



*Olympic medallist and officials from the People's Republic of China on the occasion of the ceremony to award the Olympic Pins.*

## THE MARK OF A CHAMPION

The Olympic Pin is a small but powerful symbol reuniting medallists in a spirit of fraternity in countries around the globe. To date, sixty-two consignments have left Olympic House and the first dozen presentation ceremonies held. A visible mark of achievement at the topmost level, to be worn with unabashed pride, it is awarded on the behalf of the IOC by the highest national authorities to demonstrate the enduring value of individual feats of excellence. Old and young Olympic medallists are gathering together and swapping memories of their own personal experiences of the Games, each of them a contributor to the great collective idealism which is the Olympic Movement.



*Mr. Hai Feng Xu, left, receiving his award and a handshake from Mr. Wan Li, Vice-Premier of China.*



### PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

The first Chinese Olympic Gold Medallist, shooter Mr. Xu Hai Feng, was also the first recipient of the Olympic lapel pin at a ceremony in Beijing's Theatre of China on 25th January 1988. Mr. Zhen Liang He, IOC Executive Board Member, as well as numerous sports officials, coaches and athletes, was there to watch Mr. Xu, Olympian of the Games in Los Angeles in 1984, being presented with his pin by the Vice-Premier of China, Mr. Li Wan. Mr. Menghua Li, NOC President, gave a speech praising the inspired example given to the youth of the country by Chinese Olympians, who had turned out in force to receive their pins: Ning Li, Yun Lou and Zhigiang Xu (gymnasts); Jihong Zhou (divers); Xiaolan Zhou and Ruigang Zhang (women's volleyballers); Jingyuan Yao and Renmin Lai (weightlifters); Xiaoxuan Wu and Yifu Wang (shooters); Zhen Chen, Xuilan Sun and Jianping He were all present for the occasion which ended with a special "Olympic Night" song and dance show.



### KOREA

H.E. Mr. Sang-Ho Cho, Minister of Sports, Dr. Un-Yong Kim, IOC Member in Korea, and members of the NOC, the Korean Amateur Sports Association, and thirty-nine national federations, were amongst five hundred guests at the ceremony for the presentation of the Olympic medalists' pins on 12th January 1988. It began in the international press centre with the "Triumphal March" chorus played by the national television company's children's choir.

## Olympic Pins

The first pins were handed to Mr. Kee-chung Son, gold medallist, and Mr. Seung-Ryong Nam, bronze, both marathoners in the Games of the XIth Olympiad in 1936. Mr. Chong-Ha Kim, NOC President, expressed his congratulations to the medallists as forerunners in the development and promotion of the Olympic Movement in Korea. H.E. Mr. Cho urged all Korean sportsmen to brace themselves for the Games of the XXIVth Olympiad in Seoul and to uphold the highest ideals of Olympism. Appropriately enough, the ceremony ended with another "Victory Song" by the KBS singers.



*Mr. Sang-Ho Cho, right, Minister of Sport, attaches the IOC pin to Mr. Kee-chung Son's lapel.*



### GHANA

Ghana's three Olympic medallists received their IOC lapel pins from Mr. Atoa Austin, Secretary for Youth and Sports, in the NOC's end-of-year reception held in Accra. Clement Ike Quartey, Eddie Blay and Prince Amartey, Olympians from the Games in Rome in 1960, Tokyo in 1964 and Munich in 1972 respectively and boxers all, heard Mr. Nkansa-Gyane, NOC President, recall in his address "those challenging days of their lives when, sacrificing the freedom of youth, they

persevered through years of rigorous training and self-denial in pursuit of excellence... May the inspiration of the Olympic Games be felt by men and women of this country, as they help our sportsmen and women achieve their own goals of excellence in Seoul".

Francis Dodoo, twenty-seven-year-old triple jump gold medallist and record holder at the 4th African Games in Nairobi in 1987, currently writing a doctoral thesis on demography after winning a scholarship to an American university, was presented with the IOC Sports and Study Trophy. Mr. Dodoo is all-round sportsman who has represented Ghana in volleyball, cricket and hockey, as well as athletics.

Ten youngsters who had taken part in an NOC-sponsored essay writing competition also received their prizes, the first of which went to Henry Mark Hemans-Mensah of the Ghana International School for his views on the topic "The National Olympic Gallery and what it means to me".

Certificates were presented to participants of the IOC Sports Leadership Course held at Greenhill from 12th to 16th October 1987.



#### GREAT BRITAIN

The Princess Royal, President of the British Olympic Association, presented the commemorative IOC Lapel Pins to over two hundred British Olympic medallists at a ceremony in London's Buckingham Palace on January 26th 1988. Amongst those reliving their moments of personal sporting triumph was Kitty Godfree, nee Mckane, the tennis champion from the Games in 1920, at 91 the oldest recipient present. She mingled with Kriss Akabussi, silver medallist in the 4 X 400 m relay on the last day of the Games in Los Angeles in 1984 and Teddy Smouha and Cyril Gill, who won their bronzes in the same event fifty six years previously, back in 1928. Princess Anne expressed her whole-hearted approval of this IOC initiative which had gathered medallists of all generations together from as far afield as the USA and Hong Kong. Some had not travelled quite so far — one of the sportsmen to receive his pin from the Princess was her husband Captain Mark Phillips, winner of an equestrian gold in the Games in Munich in 1972.



*HRH The Princess Royal presents the IOC pin to Kitty Godfree, 91, tennis medallist in 1920 and 1924.*



#### HUNGARY

Inspired by the award ceremony of IOC pins to past national Olympic champions on 27th March 1988, Hungarian athletes in training for Seoul 1988, made a solemn vow of commitment to the Games of the XXIVth Olympiad in front of an audience of sportsmen and prominent public figures, headed by the Prime Minister Mr. Karoly Grosz.

The solemnity of the occasion was well expressed by NOC President Mr. Gabor Deak in a speech reminding those present of the pride Hungarians feel in their athletes' achievements. He hoped that the strong sporting traditions established by former Olympians would be maintained by the new generation, which had a duty to prepare itself honestly to be worthy representatives of their country in the forthcoming Games.



*Dr. Szalay being decorated with the IOC pin by Mr. Pal Schmitt*

Today's Olympic hopefuls looked on as those who had already assured their part in the Olympic record books received their pins from the hands of Mr. Pal Schmitt, IOC Member in Hungary : Ildiko Rejto (a total of two gold, three silver and two bronze in fencing at all Games from 1960 to 1976), Aladar Gerevich (also a fencer with a clutch of seven gold, one silver and two bronzes in Games from 1932 to 1960), Laszlo Papp (three golds in boxing from 1948 to 1956) and, the most senior, Dr. Jozsef Szalay, silver medallist in gymnastics in Stockholm in 1912, to cite a few in the long line of recipients. Something to live up to indeed...



## NIGER

Mr. Issaka Dabore, bronze medallist at the Games in Munich in 1972, received his Olympic lapel pin from Commandant Sidi Koutoubi, NOC President, expressing the hope that it would make his young fellow sportsmen realise that sport is "an art in which the talent of the proud representative of his country is never forgotten". Also silver medallist at the 1st and 2nd African Games in Brazzaville and Lagos in 1965 and 1973, respectively, and gold medallist in the African Championships in Lusaka in 1968, Mr. Dabore looked forward to a athlete from Niaer doing even better than himself by winning a silver, or even a gold, medal at the Olympic Games. The Minister of Youth, Sports and Culture, Captain Abdourahmane Seydou, and various members of the government, were amongst the four thousand people gathered in the Oumarou Ganda Cultural Centre in Niamey for the award ceremony. Another six and a half million watched on television.

## Olympic Pins



## SRI LANKA

Pin Serial No. 1 was rushed to Sri Lanka by the Director of NOC Relations, Miss Anne Beddow, to ensure its timely arrival for the NOC's Golden Jubilee. After two disappointing enforced postponements, the timing of celebrations at the end of October 1987 could not, after all, have been happier, according to Mr. Prema Pinnewale, the Secretary General : Olympic medallist, Mr. Duncan White, now resident in Great Britain, was in the country for the anniversary as the NOC's Special Guest and the pin's prompt arrival meant that the award ceremony suddenly became the festival highlight. The President of Sri Lanka, H.E. Mr. J.R. Jayewardene, agreed to make the presentation to Mr. White, whom he termed an old friend. The country's sole Olympic medallist, with a silver in the 400 m hurdles at the Games in 1948, was given a popular hero's welcome by the public.



*The President of Sri Lanka, H.E. Mr. J.R. Jayewardene, right, pinning the IOC decoration on Mr. Duncan White.*

Afterwards, Mr. Jayewardene presented NOC tokens of recognition to captains of past Olympic teams, including his son Ravi Jayewardene.

Other events, planned as far back as early 1986, included a children's art competition, actively supported by the Ministry of Education. The winning entries drew many visitors to the Art and Olympic exhibition in Colombo, which also recorded Sri Lanka's participation in the Games from 1948 onwards.

The NOC felt that the birthday programme had provided a positive focus for the Olympic Movement in Sri Lanka. A commemorative stamp depicting a hurdler in tribute to Mr. White was issued, an unusual feature of which was that the stamp was designed to be affixed diagonally on envelopes, and a souvenir book is to follow.