

CENTENNIAL COINS LAUNCHED



The IOC President and Mr Richard Pound unveil the Centenary coins. From right to left, Mrs Françoise Zweifel, Messrs Françoise Carrard and Robert Huot.

Everything was just right at Olympic House on 17th March to make it a truly exceptional day. The satellite link-up was working, with Canada appearing on a giant screen to a background of classical music for maximum effect.

The IOC was launching the first three coins of its Centennial Coin Programme. To start the proceedings in fraternal spirit, the President, accompanied by Mr Richard Pound, IOC member in Canada, planted five different species of trees, including an olive tree, the symbol of peace. This five-year programme of great artistic and financial value will mark the human and historic importance of the

Games. Canada, inaugurating the series, concentrated on the motto; Australia will follow next year with a depiction of fair play. The centenary of the first Olympic Congress in Paris will provide the theme for France in 1994, followed by Austria which has chosen music and the arts, and finally Greece which will celebrate the first Games of the modern era. As the IOC President himself stressed, "the centennial of

the Olympic Movement is an occasion which will affect millions of people across the world... and the fact that the mints, and through them the governments, of five countries are paying tribute to it and the athletes who are its glory is a memorable event in the history of our family." In the following pages, the Director of the Centennial Coin Programme, Robert Huot, describes the first three coins in the collection.



One hundred years ago, in 1892, Baron Pierre de Coubertin concluded his address to the Union des Sports Athlétiques with the announcement that he intended to seek the revival of the Olympic Games. To him, and several colleagues, this was the natural outcome of the growing interest and participation in athletics.

Coubertin's efforts were successful, as we know, although not without considerable effort. In his memoirs, he wrote of his listeners: "Full of good will - but no understanding - they were unable to comprehend my idea, to interpret this forgotten thing, Olympism..." To him, though, the vision, to be given expression in the principles and ideals of the Olympic Movement, was clear.

THE OLYMPIC VISION

By Robert Huot

Director of Olympic
Coin Programmes



The coins pay tribute to Pierre de Coubertin's Olympic vision. Right, the Royal Canadian Mint, where the coins were created.