

# Fuel cell

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Cylindrical fuel canister for the 1976 Olympic flame.

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Accession Number 2004.86

Date 1976

Materials cardboard, metal

Measurements 14 cm

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## Historical context

This fuel canister for the 1976 Olympic flame is an intriguing object. Featuring the colors and emblem of the edition, it respects the graphic charter created by Georges Huel and Pierre-Yves Pelletier. These details testify to the care taken with the graphic identity of these games.

The fuel used to feed the flame is a mixture of olive oil, additives and a smoke cartridge capable of burning for at least 10 minutes without going out. Placed in the upper part of the torch, it flows out to soak the absorbent natural cotton, ensuring a stable, continuous flame.

Disappointed by the bluish, invisible flame of the 1972 Munich Games, Michel Dallaire, creator of the 1976 Olympic torch, wanted a flame that was orange, photogenic and safe for torchbearers. He chose olive oil as a tribute to Greece and for its orange combustion, to which nitropropane and heptane were added to create a superactivated oil.

The result was a sensation: on July 17, 1976, an admirable orange flame burned in front of 70,000 spectators.

The 1976 Montreal Olympic Games were a historic event for Canada, marking the country's first Olympic Games. Despite financial problems and controversies, such as the boycott by several African countries, they were an exceptional event. A stage for memorable sporting moments, they represent a great success for the city of Montreal.