

Collections / 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 an infrastructure. From left to right: Olympic Stadium, Olympic Flame, Olympic Village, Olympic Velodrome.

---

Accession Number 2016.02.05.1-8

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 also 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.

Obtaining the Olympic Games meant building new infrastructures. Visible on the coins shown here, Olympic facilities are expensive. However, most of them are reused after the event. The Olympic Stadium, visible on the first coin, became the home of the city's baseball team, the Montreal Expos. Also, the velodrome, visible on the last piece, became a Biodome.

Finally, the second room presents an inseparable element of the Games: the Olympic flame. The flame travels over 550 kilometers in Greece before being transmitted by satellite to Ottawa, inaugurating this new technology.

© Pointe-à-Callière Collection, 2016.002.005.1-8

Photo by Victor Diaz Lamich