

SIXTH PRE-OLYMPIC ISSUE IN BARCELONA



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olimpicos

Serie Preolimpica (VI)

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BARCELONA' 92

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With the sixth issue which took place on 7th March, three new stamps have been added to the Barcelona '92 pre-Olympic philatelic series.

These new stamps are the work of the painter Perico Pastor, and depict the modern pentathlon, value 15+5 pesetas; kayak, 25+5 pesetas; and canoeing, 45+5 pesetas. 3,900,000 stamps of each value are to be printed in sheets of twelve. As with the previous issues, this one was marked by first day cancellations in Barcelona and Madrid. A men's sport with military origins, the modern pentathlon made its appearance in the Olympic programme at the 1912 Games in Stockholm, and was conceived as a revival of Greek practice.

Equestrian sports replaced the long jump, with pistol shooting in place of javelin; and while wrestling and discus gave way to fencing and swimming. Only the original foot race remains. In Pierre de Coubertin's view, a man who could compete in these five disciplines and emerge the victor, merited the title of complete athlete. The paddle is honoured in the other two stamps, and we should remember that, for the first time since Munich in 1972, a white water competition will be held at the 1992 Games on a specially modified course in Seu d'Urgell.