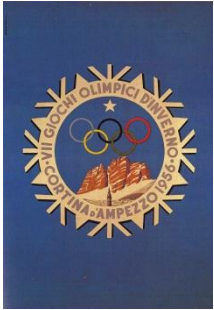


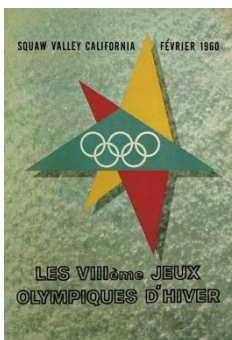
12 years later – winter flame from Olympia.

1956, Cortina d`Ampezzo, Italy: A torch from Rome.



The Italians were also not interested in a Greek flame for their winter Olympics in Cortina D'Ampezzo in 1956. They lit the torch themselves in Rome, and sent it by relay to the Dolomites via the largest cities in the country. The Olympic champion from the downhill at Norefjell four years prior, Zeno Colo, skied with the torch down the mountainside on the ski slopes toward town, and a skater carried the torch into the stadium. The ceremony was the first to be broadcast via television, and the games are otherwise remembered for being the first where athletes from the Soviet Union participated.

1960, Squaw Valley, USA: A torch from Morgedal.

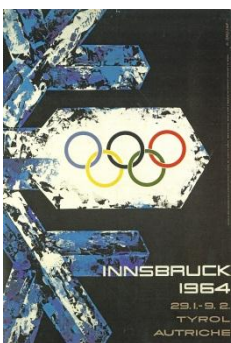


A few months before the opening of the winter Olympic Games in Squaw Valley in California, a request was sent to Morgedal to see whether they would oblige with an Olympic flame for the USA from the fireplace at Øverbø. The citizens of Morgedal naturally said yes, and on short notice they made a brief but pleasant ceremony in Morgedal. After the program there, the torch was transported in an open car to Oslo. There, it was transferred to a small 'lamp' that was brought aboard the regular SAS flight to Los Angeles. The plane had been decorated for the occasion, displaying the words "Olympic Flame Carrier" along the side, and the flame from Morgedal made it safely to the West Coast of the USA.

From Los Angeles, the torch was transported in stages to the Olympic town of Squaw Valley. There, Walt Disney had created decorations in snow and ice. Disney was also responsible for the opening ceremony. These were the first so-called "compact" games where everything took place within a small area. The opening ceremony was held on the skating rink in the bottom of the valley, and American Ken Henry, who had won the 500 metre speed skating event in Oslo in 1952, had the honour of carrying the torch on its last stage toward the lighting of the flame.

The big board with the emblems of all the participating nations from 1960 can still be seen at the entrance to «the Olympic Valley». The Olympic flame still burns in front of this board, although it is somewhat uncertain whether or not it is still the original flame that was lit in Morgedal!

1964, Innsbruck, Austria: A torch from Greece.



These were the first winter games with an Olympic torch lit in Olympia in Greece. The games at Innsbruck were long threatened by lack of snow following a warm spell. When the games opened with a ceremony at the Bergisel-hill, military troops had moved thousands of cubic metres of snow into the Olympic arena.

The Olympic torch was flown in from Olympia, and from the Innsbruck airport a relay of skiers carried it to the stadium. From then on, all subsequent Olympic Games, both summer and winter, were supplied with a flame from Greece. This was the tradition up to the winter games at Lillehammer in 1994.