



Facelift for the Olympic Order

The 1982 year brings innovation to the design of the Olympic Order decoration. Where in the past it has been an engraved medal with the five intertwined rings, emblem of the IOC, cut out from the circle and hanging from a ribbon, the new form will be an attractively wrought necklace, consisting prominently of the five looped rings and encompassed by a reproduction of the laurel boughs, symbolising victory. As before, a pin and a stick pin for the lapel and a diploma are also rendered. The Olympic Order is awarded in gold, silver and bronze

The creation of the Olympic Order was confirmed at the 75th IOC Session in Vienna in 1974. Its recipients are chosen, as stated in the Olympic Charter: to *“any person who has illustrated the Olympic ideal through his action, has achieved remarkable merit in the sporting world, or has rendered outstanding services to the Olympic cause, either through his own personal achievement or his contribution to the development of sport”*

The first attribution of the meritorious title was in 1975 at the 76th Session in Lausanne, posthumously to Avery Brundage in gold, honorary Life President of the IOC, for his outstanding contributions to the development of Olympism. Those who have been attributed the Olympic Order in gold are Lord Killanin (in 1980), the Marquess of Exeter, S.S. Pope John Paul II, Mr. Amadou Mahtar M'Bow and H. M. King Olav of Norway (all in 1981).

There have been other decorations and awards recognising organisations and individuals for their particular contributions. The Olympic Cup, instituted by the Baron de Coubertin in 1906, is awarded to *"an institution or association with a general reputation for merit and integrity which has been active and efficient in the service of sport and has contributed substantially to the development of the Olympic movement."* (Olympic Charter). The Cup remains at the headquarters of the IOC, the Chateau de Vidy in Lausanne, and the yearly recipient is given a reproduction.

The Olympic Diploma of Merit, given in the past, but now replaced by the Olympic Order, was created at the Brussels Congress in 1905, and awarded to an individual with similar qualifications as those for the Olympic Cup.

Other distinctions that have also formerly been attributed were the Fearnley Cup (1951-1972) to sports clubs, the Mohammed Taher Trophy (1951-1971) to amateur athletes, the Count Alberto Bonacossa Trophy (1955-1971) to National Olympic Committees, the Tokyo Trophy, also to athletes and the Prix de la Reconnaissance Olympique, to individuals noted for their contributions to NOCs.

At the 85th IOC Session in Rome this May, various Olympic Orders designated at the previous Session in Baden-Baden in 1981, will be presented. In Rome, the Council of the Olympic Order, consisting of the President of the IOC and the three Vice-Presidents, will convene and draw up a list of nominations for each grade, which will then be presented to and decided upon by the IOC Executive Board. The newly designed necklace of the Olympic Order will be offered to this year's elected recipients.

Our best wishes to Teresa and José

José Sotelo, the most cheerful single at the IOC Secretariat, was married in Lausanne the 8th April, to Teresa Molina, a very beautiful fellow countrywoman.

The *"Olympic Review"* and all their friends at the Chateau de Vidy would like to wish their very best to the newlyweds.

