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# The Modern Olympic Games: A Rare Photographs

From time to time, *Olympika* devotes a small section of the journal to the publication of rare Olympic photographs. On this occasion one such photograph is presented.



**Courtesy of the Special Collections, Saranac Lake Public Library, Saranac Lake, New York, USA**

The first picture of an Olympic victory ceremony where medal athletes are arranged on the now familiar victory podium was taken by a staff photographer of *The Albany Evening News* (New York). The date is the late afternoon of February 4, 1932 at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Winter Olympic Games in Lake Placid, New York. Jack Shea (USA), winner of the 500 Meters Speed Skating Event, receives the gold medal from Count Henri Baillet-Latour, president of the IOC. Does Baillet-Latour's sideward glance to his right indicate that something is amiss? Despite explicit instructions to the organizers of the Games on exactly how the silver and bronze medalists should be arranged on the podium, history's first podium medal presentation ceremony erred. The silver medal winner, Brendt Evensen (Norway), is standing to Shea's left. Baillet-Latour had instructed that the silver medal winner be arranged to the winner's right. Then, too, the bronze medal winner, Alexander Hurd (Canada) is standing to Shea's right; he should have been arranged to Shea's left. The error was corrected for

the rest of the medal ceremonies at the 1932 Lake Placid Games. Olympic Games award ceremonies following Lake Placid, both summer and winter, copied the podium phenomenon, and in 1949 the IOC institutionalized the podium medal award ceremonies by dint of changes in the statutes of the *Olympic Charter*.