

THE INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COLLECTORS FAIR

The History of Olympic Souvenirs

Numismatics

One of the first historical souvenirs of the ancient Olympic Games were the coins found in Olympia dating back to circa 500 BC.

These “ambassadors” of the Olympic Games have given us an important record of the ancient Olympic Games. These early Olympic coins are extremely rare however modern Olympic coins (1951 to present date) are readily available and have been an important fund-raiser for Olympic host cities.

Philately

The revival of the Olympic Games witnessed the introduction of Athens 1896 Olympic stamps which were issued on the opening day of the first Olympic Games, 25 March 1896 (6 April 1896 - Gregorian calendar). The aim of this issue was to finance the costs of the new venues of the Games (fencing, shooting, cycling, and nautical events).

Memorabilia

The first Olympic Games souvenirs which gained widespread popularity was a mascot seen during the Games of the XX Olympiad in Munich in 1972. It was named “Waldi”, the Dachsund. The mascot brought an innovative way of communicating the Olympic Games to the world. Loved by children, adults, and seniors alike this new Olympic messenger captured styles, tradition, and culture of western Germany at that time.



A quick glance at the the International Olympic Collectors Fair in Seoul, Korea

Who?

The Olympic Collectors fair in Seoul is organized jointly

by the IOC Olympic Collectors Commission, the Organizing Committee of the International Olympic Fair Seoul 2001, and the Korean Olympic Committee.

When?

1-6 May 2001

Where?

Olympic Park, Seoul
Olympic Plaza A, A-Z, B Within the Peace Square (A, A-2 : Exhibition with selling and auction event; B : Special exhibition of Olympic stamps, medals and coins)

Participation

Delegations from all five continents will participate in the fair and the Youth Camp. The largest delegations will be from the USA, Russia, and Norway.

The highlights

Prize-winning artworks from the Sydney Olympic Art and Sport Contest 2000
Sculpture Park
The new Seoul Olympic Museum
Exhibits of Olympic Collectibles

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Olympic Collecting Today

Olympic collectibles are “historians” of an incredible sporting event which delights collectors from all over the world. Such practices as *colouring Olympic coins, personalising Olympic stamps, and manufacturing limited numbered series of Olympic pins* have paved the way for further innovations in the Olympic collecting disciplines. Olympic collectors are great enthusiasts and supporters of the Olympic Movement and it is only through new ideas such as these that we will bring future generations of collectors to the Olympic Family. It is important to note that they also serve as an important way of raising money for the host cities of all Olympic Games.

From Rio to Lausanne to Seoul

The International Olympic Collectors Fair will travel this year to Seoul, Korea, which will play host to the most important gathering of Olympic memorabilia. From the 1 to 6 May all of the IOC’s collectors federations will be represented at the fair. In addition we will witness the opening of the Korean Olympic Museum. In celebration of this event the Olympic Museum in Lausanne will have a special exhibit. More than 500,000 visitors are expected at the fair.