



*Diploma for the best design of the official poster for the XXII<sup>nd</sup> Olympic Winter Games of 2014 Sochi*



*Certificate of the participant in the Olympic Torch Relay of the XXI<sup>st</sup> Olympic Winter Games of 2014*



The official diplomas of the 2016 Games of the XXXI<sup>st</sup> Olympiad were created by Casa de Moeda do Brasil company in collaboration with the Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games in Rio de Janeiro.

The award diploma was printed on white paper measuring 43x30 cm and adorned with elegantly stylised olive branches, which are part of the laurel wreath. The winner received a diploma with gold embossing, the second-place holder – with silver, and the third-place holder – with bronze.

At the top of the award diploma, there is the Olympic symbol and the inscription “International Olympic Committee” in gold embossing. On the right, there is the logo of the 2016 Games – Stylised Rio – depicting mountains, sun, and sea in the form of swirling lines resembling the silhouettes of people dancing while holding hands. The logo, executed in the colours of the Brazilian national flag – blue, yellow, and green – symbolises interaction and energy, harmony in diversity, the exuberance of nature, and the Olympic spirit.

In the centre, there is a trilingual inscription (French, English, and Portuguese) the athlete’s name, NOC, placement, sport and event are presented.

At the bottom, there are the signatures of the President of the International Olympic Committee, Thomas Bach, and the President of the Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games, Carlos Arthur Nuzman.

# The Games of the XXXI<sup>st</sup> Olympiad. Rio de Janeiro, 2016





INTERNATIONAL  
OLYMPIC  
COMMITTEE



Olympic champion and gold medalist, rhythmic gymnastics, women's individual all-around competition  
Championne olympique et médaillée d'or, gymnastique rythmique, concours général individuel femmes  
Campeã olímpica e medalhista de ouro, ginástica rítmica, individual geral feminina

Thomas Bach  
President | Président | Presidente  
International Olympic Committee  
Comité International Olympique  
Comitê Olímpico Internacional

Carlos Arthur Nuzman  
President | Président | Presidente  
Rio 2016 Organizing Committee for the  
Olympic and Paralympic Games  
Comitê d'organização dos Jogos  
Olímpicos e Paralímpicos de Rio 2016  
Comitê Organizador dos Jogos  
Olímpicos e Paralímpicos Rio 2016

GAMES OF THE XXXI<sup>ST</sup> OLYMPIAD | JEUX DE LA XXXI<sup>È</sup>ME OLYMPIADE | JOGOS DA XXXI<sup>ª</sup> OLIMPIADA  
RIO DE JANEIRO, 5 - 21 AUGUST 2016 | 5 - 21 AOÛT 2016 | 5 - 21 AGOSTO 2016

Award diploma of the 2016 Games of the XXXI<sup>st</sup> Olympiad. Created by Casa de Moeda do Brasil company, Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games in Rio de Janeiro. Dimensions: 43x30 cm

Beneath the crossed olive branches, there is a trilingual inscription “Games of the XXXI Olympiad Rio de Janeiro, August 5–21, 2016.”

Additionally, all participants of the 2016 Games were awarded a participation certificate. This document, measuring 21x30 cm, was printed on white paper. At the top left, there is the Olympic symbol and the inscription “International Olympic Committee,” while on the right, there is the logo of the 2016 Games – Stylised Rio. In the centre, a trilingual inscription (French, English, and Portuguese) reads “Participant certificate,” under which the participant’s surname and first name are mentioned. Below, in three languages, is the phrase: “In recognition and high appreciation of your contribution to the success of the XXXI Olympiad.”

The signatures of the President of the International Olympic Committee, Thomas Bach, and the President of the Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games, Carlos Arthur Nuzman, appear below this text.

The lower part of the diploma is coloured with asymmetrical fragments in the colours of the Rio 2016 Olympics. At the bottom, there is a trilingual inscription “Games of the XXXI Olympiad Rio de Janeiro, August 5–21, 2016.”

*Commemorative certificate  
of the 2016 Games of the XXXI<sup>st</sup>  
Olympiad. Dimensions: 21x30 cm*



*Participation certificate of the 2016 Games of the XXXI<sup>st</sup> Olympiad*



Certificate of a Medical Services volunteer at the 2016 Games of the XXXIst Olympiad



Torchbearer certificates of the Games of the XXXIst Olympiad



Volunteer certificate of the Games of the XXXIst Olympiad



For the XXIII<sup>rd</sup> Winter Olympic Games, the Pyeongchang Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games of 2018 created an award diploma, a commemorative certificate, and a participant certificate.

The decoration of the award diploma features a full-colour Olympic symbol – the intertwined Olympic rings – and the Games' logo (created by Ha Jong-joo), which is the Hangul letters of the Korean alphabet. The first element “ㅍ” represents three components of Korean traditional culture, Cheon-ji-in, symbolising the harmony between heaven, earth, and humanity. The second element “ㄱ” represents snow and ice, symbolising the respective winter sports. The logo employs five colours – traditional Korean colours that coincide with the Olympic flag's colours: white, black, blue, green, yellow, and red.

Following this, the athlete's name, surname, placement, sport and event are mentioned. The diploma is signed by the President of the International Olympic Committee, Thomas Bach, and the President and CEO of the Pyeongchang Organising Committee for the 2018 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games, Hee-Beom Lee. The titles of the Presidents are provided in three languages: French, English, and Korean.

At the bottom of the diploma the logo of Games is placed, using traditional Korean ornaments with geometric motifs. These geometric patterns consist of horizontal, vertical, diagonal lines, and circles. These ancient patterns in ornaments bring health, luck, harmony, and prosperity.

## XXIII<sup>rd</sup> Olympic Winter Games. Pyeongchang, 2018



Award diploma of the XXIII<sup>rd</sup> Winter Olympic Games. Commissioned by the Pyeongchang Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games of 2018

XXIII Olympic Winter Games  
XXIII<sup>e</sup> Jeux Olympiques d'Hiver  
제23회 동계올림픽대회  
09-25 February 2018



Olympic Champion and Gold Medallist

Champion olympique et médaillé d'or | 올림픽 챔피언 및 금메달리스트

*Thomas Bach*

**Thomas Bach** President | Президент | 위원장  
International Olympic Committee  
Comité International Olympique  
국제올림픽위원회



*Hee-Beom Lee*

**Hee-Beom Lee** President and CEO | Президент | 위원장  
The PyeongChang Organising Committee for  
the 2018 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games  
Le Comité d'Organisation des Jeux Olympiques  
et Paralympiques d'hiver de PyeongChang 2018  
2018 평창 동계올림픽대회 및 동계패럴림픽대회 조직위원회

PyeongChang 2018

평창 2018

The commemorative certificate and the participant certificate were also printed on white paper. At the upper left corner, the full-colour Olympic symbol is placed, under which there is an inscription in English: "International Olympic Committee" (IOC logo). In the upper right corner, there is the Games' logo. In the centre, a trilingual inscription (English, French, and Korean) reads "Commemorative Certificate" or "Participant Certificate," followed by the name of the awardee. Below, in three languages, is the phrase: "In recognition and gratitude for your contribution to the success of the XXIII Winter Olympic Games Pyeongchang 2018."

At the bottom, there are the signatures of the President of the International Olympic Committee, Thomas Bach, and the President and CEO of the Pyeongchang Organising Committee for the 2018 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games, Hee-Beom Lee.



Participant Certificate of the XXIII<sup>rd</sup> Olympic Winter Games in Pyeongchang, 2018

Commemorative Certificate of the XXIII<sup>rd</sup> Olympic Winter Games in Pyeongchang, 2018



The award diplomas for the 2020 Games were created by the Tokyo Organising Committee of the XXXII<sup>nd</sup> Olympiad and were produced using a special technique with Mino tesuki kashi paper, which had been listed as intangible cultural heritage by UNESCO. It's difficult to pinpoint exactly when Mino-washi paper was invented, but there are samples that date back to 1300 years old. A notable feature of this paper is that it's thin but incredibly strong. Its production requires a large number of mulberry trees, access to clean water sources, and meticulous manual work.

The light beige diploma features the logo – the five full-colour Olympic rings – in the upper left corner. In the centre, there's the athlete's surname and name, the country's name. Below them, there's a trilingual inscription (English, French, Japanese): "Olympic champion and gold medallist," or "Silver medallist," or "Bronze medallist," or the place the athlete achieved. Following this, there's a trilingual description of the sport and event type. In the lower right corner, the Tokyo Games emblem is placed. At the bottom, there's a trilingual inscription: "Games of the XXXII Olympiad July 27 – August 8, 2021."

On the right side of the diploma, three geometric figures are placed, with colouration changing depending on the athlete's placement: gold, silver, bronze – accordingly for the medallists, and grey and blue for the 4<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> places.

The diploma bears the signatures of the President of the International Olympic Committee, Thomas Bach, and the the President of the Tokyo Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games, Seiko Hashimoto. The size is 29.8x42 cm.



# The Games of the XXXII<sup>nd</sup> Olympiad. Tokyo, 2020



*Award diploma of the 2020  
Games of the XXXII<sup>nd</sup> Olympiad  
in Tokyo. Creator: Organising  
Committee of the Games of the  
XXXII<sup>nd</sup> Olympiad. Size 29.8x42 cm*



Olympic Champion and Gold Medalist | Champion Olympique et Médaille d'or | オリンピックチャンピオン - 金メダリスト

Boxing, Men's Welter (63-69kg)  
Boxe, Hommes Poids mi-moyens (63-69 kg)  
ボクシング, 男子, フェルスター級 (63-69kg)

Thomas Bach

Thomas BACH  
Präsident, Internationale Olympische Kommission  
Président, Comité International Olympique  
国際オリンピック委員会会長

橋本聖子

HASHIMOTO Seiko  
橋本聖子  
Président, The Japan Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games  
Présidente, Comité d'Organisation des Jeux Olympiques et Paralympiques de Tokyo  
2020年東京オリンピック・パラリンピック競技大会組織委員会会長



TOKYO 2020

Games of the XXXII<sup>nd</sup> Olympiad, 23 July - 8 August 2021 / Jeux de la XXXII<sup>ème</sup> Olympiade, 23 juillet - 8 août 2021 / 東京2020オリンピック・パラリンピック競技大会(2020/東京) 2021年7月23日 - 8月8日

Winner diploma of the 2020 Games of the XXXII<sup>nd</sup> Olympiad in Tokyo.  
Creator: Organising Committee of the Games of the XXXII<sup>nd</sup> Olympiad. Size 29.8x42 cm



All participants of the 2020 Games also received participation certificates.

At the top of the white sheet, in the upper left corner, the five Olympic rings are placed, next to them there is the inscription "International Olympic Committee." On the upper right side is the logo of the 2020 Games. In the centre, a trilingual inscription reads "Participation Certificate," below which the participant's name is directly indicated. Further down, a trilingual inscription says, "In recognition and gratitude for your success at the Games of the XXXII Olympiad in Tokyo 2020."

At the bottom, there are the signatures of the President of the International Olympic Committee, Thomas Bach, and the President of the Organising Committee of the Games of the XXXII<sup>nd</sup> Olympiad, Seiko Hashimoto. Below that, the text in three languages reads "Games of the XXXII Olympiad July 27 – August 8, 2021." The bottom part of the diploma is adorned with a decorative element in the colours of the Tokyo 2020 Olympics.



Participation certificate of the 2020 Games of the XXXII<sup>nd</sup> Olympiad in Tokyo

Envelopes with the 2020 Olympic Torch Relay emblem, in which the torchbearer certificates were placed



Tokyo 2020 Olympic Torch Relay Torchbearer certificate

The Organising Committee of the 2022 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Beijing commissioned square-shaped award diplomas, measuring 38x38 cm, for finalists finishing first to eighth as well as participation certificates for the Games and the Olympic Torch Relay participants.

The square shape of the award diploma embodies the concept of the Yang element. Inside the square, the designers placed a circle – representing the Yin element. This reflects the dualistic worldview of traditional China and the pursuit of gender equality by the Chinese people and athletes worldwide as demonstrated at the XXIX<sup>th</sup> Olympic Winter Games in Beijing.

Award diplomas for the champions and medallists were made in golden (1<sup>st</sup> place), patinated silver (2<sup>nd</sup> place), and bronze (3<sup>rd</sup> place) respectively. Athletes who placed fourth to eighth were given diplomas with a less exquisite design.

One part of the diploma – the square – is covered with cracks, reminiscent of the fact that some Olympic competitions are held on ice. The other part of the diploma, enclosed within the circle, features an image of a mountain range, seemingly blown by a light breeze. In Chinese culture, a light breeze (“Feng”) has long symbolised a rich harvest and good health, while mountain ranges herald the coming of the bright Yang, health, and prosperity. The fine filaments in the image indicate that everything in the world is interconnected by invisible threads, constantly flowing and changing.

The image on the diploma calls for harmonious interaction between individuals and their environment. In the top left corner of the award diploma is the Olympic symbol – five interlaced multi-coloured rings. At the top is the 2022 Games emblem, created by Chinese artist Lin Cunzhen, based on the Chinese hieroglyph denoting winter. The top part of the emblem resembles a speed skater, while the bottom part resembles a skier. The motif of the flowing ribbon symbolises China’s mountain ranges, sports venues, ski trails, and ice rinks. Blue represents dreams and the purity of ice and snow. The red and yellow colours of the Chinese flag symbolise the pursuit of victory, youth, and life energy.

## XXIV<sup>th</sup> Olympic Winter Games. Beijing, 2022





Award diploma of the XXIV<sup>th</sup> Winter Olympic Games of 2022 in Beijing.  
Creator: Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games of 2022 in Beijing. Size: 38x38 cm

Below the emblem is an inscription in three languages: English, French, and Chinese, “XXIV Olympic Winter Games Beijing 2022 4–20 February 2022.” The surname and name of the athlete, placement, sport and event, and a sport pictogram stylised as an ancient Chinese seal – white on red – follow. The figures in the pictograms are stylised in the Chinese calligraphy art style.

At the bottom of the award diploma are the signatures of the President of the International Olympic Committee, Thomas Bach, and the President of the Beijing Organising Committee for the 2022 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games, Cai Qi.

The participation certificates of the XXIV<sup>th</sup> Olympic Winter Games 2022 had a simpler design. On a standard sheet of white cardboard, the Olympic symbol (in the top left corner) and the 2022 Games emblem (in the top right corner) are depicted.

Next is an inscription in three languages (English, French, and Chinese) “Olympic Winter Games Beijing 2022 Participation Certificate” and the recipient’s surname and name followed by “In recognition and appreciation of your contribution to the success of the XXIV Olympic Winter Games Beijing 2022.”

The signatures of the President of the International Olympic Committee, Thomas Bach, and the President of the Beijing Organising Committee for the 2022 Olympic and Paralympic Games, Cai Qi serve as endorsement. The bottom part of the diploma is in blue, depicting a mountain range, partially snow-covered and gently blown by the light wind – Feng – interwoven with fine golden filaments and calmly falling snowflakes of various shapes. The symbolism of the drawing is described above.

Certificates with warm words of congratulations were made for the participants of the Olympic Torch Relay. They were signed by the President of the International Olympic Committee, Thomas Bach, the President of the Hellenic Olympic Committee, Spyros Capralos, and the President of the Beijing Organising Committee for the 2022 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games, Cai Qi.



*Participation certificate of the XXIV<sup>th</sup> Olympic Winter Games of 2022 in Beijing*



Certificate for the Torchbearer of  
the Beijing 2022 Olympic Torch Relay  
北京2022年冬奥会火炬接力  
火炬手证书



International  
Olympic  
Committee



Congratulations on your participation as a Torchbearer in the Beijing 2022 Olympic  
Torch Relay, to share Health, Joy and Energy, to spread the Olympic Spirit  
and to bring vitality to the Olympic Winter Games Beijing 2022

祝贺您作为火炬手，参与北京2022年冬奥会火炬接力  
分享“健康、欢乐、活力”，传播奥林匹克精神  
为北京2022年冬奥会增添了力量

Thomas BACH  
President of the International  
Olympic Committee  
国际奥林匹克委员会主席

Spyros CAPRALOS  
President of the Hellenic  
Olympic Committee  
希腊奥林匹克委员会主席

蔡奇

CAI Qi  
President of the Beijing Organising Committee  
for the 2022 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games  
北京2022年冬奥会和冬残奥会组织委员会主席

健康 欢乐 活力  
Health Joy Energy

The award diploma for the 2024 Games of the XXXIII<sup>rd</sup> Olympiad is a stylised reflection of the Olympic medal.

The Olympic Games winner received a golden-coloured diploma, athletes who placed second received a silver one, and those in third place – a bronze. Athletes who placed 4<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> were awarded diplomas of white colour.

The central part of the diploma features a white circle in the shape of the Olympic medal, on which the inscription “Games of the XXXIII Olympiad – Paris 2024” is applied in gold, silver, bronze, and black, and in two languages – French and English.

Below is the Games logo in black followed by the placing inscribed in gold, silver, and bronze, then – in black – the pictogram of the sport, the athlete’s name, the name of the NOC, the event, and the signatures of IOC President Thomas Bach and the President of the Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games Organising Committee, Tony Estanguet.

The dates of the Games – 26 July – 9 August 2024 are at the bottom (in black).

The white circle is elegantly placed on a square cardboard sheet measuring 24x24 cm, in gold, silver, bronze, creating a very special colour effect for the diploma. Thin lines run across the entire coloured surface of the diploma at uneven intervals.

This creative idea of using rays for texture and shine in the Olympic medal design, symbolises both the radiance of France in the world and the radiance of athletes at the Games.

At the bottom of the diploma, the creators placed the Olympic symbol – the five interlocking rings in white, symbolising a call for peace, confirming the words of IOC President Thomas Bach, “Lets give peace a chance.”

Certificates of participation in the Games were also prepared, but the principle of their presentation remains unclear.

# The Games of the XXXIII<sup>rd</sup> Olympiad. Paris, 2024



Certificate of participation in the 2024 Games of the XXXIII<sup>rd</sup> Olympiad in Paris



Award diplomas of the 2024 Games of the XXXIII<sup>rd</sup> Olympiad in Paris. Size 24x24 cm





# Chapter 3. Floristry



*The scene of awarding the victor of the Olympic Games. Red-figure ceramics (painting fragment). 5<sup>th</sup> century BC*

## *A* Historical Background

In ancient Hellas, from time immemorial, wreaths made of branches from sacred trees were used to crown victors, which were also presented with a victory-palm-twigs. The awards had not only aesthetic but also profound symbolic significance. Victors were awarded floral wreaths at all the sacred Panhellenic games – the Olympic, Pythian, Isthmian, Nemean, and Panathenaic. However, special importance was given to the wreath of the Olympic Games victors. The Olympic Games winners (Olympionics) was rewarded with the most prestigious prize – a sacred olive wreath, or Kotinos. According to the ancient Greek traveler and geographer Pausanias, the tradition of awarding the victor of the Olympic Games with an olive wreath was introduced by Heracles himself. The wreaths were made from branches of wild olive that grew in the sacred grove of Altis in Olympia and were called “Kallistephanos Elea” (olive of beautiful wreaths). The tree, which eventually became sacred, was planted by Heracles after completing his twelve labours. The wreaths had different forms: in one, the branches were intertwined in the shape of a horseshoe, in another – in the form of a closed circle.

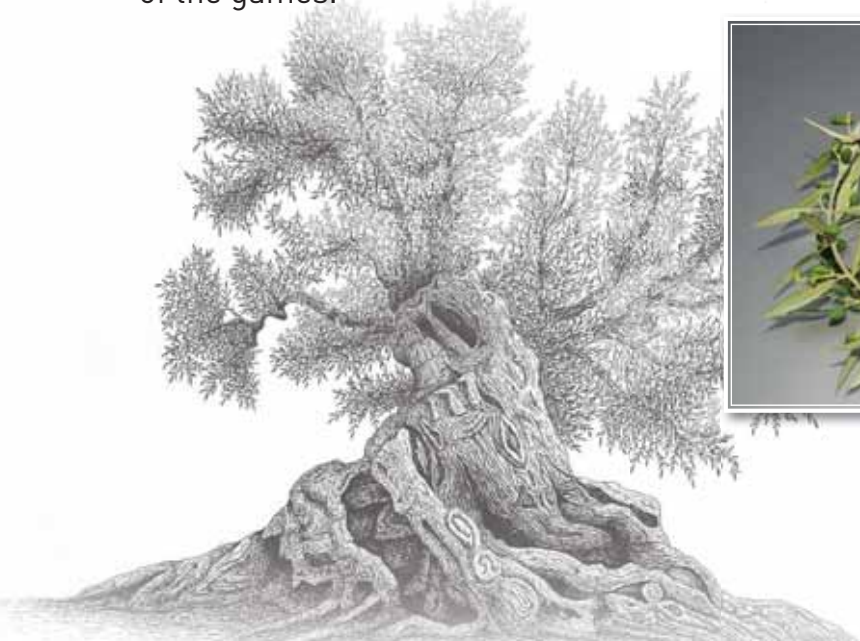
The olive wreath was a highly prestigious symbol of victory and honour, reflecting the religious and cultural significance of the games.



*Kotinos – an award wreath in the form of a horseshoe*



*Kotinos – the award wreath of the victor of the ancient Olympic Games in the form of a closed circle*



*Awarding the victor of the Olympic Games. Red-figure ceramics (painting fragment). 5<sup>th</sup> century BC*



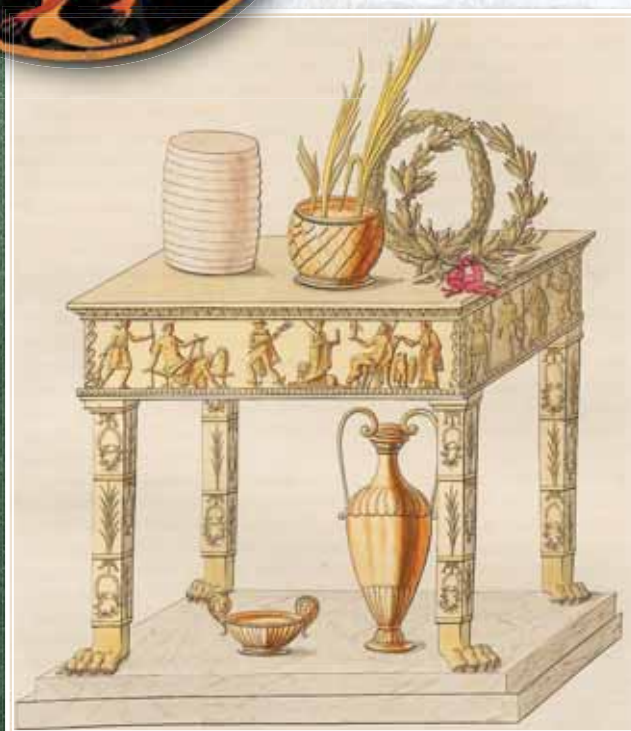
Pausanias also described the procedure of creating the award for the victor. According to this description, the branches for the award wreaths could only be cut by a young Greek boy (Pais Amphitalis), whose parents were alive. The branches were cut with golden scissors and stored until the award ceremony in the temple of Hera on a special table made of ivory and gold by the ancient Greek sculptor Kallotas, who was an apprentice of the great Pheidias and assisted him in creating one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World – the statue of Zeus at Olympia. Only the judges of the Olympic Games (Hellanodikai) had the right to create wreaths and crown the victors on the last day of the Games. After the herald announced the name of the victor, their head was adorned with an olive crown – a Kotinos, which was believed to provide divine protection.

*The awarding of the victors took place on the last day of the Olympic celebrations. The victors of the Games were crowned with an olive wreath. At the end of competitions the winners were decorated with woolen bandage (Tainia) and adorned with woolen ribbons around their arms, and legs. Red-figure ceramics (painting fragment). 5<sup>th</sup> century BC*



*The Table of Kallotas. Chrysolephantine (ivory and gold) table crafted by the great sculptor Kallotas, located in the temple of Hera. Used for storing award olive wreaths.*

*Illustration by the French artist Antoine-Chrysostome Quatremère de Quincy based on the description by Pausanias*



Awarding of victors took place in the Temple of Zeus, to which the victors would march triumphantly, holding palm twigs in their hands, while the audience traditionally showered them with flowers and leaves.

The presentation of the sacred olive wreath seemed to establish a connection between the athletes, nature, and the gods; the victor was endowed with the power to govern the plant world.

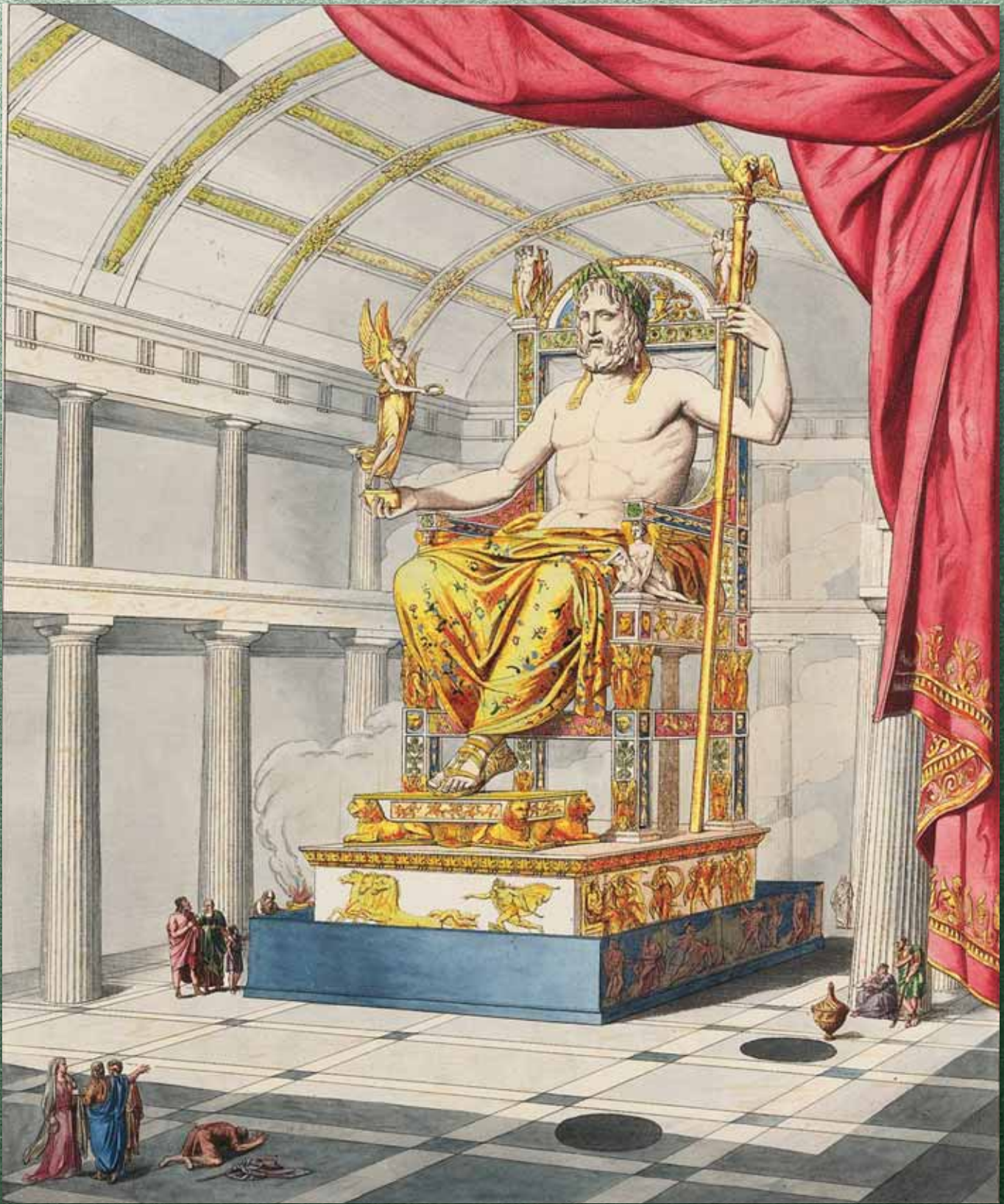
Herodotus described a story related to the olive wreath. Xerxes the Great, who ruled Persia from 485 to 465 BC, interrogating the captured Arcadians after the Battle of Thermopylae (480 BC), asked why so few Greeks defended Thermopylae. The answer was as follows: "All other men participate in the Olympic Games." And to the question, "What prize does the victor receive?" he received the answer: "An olive wreath." Then Tiritantachmes, one of his generals, exclaimed: "My God! Mardonius (the Persian commander – the main instigator of the plan to conquer Greece), what kind of people are these against whom you have brought us to fight? People who compete not for property, but for virtue".



*Bronze statue of Zeus. 460 BC.  
National Archaeological Museum.  
Athens, Greece*



◀ *Winged Nike by  
Paeonios. 420 BC.  
Reconstruction*



*Reconstruction of the statue of Olympic Zeus by Pheidias. Antoine-Chrysostome Quatremère de Quincy. 1814*



*The victors of the Nemean Games were awarded a celery wreath*

The victors of the Nemean Games, held in honour of the world-ruler Zeus in the Nemean Valley on the Peloponnese peninsula, were awarded a wreath made of celery leaves — a symbol of tears, sorrow, and loss. The Games themselves had a commemorative aspect.

The victors of the Isthmian Games, held in honour of the sea lord Poseidon in Corinth, were awarded a palm branch, which throughout the ages symbolised peace, and a pine wreath. The pine wreath was a symbol of the victory of good over evil.

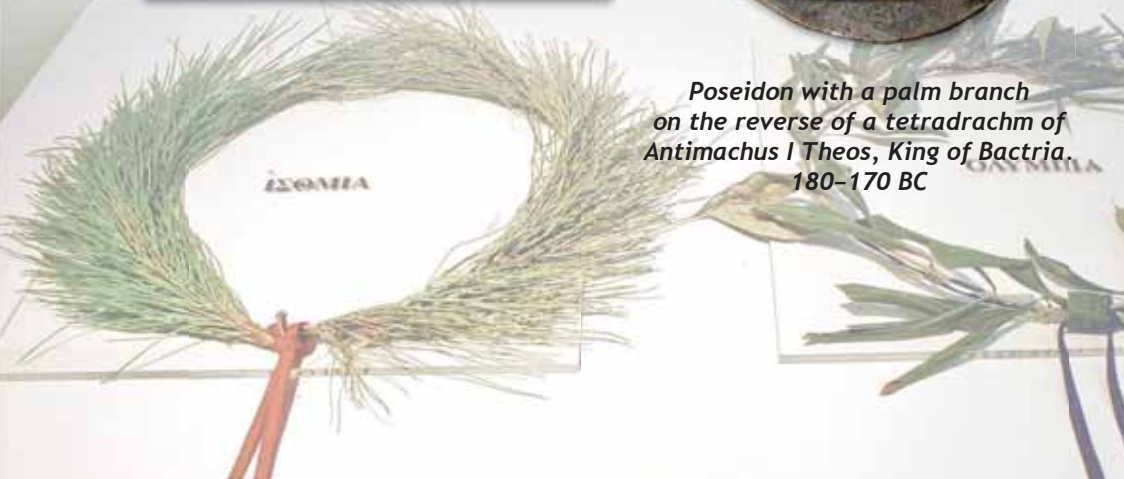


*Poseidon. Ceramic. Painting fragment. Louvre. Paris, France*



*Poseidon with a palm branch on the reverse of a tetradrachm of Antimachus I Theos, King of Bactria. 180–170 BC*

*The victors of the Isthmian Games were awarded a pine wreath*



The victors of the Pythian athletic and poetic competitions, held in Delphi in honour of Apollo, were awarded laurel wreaths. From ancient times to today, the laurel wreath remains a symbol of victory, honour, glory, greatness, and peace.

*The victors of the Pythian Games were awarded a laurel wreaths*



*Apollo crowning Virgil  
Nicolas Poussin. Frontispiece for  
the edition of Publius Vergilius  
Maro's "Opera" 1641  
Since the time of the Pythian  
Games, the laurel wreath remains  
one of the most prestigious symbols  
of victory in human society.  
The custom of awarding military  
commanders, athletes, musicians,  
and poets with a laurel wreath for  
their achievements has survived.  
Nobel laureates and laureates of  
poetic awards are well-known  
examples of the continued highest  
status of the laurel wreath*



*Apollo crowning himself with a laurel wreath. Antonio Canova.  
1781–1782. Marble. J. Paul Getty Museum. Los Angeles, USA*



*Winged Nike crowning the winner of the boxing competition with an olive wreath. Black-figure ceramics (painting fragment). 363–362 BC*

The victors of the Panathenaic Games, which were the largest religious-political event in ancient Athens held in honour of the city's patron goddess of wisdom Athena, were also awarded a wreath made of branches from the sacred olive tree and large so-called Panathenaic amphorae filled with sacred olive oil. Olive in Athens also had a divine origin, as it grew from the bare rock on the Athenian Acropolis. Other treasures, such as bronze tripods (big vases with three feet) were also given as prizes.



*Trophies of the young victor of the Panhellenic Games among epebes: an olive wreath, an amphora, and a palm branch. Placed above the epigram. Marble funerary stele. 126–127 BC*

*Awarding the victor. Mosaic. 5<sup>th</sup> century BC. Archaeological Museum. Larissa, Greece*



*Victor's prize amphora from the Panathenaic Games. 340–339 BC*



*Statuette of Zeus the Scourger  
from the sanctuary of Dodona.  
National Archaeological Museum.  
Athens, Greece*



*King Pyrrhus in a helmet  
adorned with an oak  
wreath. Marble  
sculptural portrait from  
the Villa of the Papyri  
near Herculaneum.  
National Archaeological  
Museum. Naples, Italy*

The victors of athletic competitions of a more localised nature, which were held annually since the reign of the famous king Pyrrhus (319–272 BC) in the territory of the ancient oracle of Greece – Dodona, were awarded a wreath made of the sacred oak. Pausanias in his work “Description of Hellas” claims that the prophecies given there (in Dodona) through the cooing of doves and the rustling of the sacred oak are the most accurate. People came to the sacred oak to hear the will of Zeus, and annual competitions dedicated to the ruling god of the world were also held here. The sacred oak of Dodona is mentioned in the works of Herodotus, Homer, Plato, and others.



*Oracle of Zeus at Dodona.  
Reconstruction  
by Tomasz Hanć*



*Awards for the victor of athletic competitions: Panathenaic amphora (Games in Athens), shield (Games in Argos), and two wreaths – pine (Isthmian Games) and celery branches (Nemean Games). Marble funerary stele. Rampus*

An athlete who achieved victory in all Panhellenic Games was awarded an honorary title – a Periodonikes. The ancient Greeks particularly honoured such individuals. Even on tombstones, they noted the main achievements of his life – victorious wreaths at the Panhellenic competitions.

*Marble funerary stele of an unknown athlete – a winner of eight different ancient Greek games. The first wreath is labelled “Olympia,” the last one – “Pergamum”*

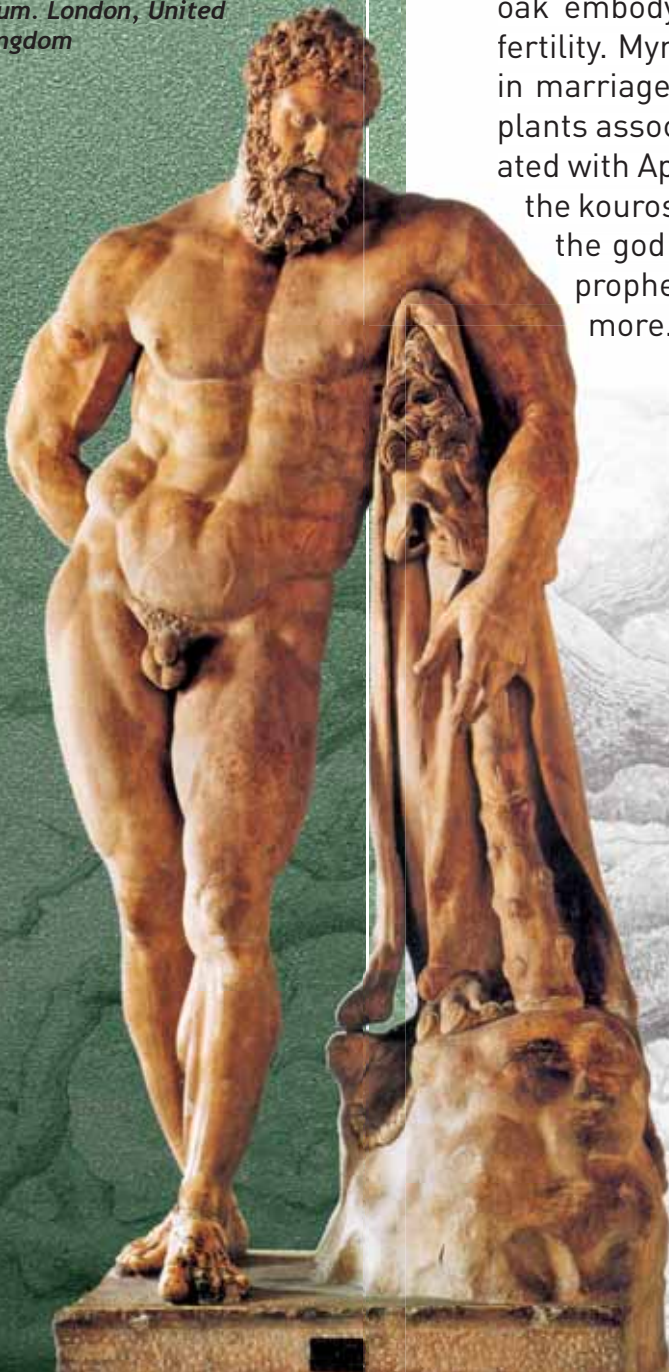


*The victorious youth, also known as the Athlete from Fano, crowned with a victor's wreath. Greek bronze sculpture. Hellenistic period. 300–100 BC. J. Paul Getty Museum. Los Angeles, USA*





*Bust of the Greek youth Antinous, a favourite of the Roman Emperor Hadrian, wearing an ivy wreath (a symbol of mourning). Marble. 130–140 AD. British Museum. London, United Kingdom*

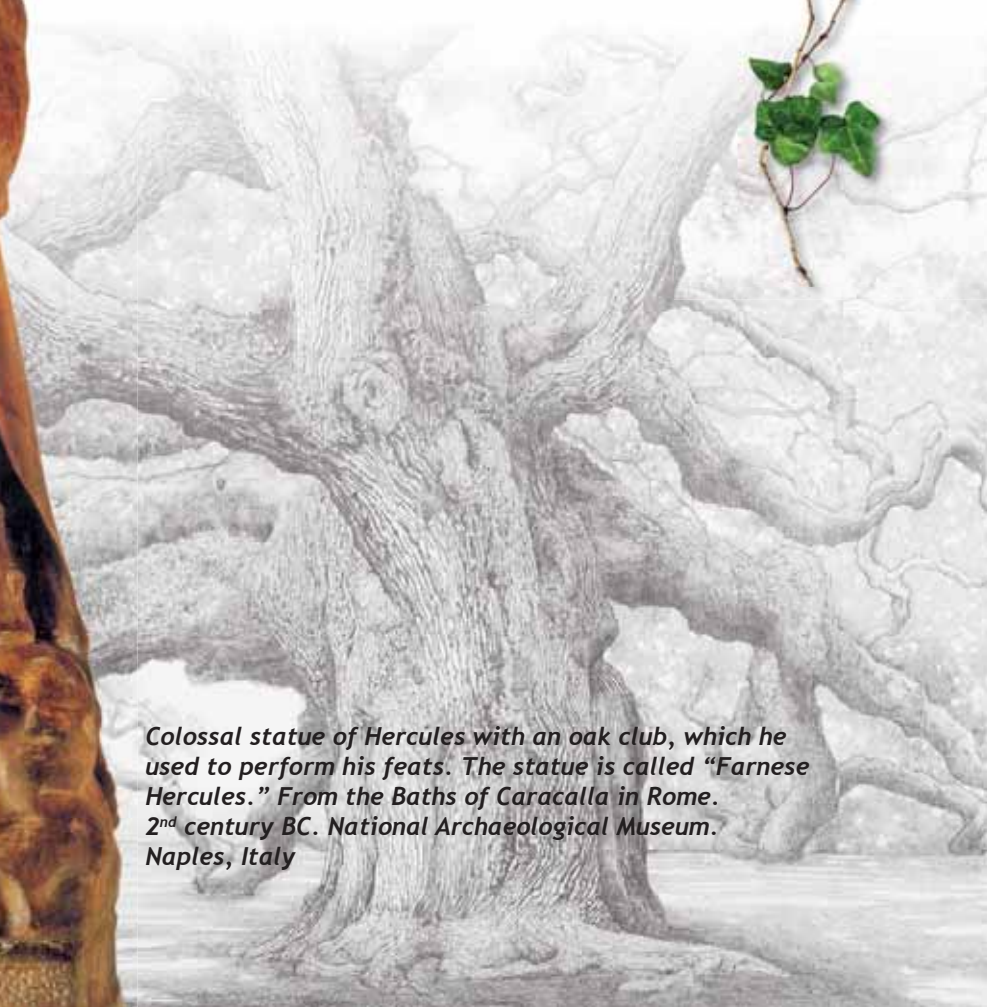


*Colossal statue of Hercules with an oak club, which he used to perform his feats. The statue is called "Farnese Hercules." From the Baths of Caracalla in Rome. 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC. National Archaeological Museum. Naples, Italy*



*Mosaic with the image of Dionysus crowned with a floral wreath. 4<sup>th</sup> century AD. Palazzo Massimo. Rome, Italy*

It is also worth noting that in the ancient Greek world, plants were dedicated to specific gods. For instance, olive and oak were symbols of Zeus, with oak embodying his wisdom and olive symbolising fertility. Myrtle, a plant of Aphrodite, was used both in marriages and funerals. Ivy and grapevine were plants associated with Dionysos. Laurel was associated with Apollo, the most beautiful god, the ideal of the kouros (ephebe, or a beardless, athletic youth), the god of archery, music and dance, truth and prophecy, healing, poetry, Sun and light, and more.





*The chariot race in the Circus Maximus. Alfredo Tominz. 1890*

Wearing wreaths made of laurel and oak leaves became a tradition among the aristocracy in Ancient Rome. The sculptures of Roman emperors that have survived to this day serve as vivid evidence of this. Oak wreaths on the heads of Roman rulers became a symbol of solemn dignity and honour.

A crown made of oak leaves was given as a reward for the winner of the Capitoline Games in Rome. This award was established by Emperor Domitian in 86 AD in honour of the supreme god Jupiter.



*Bust of Roman Emperor Domitian, crowned with a laurel wreath. Louvre, Paris, France*



◀ *The Triumphs of Caesar. Andrea Mantegna. c.1488. Royal Collection, Hampton Court Palace. The painting features many deeply symbolic plants – a palm branch in Caesar's hands, laurel wreath over his head, laurel wreaths and garlands held by people surrounding Caesar, and, finally, an oak leaf garland*



Portrait of Roman Emperor Julius Caesar crowned with a laurel wreath. Peter Paul Rubens. 1617. Private collection



Gaius Julius Caesar. Roman coins. 48–43 BC



Neoclassical medallion with the portrait of Julius Caesar crowned with a laurel wreath. 18<sup>th</sup> century



Bust of Emperor Tiberius crowned with a laurel wreath. Terracotta, enamel. Angelo Minghetti. 1849. Victoria and Albert Museum. London, United Kingdom



Gemma Claudia. Emperor Claudius and his wife Agrippina the Younger, on the right – Germanicus, a brave general, adopted by Tiberius, with his wife Agrippina the Elder – crowned with oak and laurel wreaths



According to Suetonius, Roman Emperor Gaius Julius Caesar was honoured with the highest military award – the Corona Civica, made from an oak leaf garland, as a token of gratitude for bravery and saving a large number of lives during the siege of Mytilene. Statue of Caesar. Nicolas Coustou. 1696. Versailles Gardens. Paris, France

Floor mosaic depicting a laurel wreath. Inside, there is a Greek inscription, a olive branch, and a leaf of ivy





*Portrait of Petrarch crowned with a laurel wreath. Florentine School of Painting. 16<sup>th</sup> century. Italy*



*Dante Alighieri, crowned with laurel. Albert-Ernest Carrier-Belleuse. Bronze sculptural portrait. 19<sup>th</sup> century. France*

*Dante Alighieri at work depicted crowned with a laurel wreath. Luca Signorelli. 1499. Cathedral. Orvieto, Italy*



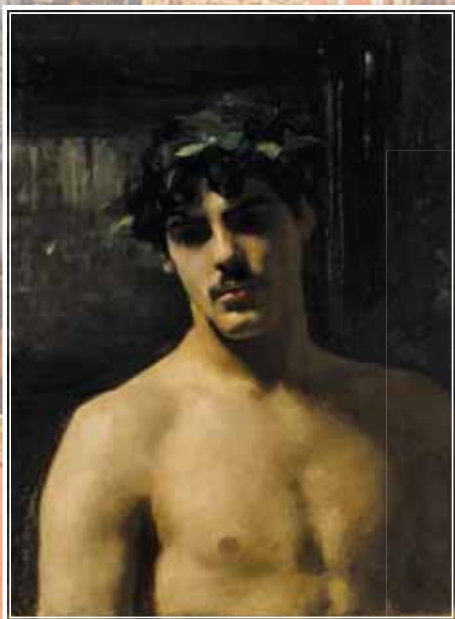
Interest in wreaths persisted during the Renaissance era (14<sup>th</sup>–17<sup>th</sup> centuries). Wreaths on the heads of saints and great martyrs in the form of a ring (Stephana) are a symbol of eternal life.

Throughout various periods in history, as well as in our present day, wreaths have been symbols of glory, triumph, power, and immortality. Wearing wreaths is customary in the form of a crown on the head or a garland on the chest.



*Bust of Emperor Napoleon adorned with a laurel wreath. Biscuit porcelain. Sèvres porcelain manufacture. Antoine-Denis Chaudet. 1811. France*

*Bust of an Olympic champion with a prize wreath. Bronze. Otto Pertz. Late 19<sup>th</sup> century. Germany*



*Youth in a laurel wreath. John Singer Sargent. 1874–1880. USA*



*Portrait of the poet Alonso Ercilla y Zúñiga, crowned with a laurel wreath. School of El Greco. 1576–1578. State Hermitage Museum. Saint Petersburg, Russia*



*Vestaline with a garland.*  
Carl Friedrich Deckler. 1855



*Wall painting from the west wall of Room L of the Villa of P. Fannius Synistor at Boscoreale. ca. 50–40 BC*

The ancient Greeks and Romans were also skilled at artfully making plant garlands – symbols of victory and honour – that adorned temples, statues of deities, and heroes with them.

The rules of arranging garlands, including considering the longevity of the plants, their fragrance, stress resistance, as well as the arrangement of colourful flowers and fruits, held deep symbolism, directing towards a deeper understanding of both specific events and life itself.

For instance, laurel in garlands was a symbol of glory, justice, honour, power, recognition, victory, and wisdom; fragrant myrtle (*lat. Myrtus*) was seen as a symbol of beauty, love, peace, and protection; olive (*lat. Olea europaea*) was a symbol of peace, victory, and compromise; phoenix palm (*lat. Phoenix dactylifera*) was a symbol of victory. Flowers such as roses (*lat. Rosa*), sacred chaste tree (*lat. Vitex agnus-castus*), iris (*lat. Iris*), wild carnation (*lat. Dianthus caryophyllus*), lavender (*lat. Lavandula*), lilies (*lat. Lilium*), immortelle (*lat. Helichrysum italicum*), whose name derives from Greek “helios” – sun, “chrysos” – gold, as well as pomegranate (*lat. Punica granatum*), symbolising fertility, were used to create garlands and adorn temples and statues of victors.

*Roman sarcophagus with Cupids holding seasonal garlands; episodes from the story of Theseus and Ariadne above the swags; on the lid, Cupids race chariots. Ca. 120–150 AD. Metropolitan Museum, New York*





*Flora. Louis Claude Vasse. 1764.  
The Metropolitan Museum of Art.  
New York, USA*

◀ *Flora. Roman fresco. Villa Arianna.  
Stabiae. Pompeii. 1<sup>st</sup> century. Italy*

*Goddess Flora. Luca Giordano. 1671.  
Prado Museum. Madrid, Spain*

The ancient tradition of rewarding winners of Olympic Games with gifts of Chloris (the goddess of flowers and new growth, Latin Flora) has persisted to this day. Olympic olive wreaths were replaced with bouquets of flowers – genuine works of floristry, embodying elegance and sophistication, where each flower carries a special meaning according to the language of flowers.

It is known that the language of flowers originated in the East. Everything that was not suitable to be expressed directly in text could be demonstrated through a complex system of symbols, by creation bouquets.

In Europe, the language of flowers was known during the Middle Ages and the Renaissance. The peak of floral symbolism and compositions made from them occurred in the 18<sup>th</sup> century in France and Victorian England. It was during this time that the science of the language of flowers, floriography, emerged, studying the symbolism of plants of different varieties, shades, and their combinations.

Flowers are so more than just beautiful decorations – they embody narratives of victory, honour and traditions. All while celebrating the greatest athletes of the planet.



*Flora Farnese.*  
*Early Roman copy*  
*of a Greek original.*  
*Marble.*  
*The Archaeological*  
*Museum. Naples,*  
*Italy*



*Flora.* Evelyn De Morgan. 1894.  
Cannon Hall Museum. Barnsley,  
United Kingdom



In most modern Olympic Games, the Olympic wreaths have been replaced by bouquets of flowers – true masterpieces of floral design, embodying elegance and refinement, with each flower holding special significance according to the language of flowers.

Nowadays the Olympic bouquet is an important part of the Olympic protocol and a hallmark reflecting the culture of the host country of the Games, which belong to the most remarkable phenomena in history.

The Organising Committees of the Games conduct a thorough selection of florists to create bouquets for the Olympic winners. Often, florists choose flowers that reflect the colour culture of the country, the colours of the national flag, flowers symbolic of the country where the Games are held, as well as flowers connected to significant historical events in the country.





In the present time the bouquets for winners must comply with the requirements set by the International Olympic Committee:

- flowers must be grown directly on the soil of the host country;
- bouquets must be lightweight; the height of the flowers should not exceed 25–30 cm;
- flowers should not have a strong scent or contain pollen (to prevent allergies);
- flowers should not have sharp thorns or spikes to avoid injuring the athlete or anyone else;
- flowers must be able to last a long time without water;
- flowers for the Winter Games must be frost-resistant;
- bouquets should not make loud rustling sounds or shine brightly under light, creating reflections.

Olympic bouquets are usually tied with a ribbon bearing the name of the city and the year of the Olympic Games, which is provided by the International Olympic Committee. However, this was not always the case.

Another important requirement is that the creation of bouquets must involve the employment of certain socially vulnerable groups to improve their social integration.

The history of Olympic floral arrangements is quite fascinating. We suggest to explore it starting from the Games of the 1<sup>st</sup> Olympiad.



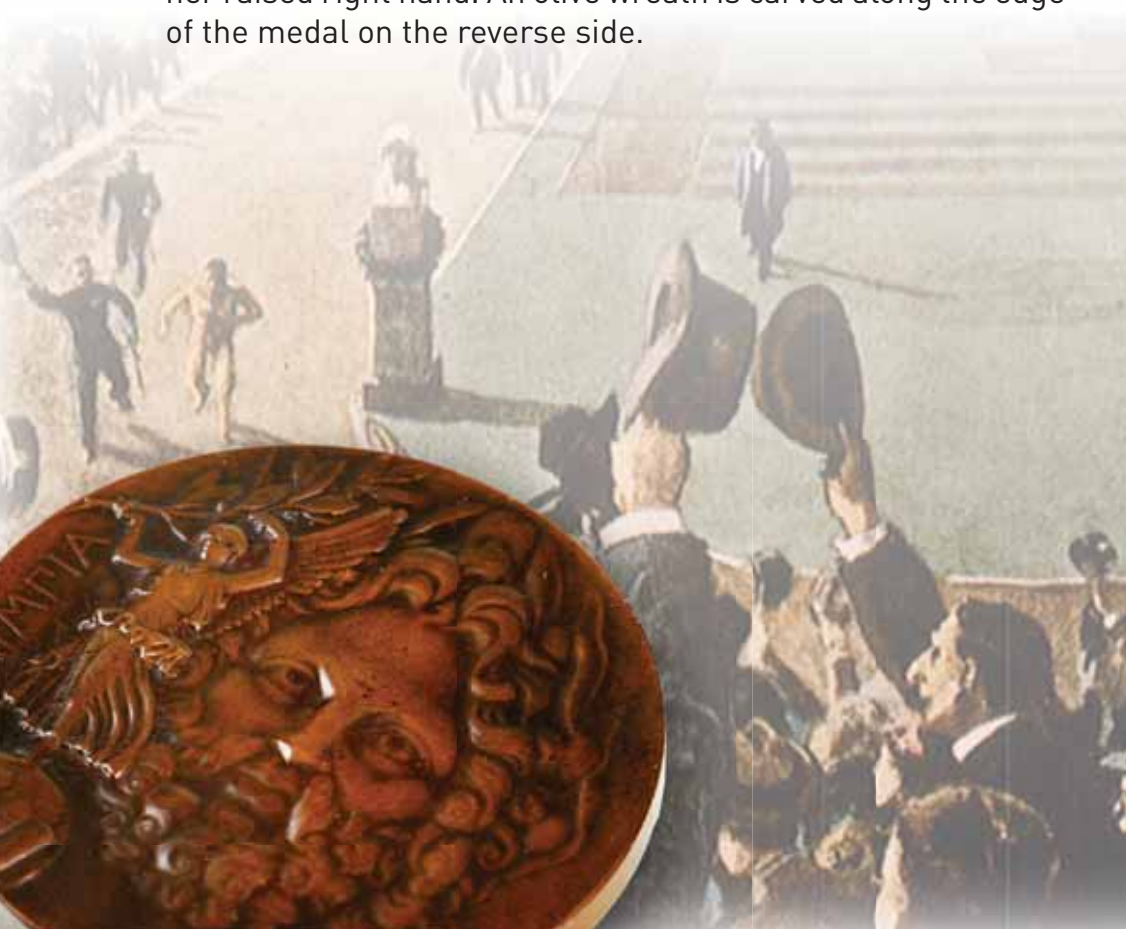


The tradition of giving winners flowers, wreaths or tree branches was revived at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century at the 1896 Games of the I<sup>st</sup> Olympiad in Athens, when the triumphant winners of the Games “were presented by the King himself a diploma, a silver medal and an olive branch from the once sacred Olympic grove.” Those who completed the competition, securing second place, were awarded a bronze medal and laurel branches.

The medals of the first Contemporary Games contained elements of floristry, indicating their close connection with the Games of Antiquity.

In particular, on the front side of the award medal of the 1896 Games of the I<sup>st</sup> Olympiad in Athens, winged Nike is depicted, rising above the earthly globe, holding an olive branch in her hands for the winner’s award.

On the obverse of the commemorative medal, the goddess of victory, Nike, is depicted, holding a winner’s olive wreath in her raised right hand. An olive wreath is carved along the edge of the medal on the reverse side.



# The Games of the I<sup>st</sup> Olympiad. Athens, 1896

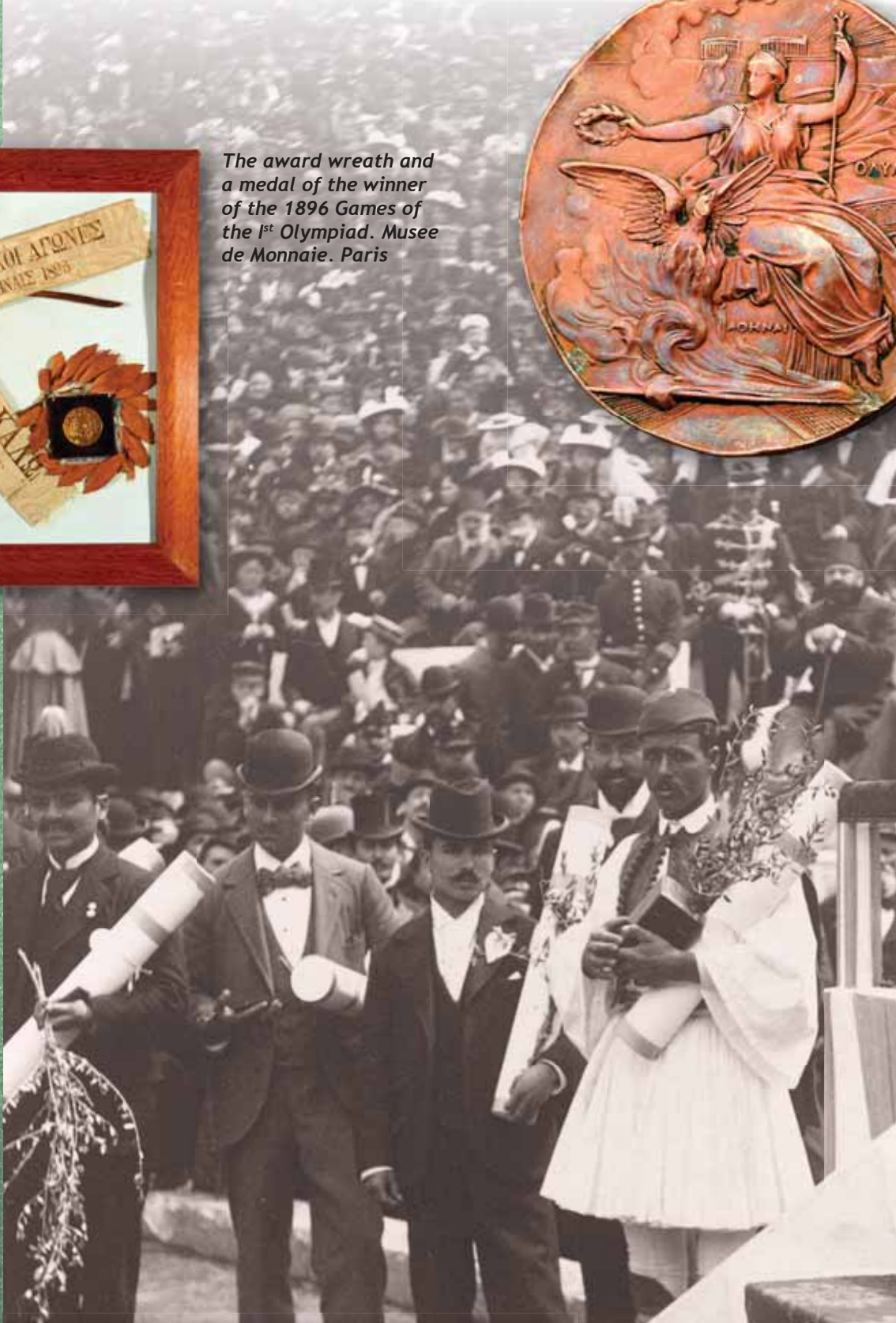


*Olive branches – the reward for the victors of the Games of the I<sup>st</sup> Olympiad. 1896, Athens*

◀ *On the front side of the award medal of the 1896 Games of the I<sup>st</sup> Olympiad in Athens, ahead of Zeus Olympios, winged Nike is depicted with an olive branch in her hands*



The award wreath and a medal of the winner of the 1896 Games of the 1<sup>st</sup> Olympiad. Musee de Monnaie. Paris



King of Greece, George I, presents the award to the first-ever victor of the Olympic competitions in the marathon, Spyridon Louis - an olive branch



Awarding the victors of the Games of the 1<sup>st</sup> Olympiad. 1896, Athens





# The Games of the II<sup>nd</sup> Olympiad. Paris, 1900

**A**t the 1900 Games of the II<sup>nd</sup> Olympiad in Paris, the winners of some competitions received not only medals and diplomas, but also award wreaths and even commemorative prizes.

All the memorabilia created for the victors and participants of these Games contained elements of floristry, reflecting the enduring connection of the modern Games with ancient Greek traditions.

Indeed, on the obverse of the award plaquette, winged Nike is depicted rising above the stadium, bearing olive wreaths for the victors. On the reverse, the victorious athlete is shown holding an olive branch award.

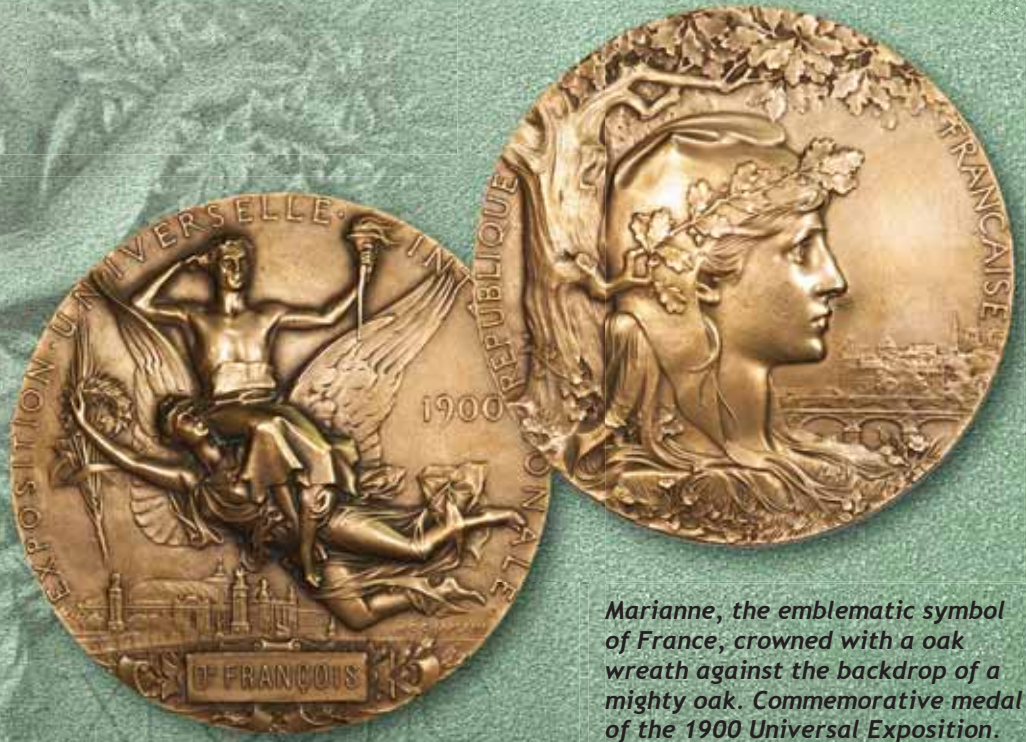
On the obverse of the commemorative medal presented to all participants of the 1900 Universal Exposition, during which the athletic competitions of the II<sup>nd</sup> Olympiad took place, the winged Nike holds a wreath and an olive branch in her right hand. On the reverse, against the backdrop of a mighty oak, Marianne, an emblematic symbol of France, is depicted crowned with an oak wreath.



*Gustave Sandras (France) – Champion of the Games of the II<sup>nd</sup> Olympiad (gymnastics, individual championship) – was awarded a medal, a valuable prize, and an olive wreath. 1900, Paris*



*◀ Diploma for a participant in the 1900 Universal Exposition in Paris is adorned with an abundance of flowers and plants. The girls depicted on it hold branches and a wreath for the victors*



*Winged Nike with award wreath and palm twig. Commemorative medal of the 1900 Universal Exposition. Reverse*

*Marianne, the emblematic symbol of France, crowned with a oak wreath against the backdrop of a mighty oak. Commemorative medal of the 1900 Universal Exposition. Obverse*



*Winged Nike with olive branch wreaths for the victors of the competitions. Award plaque. Obverse. 1900*



*Jury's award badge. Contains elements of floristry - adorning olive garlands and the goddess with palm twig*



*The victor of the Olympic competitions with the olive branch award. Award plaquette. Reverse. 1900*

The Official Reports of the Games of the III<sup>rd</sup> Olympiad, held as part of the 1904 World's Exposition in St. Louis, Missouri, contains no information about the presentation of bouquets of flowers or leafy wreaths to the competition winners.

However, the award memorabilia abounds with floral elements. For example, on the obverse side of the award medal, an athlete is depicted holding an olive winner's wreath. On the reverse side, the winged Nike soars above the globe, with a reward wreath in her raised left hand and a palm twig in her right hand. An olive branch wreath serves as the frame for the name of the Olympic event.

On the commemorative medal, a running athlete is depicted with an olive branch in his hand. An oak branch, symbolising power, is placed in the upper left corner of the medal. On the reverse side of the commemorative medal, the designers included ivy leaves (*lat. Hedera*), a cultural symbol of friendship, perseverance, immortality, and loyalty. The golf medals feature a thistle bush (*lat. Cirsium*) – security blanket. It is worth noting that as early as 1702, the thistle, along with the motto «Nemo me impune lacessit» (“No one attacks me with impunity”), was placed on the coat of arms of Great Britain.

Elements of floristics on the official diploma of the Games – central figure pictured on the diploma is crowned with an oak wreath with a thistle in the background. The diploma is adorned with 50 laurel wreaths with the names of the states of the USA.

The sacred olive tree adorns the commemorative medal of the Universal Exposition.

## The Games of the III<sup>rd</sup> Olympiad. St. Louis, 1904



Thistle branch on the award medal for the Olympic golf competition (1904)



Oak branch wreath on the award medal for the Olympic basketball championship





*Floral elements on the award medal of the Games of the III<sup>rd</sup> Olympiad in St. Louis*



*Sacred olive tree on the commemorative medal of the Universal Exposition (1904)*



*Olive and oak branches on the commemorative medal of the Games of the III<sup>rd</sup> Olympiad in St. Louis*

# The Games of the IV<sup>th</sup> Olympiad. London, 1908

At the 1908 Games of the IV<sup>th</sup> Olympiad in London, the victors were honoured with bouquets made of oak from Windsor Forest, graciously provided by His Majesty King Edward VII. Each bouquet was bound with a ribbon depicting the national flag of Great Britain. The oak is a sacred tree for the British, a symbol of courage, valour, strength, and might.

At the advertisement poster of the Franco-British Exhibition in 1908, which hosted the 1908 Games of the IV<sup>th</sup> Olympiad, features a victor's olive wreath according to ancient Greek tradition.

Floristry is widely represented in the official memorabilia of the Games of the IV<sup>th</sup> Olympiad — award and commemorative medals, promotional and informational posters, participant and organiser badges, etc.

Olive crowns, palm, oak, and olive sprigs adorn the Olympic memorabilia referring to the Games' ancient roots, specifically Kotinos and palms.

*The informational poster depicts a fencer – a participant of the 1908 Games of the IV<sup>th</sup> Olympiad in London – against the background of a laurel wreath tied with a ribbon below*



1908 Franco-British Exhibition poster



OLYMPIC GAMES



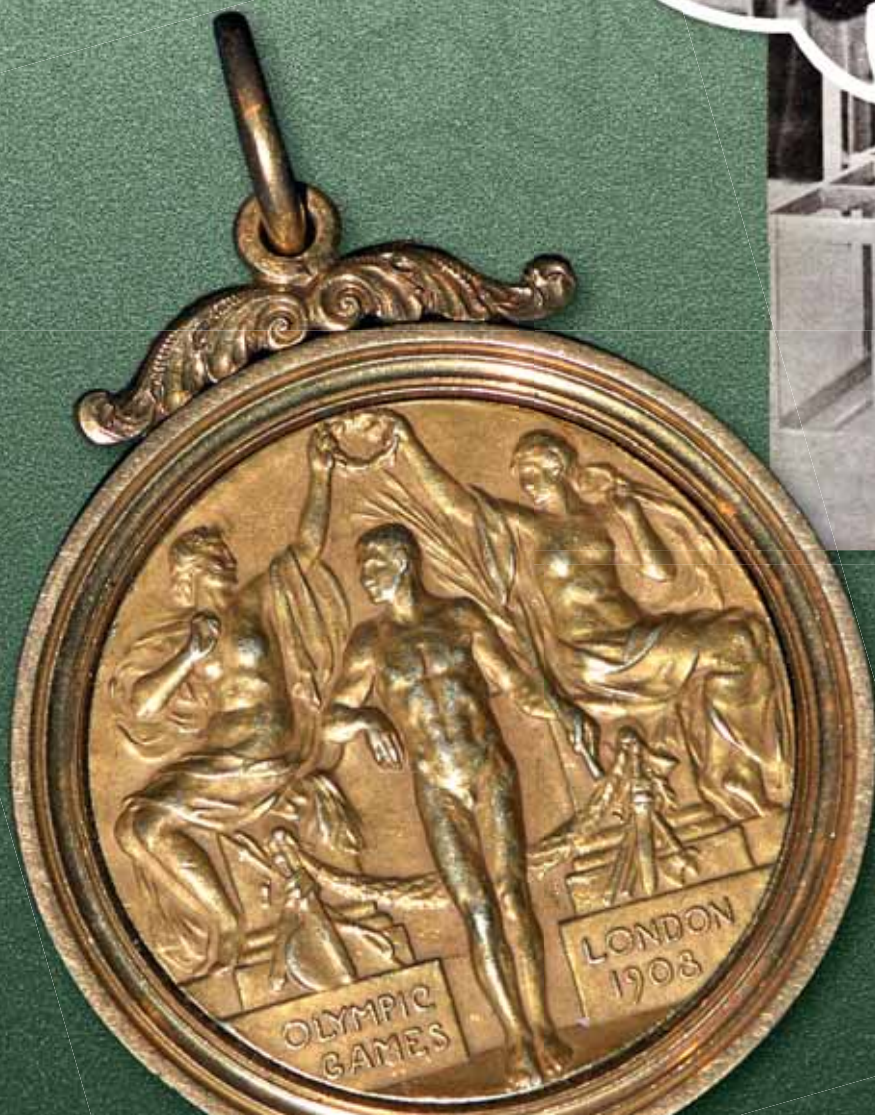
*Official participant's badge of the 1908 Games of the IV<sup>th</sup> Olympiad in London featuring the head of Athena-Pallas and an olive branch*



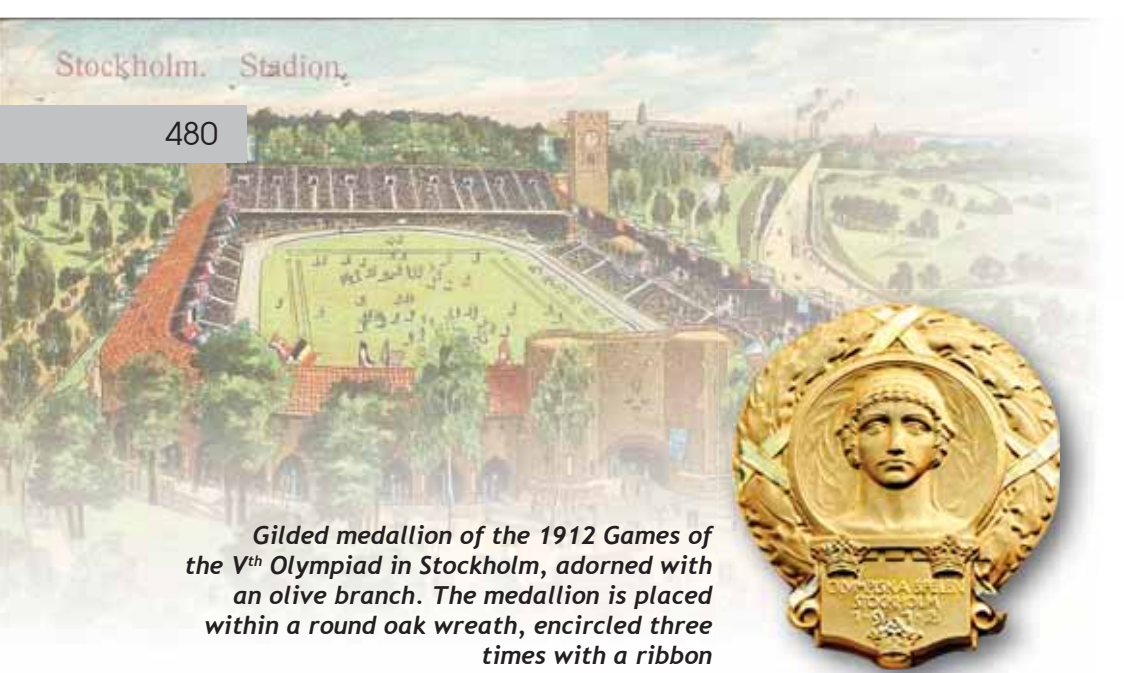
*Participant medal presented to the organisers of the 1908 Games of the IV<sup>th</sup> Olympiad in London. Winged PHEME holds palm and oak twigs*



*Legendary Italian marathon runner Dorando Pietri, with a gold-plated silver cup and oak branch bouquet*



*On the gold Olympic medal of the 1908 Games, two goddesses are depicted crowning the victorious athlete with an olive wreath. The athlete holds a palm branch, and behind him is an elegant laurel garland*



*Gilded medallion of the 1912 Games of the V<sup>th</sup> Olympiad in Stockholm, adorned with an olive branch. The medallion is placed within a round oak wreath, encircled three times with a ribbon*

**A**t the 1912 Games of the V<sup>th</sup> Olympiad in Stockholm, the winners were awarded by HM King Gustav V of Sweden, who crowned them with an oak wreath and presented them with a diploma and an Olympic medal.

The lush oak wreath was adorned with a ribbon tied in the shape of a bow. The colours of the ribbon – yellow and blue – reflected the colours of Sweden's national flag.

Additionally, for the awarding of participants of the Games, a gold-plated medallion was produced, with an oak wreath placed around its edge, wrapped three times with a ribbon.



# The Games of the V<sup>th</sup> Olympiad. Stockholm, 1912



*Annie Speirs (Great Britain) – Olympic swimming champion of the 1912 Games – wearing an oak wreath adorned with a ribbon in the colours of the Swedish national flag*

◀ King of Sweden awards James Thorpe (USA), winner of the athletics decathlon, with a gold medal and an oak wreath. 1912, Stockholm

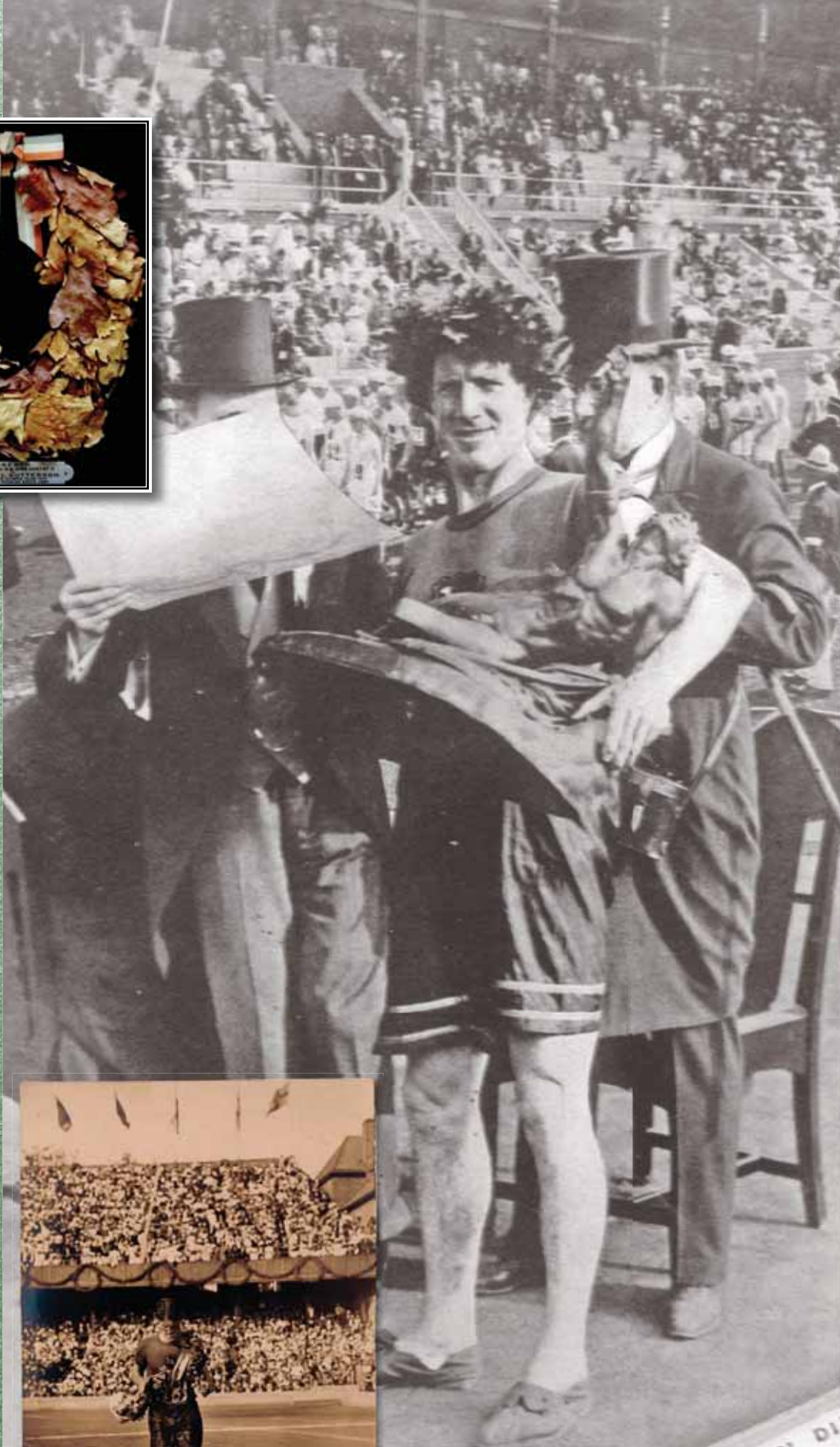
*Oak wreath awarded by the King of Sweden to the winner of the long jump competition, Albert Gutterson (USA). 1912, Stockholm*



*Commemorative wreath presented by the King of Sweden to Captain Carl Townsend Osburn (USA). 1912, Stockholm. The oak wreath is adorned with a ribbon in the colours of the Swedish national flag, and in the centre there is a photo of members of the US shooting team*



*Official participant's pin of the 1912 Games of the V<sup>th</sup> Olympiad, adorned with an olive branch*



*Kenneth McArthur from South Africa, winner of the marathon, wearing a trophy and an oak wreath on his head. 1912, Stockholm*

*The marathon winner at the finish was honoured with a triumphant floral garland*



At the 1920 Games of the VII<sup>th</sup> Olympiad in Antwerp, the winners of competitions in individual Olympic events were honoured by the representatives of certain International Sports Federations with bouquets of flowers, olive and oak wreaths, and oak garlands. All such actions were private initiatives.

For instance, in the photos from the 1920 Antwerp Olympics, we see the winner of the Olympic marathon, Finnish athlete Hannes Kolehmainen, crowned with an oak wreath and a garland of live flowers; Estonian Olympic champion in weightlifting Alfred Neuland with a bouquet of flowers and a chest garland of laurel leaves.

Floristry is also richly represented at the Olympic memorabilia. On the Olympic award medal, its creator Josuë Dupont depicted an athlete with an award wreath and a palm branch in his left hand, while the commemorative medal and award diploma feature the goddess crowning the winners with award wreaths.

Olive wreaths, decorated with flower garlands, frame the coat of arms of Antwerp on the official poster of the Games of the VII<sup>th</sup> Olympiad. The floral garlands around the city's coat of arms refer to the unique genre of garland paintings popular in Antwerp during the Counter-Reformation period, widely represented in the works of Jan Brueghel the Elder, Hendrik van Balen, Hendrick de Clerck, Rubens, and others, uniting the Olympic tradition with the traditions of the Belgian capital.

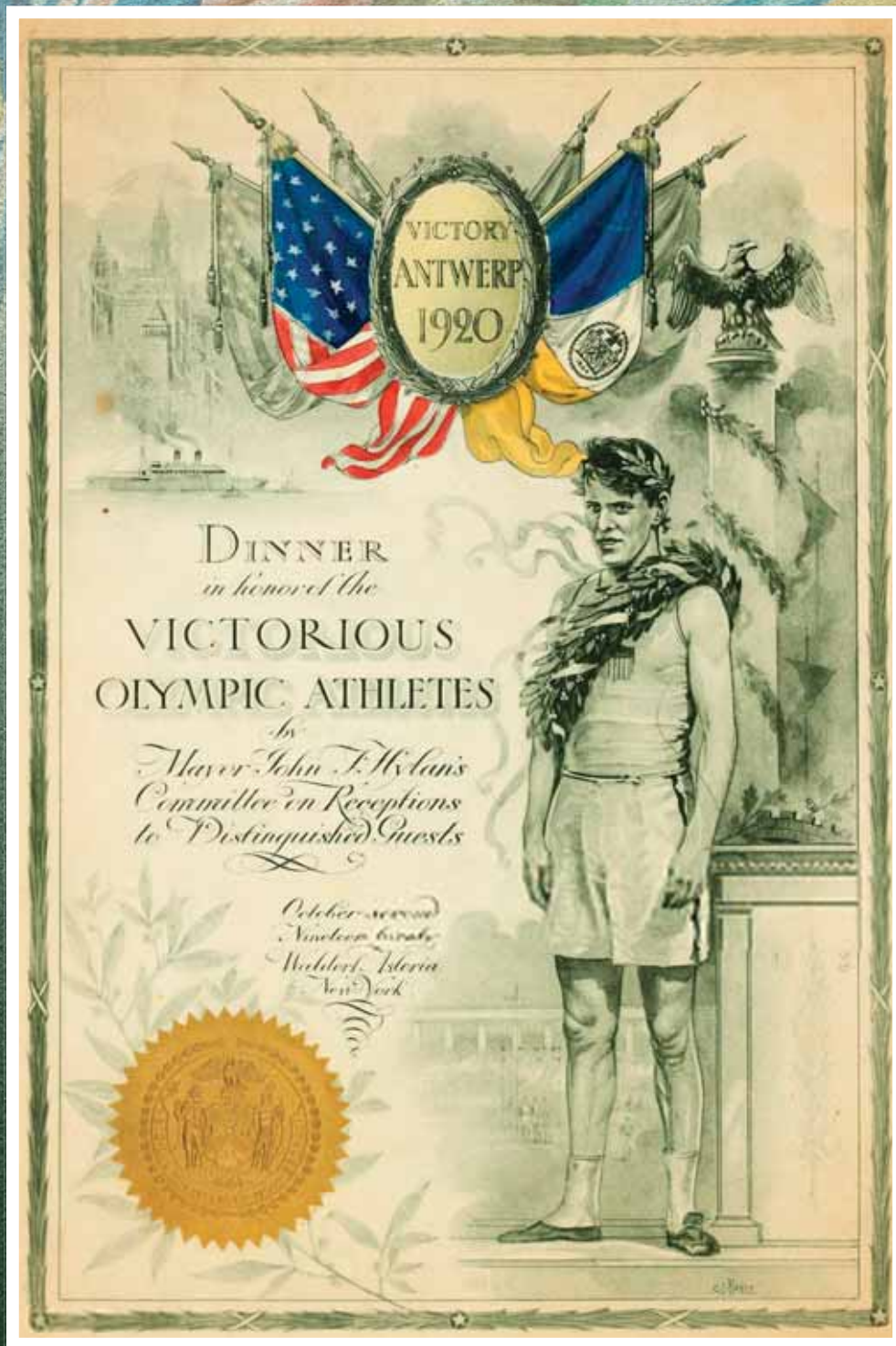


# The Games of the VII<sup>th</sup> Olympiad. Antwerp, 1920



*Winner of the Olympic competitions, Estonian weightlifter Alfred Neuland, with a bouquet and a oak garland*

*◀ Olympic champion in the marathon, legendary Finnish athlete Hannes Kolehmainen, wearing the victor's wreath and holding a bouquet of flowers. 1920, Antwerp*



Invitation layout for the festive dinner in honour of the winners of the 1920 Games of the VII<sup>th</sup> Olympiad in Antwerp, held in New York (USA). The design depicts a victorious athlete adorned with wreaths and an award plant garland on the chest, olive and oak twigs in the background





The Organising Committee of the Games of the VIII<sup>th</sup> Olympiad in Paris in 1924 did not plan for the official presentation of flower bouquets to the winners and medallists of the Olympic competitions.

However, all the award memorabilia abound in floral and natural components. For instance, the award diploma, a creation of a great French artist Bernard Hubert, is rich in leafy wreaths, floral and leafy garlands that adorn ancient Greek columns. The winged Nike, the central figure of the diploma, holds palm and olive branches in both hands.

Palm twigs also decorate the official poster of the Games, where athletes are depicted with their arms outstretched in a Roman salute.

On the obverse of the commemorative medal created by Raoul Bénard, a beautiful Nike is shown crowned with a wreath and rewarding the victors. In her left hand, she holds numerous oak twigs, symbolising physical strength, power, and longevity.

Souvenir medals are adorned with olive twigs.

All the Olympic medals of the 1924 Olympics, the iconic symbol of achievement, incorporate floral and natural components, referring to the ancient roots and the close connection between sport and nature. The commemorative gift for the winners of the Olympic competitions, a Sèvres vase, is richly decorated with olive branches, applied in gold on the traditional Sèvres blue (Bleu de Roi) background.

## The Games of the VIII<sup>th</sup> Olympiad. Paris, 1924



*Souvenir commemorative medal  
of the 1924 Games  
of the VIII<sup>th</sup> Olympiad decorated  
with olive twigs*

HACHARD & C<sup>IE</sup>  
PARIS  
JEUX OLYMPIQUES

VIII<sup>e</sup> OLYMPIADE  
PARIS  
M CM XXIV



*Participant medal of the 1924 Games of the VIII<sup>th</sup> Olympiad*



*Commemorative medal of the New York City Hall, awarded to the members of the USA team after their return from the 1924 Games of the VIII<sup>th</sup> Olympiad in Paris. Decorated with olive, palm and laurel branches and leaves*

The Organising Committee of the Games of the IX<sup>th</sup> Olympiad in Amsterdam in 1928 did not plan for the official presentation of flower bouquets to the winners and medallists of the Olympic competitions.

However, the winners in some sports were awarded bouquets of white and red carnations (*lat. Dianthus caryophyllus*), symbolising purity, love, friendship, luck, happiness, and orange gerberas (*lat. Gerbera jamesonii*), the colour of the royal House of Orange–Nassau, beloved by the Dutch. All such actions were private initiatives.

In the photograph from these Games, the winner of the road cycling race, Danish cyclist Willy Hansen, holds a bouquet of orange gerberas, symbolising prosperity in all aspects of life, along with white and red carnations symbolising purity, luck, and love, and fern (*lat. Pteridophyta*) branches symbolising courage, determination, and sincerity. The German athlete and Olympic champion in the 800 m run, Karolina Radke, and other athletes are also depicted with the same bouquet.

The winners of individual competitions at the 1928 Games of the IX<sup>th</sup> Olympiad in Amsterdam were also presented with ceremonial wreaths-garlands. For instance, the distinguished Australian rower Henry Pearce was honoured with a large wreath – garland for his victory in the men's single scull rowing competition.

# The Games of the IX<sup>th</sup> Olympiad. Amsterdam, 1928



Australian rower Henry Pearce, winner of the men's single scull rowing at the 1928 Games, was honoured with a leaf garland





*Karoline Radke (Germany) – Olympic track-and-field champion with an award bouquet. 1928, Amsterdam*



*Danish athlete Willy Hansen, winner of the road cycling race at the 1928 Games of the IX<sup>th</sup> Olympiad in Amsterdam, was presented with a bouquet of orange gerberas, red and white carnations, and fern branches*



*Swiss crew Hans Schöchlin, Carl Schöchlin, and Hans Burkert, winners in coxed pairs rowing, were awarded with ceremonial wreaths. 1928, Amsterdam*



*The winners of the athletics competitions were also honoured with bouquets. In the centre is Karolina Radke (Germany), the Olympic champion in athletics. 1928, Amsterdam*

On the obverse side of the awarding medal of the 1928 Games of the IX<sup>th</sup> Olympiad in Amsterdam, the goddess of victory is depicted with a laurel wreath for the victor in her right hand and a palm branch in her left. On the reverse side – there is a scene of honouring the victorious athlete with a palm branch in hand, surrounded by athletes wearing ceremonial wreaths and numerous palm branches



On the obverse side of the commemorative medal of the 1928 Games of the IX<sup>th</sup> Olympiad in Amsterdam, a man and a woman holding a torch are depicted. They hold a grapevine garland in their free hands. At the bottom are olive branches and scales as a symbol of balance.

On the reverse side of the commemorative medal, there is a winged Nike flying with the victor's laurel wreath in hand, and below are two olive trees. Interestingly, both felled trees have sprouted new powerful branches, symbolising the development of the modern Olympic movement. Two hemispheres of the Earth are positioned between the trees

# The Games of the X<sup>th</sup> Olympiad. Los Angeles, 1932



*An olive branch is depicted on the official logo of the Games of the X<sup>th</sup> Olympiad*

The Organising Committee of the Games of the X<sup>th</sup> Olympiad in Los Angeles in 1932 did not plan for the official presentation of flower bouquets to the winners and medallists of the Olympic competitions. But, in some individual sports, winners were awarded flower bouquets. All such actions were private initiatives.

In the 1932 Olympics photo, we see the winner of the 200 m breaststroke swimming event, Australian Claire Dennis, with a beautiful bouquet in her hands. The victorious women in diving also adorned their swimsuits with elegant boutonnières of roses.

In the photo, the legendary Dorothy Poynton (USA) – the 10-metre platform diving winner. We also see similar boutonnières on the clothing of the winners of the 1932 Games in other competitions, allowing us to conclude that they were provided by the Games' Organising Committee.

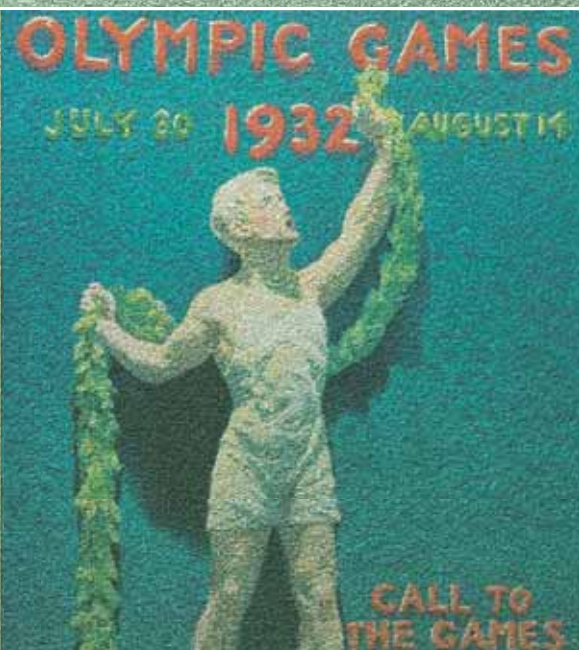
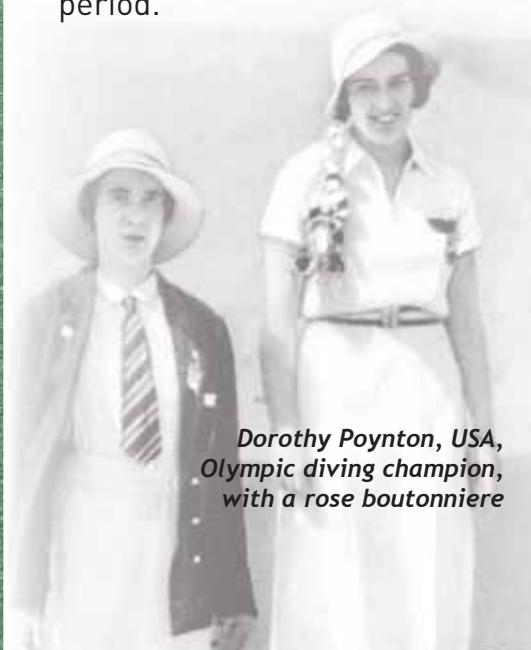
Floral elements were often present on the award medals, logo, and official badges, containing award wreaths, palm and olive branches. On the official poster of the Games, an athlete – a spondophoros – is depicted with a peace garland in his hands, announcing the upcoming Olympic Games and calling for a cessation of disputes and wars during this period.



*Claire Dennis, Australia, Olympic swimming champion, with a celebratory bouquet. 1932, Los Angeles*



*Dorothy Poynton, USA, Olympic diving champion, with a rose boutonniere*





The Organising Committee of the Games of the XI<sup>th</sup> Olympiad in 1936 in Berlin provided for the awarding of the winners of the Olympic competitions with oak leaf wreaths and a special gift – oak sapling, the plant that is a national symbol of Germany, embodying immortality, stability, and loyalty. This fact was remarkable and well-documented.

It is interesting to note that the award oak wreaths were horseshoe-shaped, which allowed the size of the awardee's head to be disregarded.

The oak crowns, open on the front side, were true copies of the victorious wreaths, which were awarded to the Roman charioteers.

In some sports at the Games of the XI<sup>th</sup> Olympiad, winners were awarded not only with the aforementioned, but also with special awards. For example, the winner in the single sculls rowing, Gustav Schäfer, was honoured with a significant oak wreath – garland that he could only wear diagonally across his chest.



*Wreath of the winner of the 1936 Games of the XI<sup>th</sup> Olympiad in Berlin, adorned with white and red ribbons with Nazi symbols*

# The Games of the XI<sup>th</sup> Olympiad. Berlin, 1936



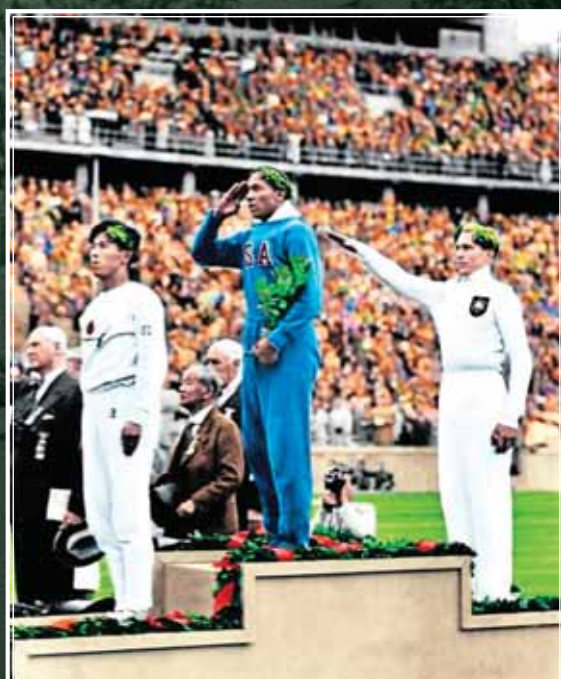
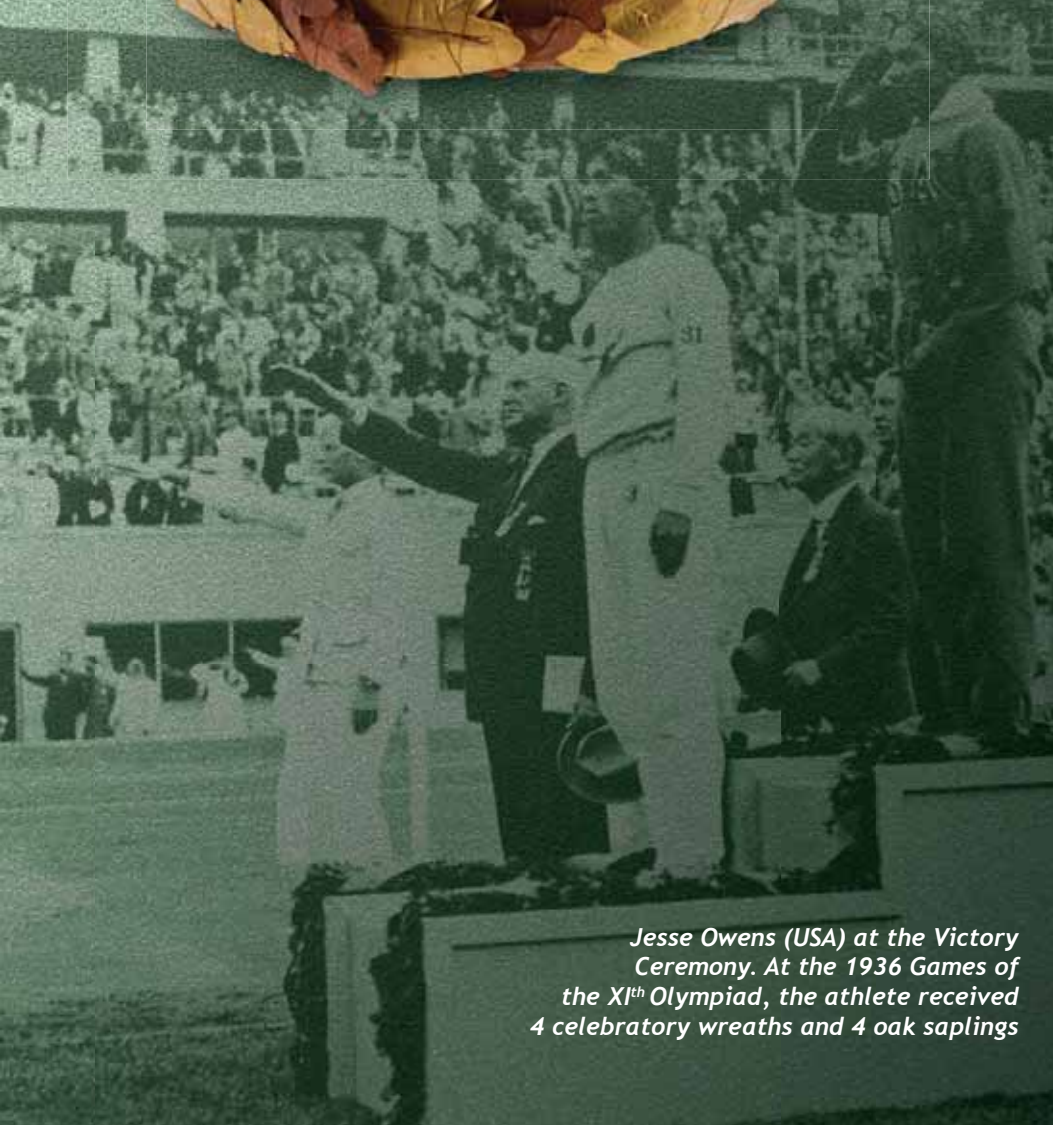
*The official poster of the Games of the XI<sup>th</sup> Olympiad depicts an athlete-winner crowned with a horseshoe-shaped laurel wreath*



*Four-time Olympic champion of the 1936 Games of the XI<sup>th</sup> Olympiad in Berlin, Jesse Owens, with his Olympic awards*



*The oak leaves wreath awarded for the winner on the 1936 Olympic Games in Berlin. Oak leaves and gold foil leaves tied together to form an open wreath. Dimension: 17,2x22 cm, weight: 80 g*



*Jesse Owens (USA) at the Victory Ceremony. At the 1936 Games of the XI<sup>th</sup> Olympiad, the athlete received 4 celebratory wreaths and 4 oak saplings*



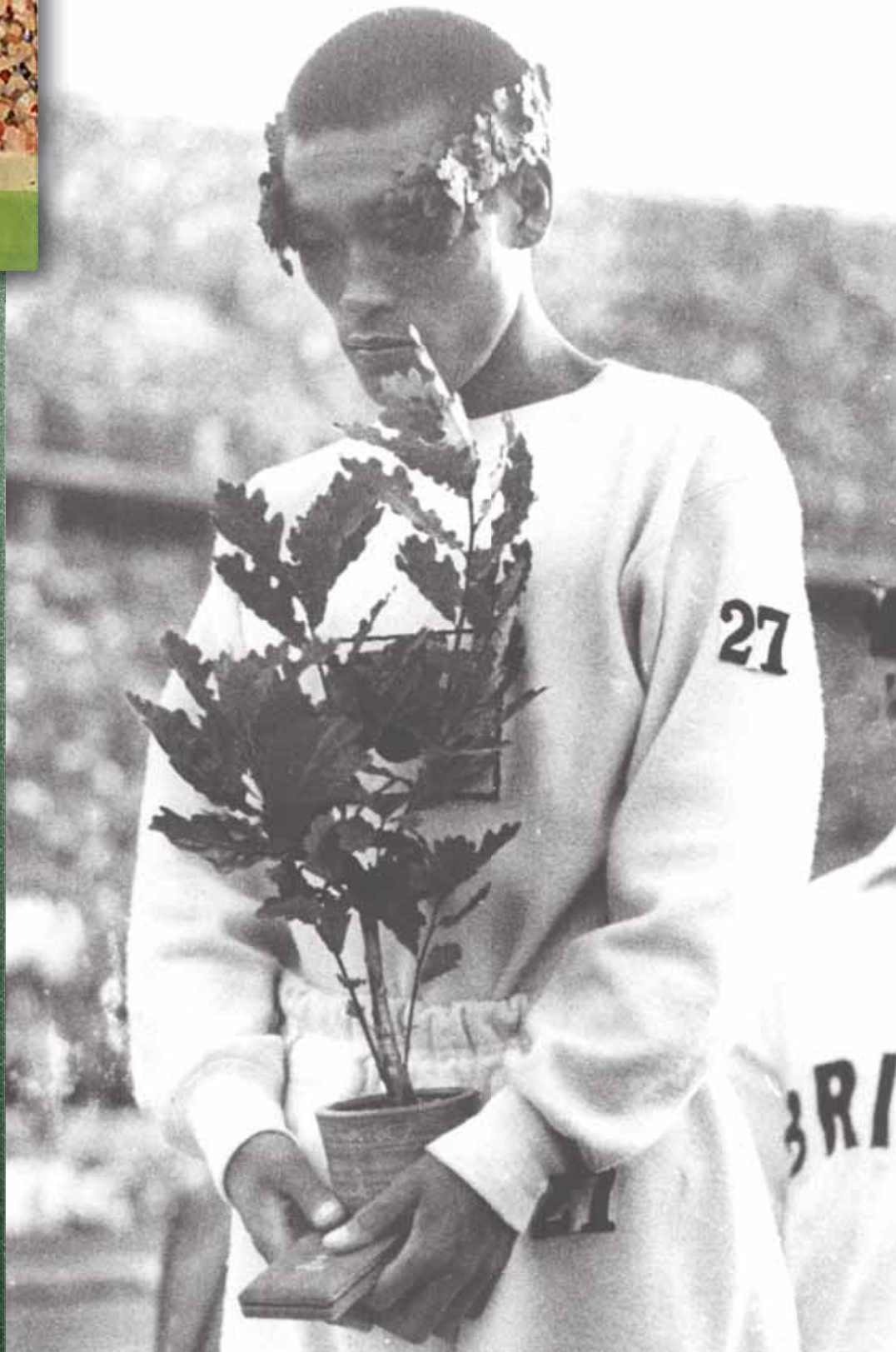
*Korean athlete Son Gi Jon, who competed as part of the Japanese team, winner of the marathon, with Olympic awards – oak wreath and oak saplings. 1936, Berlin*



*Awarding the winner of the Olympic Games. Cover of a special edition of the 'Berlin Illustrated Newspaper'. 1936, Germany*

The winners of the 1936 Olympic competitions were also awarded English oak trees grown from the year-old saplings. They were called the "Olympic Oaks." Little trees were placed in containers, packed in boxes, and supplied with special certificates for transportation abroad. In total, 130 saplings were presented.

After the Games of the Olympiad closed, most saplings were planted near main stadiums of different countries, and today, mighty oaks remind people of those glorious victories in the Olympic Berlin of 1936.



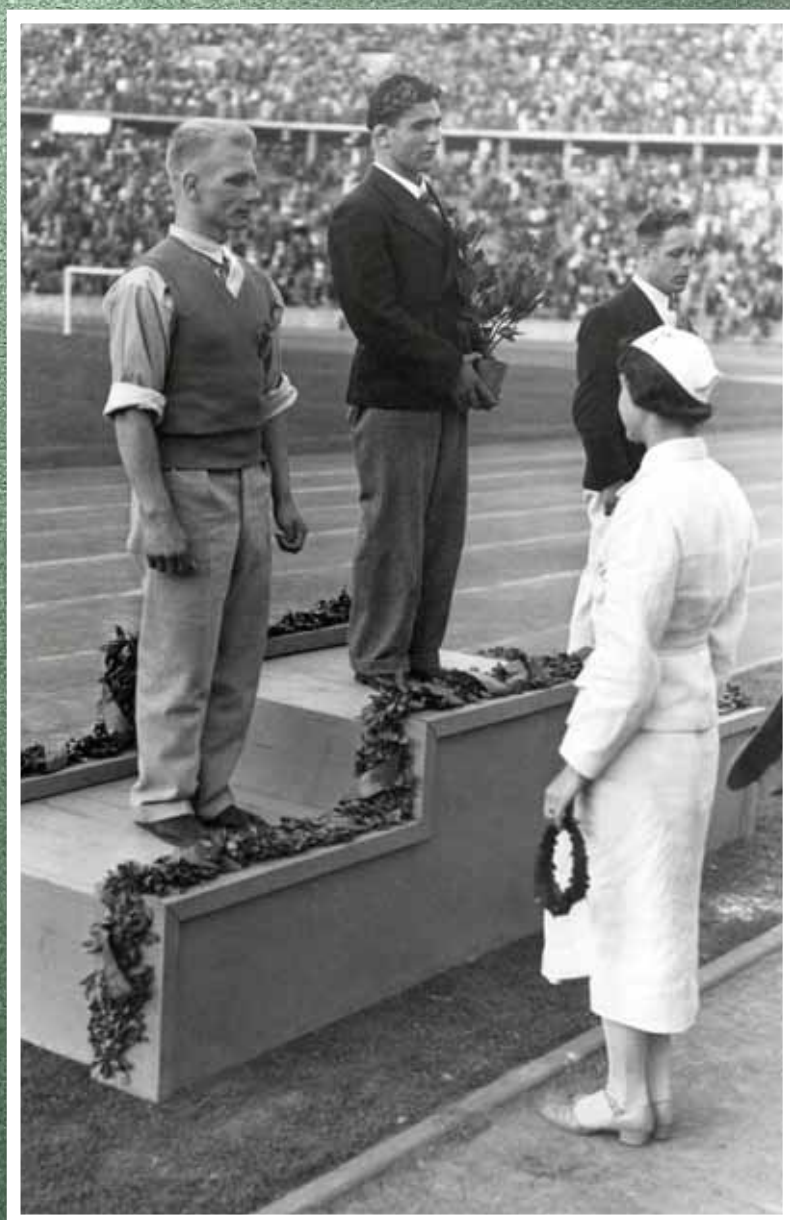


*The first Olympic marathon champion Spyros Louis (Greece) presents an olive branch, a symbol of peace, to Chancellor Adolf Hitler*

*American athlete Adolf Kiefer, Olympic swimming champion, with a celebratory bouquet. 1936, Berlin*



*On the podium adorned with garlands of oak branches wrapped in ribbons, the winners of the Olympic wrestling competitions: Aarne Reini (Finland, silver medallist), Yaşar Erkan (Turkey, champion), and Einar Karlsson (Sweden, bronze medallist). Yaşar Erkan, crowned with an oak wreath, holds an oak sapling in his hands*



The International Rowing Federation provided for the winners of the Olympic competitions to be awarded massive oak wreaths, ceremoniously adorned with beautiful ribbons. The wreaths were presented to the winners immediately after the finish.

*British athletes Jack Beresford and Leslie Southwood, Olympic champions in pairs rowing, receiving a massive celebratory oak wreath*





*German athlete Gustav Schäfer,  
Olympic champion in single scull rowing,  
with an oak wreath*



*German athletes Gerhard Gustmann,  
Herbert Adamski, and Dieter Arend,  
Olympic champions in coxless pair rowing  
with coxswain, with oak wreaths and  
bouquets of flowers in their hands*



*Rudolf Echstein, Anton Rom, Martin Karl, and Wilhelm  
Menne, Germany, Olympic champions in coxless four  
rowing, with oak wreaths*





*Ilona Elek-Schacherer, Hungary  
Olympic champion in rapier  
fencing, with a bouquet of roses  
and oak sapling*



*Otilie Fleischer, Germany,  
Olympic champion in javelin  
throwing, with an oak wreath  
and an oak sapling in her  
hands. 1936, Berlin*



*German athletes Gisela Mauermayer,  
Olympic champion, and Paula Mollenhauer,  
bronze medallist, in discus throwing,  
holding oak wreaths and an oak sapling  
in their hands*



*On the podium adorned with oak branch  
garlands, the victorious swimmers of  
the Olympic Games: silver medallist Inge  
Sørensen (Denmark), Olympic champion  
Hideko Maehata (Japan), and bronze  
medallist Martha Genenger (Germany).  
1936, Berlin*



Wreath of the winner of the main Saxon gymnastics competitions part of the programme of the 1936 Olympics in Berlin



At the first post-World War II 1948 Games in London, designers used floral elements (olive and palm branches) and award wreaths in creation of winners' medals and diplomas, commemorative medals, and more.

One may suggest that presenting bouquets of flowers to champions and medallists of the Olympic Games in some sports was initiated by certain Federations, Committees, or even admirers of those athletes. Thus, the International Cyclists' Union and the British National Cyclists' Union decided to award the winners of the cycling competitions with bouquets of flowers, as evidenced by photographs.

There are photographs from the Games of the XIV<sup>th</sup> Olympiad showing winners with bouquets of flowers; however, there is no information about the awarding of winners with floral-gifts in the Official Report of the Games of the XIV<sup>th</sup> Olympiad.



*Italian cyclist with a bouquet of flowers circling the track after winning the 1,000 meters scratch final at Herne Hill*

## The Games of the XIV<sup>th</sup> Olympiad. London, 1948



# OLYMPIC GAMES LONDON

## DIPLOMA



*H. Blundell*  
PRESIDENT, IMPERIAL COLLEGE  
AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

*P. Blundell*  
PRESIDENT OF THE  
ROYAL SOCIETY

EXHIBITION OF 1908

*The French team in action, who went on to win the Gold medal, Charles Coste, Serge Blusson, Ferdinand De-canali, Pierre Adam, in 4,000 m team pursuit with bouquets of flowers*



*Fanny Blankers-Koen of the Netherlands is congratulated by her husband and coach, Jan Blankers, after she won the gold medal in the women's 200 metres run at the Olympic Games, holding an award bouquet*





# The Games of the XV<sup>th</sup> Olympiad. Helsinki, 1952

The development of floristry after World War II prompted the organisers of the Olympic Games to strive to decorate the Olympic ceremonies, bring joy, and convey a silent message to the winners and medallists of the Games.

The tradition of presenting floral bouquets to the winners and medallists of the Olympic competitions by the Organising Committee of the Games began in 1952 in Helsinki.

During the award ceremony, the medallists received medals, diplomas, an olive branch as a symbol of peace, and bouquets of white and red carnations (*lat. Dianthus*) and fern (*lat. Pteridophyta*) branches. From Latin, "dianthus" translates as the flower of Zeus, so carnations are considered a flower of divine origin, a symbol of good mood and luck, well-being, and understanding. In turn, fern is a symbol of wishes coming true.

The winners' award bouquets were quite laconic, yet symbolic, showing the connection between antiquity and modernity, and conveying good wishes to the athletes. They brought their owners undoubted pleasure.



*The award bouquet of the 1952 Games of the XV<sup>th</sup> Olympiad in Helsinki consisted of white and red carnations and fern leaves*



*Miss Universe 1952, Armi Kuusela, presents olive branches to the Olympic champions – football players from Hungary. August 2, 1952, Helsinki*



*Soviet athletes – winners of the Olympic competitions with award bouquets*



*Olympic champions Maria Horokhovska and Nina Ponomaryova (USSR) with award bouquets. 1952, Helsinki*



*Medallists of the XV<sup>th</sup> Olympic Games in the 200 m run with award bouquets. From left: bronze medallist Nadiya Khnykina (USSR), champion Marjorie Jackson (Australia), silver medallist Berta Brouwer (Netherlands)*



*Participants in the women's 4x100 m freestyle relay: Ilona Novak, Judit Temes, Eva Novak, and Katalin Seke (Hungary) – Olympic champions of the 1952 Helsinki Games*



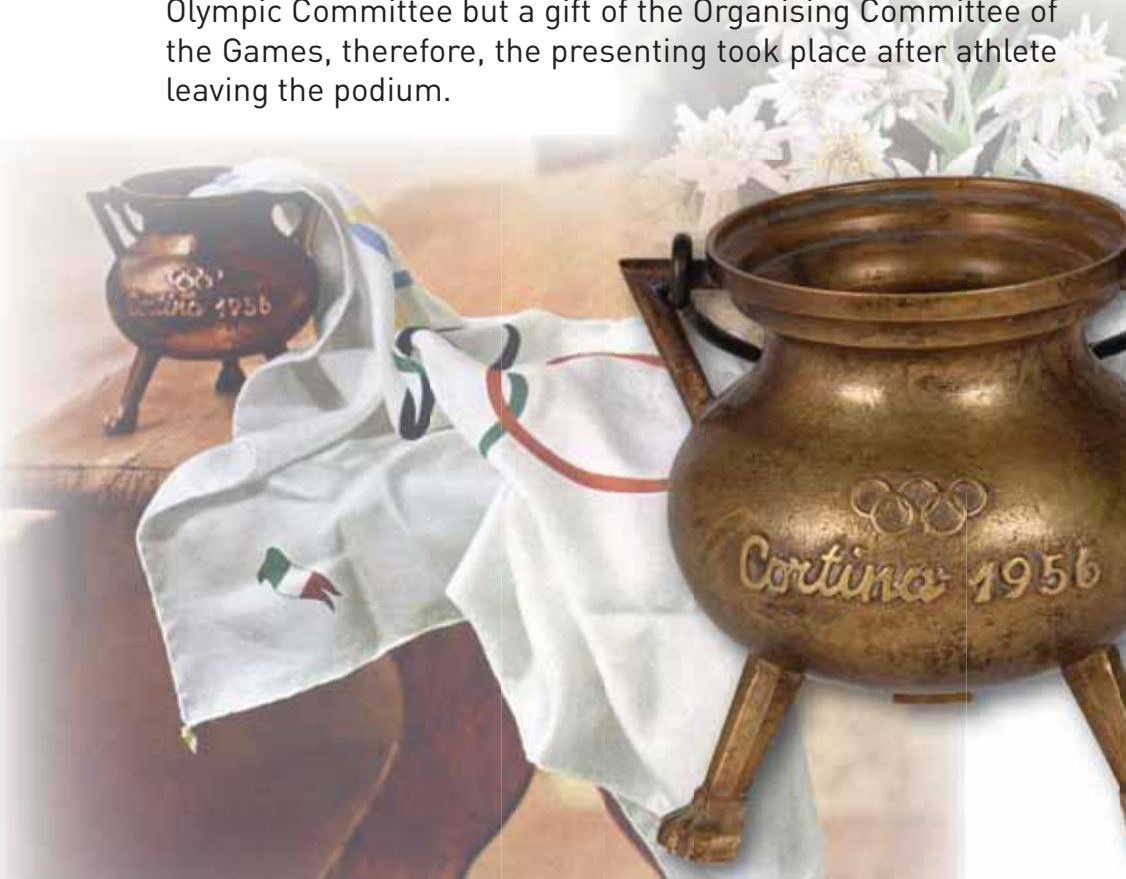
*Alain Mimoun (France) – two-time silver medallist in the 5,000 m and 10,000 m run with an award bouquet*



Award ceremony for the winners and medallists of the VII<sup>th</sup> Olympic Winter Games of 1956 in Cortina d'Ampezzo with medals, diplomas, and commemorative gifts – “bronzini” with a bouquet of edelweiss

At the VII<sup>th</sup> Olympic Winter Games of 1956 in Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy, medals, diplomas, and bouquets of edelweiss (*lat. Leontopodium*), which are considered a symbol of purity and fidelity, courage and inaccessibility, love, and luck, were awarded to the winners and medallists of the competitions. Translated from German, the name of this flower sounds like “nobly white.” The French call the edelweiss the alpine star, and the Italians – the silver flower of the rocks. The organisers of these Games placed bouquets of edelweiss in small round bronze vases and named the commemorative gift “bronzini.”

However, it was not an honour prize from the International Olympic Committee but a gift of the Organising Committee of the Games, therefore, the presenting took place after athlete leaving the podium.



## VII<sup>th</sup> Olympic Winter Games. Cortina d'Ampezzo, 1956



Bronze award vase – “bronzini.”  
1956, Cortina d'Ampezzo



*Winner of the women's individual figure skating competition, Tenley Albright (USA), with Olympic awards - a medal, diploma, and "bronzini" with edelweiss. 1956, Cortina d'Ampezzo*



*Italian skier Franco Nones – Olympic champion in cross-country skiing in the 30 km race – with a gold medal and a bouquet of roses. 1968, Grenoble*

The red rose (*lat. Rosa*) became the symbol of the X<sup>th</sup> Olympic Winter Games of 1968 in Grenoble. It was present in the Olympic symbolism of these Games: on the emblem (a white snowflake surrounded by three red roses), on the Olympic medals, on numerous posters, on diplomas, and more.

At the opening ceremony, after the Olympic oath was taken, a bright red rain fell from the sky: thirty thousand red roses were dropped from helicopters onto the stadium. It was these flowers that were included in the Olympic bouquets presented to the winners and medallists of the competitions.

The red rose undoubtedly remains the queen of all flowers, a symbol of love and passion.



## X<sup>th</sup> Olympic Winter Games. Grenoble, 1968



*Medallists in downhill skiing with medals and diplomas: bronze medallist Jean-Daniel Dätwyler (Switzerland), silver medallist Guy Périllat (France), champion Jean-Claude Killy (France)*



Three American skaters, Jennifer Fish, Mary Meyers, and Diane Holum, display their silver Olympic medals, which they won in the 500 m sprint. 1968, Grenoble



Norwegian athletes Inger Aufles, Babben Enger-Dæhlie, and Berit Mordre-Lammedal, who won Olympic gold in women's cross-country skiing, with gold medals and ceremonial bouquets

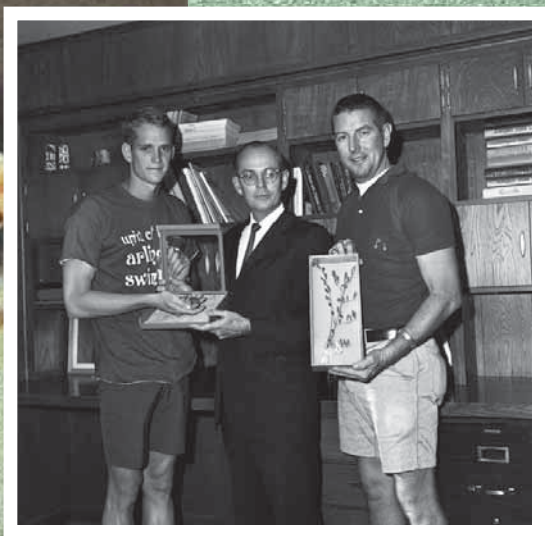
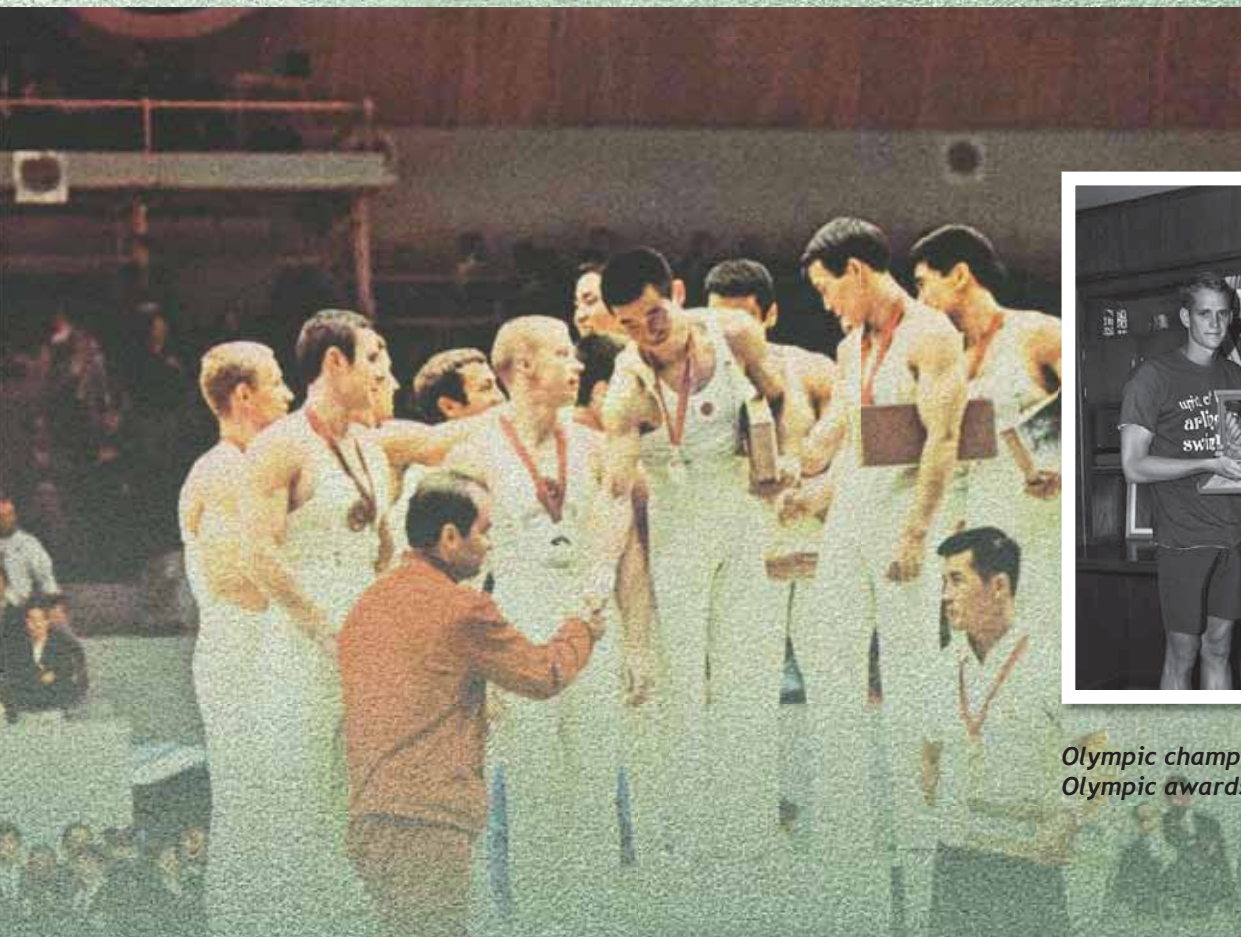


# The Games of the XIX<sup>th</sup> Olympiad. Mexico City, 1968

*Winners of the Olympic rowing competition (coxless pair) from Italy with their Olympic awards*

**A**t the 1968 Games of the XIX<sup>th</sup> Olympiad in Mexico City, Olympic champions, in addition to medals and diplomas were also presented with an olive branch in an olive wood box – rectangular casket containing an olive branch from Olympia (dimensions 33x12.7x3.8 cm) with a transparent lid. A plaque at the bottom of the box displayed the text “Kotinos, a branch of wild olive from the sacred Altis Olympia, Glorious prize of the ancient winners of the Olympic Games Presented by the Olympic Committee of Greece.” Inside lies a branch of olive, bound with grey and white ribbons.

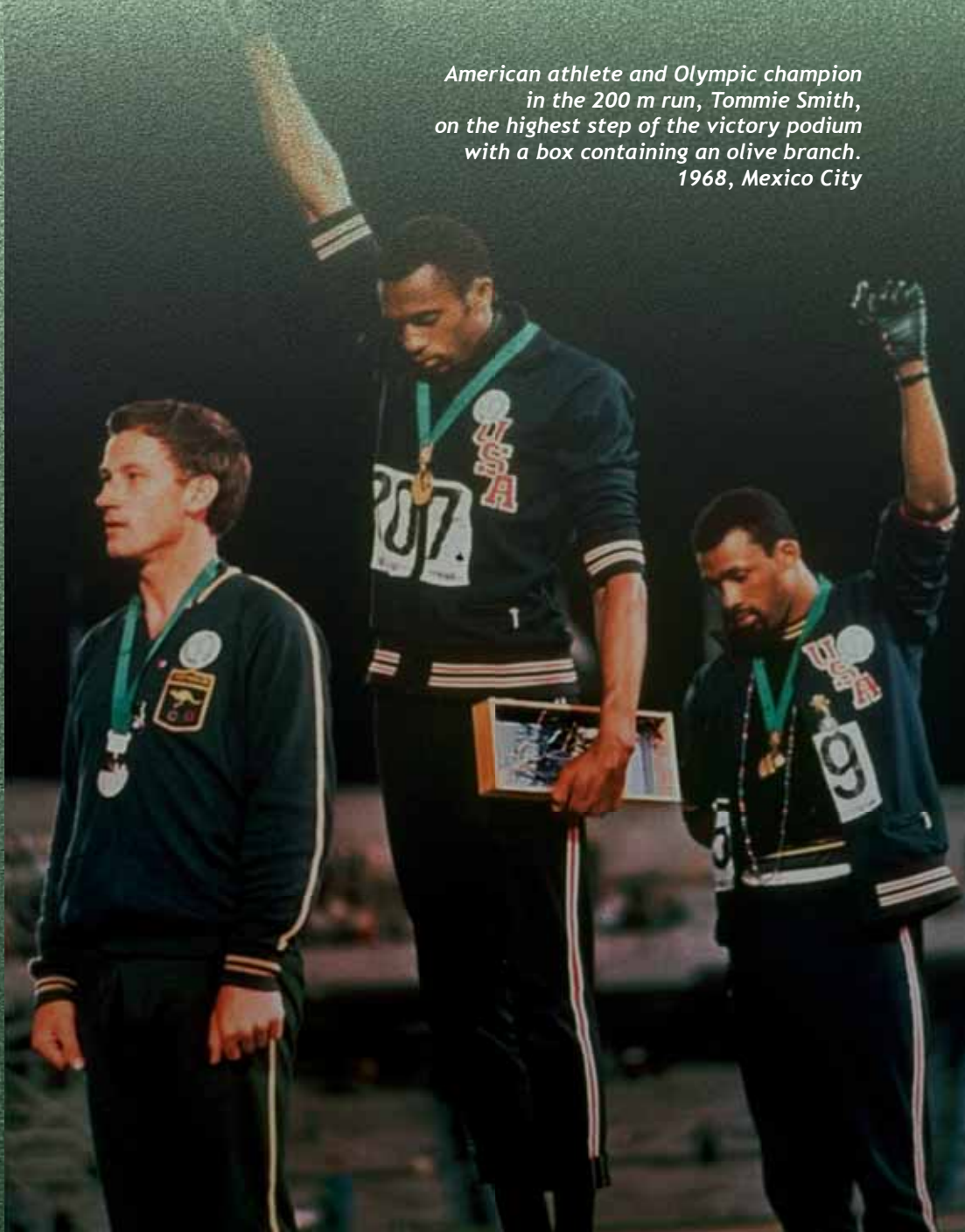




*Olympic champion Doug Russell (left) with his Olympic awards at the University of Texas*



*Ukrainian athlete Leonid Zhabotynskiy, Olympic champion in weightlifting in the super heavyweight category, with the Olympic medal and a box with an olive branch on the podium*



*American athlete and Olympic champion in the 200 m run, Tommie Smith, on the highest step of the victory podium with a box containing an olive branch. 1968, Mexico City*

# The Games of the XXII<sup>nd</sup> Olympiad. Moscow, 1980

Two types of the award Olympic bouquets were prepared for the 1980 Games of the XXII<sup>nd</sup> Olympiad in Moscow: first – white and red gladioli; second – white and red carnation were chosen. In folk culture, gladiolus (*lat. Gladiolus*) is known as the “sword lily,” stemming from the Latin word “gladius,” which means “sword” or “blade.” This is because the stem of the plant resembles the blade of a sword, and the bright red blooms of some varieties resemble drops of frozen blood.

Ancient Romans considered the gladiolus the flower of gladiators. In the world of flowers, gladiolus is the primary symbol of bravery, courage, friendship, loyalty, memory, and nobility. Hence, it remains the most popular flower for making bouquets for winners.

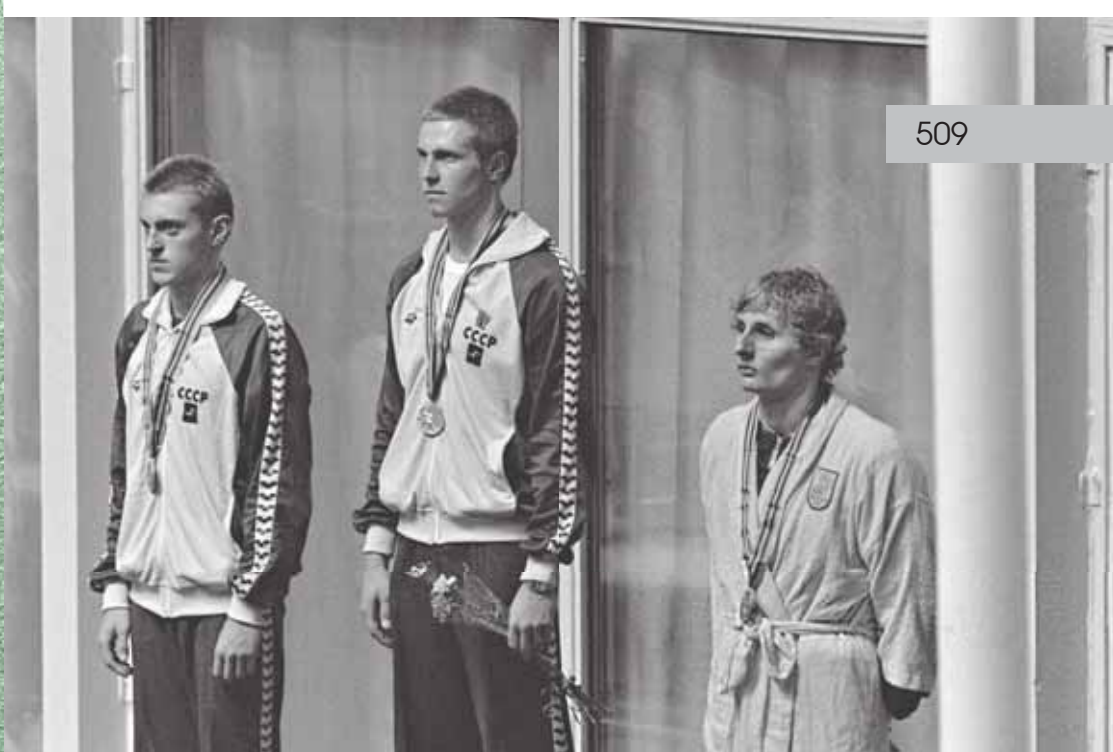


*French Olympic fencing champion Pascal Trinquet with her gold Olympic medal and a bouquet of gladioli. 1980, Moscow*





Austrian equestrian Elizabeth Theurer displaying her gold Olympic medal in equestrian sports, holding a bouquet of white gladioli. 1980, Moscow



On the podium, winners of the Olympic swimming competition in the 1,500 m (from left): silver medallist Alexander Chayev (USSR), champion Vladimir Salnikov (USSR), and bronze medallist Max Metzker (Australia)

Winners of the Olympic swimming and handball and other competitions at the Games of the XXII<sup>nd</sup> Olympiad were presented with small bouquets of carnations (*lat. Dianthus*). Ancient Greeks called it the "flower of Zeus," attributing divine origins to the carnation. Romans adorned imperial chambers with this plant, considering it a symbol of good mood and luck. The French and English regard this flower as a symbol of well-being and mutual understanding. In the USSR, the beautiful carnation was seen as the flower of the Revolution and the Great Victory.

By gifting winners bouquets of carnations, the organisers of the Games paid tribute to their achievements and emphasised the unforgettable nature of their feats.



The USSR women's handball team – winners of the Olympic tournament at the 1980 Olympics with small bouquets of carnations



The promotional posters of the cultural programme of the XXII<sup>nd</sup> Olympic Games depicted elements of the main motif of Zhostovo painting (folk art) – flower bouquets, featuring large garden and small field flowers



*Winners in women's figure skating (singles): silver medallist Rosalynn Summers (USA), champion Katarina Witt (GDR), and bronze medallist Kira Ivanova (USSR) on the Olympic podium with bouquets in their hands*

Organisers of the XIV<sup>th</sup> Olympic Winter Games 1984 in Sarajevo used two types of bouquets for awarding the winners. One of them was distinguished by its lushness and abundance of field flowers. Notable for its colourful variety, the bouquet contained flowers in white, red, pink, yellow, and blue. The white colour symbolised sincerity and purity; pink – youth, tenderness, charm, and care; yellow – joy, warmth, soulfulness, and vitality; red – passion, freedom; and blue – peace, dedication, and elevated feelings. The second bouquet included luxurious, delicate, fragrant, sunny, fluffy mimosa, a symbol of rebirth and spring, constancy, faithful and eternal love.

With such wishes, the organisers turned to the athletes, presenting them with these wonderful bouquets.

*Winners of the Olympic ice dancing competition Jane Torvill and Christopher Dean (Great Britain) with their Olympic medals and bouquets*



## XIV<sup>th</sup> Olympic Winter Games. Sarajevo, 1984

*On the victory podium, winners of the Olympic figure skating competition's bronze medallists Larisa Selezneva and Oleg Makarov (USSR), champions Elena Valova and Oleg Vasiliev (USSR), silver medallists Kitty Carruthers and Peter Carruthers (USA)*



*The winners of the Olympic ski jumping competition: silver medallist Matti Nykänen (Finland), champion Jens Weissflog (GDR), and bronze medallist Jari Puikkonen (Finland) holding bouquets of mimosas. 1984, Sarajevo*



*Gunde Svan of Sweden waves the crowd during the medal ceremony for Men's 15k race of the Cross Country Skiing competition in the 1984 Winter Olympics*



*Andrea Schöne and Karin Enke of the GDR and Natalia Petrusseva of the USSR with their award medals and flower bouquets*



*On the podium of the 4x200 m freestyle swimming relay winners: silver medallists – team of West Germany, champions – team of the USA, and bronze medallists – team of Great Britain with award bouquets*

The Organising Committee of the Games of the XXIII<sup>rd</sup> Olympiad in Los Angeles prepared special bouquets for the award of the winners and medallists of the Games. Florists presented the Organising Committee with bouquets consisting of flowers symbolising the venue of the competition, as well as wishes for the athletes. Conroy's, a Los Angeles flower shop, was awarded the task of creating the 1984 Olympic bouquets. The florist included an orange noble bird of paradise flower (*lat. Strelitzia*), surrounded by red gerbera daisies (*lat. Gerbera jamesonii*), yellow orchids (*lat. Orchidaceae*), purple liatris (*lat. Liatris spicata*) fern leaves (*lat. Pteridium*), capturing the sunny, vibrant essence of California.

*Strelitzia*, also known as the bird of paradise, is the official flower of Los Angeles. It symbolises freedom and immortality. The delicate red gerberas in the bouquet represent wishes for happiness, prosperity, and joy, while fern is a symbol of luck and abundance, sincerity, and humility. The liatris flowers symbolise concentration of energy. The flowers symbolised the warmth and positivity of the Golden State, making this bouquet a very memorable part of Olympic history.

# The Games of the XXIII<sup>rd</sup> Olympiad. Los Angeles, 1984



*The American gymnastics team, Olympic champions in the all-around competitions, holding bouquets at the Victory Ceremony. 1984, Los Angeles*



◀ *Lillie Leatherwood, Sherri Howard, Valerie Briso-Hooks, and Chandra Chesseborough of the United States celebrate on the podium with their gold medals after winning the women's 4x400 metre relay event*



*Olympic bouquets ready for the Victory Ceremony. Games of the XXIII<sup>rd</sup> Olympiad. Los Angeles, 1984*



On the victory podium, winners of the Olympic ice dancing competition (from the left): silver medallists Marina Klimova and Sergei Ponomarenko (USSR), champions Natalia Bestemyanova and Andrei Bukin (USSR), bronze medallists Tracy Wilson and Robert McCall (Canada) – with Olympic bouquets in their hands

The composition of the Olympic bouquet of the XV<sup>th</sup> Olympic Winter Games of 1988 in Calgary was a true work of floristry, embodying elegance and sophistication, consisting of buds of red roses (*lat. Rosa*) and snow-white calla lilies (*lat. Zantedeschia aethiopica*). The calla lily (translated from Greek as “beautiful”) signifies purity, sincerity, faithfulness, and eternal life. The red roses in the bouquet symbolise love, deep affection, strength, and energy. The composition of these wonderful flowers embodies the excitement and gratitude, love and warm feelings of the organisers and spectators of the Games; the youth, determination, perseverance in achieving their goals, and the perfection of the Olympic winners and medallists.

At these Games, the organisers, for the first time, presented Olympic bouquets to the winners immediately after the end of the competition – to celebrate victory together with the audience. And already in the evening of the next day, a solemn award ceremony took place in Olympic Plaza, during which the presentation of medals and Olympic bouquets was one of the mandatory elements.

The bouquet awarded to the winner and medallists immediately after the competitions differed from the bouquet awarded at the Victory Ceremony. It was less ceremonial and consisted of red carnations (*lat. Dianthus caryophyllus*) and sprigs of baby’s breath (*lat. Gypsophilia paniculata*), symbolising friendship and admiration, purity of heart, sincerity, and happiness.

The bouquet also included an eucalyptus (*lat. Eucalyptus*) branch – a symbol of beauty, abundance, and protection.

## XV<sup>th</sup> Olympic Winter Games. Calgary, 1988



Bouquet of the XV<sup>th</sup> Olympic Winter Games of 1988 in Calgary was presented at the Victory Ceremony



◀ Winners of the Olympic men’s downhill skiing competition: silver medallist Peter Müller (Switzerland), champion Pirmin Zurbriggen (Switzerland), and bronze medallist Franck Piccard (France) – with Olympic bouquets in their hands

*Katarina Witt, GDR, the Olympic champion in women's single figure skating, showcasing her gold medal. 1988, Calgary*



*Frank Peter Roetsch (GDR), a two-time Olympic biathlon champion (sprint 10 km and individual race 20 km), with a bouquet after his victory. 1988, Calgary*



*Silver medallist Christa Kinshofer (FRG), champion Frenny Schneider (Switzerland), and bronze medallist Maria Walliser (Switzerland) with award bouquets immediately after the end of the alpine skiing competition (giant slalom)*



The Organising Committee of the 1988 Games of the XXIV<sup>th</sup> Olympiad in Seoul approved the floral composition proposed by the florists as the official Olympic bouquet. For the winners and medallists florists offered a composition created from pink gladioli, small white chrysanthemums, and a palm twig. Chrysanthemum, translated from Ancient Greek, means “golden flower.” In Asian countries, the plant’s place of origin, it is highly respected and revered. Chrysanthemums symbolise loyalty, nobility, and modesty here. The palm branch has been a symbol of victory, triumph, peace, eternal life, and the palm tree itself is considered sacred from ancient times and in all religions. As for the gladiolus, it has been known as the “sword flower” since Ancient Rome. According to legend, an ancient Roman commander ordered captive warriors from Thrace, whom he gave to the gladiators, to fight each other in the arena. The order was repeated three times, and the winner was even promised freedom. However, the warriors refused three times and thrust their swords into the ground. After this, the Thracians were executed, and their swords turned into beautiful flowers – gladioli, which are still considered a symbol of faithful companionship, loyalty, and spiritual elevation.

The designers of the Olympic bouquet of the Games of the XXIV<sup>th</sup> Olympiad embodied in it the wishes of nobility, loyalty, devotion, and spiritual exaltation in the difficult struggle for Olympic victory.

# The Games of the XXIV<sup>th</sup> Olympiad. Seoul, 1988



◀ On the podium are the prize-winners of the Olympic tennis doubles: silver medallists team Spain, champions team USA, bronze medallists team Czechoslovakia and Sweden with olympic awards. 1988, Seoul

An element of the bouquet, resembling a fan, which was presented to the medallists at the 1988 Olympic Games in Seoul, was a composition of golden rice ears. This element had several layers of symbolic meaning.

Firstly, rice in Korean culture is a staple food and a symbol of abundance and prosperity. The use of rice ears in the bouquet symbolised a wish for prosperity and well-being for the athletes.

Secondly, the rice ears reflected Korean traditions and culture, making the bouquet unique and authentic.

Thirdly, the composition of rice ears, resembling a fan, added decorative and original elements to the bouquet, making it distinct from standard bouquets. Combined with chrysanthemums, which symbolise nobility and longevity, the rice ears emphasised the significance and respect accorded to the athletes for their achievements.

Thus, this element of the bouquet was a carefully thought-out and multi-layered symbol, reflecting both Korean cultural traditions and the values associated with the Olympic Games.



*American diver Greg Louganis with his Olympic awards – medal and bouquet*



*Olympic tennis champion in women's singles Steffi Graf (FRG) with her Olympic medal and a bouquet*



*German swimmer Uwe Dassler, Olympic champion in the 400 m freestyle, with the Olympic medal and bouquet in hand*