

silverplated medals are genuine medals, which could be made to show to the Organizing Committee how they would look.

However, there is one important argument in contradiction to this statement. The original request to the Organizing Committee if gilded and silver commemorative medals should be also produced came from the contemporary Dutch Master-of-the-Mint, who did not get the order after all. Because his price was too high, the order for 5000 commemorative medals was awarded to another firm. This firm later merged with several other firms. Alas, no archive has been found in which this order could be found. It does no longer exist.

However, when talking to the director of the current [merger]firm about this problem, he told me that according to the rules in those days, the original firm would certainly have produced no other medals than the ones ordered by the Organizing Committee.

It must be stated that no blame whatsoever can be laid at the feet of the auctioneer who sold that gilded medal, as some of the greatest authorities on Olympic medals still think that this medal, and the silver ones too, are original ones.

Personally, and based on the research mentioned above, I am quite certain that these medals have not officially been gilded and or silvered in 1928.

OLYMPIC ORDER FOR FOUR-TIME OLYMPIAN

Peter Montgomery, who represented Australia four times as an Olympic water polo player and later became foundation president of the World Olympians Association, has been awarded the International Olympic Committee's Olympic Order in Silver.

Born on 6 July 1950, Peter Montgomery is a Sydney lawyer and a member of the International Society of Olympic Historians. He played 512 international water polo matches, and competed for Australia at the 1972, 1976, 1980 and 1984 Olympic Games. In 1976 and 1980 he was team vice-captain, and in 1984 he was captain.

He played in four world championships (in 1973, 1975, 1978 and 1982) and one World Cup (in 1981, when he captained Australia).

Montgomery has a distinguished record as an administrator. He was president of the World Olympians Association 1995-1999, and honorary secretary of the water polo committee of FINA 1984-1992. He has been an executive board member of the Australian Olympic Committee since 1989, and a vice-

president since 2001. He has been assistant chef de mission of Australian Olympic teams in Atlanta 1996 and Sydney 2000, and will fill a similar role in Athens 2004.

He was a member of the board of the International Court of Arbitration for Sport as athlete representative from 1995 to 1999. Among his many IOC posts have been membership of the Athletes' Commission (1988-1999), the 2000 Sydney Co-ordination Commission (1995-1999), the Cultural Commission (1989), the Academy and Education Commission (1990-1996), the Bidding City Evaluation Commission (1991) for the 1998 Olympic Games, and the Commission for Sport and Law (1996-1999).

Montgomery served as foundation chairman of the AOC Athletes' Commission from 1984 to 1992, and as a board member of the Australian Institute of Sport and the Australian Sports Commission. He has been honoured with the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM).

By Harry Gordon