



SEOUL PRESENTS THE IOC WITH A NEW FLAG

The flag bearing the five rings, a major symbol, appeared in 1928 and had flown proudly since then over all the grand ceremonies of the Olympic Games. However, after fourteen Olympiads, time had begun to take its toll, somewhat dimming its lustre.

The Organising Committee of the Seoul Games had got wind of this and decided to present the IOC with a new standard. One of the foremost silk manufacturers in Korea received the order to create an exact copy of the original flag. No changes were authorised except for the better. The material was to be pure Korean silk, made by hand to symbolise the devotion of the Korean people to a noble cause.

Thus it came about that a superb flag in a splendid acacia box was presented to the IOC at its headquarters in Lausanne. In its design, a single piece (the old flag was made up of several pieces sewn together) of natural twenty-one denier silk with forty-eight stitches to the centimeter was used.

The rings, in the same material, were woven and dyed by hand.

The fringe, handwoven by women specially trained in the traditional craft, was sewn with twenty-one denier silk.

For the coloured parts (the rings, the fringe, etc.), rapid acid dyes were used, which are very resistant to washing and light. They were also waterproofed to protect them against rain.

From now on, therefore, thanks to the organisers of the Seoul Games, the IOC will have a lovely new flag ready to brave all weathers.

