

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

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

The International Olympic Committee will celebrate this important centennial milestone with a variety of special events and projects from now until 1996. Among them, the Olympic Centennial Coin Programme, which will run throughout the five years. The collection comprises five series of three commemorative coins, each bearing a design which interprets a fundamental concept of or key event in the Olympic Movement. The three coins in the first series have just been launched. They symbolize the principles of the Olympic Movement, evoking the major themes of its first

speed skater in pursuit of swiftness, the pole vaulter striving for height, and the gymnast seeking strength. The motto, whose importance to the Olympic Movement is evident, is inscribed around the edge of each coin, together with the five intertwined rings and the dates 1896 - 1996. The gold coin contains one-half ounce of gold and is minted in the traditional 22 carat alloy. As with all coins in the collection, its finish, termed "numismatic proof", combines a special frosted or matt finish of the subjects in relief with a brilliant field background. It is 28 millimetres in diameter. Each silver coin, 40 millimetres in diameter, contains one ounce of fine silver in the traditional sterling silver alloy - 92.5 percent.

Coins illustrating all the races of the world (right) and the Olympic motto.



CANADIAN COINS

Series 1, "The Olympic Vision", has been struck for the International Olympic Committee by the Royal Canadian Mint and the reverse of the coins carry the effigy of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, the year of issue, 1992, and the denomination. Retailing around the world is through an extensive network of commemorative coin distributors, banks, the IOC's partner mints or directly from the International Olympic Committee in Lausanne. Options for acquiring the coins range from a subscription to the full Centennial Collection to the simple purchase of a single coin. Full details are available from the IOC's Olympic Centennial Coin Programme in Lausanne.

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years of existence. The designs pay tribute to the Olympic vision of Pierre de Coubertin which he passed on to his first supporters. The gold coin features the coming together of persons of all races and from all parts of the world in pursuit of the common dream, represented by the Olympic Flame. This expresses the universality of the Olympic Movement, belief in the contribution of sport and athletics to civilization. The two silver coins depict the vision of Olympism as eternal, handed down through the generations. One has a clear road to the future, showing the responsibility of those in the Olympic Movement to inspire youth to take up the challenge. The second is a tribute to all athletes through a visual interpretation of the Olympic Motto - citius, altius, fortius - swifter, higher, stronger, illustrated by three sports, the

