

Commemorative plate

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Commemorative plate for the 1976 Montreal Olympic Games in blue and white porcelain. An ancient Greek athlete is depicted in front of the planet Earth, along with the event's logo and references.

Accession Number 2012.01

Fabricant / Éditeur Royal Copenhagen

Period 4th quarter of the 20th century

Materials ceramics

Measurements 2,8 x 20,3 cm

Historical context

This commemorative plate for the 1976 Montreal Olympic Games was produced by Royal Copenhagen. While the Danish porcelain manufacturer designs special editions each year dedicated to Denmark's cultural heritage, it also produces commemorative pieces for major events, like the plate shown here.

The latter is part of a collection of several plates, each with a different motif. Characterized by their blue and white colors, the patterns and reliefs of Royal Copenhagen's creations are handcrafted by artisans on the basis of designers' drawings.

This Danish porcelain manufacturer was founded in Copenhagen in 1775. It grew out of Europeans' fascination with blue-and-white porcelain imported from China. Starting out in a former post office, chemist Frantz Heinrich Müller was granted a 50-year monopoly on porcelain creation. Although the royal patronage of the factory was not official in the early days, the first pieces were produced for the royal family. In 1779, King Christian VII assumed financial responsibility, and the factory was renamed the Royal Porcelain Manufactory.

This plate testifies to the scope and cultural impact of the Montreal Olympic Games. Completing the visual identity of the event, it helps to anchor this edition in the collective memory.