

Olympic coins

At a press conference held on 19th January 1983, while the IOC Executive Board was meeting in Los Angeles, Mr. Savo Secur, President of the Marketing Division of the Organizing Committee for the XIVth Olympic Winter Games, presented the first set of Olympic coins to be sold in the United States to Mr. Juan Antonio Samaranch, President of the IOC, accompanied by Mrs. Monique Berlioux, the Director. Also present were Mr. William E. Simon, President of the United States Olympic Committee, and Col. Don Miller, Secretary General, together with Mr. Arthur Takac, the Organizing Committee's Technical Director.

In all, the collection comprises three gold coins and fifteen silver coins. They will be issued at regular intervals between January 1983 and January 1984.

The series of coins presented during this press conference consisted of one 5,000 dinar coin in gold, and three silver coins of 500, 250 and 100 dinars. The reverse side of the 5,000 dinar coin portrays a stylized snowflake crystal, official emblem of the XIVth Winter Games, crowned with the five Olympic rings. It bears the inscription "XIVth Winter Olympic Games Sarajevo 1984". The obverse design features the coat of arms of Yugoslavia next to the emblem of the XIVth Winter Games, placed above the number 5,000 and below the words "Federal Socialist Republic of Yugoslavia", inscribed in a semi-circle.

The designs on the obverse sides of the three silver coins are identical to that of the gold coin, except for the different numbers. The design on the reverse side of the 100 dinar piece depicts two ice-hockey players facing forwards; the 250 dinar coin is a stylized evocation of the different cultures of this ancient Islamic city, and the 500 dinar coin is the profiled silhouette of a downhill skier in action.

The worldwide sales of this Olympic coin programme are expected to reach between 70 and 90 million dollars. The National Bank of Yugoslavia will issue a maximum of 110,000 silver coins in each category.

Part of the sales revenue will go to the Yugoslavian Olympic Committee to contribute towards the training of athletes, not only for the coming Winter Games, but also for the Olympic Games of the future.

