

The Norwegian post won the place of honour with its stamp illustrating the Olympic flame relay. This Prix Olympia 94 gold medal is the reward for a major Olympic philately programme stitching over four years, with every issue proving hugely successful among the general public, Hungary won the silver, and the bronze went to the Finnish postal administration. Every two years, the Prix Olympia, created by the FIPO under IOC patronage in 1985, honours the most attractive philatelic material issued on the occasion of the Olympic Games.

Norway wins the Winter Games, "Prix Olympia"



which four stamps depict the national sports heroes Marja-Liisa Kirvesniemi and Marjo Matikainen, several-times crosscountry ski champions, skater Clas Thunberg, jumper Veikko Kankkonen and Veikko Hakulinene, another cross country skier. Printed on the left side of the card is an artistically blurred image of the Lysgaardsbakkene, the ski jumps on the hillside above Lillehammer which will be remembered as the hallmark of these XVII Winter Games. The medal award ceremony will be held in Paris on 4th September next during the 103rd IOC Session, but other events are planned, in particular by the Norwegian Post, which will celebrate its Prix Olympia on the national stamp day it organizes each year in Oslo. The postal administrations and NOCs of Hungary and Finland will be invited to these philatelic and cultural events taking place from 23rd to 25th September,



The stamps from Norway (top), Finland and Hungary (right).

Chaired by Mr Juan Antonio Samaranch, the international jury, made up of FIPO members and the executive committee of the International Philately Federation, had a difficult time choosing from among the many stamps submitted to it. The Norwegian stamp contains all the elements which make up the artistic strength of the Olympic philatelic programme that we talked about here last month: bright, vivid colours, an elegant and classic view of Lillehammer with bold, modern strokes. The Hungarian stamp, featuring a downhill skier in action, also expresses a very sporting movement. The athlete bursts out of a frame featuring, the emblem of the Games. The Finnish entry is postal stationery in blue monochrome, on

