

# Medals of the Winter Games

We will follow with our presentation of Olympic and commemorative medals, those for the Summer Games having appeared in Nos. 29, 34, 35, 52, 55, 57 and 58. The first two parts of the study on Winter Games medals were published in Nos. 66-67 and 70-71.

## 1960 - Squaw Valley

After a great number of set-backs, the VIIIth Winter Games were attributed to Squaw Valley, a region nestling in the heart of the Rocky Mountains in California.

The organisation of ceremonies was entrusted to the great artist in this field, none other than the famous Walt Disney.

The responsibility of choosing Olympic and commemorative medals was given to the protocol department of the Organising Committee.

A number of manufacturers both foreign and local, having been given the necessary information, set to work.

The Olympic medal was finally created by the firm Herff Jones, the signature H. J. C.O. is struck on the outer edge.

The obverse side features two profiles, one of a man and the other of a woman, symbolising American youth. The inscription "*VIIIth Olympic Winter Games*" is written around them.

The Olympic rings, encircled by the Olympic motto "*Citius, Altius, Fortius*" appear on the reverse side. In addition, each medal bears the inscription in

French of the sport in which it had been won. The surface of the medals is slightly rough, while the inscriptions are polished.



The medal measures 54.5 mm in diameter. 60 copies each in silver-gilt, silver and bronze were struck.

The obverse side of the commemorative medal, presented to all participants, bears the official emblem of the Games. Created by the art section of the firm Knollin of San Francisco and selected from amongst a thousand or so entries, this is a design of three superimposed triangles. The Olympic rings appear in the centre, surrounded by the words, "VIIIth Olympic Winter Games".



On the reverse side a powerful arm holds aloft the Olympic torch, lit at Morgedal (Telemark), Norway. This is surrounded by the inscription "Squaw Valley-California-1960". The signature H.J. C.O. is once again struck on the outer edge.

The medal is in bronze and measures 5 cm in diameter.

The diploma was chosen in the same way as the medals. Those taking the first six places received an Olympic diploma, while the other competitors, officials... received a commemorative diploma. Unfortunately, we have been unable to trace a copy.

## 1964-Innsbruck

From the time that the Games were attributed to Innsbruck, the Organising Committee began searching for an appropriate symbol to perpetuate the memory of the IXth Winter Games.

The Minister for Public Education launched a competition. The Organising Committee selected the design which was placed second—the work of Professor Arthur Zegler from Innsbruck. It is this emblem which appears on the reverse side of the Olympic medal, a harmonious combination of the essential elements: the Innsbruck coat of arms, the bridge over the Inn, from which the town derives its name, the five interlaced Olympic rings. This is surrounded by the inscription "IX. Olympische Winterspiele" (IXth Olympic Winter Games).

The obverse side, the work of Marthe Coufal from Vienna, represents the imposing mountain range of Torlauf. The mountain is crowned by the inscription "Innsbruck 1964". The medal could be attached to a hook securing the ribbon, to be placed round the necks of the winners.

The medal measures 7 centimeters in diameter and for the first time, the name of the event is engraved on the obverse side. In fact, it is since these Games that the event has had to be included on the medal for which it is awarded.



The obverse side of the commemorative medal features a perspective view of the town of Innsbruck, with Marie-Theresien Strasse, the most famous view of Innsbruck, in the foreground. The mountains which encircle the town are spread out in the background. The signature *K. Welz* appears on the right.



The reverse side features the emblem of the Games, surrounded by the inscription "IX. Olympische Winterspiele". The medal measures 6 centimeters in diameter.

These two medals were struck by the Vienna Mint.

The Olympic diploma, on white paper, harmonises the different elements of the Games. A Greek athlete bearing a crown, holding in one hand the Olympic torch and with the other making the sign of peace, evokes the silhouette of the basin where the Olympic flame burned for ten days. The ring of the ice

stadium is spread out underneath. These two elements are treated in green bronze, resembling the antique engravings in wood. The word "Diploma" in gold letters heads the inscription "IX. Olympische Winterspiele-Innsbruck 1964" in black.

Under the stadium is the Olympic emblem painted in gold and the signatures of the President of the IOC, Mr. Avery Brundage, the President of the Organising Committee, the Minister of State, Heinrich Drimmel, and the Secretary General, Professor Wolfgang Friedl.

The work of Professor Arthur Zegler from Innsbruck, it was printed by the firm WUS of Innsbruck.

