

Pre-Olympic Stamps

First series

The 1965 series of pre-Olympic stamps issued by the Mexican Secretariat of Transport and Communications was presented officially in Mexico on November 17th, 1965 at a ceremony attended by president Adolfo Lopez Mateos and members of the Organizing Committee of the Games of the 19th Olympiad. The two artists whose designs were selected for this series, Mr. Roberto Garcia Castro (for the 20, 40 and 80 centavo issues) and Mr. Rafael Munoz Lopez (for the 1.20 and 2 peso issues), won first and second prize respectively in the competition held beforehand, the prizes being awarded on this occasion.

The five stamps in the 1965 series show pre-Hispanic sporting motifs: The Slinger, for the 20 centavo issue, in blue grey on an olive green ground; the Batsman, for the 40 centavo issue, in grey on a pink ground; the Athlete at Rest, for the 80 centavo airmail issue, in grey on an orange ground (the three original ceramics are in the Museum of Anthropology in Mexico); the famous Chin-Cultic Disc of the Maya civilization,



for the 1.20 peso airmail issue, in blue grey on a sky-blue ground; and the model of the Game of Pelota for the 2 peso airmail stamp, in brown grey on a bright blue ground (the last two belonging to the Diego Rivera Collection in the Anahuacalli Museum).



Six million copies have been printed of each of the 20, 40 and 80 centavo issues; and two million copies of the 1.20 and 2 peso airmail stamps. This series will be followed by three other pre-Olympic series in 1966, 1967 and 1968, a big Olympic series planned to coincide with the opening of the Games, and a post-Olympic series in 1969. In this way over a hundred million stamps will be put into circulation within the framework of this propaganda campaign, a figure never before equalled by any issue in a Latin American country.