



VII^e OLY
ANVER
-1^{er} PR
Football
c. s. N
Etats-F

M. Bulatova
D. Bielokurov

Memorabilia

in Olympic Culture and Heritage



M. Bulatova
D. Bielokurov

Memorabilia
in Olympic Culture and Heritage



Foreword of the President of the National Olympic Committee of Ukraine



The Olympic Games are a grandiose phenomenon, one of the most stable and significant cultural traditions in human history. The Olympic Games, which began in Ancient Greece, have survived thousands of years, becoming a fact of global importance that occupies an extremely essential place in world culture.

The Olympic legacy is not a story set in stone. It is a living spirit that is passed down from generation to generation, inspiring achievement, uniting people of different cultures and nations. It is the embodiment of strength, courage, fair play and the pursuit of excellence, leaving its mark not only on the sports arenas, but also in the hearts of millions.

The International Olympic Committee, together with UNESCO, carries out a great deal of work to promote the cultural heritage of the Olympic movement through various projects, initiatives and educational programs aimed at uniting sports, culture and education. Particular attention is paid to the preservation and presentation of artifacts, documents and symbols related to the history of the Olympic Games. After all, it is the Olympic memorabilia, which unites Olympic medals, awards, diplomas, posters, mascots, torches and many other things that are significant witnesses of the Games, that reflects the evolution of the Olympic movement, and also embodies the unification of people of different nations around common values such as peace, friendship and equality.

The pages of the book “Memorabilia in Olympic Culture and Heritage” contain valuable educational information that serves as a kind of bridge between the past and the present, connecting the time being with the historical heritage of the Olympic Games. Undoubtedly, this bright book, imbued with the Olympic spirit, will become an integral part of Olympic education and will enrich the arsenal of the Olympic legacy.

Vadym Guttsait,
Olympic champion

ББК: 75.4(0)90

УДК: 796.032:351.85



M. Bulatova, D. Bielokurov

Memorabilia in Olympic Culture and Heritage



Published by the National Olympic Committee of Ukraine



M. Bulatova, D. Bielokurov. Memorabilia in Olympic Culture and Heritage : monograph. Kyiv. 2024. 660 p.

Educational Edition

Not for commercial use

Not part of this book could be reproduced
in any form without written permission
of the National Olympic Committee of Ukraine

© M. Bulatova, D. Bielokurov, 2024

© International Olympic Committee (photo), 2024

© National Olympic Committee of Ukraine (photo), 2024

ISBN 978-966-2419-42-9

CONTENTS

6 Foreword

Chapter 1. MEDALS

- | | | | |
|-----|--|-----|--|
| 10 | Historical Background | 140 | X th Olympic Winter Games. Innsbruck, 1964 |
| 16 | The Games of the I st Olympiad. Athens, 1896 | 146 | The Games of the XVIII th Olympiad. Tokyo, 1964 |
| 20 | The Games of the II nd Olympiad. Paris, 1900 | 154 | X th Olympic Winter Games. Grenoble, 1968 |
| 28 | The Games of the III rd Olympiad. St. Louis, 1904 | 158 | The Games of the XIX th Olympiad. Mexico City, 1968 |
| 38 | Intercalated Olympic Games. Athens, 1906 | 164 | XI th Olympic Winter Games. Sapporo, 1972 |
| 42 | The Games of the IV th Olympiad. London, 1908 | 170 | The Games of the XX th Olympiad. Munich, 1972 |
| 46 | The Games of the V th Olympiad. Stockholm, 1912 | 176 | XII th Olympic Winter Games. Innsbruck, 1976 |
| 52 | The Games of the VII th Olympiad. Antwerp, 1920 | 180 | The Games of the XXI st Olympiad. Montreal, 1976 |
| 56 | I st Olympic Winter Games. Chamonix, 1924 | 184 | XIII th Olympic Winter Games. Lake Placid, 1980 |
| 58 | The Games of the VIII th Olympiad. Paris, 1924 | 188 | The Games of the XXII nd Olympiad. Moscow, 1980 |
| 64 | II nd Olympic Winter Games. St. Moritz, 1928 | 196 | XIV th Olympic Winter Games. Sarajevo, 1984 |
| 66 | The Games of the IX th Olympiad. Amsterdam, 1928 | 200 | The Games of the XXIII rd Olympiad. Los Angeles, 1984 |
| 70 | III rd Olympic Winter Games. Lake Placid, 1932 | 208 | XV th Olympic Winter Games. Calgary, 1988 |
| 72 | The Games of the X th Olympiad. Los Angeles, 1932 | 212 | The Games of the XXIV th Olympiad. Seoul, 1988 |
| 76 | IV th Olympic Winter Games.
Garmisch-Partenkirchen, 1936 | 216 | XVI th Olympic Winter Games. Albertville, 1992 |
| 80 | The Games of the XI th Olympiad. Berlin, 1936 | 220 | The Games of the XXV th Olympiad. Barcelona, 1992 |
| 94 | V th Olympic Winter Games.
Garmisch-Partenkirchen, 1940 (not celebrated) | 224 | XVII th Olympic Winter Games. Lillehammer, 1994 |
| 96 | The Games of the XII th Olympiad. Helsinki, 1940
(not celebrated) | 228 | The Games of the XXVI th Olympiad. Atlanta, 1996 |
| 98 | V th Olympic Winter Games. St. Moritz, 1948 | 232 | XVIII th Olympic Winter Games. Nagano, 1998 |
| 102 | The Games of the XIV th Olympiad. London, 1948 | 236 | The Games of the XXVII th Olympiad. Sydney, 2000 |
| 106 | VI th Olympic Winter Games. Oslo, 1952 | 242 | XIX th Olympic Winter Games. Salt Lake City, 2002 |
| 110 | The Games of the XV th Olympiad. Helsinki, 1952 | 246 | The Games of the XXVIII th Olympiad. Athens, 2004 |
| 114 | VII th Olympic Winter Games. Cortina d'Ampezzo, 1956 | 250 | XX th Olympic Winter Games. Turin, 2006 |
| 118 | The Games of the XVI th Olympiad. Melbourne, 1956 | 254 | The Games of the XXIX th Olympiad. Beijing, 2008 |
| 122 | The Games of the XVI th Olympiad. Stockholm, 1956 | 260 | XXI st Olympic Winter Games. Vancouver, 2010 |
| 126 | VIII th Olympic Winter Games. Squaw Valley, 1960 | 264 | The Games of the XXX th Olympiad. London, 2012 |
| 130 | The Games of the XVII th Olympiad. Rome, 1960 | 268 | XXII nd Olympic Winter Games. Sochi, 2014 |
| | | 272 | The Games of the XXXI st Olympiad. Rio de Janeiro, 2016 |
| | | 276 | XXIII rd Olympic Winter Games. Pyeongchang, 2018 |
| | | 280 | The Games of the XXXII st Olympiad. Tokyo, 2020 |
| | | 282 | XXIV th Olympic Winter Games. Beijing, 2022 |
| | | 286 | The Games of the XXXIII rd Olympiad. Paris, 2024 |

Chapter 2. DIPLOMAS

- 290 Historical Background
- 292 The Games of the Ist Olympiad. Athens, 1896
- 296 The Games of the IInd Olympiad. Paris, 1900
- 304 The Games of the IIIrd Olympiad. St. Louis, 1904
- 306 The Games of the IVth Olympiad. London, 1908
- 310 The Games of the Vth Olympiad. Stockholm, 1912
- 314 The Games of the VIIth Olympiad. Antwerp, 1920
- 316 Ist Olympic Winter Games. Chamonix, 1924
- 318 The Games of the VIIIth Olympiad. Paris, 1924
- 320 IInd Olympic Winter Games. St. Moritz, 1928
- 322 The Games of the IXth Olympiad. Amsterdam, 1928
- 324 IIIrd Olympic Winter Games. Lake Placid, 1932
- 326 The Games of the Xth Olympiad. Los Angeles, 1932
- 330 IVth Olympic Winter Games.
Garmisch-Partenkirchen, 1936
- 332 The Games of the XIth Olympiad. Berlin, 1936
- 336 Vth Olympic Winter Games. St. Moritz, 1948
- 338 The Games of the XIVth Olympiad. London, 1948
- 340 VIth Olympic Winter Games. Oslo, 1952
- 342 The Games of the XVth Olympiad. Helsinki, 1952
- 346 VIIth Olympic Winter Games. Cortina d'Ampezzo, 1956
- 350 The Games of the XVIth Olympiad. Melbourne, 1956
- 354 VIIIth Olympic Winter Games. Squaw Valley, 1960
- 356 The Games of the XVIIth Olympiad. Rome, 1960
- 360 Xth Olympic Winter Games. Innsbruck, 1964
- 362 The Games of the XVIIIth Olympiad. Tokyo, 1964
- 364 Xth Olympic Winter Games. Grenoble, 1968
- 368 The Games of the XIXth Olympiad. Mexico City, 1968
- 372 XIth Olympic Winter Games. Sapporo, 1972
- 374 The Games of the XXth Olympiad. Munich, 1972
- 376 XIIth Olympic Winter Games. Innsbruck, 1976
- 378 The Games of the XXIst Olympiad. Montreal, 1976
- 380 XIIIth Olympic Winter Games. Lake Placid, 1980
- 382 The Games of the XXIInd Olympiad. Moscow, 1980
- 384 XIVth Olympic Winter Games. Sarajevo, 1984
- 386 The Games of the XXIIIrd Olympiad. Los Angeles, 1984
- 390 XVth Olympic Winter Games. Calgary, 1988
- 392 The Games of the XXIVth Olympiad. Seoul, 1988
- 394 XVIth Olympic Winter Games. Albertville, 1992
- 396 The Games of the XXVth Olympiad. Barcelona, 1992
- 398 XVIIth Olympic Winter Games. Lillehammer, 1994
- 400 The Games of the XXVIth Olympiad. Atlanta, 1996
- 404 XVIIIth Olympic Winter Games. Nagano, 1998
- 406 The Games of the XXVIIth Olympiad. Sydney, 2000
- 410 XIXth Olympic Winter Games. Salt Lake City, 2002
- 412 The Games of the XXVIIIth Olympiad. Athens, 2004
- 414 XXth Olympic Winter Games. Turin, 2006
- 418 The Games of the XXIXth Olympiad. Beijing, 2008
- 422 XXIst Olympic Winter Games. Vancouver, 2010
- 426 The Games of the XXXth Olympiad. London, 2012
- 430 XXIInd Olympic Winter Games. Sochi, 2014
- 434 The Games of the XXXIst Olympiad. Rio de Janeiro, 2016
- 438 XXIIIrd Olympic Winter Games. Pyeongchang, 2018
- 442 The Games of the XXXIIst Olympiad. Tokyo, 2020
- 446 XXIVth Olympic Winter Games. Beijing, 2022
- 450 The Games of the XXXIIIrd Olympiad. Paris, 2024

Chapter 3. FLORISTRY

- 454 Historical Background
- 472 The Games of the Ist Olympiad. Athens, 1896
- 474 The Games of the IInd Olympiad. Paris, 1900
- 476 The Games of the IIIrd Olympiad. St. Louis, 1904
- 478 The Games of the IVth Olympiad. London, 1908
- 480 The Games of the Vth Olympiad. Stockholm, 1912
- 482 The Games of the VIIth Olympiad. Antwerp, 1920
- 484 The Games of the VIIIth Olympiad. Paris, 1924
- 486 The Games of the IXth Olympiad. Amsterdam, 1928
- 489 The Games of the Xth Olympiad. Los Angeles, 1932
- 490 The Games of the XIth Olympiad. Berlin, 1936
- 498 The Games of the XIVth Olympiad. London, 1948
- 500 The Games of the XVth Olympiad. Helsinki, 1952
- 502 VIIth Olympic Winter Games. Cortina d'Ampezzo, 1956
- 504 Xth Olympic Winter Games. Grenoble, 1968
- 506 The Games of the XIXth Olympiad. Mexico City, 1968
- 508 The Games of the XXIInd Olympiad. Moscow, 1980
- 510 XIVth Olympic Winter Games. Sarajevo, 1984
- 512 The Games of the XXIIIrd Olympiad. Los Angeles, 1984
- 514 XVth Olympic Winter Games. Calgary, 1988
- 516 The Games of the XXIVth Olympiad. Seoul, 1988
- 518 XVIth Olympic Winter Games. Albertville, 1992

- 520 The Games of the XXVth Olympiad. Barcelona, 1992
- 522 XVIIth Olympic Winter Games. Lillehammer, 1994
- 524 The Games of the XXVIth Olympiad. Atlanta, 1996
- 526 XVIIIth Olympic Winter Games. Nagano, 1998
- 528 The Games of the XXVIIth Olympiad. Sydney, 2000
- 530 XIXth Olympic Winter Games. Salt Lake City, 2002
- 532 The Games of the XXVIIIth Olympiad. Athens, 2004
- 534 XXth Olympic Winter Games. Turin, 2006
- 536 The Games of the XXIXth Olympiad. Beijing, 2008
- 538 XXIst Olympic Winter Games. Vancouver, 2010
- 540 The Games of the XXXth Olympiad. London, 2012
- 542 XXIInd Olympic Winter Games. Sochi, 2014
- 544 The Games of the XXXIst Olympiad. Rio de Janeiro, 2016
- 545 XXIIIrd Olympic Winter Games. Pyeongchang, 2018
- 546 The Games of the XXXIIst Olympiad. Tokyo, 2020
- 548 XXIVth Olympic Winter Games. Beijing, 2022
- 550 The Games of the XXXIIIrd Olympiad. Paris, 2024



Chapter 4. PRIZES

- 554 Historical Background
- 562 The Games of the Ist Olympiad. Athens, 1896
- 572 The Games of the IInd Olympiad. Paris, 1900
- 576 The Games of the IIIrd Olympiad. St. Louis, 1904
- 586 Intercalated Olympic Games. Athens, 1906
- 592 The Games of the IVth Olympiad. London, 1908
- 612 The Games of the Vth Olympiad. Stockholm, 1912
- 630 The Games of the VIIth Olympiad. Antwerp, 1920
- 638 The Games of the VIIIth Olympiad. Paris, 1924
- 644 The Games of the IXth Olympiad. Amsterdam, 1928
- 646 IIIrd Olympic Winter Games. Lake Placid, 1932
- 648 The Games of the XIth Olympiad. Berlin, 1936

- 652 Bibliography



FOREWORD

Olympic sport is one of the most amazing phenomena in the history of mankind, a universal arena of cooperation between countries and people in the name of strengthening peace and mutual understanding between nations and promoting harmonious human development.

This understanding of Olympic sport, which defines its special role in the modern world, is determined by the humanitarian and humanistic, educational, and upbringing components of Olympism – a philosophy of life rooted in the achievements of ancient Greek civilisation and developed thanks to the efforts of humanists and educators of subsequent eras, including the modern period, based on the centuries-old history, views, and enthusiasm of Baron Pierre de Coubertin, his many supporters, and successors.

The concept of Olympism found its reflection in Olympic memorabilia (items of remembrance that are collectible, associated with personalities or events of the Olympic movement), representing a part of Culture and Olympic Heritage.

Items of memorabilia released in celebration of the Games of Olympiads and Olympic Winter Games reflects the uniqueness of the time and place in history when representatives of various countries from around the world come together to celebrate humanity.

Olympic memorabilia is an unquestionable reflection of the values of Olympism and is inextricably linked to the concept of Olympic Culture – a developing complex of accumulated human knowledge, norms, values, meanings, and models of behaviour that correspond to the conceptual issues of the Olympic Charter.

Olympic memorabilia are extremely diverse, distinguished by deep inner meaning, symbolism, cultural, artistic, and educational richness.

The Olympic memorabilia can be figuratively divided into five categories:

- the first category includes items of Olympic heritage created to announce the upcoming Games and identify them: posters, logos, torches, pictograms, badges, tickets to the ceremonies and competitions, daily official programmes, and various souvenir products bearing the logos of the respective Games;
- the second category covers the awarding memorabilia – a set of items directly related to honouring the winners and medallists of the Olympic Games, prominent representatives of the Olympic movement, and outstanding figures who have made a great contribution to the Olympic sport and celebration of the Olympic Games. This type of Olympic memorabilia includes awarding, participants, merit medals and diplomas, floristry, precious gifts, commemorative and challenge prizes in which symbolism is organically intertwined with artistic values;
- the third category of Olympic memorabilia includes historical documents, Official Reports of the Olympic Games and Olympic Winter Games;
- the fourth, most extensive category of Olympic memorabilia, embraces personal belongings and sports equipment of athletes, photographs and autographs of celebrities, diaries, items created in honour of Olympic sports stars, items that belonged to officials, etc.;
- the fifth category of Olympic memorabilia includes objects of philately, numismatics and phaleristics, deltiology, bibliophilia, cinematography, etc.

The creation of Olympic memorabilia involves teams of specialists developing unique images that reflect the time and place of the Olympics. Organising Committees of the Games initiate and conduct a special competitions to attract the best masters of their craft to create the identity and design of the Olympic Games and their quality attributes.

The book presented to you is the ninth edition in a series of encyclopedias, showcasing the rich historical and cultural heritage of Olympic sports, which publication was supported by Serhiy Bubka, IOC member and President of the NOC of Ukraine. The book includes a description of the role of the

award memorabilia in Olympic culture and heritage. It provides detailed information on the origin, rooting, and evolution of the Olympic memorabilia (medals, diplomas, prizes, and bouquets). It offers explanations of the numerous symbolic meanings contained within these awards and lists the names of their creators – outstanding masterminds and manufacturers (medalliers, designers, sculptors, artists, florists, etc.). It also highlights the historical and cultural value of these items.

The encyclopaedic nature of this edition, along with its design based on the results of detailed and comprehensive research, enables a significant expansion of the body of knowledge regarding the Olympic memorabilia, which will help to enhance the popularity and authority of Olympic sports as an important part of modern international life.

The information for this book was gathered many years bit by bit. The main sources of data were the Official Reports of the Olympic Games and Olympic Winter Games. An invaluable sources of information were the numerous articles and books by Olympic historians, published in different countries of the world, photographic materials and exhibits of Olympic museums, private collections and auctions, and, finally, the main repository of Olympic treasures – the Olympic Museum in Lausanne.

The book is intended for Olympic educators and those involved in preserving the Olympic Culture and Heritage – university students and teachers, scientists, researchers, athletes and coaches, sports journalists, officials and those who are enthusiastically interested in Olympic sports.

The authors of the book express their sincere gratitude to the International Olympic Committee, Olympic Solidarity, the Olympic Studies Centre, IOC members, International Olympic Academy, the curators of Olympic Museums, connoisseurs and collectors, members of the IOC Commission on Culture and Heritage, Olympic Academies of various countries, and, of course, Olympians, for their inspiration and support, without which the creation and publication of this book would have been impossible.



Chapter 1. Medals



A Historical Background

The medals of the Games of the Olympiad and the Olympic Winter Games are the most valued personal awards for athletes, something they strive for and dream about during their gruelling training sessions. However, this has not always been the case.

In ancient Greece, Olympic champions were surrounded by attention, honour, and glory. They were national heroes and became honorary citizens of their city-states. Poems and laudatory odes were composed about them. They were celebrated by their contemporaries. In the presence of numerous spectators, the victors of the Olympic competitions were crowned with wreaths made from the branches of a sacred olive tree and presented with palm twigs. The names of the winners were engraved in stone, which is why we know the names of the heroes of the Olympic competitions of ancient Hellas. It is well known that during 292 Games of the Olympiad held in ancient Greece, no award medals were ever produced or given.

In modern times, the tradition of awarding medals to the winners of the Olympic Games was started from the 1896 Games of the Ist Olympiad in Athens, winners were awarded silver medals for the first place, and athletes who came second were awarded medals made of copper or bronze.

At the 1900 Games of the IInd Olympiad in Paris, for the first time, medals were awarded to the champions and to the second and third-place finishers. For this purpose, an award plaque (i.e., a rectangular-shaped medal) was created from gilded silver, silver, and bronze respectively.

On three occasions in Olympic history – at the 1904 Games of the IIIrd Olympiad in St. Louis, the 1908 Games of the IVth Olympiad in London, and the 1912 Games of the Vth Olympiad in Stockholm – winners and medallists were awarded medals made of pure gold, silver, and bronze. This tradition symbolically reflects the golden, silver, and bronze ages in human history.





After World War I, the financial situation did not allow the continuation of the traditions of awarding winners and medalists established at previous Games. Therefore, on the eve of the 1920 Games of the VIIth Olympiad in Antwerp, it was decided that winners, first and second runners-up in individual sports would be awarded medals made of gilded silver, silver, and bronze. In team sports, the members of the winning team received gilded silver medals, while only the captains of the second and third-place teams received silver and bronze medals respectively.

At all subsequent Games of the Olympiads and the Olympic Winter Games, the winners of the competitions were awarded gilded silver medals, athletes who came second were awarded silver medals, and those who came third received bronze medals.

Moreover, since 1992, additional materials have been used in the design of award medals to symbolise the host country and add a unique touch to the medals. For instance, the award medals for the XVIth Olympic Winter Games 1992 in Albertville (France) included Lalique glass crystal, reminiscent of the Savoie mountains. The innovation in the award medals for the XVIIth Olympic Winter Games 1994 in Lillehammer was the use of sparagmite granite, abundant in Norway. The reverse side of the award medals for the 2008 Games of the XXIXth Olympiad in Beijing was adorned with a jade disk. The award medals for the XXIInd Olympic Winter Games 2014 in Sochi featured transparent polycarbonate inserts.

Over the years, shapes of the award and participant medals changed. At the 1900 Games of the IInd Olympiad in Paris, the traditional round shape award medal was replaced by a rectangular plaquette. The participant medal for the 1904 Games of the IIIrd Olympiad in St. Louis was octagonal; for the IIIrd Olympic Winter Games 1932 in Lake Placid, the 1936 Games of the XIth Olympiad in Berlin, the XVIIth Olympic Winter Games 1994 in Lillehammer and the XIXth Olympic Winter Games 2002 in Salt Lake City – in the form of a plaquette. The participant medal for the 2016 Games of the XXXIst Olympiad in Rio de Janeiro had an irregular shape.





The award medals were presented to athletes in specially prepared boxes. In some cases, the award medals were attached to ribbons for wearing on the chest. The first ever case of a ribbon being attached to an award medal was recorded at the 1896 Games of the Ist Olympiad in Athens. In 1904 in St. Louis, the medal was attached to a coloured ribbon with an English safety pin to secure it to the athlete's chest. The organisers chose a ribbon in the colours of the national flag, a practice repeated for the commemorative medal of the 1912 Games of the Vth Olympiad in Stockholm and the award medal for the IXth Olympic Winter Games 1964 in Innsbruck. Later, ribbons in the colours of the five Olympic rings or the colours of distinct Olympics were used.

In 1960, the organisers of the Games of the XVIIth Olympiad in Rome first produced thin bronze chains in the shape of an olive twig so that the medals could be worn around the athletes' necks. Interestingly, to safeguard against unforeseen circumstances, the organisers provided scissors to the girls presenting the medals so they could quickly cut the chains if necessary. However, the idea was well-received, and chains were subsequently used multiple times, including at the 1972 Games of the XXth Olympiad in Munich and the 1976 Games of the XXIst Olympiad in Montreal. In other cases, at the Games of the Olympiads and at the Olympic Winter Games, the medals are attached to decorative ribbons and hung on the athletes' necks during the Victory Ceremonies.

The medals of the Olympic Winter Games never had a common design. The shapes of the winter Games' medals have been more varied, the size – generally larger, they are thicker, and heavier than those for the Games of Olympiad.





But at most modern Olympic Games, medals have served as recognition not only for the winners of competitions. To honour the vast number of people involved in the organisation and conduct of the Olympic festivities, participant medals and commemorative medals have been used.

All athletes, VIPs, officials, and participants at each Games receive a participant medal, which should not be confused with award or commemorative medals. Participant medals, presented since the first modern Olympic Games, are a key part of all Olympic collections.

A commemorative medal is usually issued to mark a specific event. For example, a large number of commemorative medals were issued to mark the World Expositions of 1900 and 1904, during which the Games of the IInd and IIIrd Olympiad were held in Paris and St. Louis, respectively. Such medals are also dedicated to the Opening Ceremony of the Games and the inauguration of Olympic venues. Sometimes medals are issued in honour of the host city of the Games.

At many Games, commemorative medals have honoured all those who contributed to the organisation of the Olympic festivities, such as participants in the Olympic Torch Relay, volunteers, participants in the Olympic Arts Festival, police officers, and others.

Souvenir medals, which have become a highlight of many Olympic Games, are also of a special kind.

Leading medaliers, sculptors, and designers of their time have been involved in the creation and design of the Olympic medals. The creators of the first medals at the 1896 Games of the Ist Olympiad were the French sculptor and medalier Jules-Clément Chaplain and the Greek artist Nikiforos Lytras.



Sometimes, a medal design was so successful that it was used as the basis for the medals of several other Games. This was the case with the design of the award medal by the aforementioned Jules-Clément Chaplain, which was reused for the award medals of the unofficial 1906 Games in Athens. The obverse design of the award medal by the Australian sculptor and medalier Sir Bertram Mackennal was used at the 1908 Games of the IVth Olympiad in London and the 1912 Games of the Vth Olympiad in Stockholm. The obverse design of the participant medal, also created by Sir Bertram Mackennal, was repeated at the 1908 Games, the 1912 Games, and the 1948 Games of the XIVth Olympiad in London.

The reverse design of the award medal, created by the Austrian medalier and designer Arthur Seliger, was used at the IXth and XIIth Olympic Winter Games, held in Innsbruck in 1964 and 1976 respectively.

However, the most frequently used design for the award medals "Trionfo" was created by the Italian artist, sculptor, and medalier, Professor Giuseppe Cassioli of Florence: the obverse side of the medal was used from 1928 to 2000, and the reverse from 1928 to 1968. The competition saw this design used for more than 70 and 40 years respectively.

After 76 years in 2004 the Greek designer Elena Votsi introduced a new styled medal depicting the Panathenaic stadium. This new obverse design remains in use from 2004 to 2024.

The custom to change the reverse of the Olympic medal started in 1972 in Munich. Since then the Organising Committee of the host city has been given the freedom of the design of the reverse, with the IOC giving final approval.





All the main rules for awarding medals are stipulated in the Olympic Charter. Awarding medals to winners is based on their ranking: for first and second place, medals made of 925 sterling silver are awarded, with the winner's medal being covered with six grams of pure gold; for third place, athletes are awarded bronze medals. The parameters for the award medal were established: a diameter of about 60 mm and a thickness of 3 mm.

Today, the design of the Games of the Olympiad medals must incorporate certain visual elements defined by the International Olympic Committee and the Games' Organising Committee, with final approval belonging to the International Olympic Committee. The medal must depict the Greek goddess of victory, the Olympic emblem, the full name of the Olympic Games, the name of the sport or event, and the emblem of the Games' Organising Committee. Additionally, they must reflect the visual image and cultural and aesthetic elements selected by the Organising Committee. For example, the medals for the 2008 Games of the XXIXth Olympiad in Beijing combine metal with jade.

In this chapter of the book, we invite readers to learn about the history of Olympic medals – award, commemorative, and souvenir – which are the most important memorabilia of the modern Olympic movement.





The Games of the Ist Olympiad. Athens, 1896

The organisers of the Games of the Ist Olympiad of the modern era, held in Athens in 1896, prepared medals to reward the winners and the athletes who finished second, in contrast to the ancient Games, where just the victor was awarded a wreath made of sacred olive branches, a palm twig, and red woollen ribbons.

The creator of the award medal was the French sculptor and medalier Jules-Clément Chaplain. The Paris Mint (Monnaie de Paris) produced approximately 100 copies.

At the first Games of the modern era, medals were awarded to winners (a silver medal weighing 62 g, with a diameter of 48 mm and a thickness of 4 mm) and athletes who finished in second place (a copper or bronze medal weighing 50 g, with a diameter of 50 mm and a thickness of 4 mm.) Medals were not awarded to the athletes who finished third.

On the obverse of the award medal, the head of Olympian Zeus, crowned with a wreath of olive branches (a copy of the Pheidias masterpiece), is depicted. He holds a globe in his hand, above which the winged Greek Goddess of victory Nike rises, holding a twig of olive in her hands. On the left, the inscription "Olympia" is visible, and on the right, the name of the medal's creator "J.-C. Chaplain." On the reverse side, the Acropolis of Athens is depicted, with the inscription in Greek at the bottom "International Olympic Games in Athens 1896."

The award medals were placed in leather presentation cases. Sometimes, the medal was attached to an English pin, adorned with a decorative bow.



Jules-Clément Chaplain – a French sculptor, one of the best medaliers in France, member of the Academy of Fine Arts, creator of the award medal of the 1896 Games of the 1st Olympiad



ARGENT



Award medal for the second place at the Olympic Games, 1896. Design: Jules-Clément Chaplain. Manufacturer: Monnaie de Paris. Bronze. Weight: 50 g. Diameter: 50 mm. Thickness: 4 mm

Award medal for the winner of the 1896 Games of the 1st Olympiad in Athens. Design: Jules-Clément Chaplain. Manufacturer: Monnaie de Paris. Silver. Weight: 62 g. Diameter: 48 mm. Thickness: 4 mm

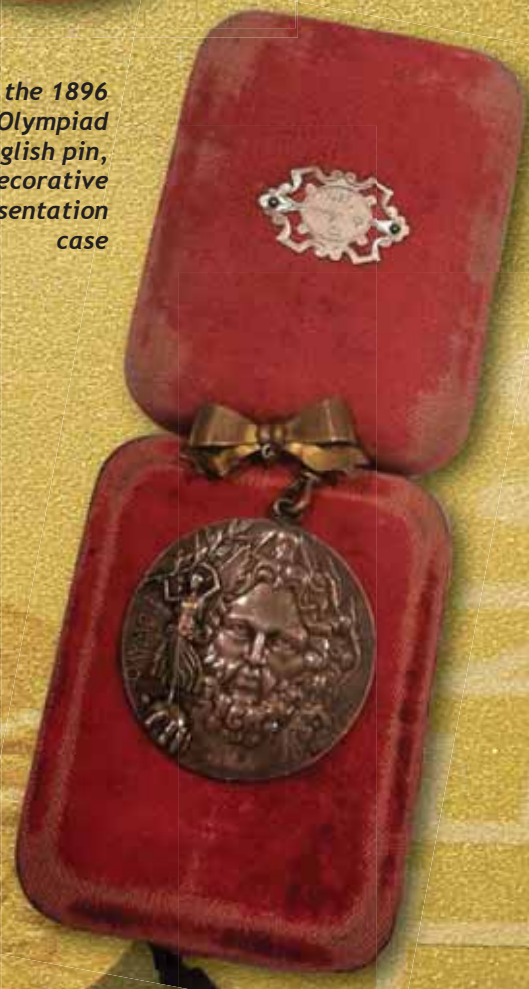


Award medal of the 1896 Games of the 1st Olympiad attached to an English pin, adorned with a decorative bow, and the presentation case



Award Olympic medals in Athens 1896 were presented in leather cases

◀ Award medal for the winner of the 1896 Games of the 1st Olympiad in Athens, on a decorative ribbon in the colours of the national flag of Greece. This was the first instance of using a ribbon for an Olympic medal





◀ Commemorative medal of the 1896 Games, Athens. Design: K. Houtopoulos. Manufacturer: Wilhelm Pittner Mint, Vienna. Brass. Weight: 10.9 g. Diameter: 29 mm. Thickness: 2 mm

A commemorative participant medal was created for athletes, contributors to the Games, judges, organisers, and VIPs. The medal was designed by the Greek artist Nikiforos Lytras and manufactured by the Wilhelm Pittner Mint, Vienna, Austria.

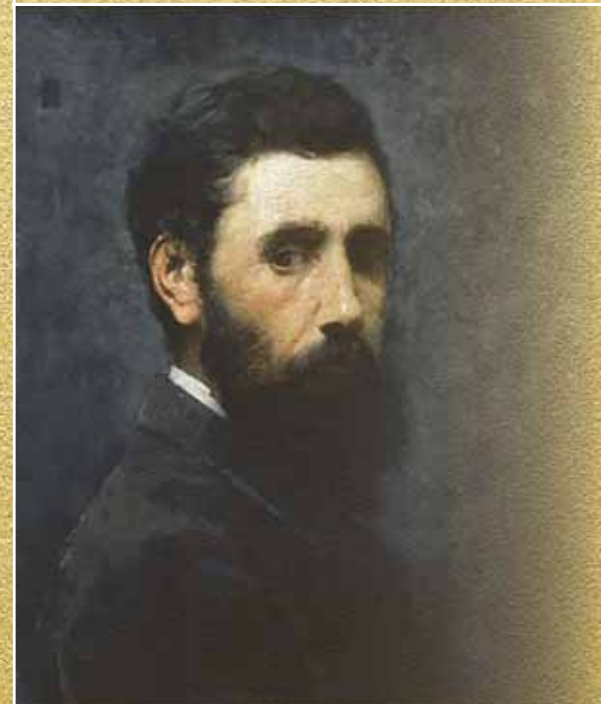
The medals, weighing 58 g, with a diameter of 50 mm and a thickness of 4 mm, were produced in gilt bronze, silver-plated bronze, and bronze.

On the obverse of the medal, the figure of the goddess of victory, holding a winner's olive wreath in her outstretched right hand and a sceptre in her left hand, is depicted. Beside her is a Phoenix, emerging from flames, symbolising the revival of the Olympic Games. Above the woman's head is an ancient temple in the rays of the rising sun. On the right is an inscription in Greek "Olympiad in Athens," and at the bottom, "Olympic Games 776 BC, 1896 AD, Athens." On the reverse side, the edge of the medal is adorned with olive twigs, decoratively tied with a ribbon, in the centre is a small five-pointed star, and the Greek inscription is written in five lines "International Olympic Games, Athens 1896." In small letters, the name of the engraver and the place where the medal was made is marked "W. Pittner, Vienna."

The medals were placed in presentation cases with velvet lining inside.

A total of 20,000 participant medals were produced, some of which were awarded to participants of the Games, while others were sold to commemorate such an important event in history as the International Olympic Games.

A commemorative medal dedicated to the venue of the great sports celebration – the Panathenaic or Kallimarmaro stadium – was designed by K. Houtopoulos and issued to pay tribute to the Games of the 1st Olympiad. The inscription on the upper edge mentions the names of Herodes Atticus, the first Roman consul of Greek origin who rebuilt the stadium in marble (144 AD), and Georgios Averoff, who provided funding for the refurbishing of the Panathenaic stadium for the Games of the modern era. On the reverse side of the medal is an olive wreath, decoratively tied with a ribbon, similar to an ancient Olympic award, and the dates of the ancient (776 BC) and modern (1896 AD) Olympic Games.



Self-portrait of Nikiforos Lytras – Greek artist, patriarch of modern Greek painting, who created commemorative medals for the first Olympic Games of the modern era



Commemorative participant medal of the 1896 Games of the 1st Olympiad in Athens, in a presentation case. Design: Nikiforos Lytras. Manufacturer: Wilhelm Pittner Mint, Vienna. Gilt bronze. Weight: 58 g. Diameter: 50 mm. Thickness: 4 mm



Commemorative participant medal of the 1896 Games of the 1st Olympiad in Athens. Design: Nikiforos Lytras. Manufacturer: Wilhelm Pittner Mint, Vienna. Silver-plated bronze. Weight: 58 g. Diameter: 50 mm. Thickness: 4 mm



Commemorative participant medal of the 1896 Games of the 1st Olympiad in Athens. Design: Nikiforos Lytras. Manufacturer: Wilhelm Pittner Mint, Vienna. Bronze. Weight: 58 g. Diameter: 50 mm. Thickness: 4 mm



For the 1900 Games of the IInd Olympiad in Paris, award plaquettes, participant medals, and commemorative medals were prepared by the Organising Committee of the Games.

The award plaquette of the Games of the IInd Olympiad was created by the French sculptor, engraver, and medalier Frédéric Vernon and produced by the Paris Mint (Monnaie de Paris).

Since these Games were the first in Olympic history to award medals to the winner, first and second runners-up, corresponding award plaquettes were made from gilded silver (weighing 57 g), silver (weighing 55 g), and bronze (weighing 54 g). The plaquette had dimensions of 42x60 mm and a thickness of 4 mm.

On the obverse of the rectangular plaquette, the winged Nike, holding laurel wreaths for the winners in her raised hands, is depicted. In the background at the bottom is the panorama of Paris and the venue of the World Universal Exposition. At the top is the inscription "French Republic," in the central part "Paris 1900," and "World Exposition." On the reverse side is a winning athlete, reminiscent of an ancient Greek athlete, with a laurel twig in his raised hand standing on a podium, on which sport and event in which the athlete excelled is inscribed. Behind him are crowded stadium stands and the Acropolis of Athens. In the left corner is a taller podium with images of oak twigs, decoratively tied with a ribbon, as the oak, representing freedom, is a national symbol of France.

The plaquette was placed in a presentation case.

The Games of the IInd Olympiad. Paris, 1900



Frédéric-Charles Victor de Vernon – French sculptor, engraver, medalier, member of the Academy of Fine Arts of France, creator of the award medal of the 1900 Games of the IInd Olympiad, Paris





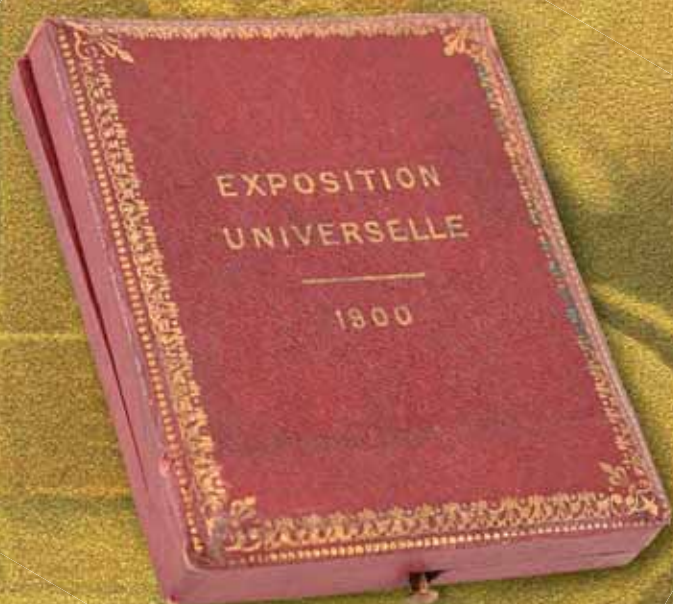
Award plaque for the silver medallist of the 1900 Games of the IInd Olympiad, Paris. Design: Frédéric Vernon. Manufacturer: Monnaie de Paris. Silver. Weight: 55 g. Size: 42x60 mm. Thickness: 4 mm



Award plaque for the winner of the Olympic competitions, 1900 Games of the IInd Olympiad, Paris. Design: Frédéric Vernon. Manufacturer: Monnaie de Paris. Gilded silver. Weight: 57 g. Size: 42x60 mm. Thickness: 4 mm



Presentation case for the award plaque of the 1900 Games of the IInd Olympiad, Paris



Award plaque for the bronze medallist of the 1900 Games of the IInd Olympiad, Paris. Design: Frédéric Vernon. Manufacturer: Monnaie de Paris. Bronze. Weight: 54 g. Size: 42x60 mm. Thickness: 4 mm

For the Exposition and these Games, the Paris Mint also issued a commemorative participant medal, created by the French sculptor and medalier Jules-Clément Chaplain. The medal was produced in five variations: gilded silver (weight unknown), silver (weighing 107 g), gilded bronze (weighing 102 g), silver-plated bronze (weighing 103 g), and bronze (weighing 98 g). Each medal has a diameter of 65 mm and a thickness of 3 mm.

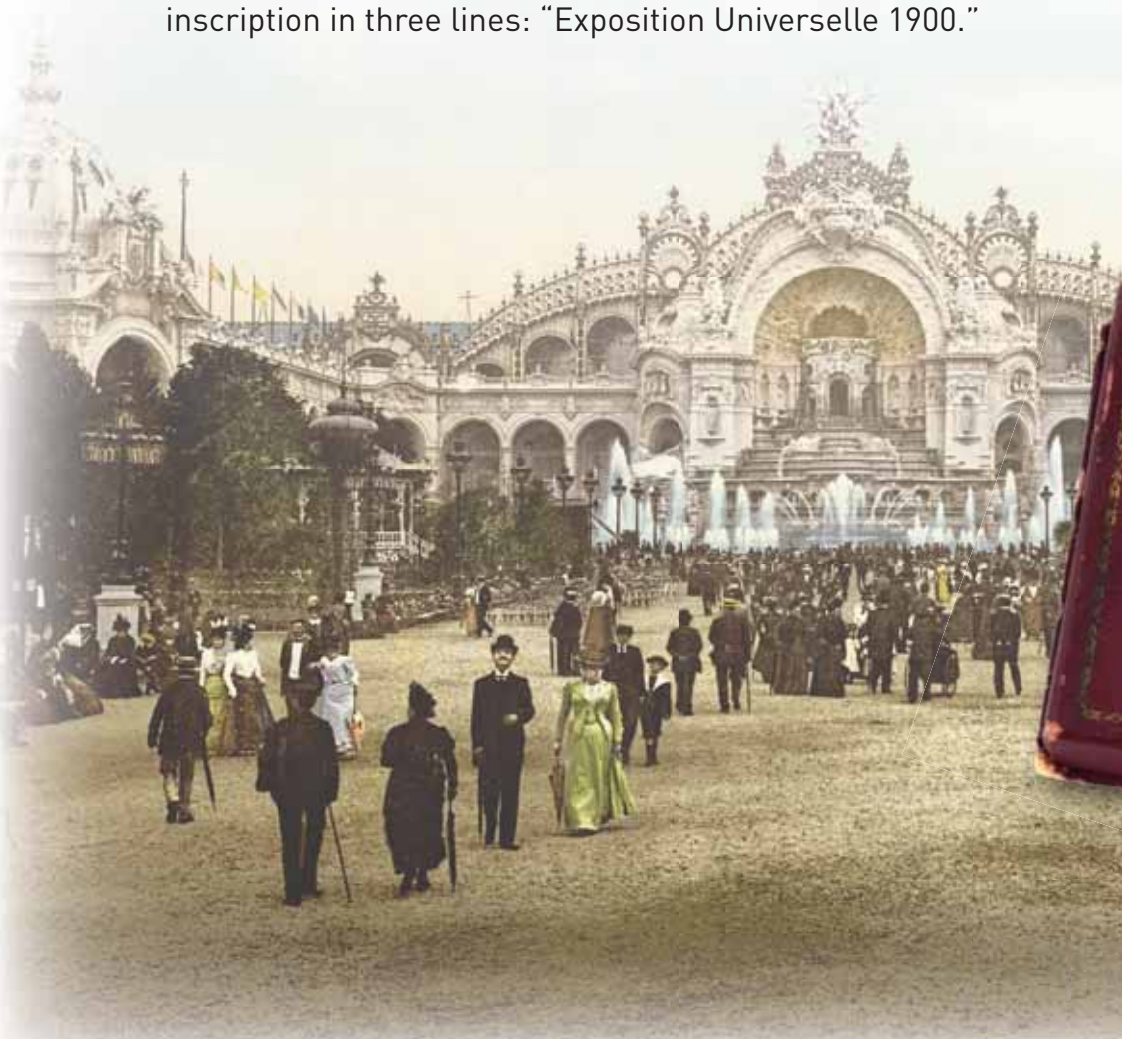
On the obverse of the participant medal, the national personification of the French Republic and its values of Liberty, Equality, Fraternity – Marianne – is depicted wearing a Phrygian hat and an oak wreath.

To the left of Marianne is a sprawling oak tree, symbolising freedom, and to the right is a panorama of Paris, with a bridge over the Seine. The edge bears the inscription “République Française.” The rim is marked with the inscription “Bronze” (or “Silver”) along with an image of the Cornucopia, which is the emblem of the Paris Mint. On the reverse side, the medal features the winged Nike, holding a victor's wreath and a palm twig in her right hand, lifting a victor who holds a flaming torch. The edge bears the inscription in French “Exposition Universelle Internationale 1900.” The name Jules-Clément Chaplain is engraved in small letters. Below, the buildings of the Exposition are depicted, with a rectangular plaquette in the foreground bearing the name of the recipient.

The medal was presented in a display case with a gold inscription in three lines: “Exposition Universelle 1900.”



Jules-Clément Chaplain – French sculptor and medalier, member of the Academy of Fine Arts, creator of the commemorative medal for the 1900 Games of the IInd Olympiad, in Paris





Medal of the 1900 Paris Exposition, awarded to participants of the Games of the IInd Olympiad. Design: Jules-Clément Chaplain. Manufacturer: Monnaie de Paris. Gilded bronze. Weight: 102 g. Diameter: 65 mm. Thickness: 3 mm



Medal of the 1900 Paris Exposition, awarded to participants of the Games of the IInd Olympiad. Design: Jules-Clément Chaplain. Manufacturer: Monnaie de Paris. Gilded silver. Diameter: 65 mm. Thickness: 3 mm



Medal of the 1900 Paris Exposition, awarded to participants of the Games of the IInd Olympiad. Design: Jules-Clément Chaplain. Manufacturer: Monnaie de Paris. Silver. Weight: 107 g. Diameter: 65 mm. Thickness: 3 mm



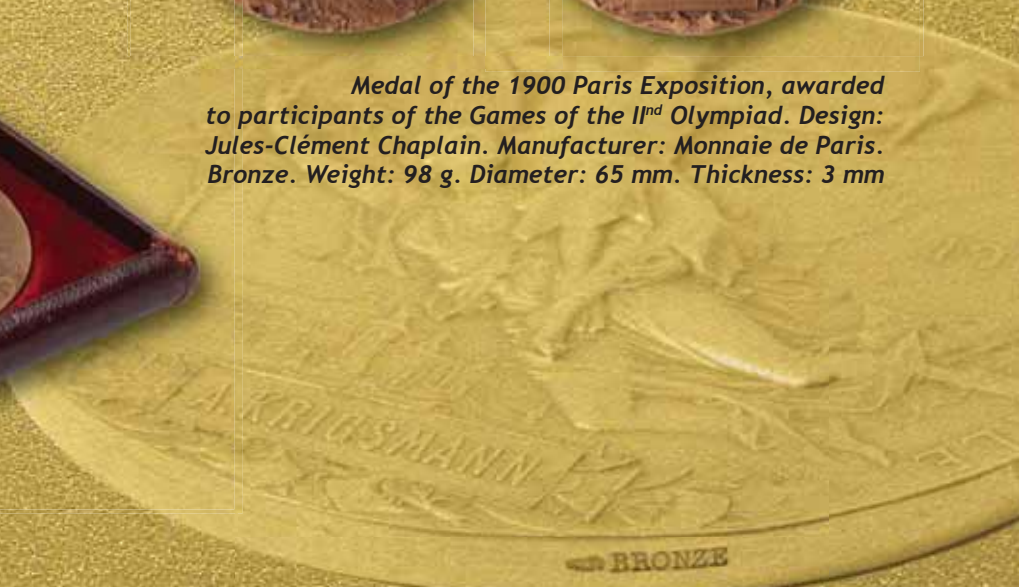
Medal of the 1900 Paris Exposition, awarded to participants of the Games of the IInd Olympiad. Manufacturer: Monnaie de Paris. Silver-plated bronze. Weight: 103 g. Diameter: 65 mm. Thickness: 3 mm



Participant medal of the 1900 Paris Exposition in a presentation case



Medal of the 1900 Paris Exposition, awarded to participants of the Games of the IInd Olympiad. Design: Jules-Clément Chaplain. Manufacturer: Monnaie de Paris. Bronze. Weight: 98 g. Diameter: 65 mm. Thickness: 3 mm



The organisers of the 1900 Paris Exposition commissioned several types of commemorative medals and plaquettes, which were also used to honour participants, judges and officials of the Games of the IInd Olympiad.

One of these was presented by Madame E. Picard, the wife of the Exposition's director. The plaquette was created by the French medalier and engraver, member of the Academy of Fine Arts, Édouard Pierre Blin. Made of bronze, it weighed 77.75 g and measured 41x69.5 mm.

On the obverse side, the plaquette features a sculpture of the beautiful Nike of Samothrace. In the lower right, the creator's name "E. Blin" is engraved, beneath which is the inscription in French, "According to antiquity," with the Latin phrase "Everyone will win" along the bottom edge. On the reverse, the creator depicted a woman in ancient Greek attire, seated with a sword in hand on steps, against the backdrop of a mighty oak tree and an ancient Greek temple. In the right corner of the steps is the creator's name "E. Blin." Below is a rectangular plate, on which the name of the recipient was engraved. Along the bottom edge is the Latin inscription "Remember the Fatherland."

Additionally, on behalf of the Organising Committee of the 1900 Paris Exposition, a commemorative plaquette was issued, which was awarded to judges of various competitions, including the Olympic Games.

The plaquette was created by the French artist Louis-Alexandre Bottée and was produced by the Parisian company Christofle. Made of gilded bronze, it measured 82.6x140 mm.

The plaquette depicts PHEME, the ancient Greek goddess of fame, seated on a throne with a palm twig, symbolising victory, and a long trumpet for proclaiming news. On either side of the throne are laurel twigs, with the date "1900" above and the word "Jury" below. The creator's name, "L.-A. Bottée," is engraved on the right side of the throne's backrest.



Louis-Alexandre Bottée – French artist, creator of the commemorative plaquette for the 1900 Paris Exposition, awarded to judges of the Games of the IInd Olympiad

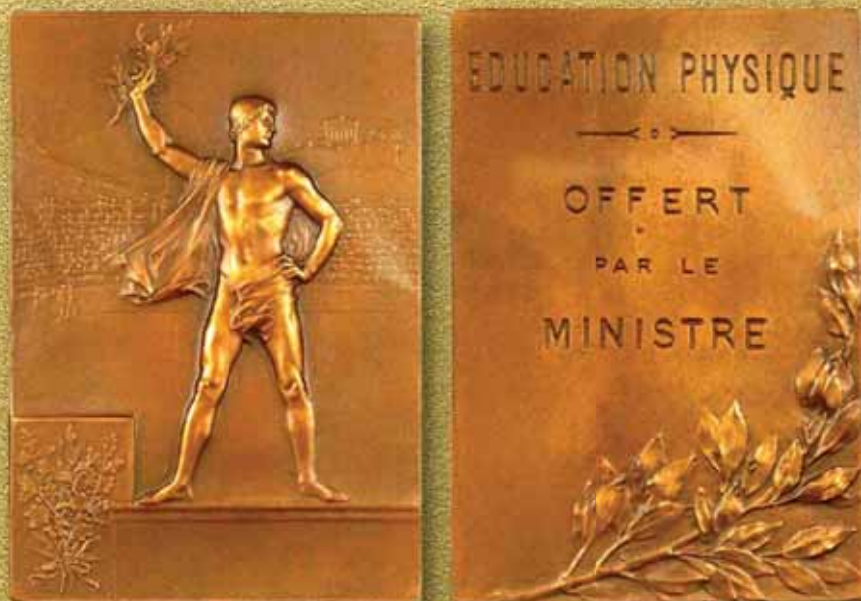


Commemorative plaquette for the 1900 Paris Exposition, awarded to judges of the Games of the IInd Olympiad. Gilded bronze. Size: 82.6x140 mm





Commemorative plaquette presented by Madame E. Picard, wife of the director of the 1900 Paris Exposition. Design: Édouard Pierre Blin. Bronze. Weight: 77.75 g. Size: 41x69.5 mm



Commemorative plaquette awarded on behalf of the Minister for outstanding contributions to physical education. Design: Frédéric Vernon. Bronze. Size: 42x60 mm. On the reverse side, the inscription reads: "Physical Education on Behalf of the Minister"

The organisers of the Olympic competitions in various sports produced special medals to commemorate the participants. The most artistically valuable commemorative medals were awarded to participants in the shooting and gymnastics competitions.

For example, the best participants in the shooting competitions were recognised with a medal by the Union of French Shooting Societies, created by the French medaliers Henri Alfred Auguste Dubois and Charles Gustave de Marey. The medal was struck in silver (weighing 48 g) and bronze (weighing 45 g), with a diameter of 45 mm.

The obverse side features the sculpture “Gloria Victis” (“Glory to the Vanquished”), created by the French sculptor and painter Antonin Mercié. Winged Gloria, wearing a cuirass, supports a young soldier who has fallen in battle, symbolising the heroism of the soldiers who became victims of the Franco-Prussian War of 1870, and glorifying their patriotism. The soldier, symbolising defeat, holds a broken sword in his right hand and raises his left hand to the sky. The soldier's body position suggests resurrection, which can turn defeat into future victory. To the left of the sculpture are the initials of its creator, Antonin Mercié (“AM”), and on the left edge is the inscription “H. Dubois” (“Henri Dubois”). The edge of the obverse bears the inscription “Honoured Fatherland”. The reverse side depicts a rooster (the symbol of France), crowing while standing on the discarded symbols of war: a shield, rifles, and a military flag. The desired arrival of peace is underline by the rising sun and an olive twig along the edge of the reverse. The inscription along the top reads “Union of French Shooting Societies,” and in the centre, the French text is inscribed in six lines: “International Exposition Competitions – VIIth National Competitions,” with the date “1900” at the bottom. A rectangular plate bears the engraved name of the recipient. To the right of the plate is the inscription “C. Marey” (“Charles Marey”).

The medal was presented in a red leather case.

In addition, since 1900, as part of the Paris Exposition, numerous gymnastics competitions were held, including the Federal Festival of the Union of French Gymnastics Societies, the International Gymnastics Championship, and the Festival Competition of the Seine Gymnastics Societies Association, so it was decided to commemorate their participants with a special medal. Made of silver-plated bronze, it weighed 33 g, with a diameter of 44 mm.

On the obverse side, various gymnastics apparatuses are depicted, while the reverse side bears the inscription in French in five lines: “International Gymnastics Competitions 1900,” adorned by olive and oak twigs. Along the edge of the reverse, the inscription reads: “Patronage and youth work.”



Henri Alfred Auguste Dubois – creator of the commemorative medal for participants in the shooting competitions, awarded by the Union of French Shooting Societies at the 1900 Games



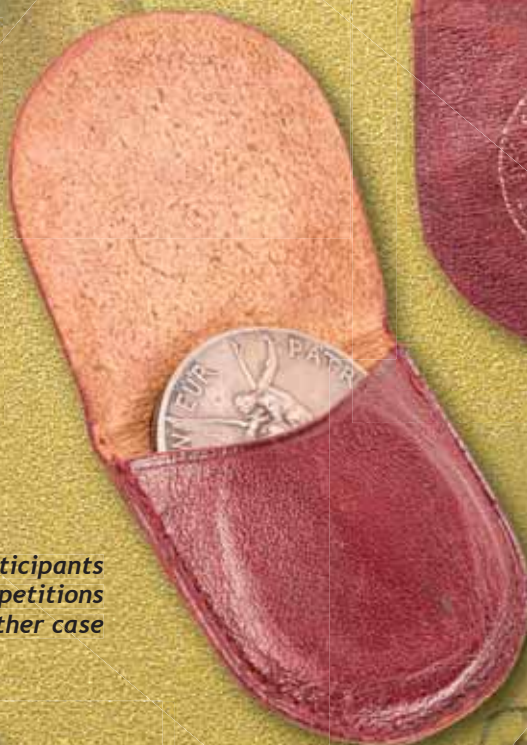
Marius Jean Antonin Mercié – French sculptor and painter, President of the Society of French Artists, creator of the “Gloria Victis” sculpture



Commemorative medal for participants in the shooting competitions, awarded by the Union of French Shooting Societies. Design: Henri Dubois, Charles Marey. Silver. Weight: 48 g. Diameter: 45 mm



Commemorative medal for participants in the shooting competitions, awarded by the Union of French Shooting Societies. Design: Henri Dubois, Charles Marey. Bronze. Weight: 45 g. Diameter: 45 mm



Commemorative medal for participants in the shooting competitions of the 1900 Games in a leather case



Commemorative medal for participants in gymnastics competitions of the IInd Olympic Games 1900 in Paris. Silver-plated bronze. Weight: 33 g. Diameter: 44 mm



For the 1904 Games of the IIIrd Olympiad in St. Louis, award, participant, and commemorative medals were prepared by the Organising Committee of the Universal Exposition.

For the first time in Olympic history, the three first placed athletes in each event were awarded medals made of pure gold, silver, and bronze. This tradition was later repeated twice: at the 1908 Games of the IVth Olympiad in London and at the 1912 Games of the Vth Olympiad in Stockholm.

Thus, Olympic winners were awarded gold medals (weighing 30 g), athletes who finished second received silver medals (weighing 39 g), and those who took third place were awarded bronze medals. Each medal had a diameter of 39 mm and a thickness of 3 mm. The award medals were produced by the Dieges & Clust, New York, USA.

On the obverse side of the award medal, there is an image of an athlete holding a victory wreath in his right hand, with his left hand raised, pointing to the Acropolis of Athens in the rays of the rising sun, symbolising the continuity of the Games from antiquity to the present. In the background is a bas-relief illustrating the sporting events of antiquity. Above the athlete figure is the inscription "Olympiad," and in the lower right corner, "1904." On the reverse side of the medal is the winged Nike hovering above the globe, holding Olympic awards: a wreath and a palm twig for the victor. In front of her is a large olive wreath, in the centre of which is the name of the sporting competition. Behind Nike is the bust of Zeus, the supreme deity of ancient Greece and the patron of the ancient Olympic Games, known in ancient Rome as Jupiter. The reverse side of the medal bears the inscription "Universal Exposition" at the top and at the bottom, in three lines, "St. Louis USA."

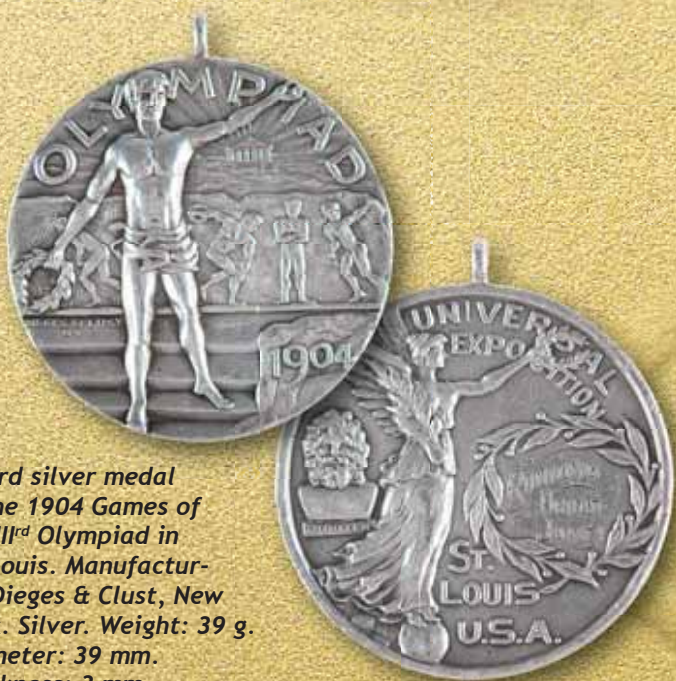
For the first and only time, the medal was attached using a coloured ribbon (in blue, yellow, and red) to a decorative plate with a pin on the reverse side, so it could be pinned to the athlete's chest. The plate itself contained text in English in three lines: "Universal Exposition Olympic Games St. Louis." At the top, it was adorned with three columns: the central one bore the inscription "1904," the left depicted a caduceus, the symbol of trade, which was also the symbol of the 1904 Universal Exposition in St. Louis, and on the right column, the victory wreath of the Olympic competition winners. By the way, this decorative plate was used to hold many award medals of the Games and commemorative medals of the 1904 Universal Exposition in St. Louis.

The medal was placed in a presentation case.

The Games of the IIIrd Olympiad. St. Louis, 1904



Award medal of the 1904 Games of the IIIrd Olympiad on a decorative ribbon



Award silver medal of the 1904 Games of the IIIrd Olympiad in St. Louis. Manufacturer: Dieges & Clust, New York. Silver. Weight: 39 g. Diameter: 39 mm. Thickness: 3 mm



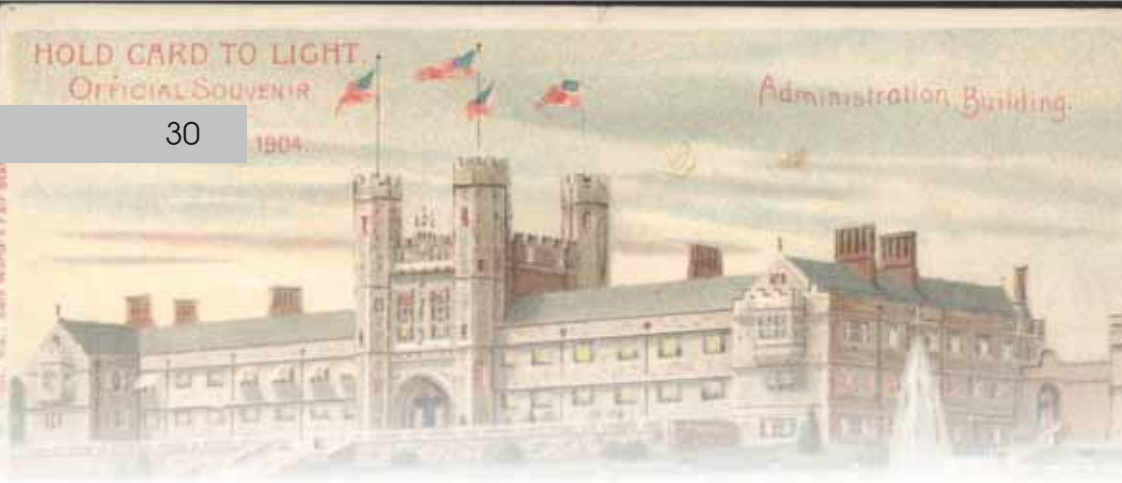
Award medal for the winner of the 1904 Games of the IIIrd Olympiad in St. Louis. Manufacturer: Dieges & Clust, New York. Gold. Weight: 30 g. Diameter: 39 mm. Thickness: 3 mm

Award medal of the 1904 Games of the IIIrd Olympiad in a presentation case



Award bronze medal of the 1904 Games of the IIIrd Olympiad in St. Louis. Manufacturer: Dieges & Clust, New York. Bronze. Diameter: 39 mm. Thickness: 3 mm





Also, a participant medal was produced for the Games of the IIIrd Olympiad, the designer of which remains unknown. The medal is octagonal in shape, weighs 30 g, measures 40x40 mm, and has a thickness of 3 mm.

On the obverse side, an athlete-winner walking with an olive twig in his hand against the background of the rising sun is depicted. Behind him is the 5-line inscription "Olympic Games, St. Louis, USA, 1904." On the reverse side, there are three coats of arms framed by ivy leaves – those of the city of St. Louis, the state of Louisiana, and the United States of America – along with the date "1803" (the year of the purchase of French Louisiana by the United States, as the 1904 Universal Exposition in St. Louis was dedicated to the centenary of this event), and an English inscription in six lines: "Universal Exposition Commemorating the Olympic Games 1904 Physical Culture Department." At the bottom is engraved "Frederick J.V. Skiff Director of Exhibits."

Special medals were made for organisers and officials, indicating the holder's position.

These medals were attached by a ring to a striped ribbon (with blue, white, red, and yellow stripes), which was attached to a metal plate with a clasp. The plate bears the inscription "International Committee, American Committee, Hon. Official, etc."

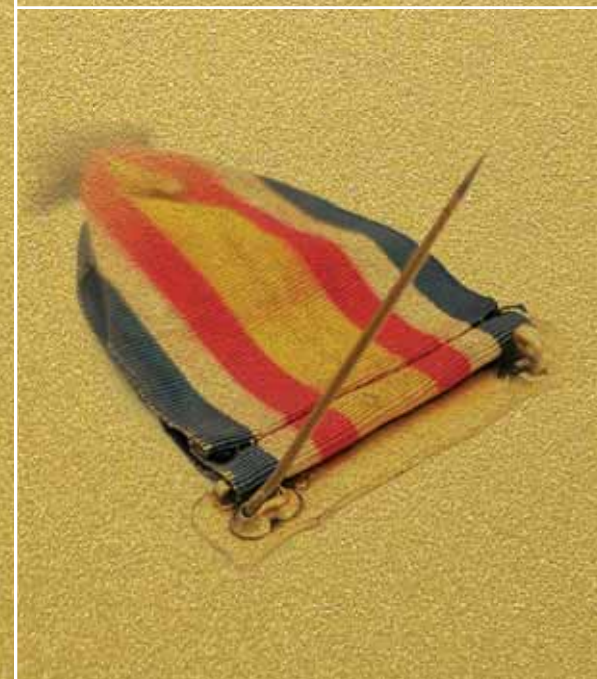
A total of 1,500 participant medals were produced. Medals were awarded to 630 participants of the Games.



Commemorative medal of the 1904 Universal Exposition in St. Louis.

Design: De Paulis. Manufacturer: Monnaie de Paris. Bronze. Weight: 60 g. Diameter: 50 mm.

On the obverse, four allegorical female figures representing different cultures of the world are shown placing offerings on a stone podium. On the front of the podium the scales of justice and clasped hands are shown. In the background is an olive tree. On the reverse, the text is inscribed in four lines: "St. Louis 1904 America Welcomes the World." To the left is the mark of the Paris Mint





Participant medal honouring members of the International Committee of the 1904 Games of the IIIrd Olympiad in St. Louis. Weight: 30 g. Size: 40x40 mm. Thickness: 3 mm



Participant medal of the 1904 Games of the IIIrd Olympiad in St. Louis. Weight: 30 g. Size: 40x40 mm. Thickness: 3 mm





◀ Award medal for the winner of the Olympic Championship in basketball among amateur teams in 1904 in St. Louis. Manufacturer: Dieges & Clust, New York. Gold. Weight: 19.2 g. Diameter: 39 mm

In addition to the official sports, the programme of the Games of the IIIrd Olympiad also included demonstration sports, one of which was basketball. In 1904, four basketball tournaments were held: the Olympic Championship for amateur teams, a college tournament, a basketball league for public school students, and a tournament for elementary school students.

For the winner of the Olympic Championship in basketball among amateur teams, a special award medal was created. Made of gold by Dieges & Clust, New York, it weighed 19.2 g and had a diameter of 39 mm.

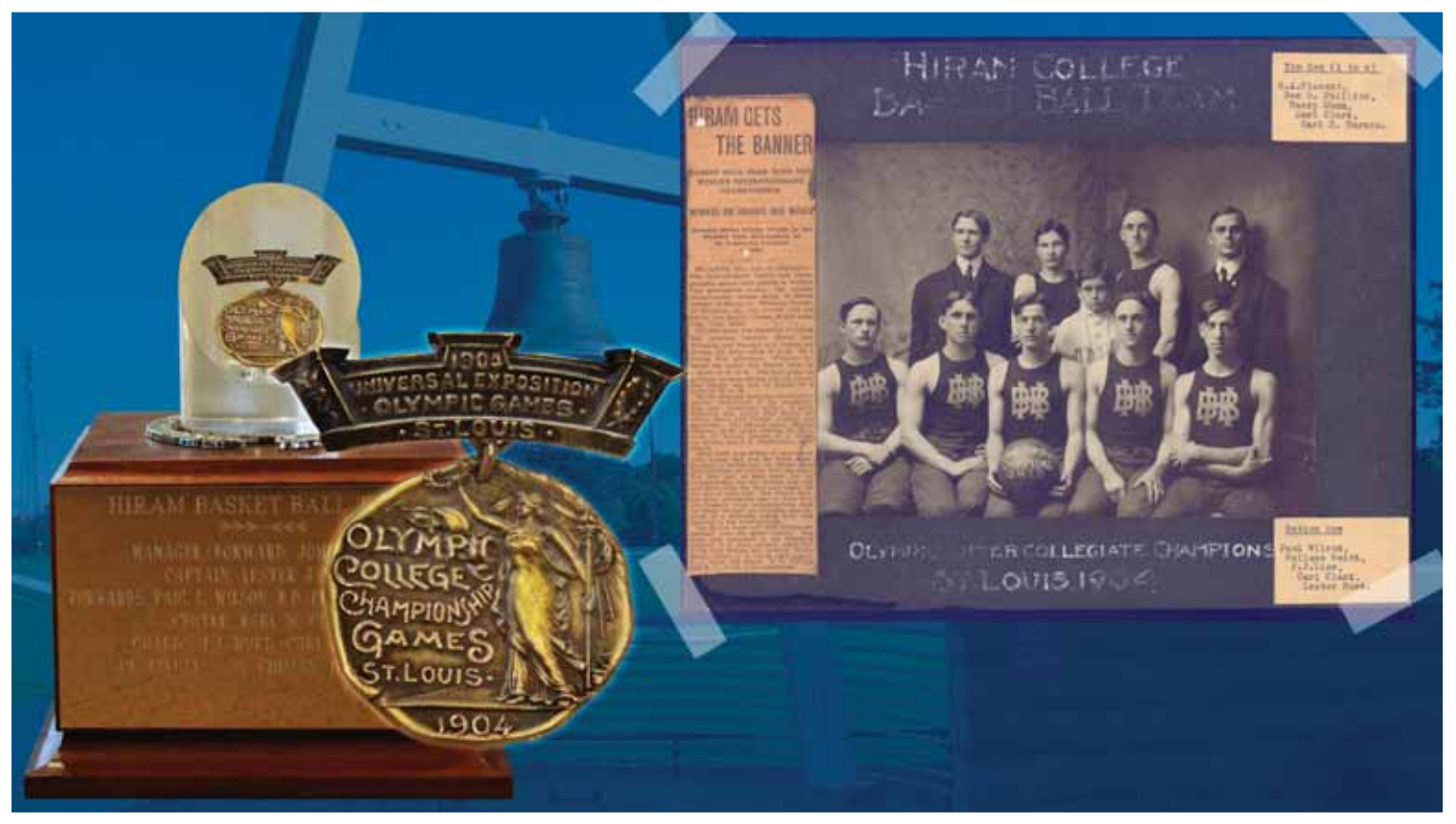
On its obverse is the bust of Hermes holding a flag with the inscription "Peace" ("Pax") against the background of the rising sun. Above and below are two ribbons with the text "Universal Exposition" and "St. Louis USA 1904." The bust of Hermes is surrounded by a circular oak wreath, which is four times entwined with a ribbon. Around the wreath is the text "Olympic World's Championship." On the reverse side is the inscription "Basketball," followed by the name and surname of the athlete, with the manufacturer's mark "Dieges & Clust St. John New York Solid gold" engraved below.

The college basketball tournament was won by the team of Hiram College (Ohio, USA), which was awarded a gold medal. On the obverse of the medal, there is an image of the beautiful goddess of victory holding an olive wreath in her outstretched right hand to crown the winner and a lit torch in her left hand. The English inscription in six lines reads: "Olympic College Championship Games St. Louis 1904." On the reverse side, the name of the winning college, the name of the sport "Basketball," and the name and surname of the player are engraved. At the bottom is the seal of the manufacturing company. The medal is attached to a typical decorative plate with a fibula clasp.



Judge's badge (in the form of a medal) of the 1904 Universal Exposition in St. Louis, USA





Award medal for the winner of the Olympic Intercollegiate Championship in Basketball. 1904, St. Louis. The awards were given to students of Hiram College



Award medals for members of the winning team of the Olympic College Basketball Championship. 1904, St. Louis



◀ A typical decorative plate with a pin on the reverse side, to which many of the medals awarded at the Games of the IIIrd Olympiad and commemorative medals of the 1904 Universal Exposition in St. Louis were attached. The plate itself featured the text in English in three lines: "1904 Universal Exposition Olympic Games St Louis." It was adorned with three columns at the top: the central column displayed the inscription "1904," the left one depicted a caduceus, or symbol of trade, which was the emblem of the 1904 Universal Exposition in St. Louis, and the right column featured a laurel wreath, the symbol of victory

Special commemorative medals were awarded to the winners of the Olympic golf tournament, which was part of the 1904 Games. Medals made of gold (team event) and silver (individual event) were produced for them.

The design of the medal was created by Colonel George McGrew, the founder and president of Glen Echo Country Club, as well as the chief organiser of the Olympic golf competition. The medals were produced by Mermod & Jaccard Jewelry Co, St. Louis.

The gold medal was made of 14-karat gold (585 fineness), with a diameter of 33 mm. On the obverse, there is a depiction of a golf bag with clubs, a ball, twigs of thistle (this plant is a symbol of Glen Echo Country Club), olive, and oak, the national tree of the United States, along with a beautifully curved ribbon with the inscription "Golf." The reverse side bears the engraving "Glen Echo Country Club," the winner's name, and the manufacturer's mark "Mermod & Jaccard Jewelry Co St Louis."

The medal is attached using a typical decorative plate.



Winner's medal for the international team foil fencing competition, organised by the International Athletic Union as part of the IIIrd Olympiad during the 1904 Universal Exposition in St. Louis





Winner's medal for the golf team event at the 1904 Games of the IIIrd Olympiad in St. Louis.
Design: George McGrew.
Manufacturer: Mermod & Jaccard Jewelry Co, St. Louis. Gold.
Diameter: 33 mm



Winner's medal for the individual golf competition at the 1904 Games of the IIIrd Olympiad in St. Louis.
Silver. Diameter: 33 mm



At the 1904 Games, handicap events were held, in which amateur athletes competed against professionals. These competitions had nothing to do with today's understanding of handicap – competitions for people with disabilities.

Special medals were made for the winners of various handicap events. We will mention just a few of them, specifically in athletics and swimming.

For example, a gold medal weighing 2.8 g and with a diameter of 30 mm was awarded to the winner of the Olympic handicap running broad jump competition.

In the centre of the obverse side of the medal, there is an olive twig, with the inscription "WAAAU" (Western Amateur Athletic Association Union) on the left, "Handicap" and Hermes' winged foot, which was one of the symbols of the 1904 Universal Exposition in St. Louis, on the right. The reverse side bears the name of the event "running broad jump," the winner's name, and the manufacturer's mark "Mermod & Jaccard." The medal is attached to a typical decorative plate of the Universal Exposition.

The winner's medal for the open handicap 100-yard dash was also made of gold. It weighed 2.8 g and had a diameter of 30 mm.

In the centre of the obverse side of the medal, there is a depiction of the Western Hemisphere with the outlines of North and South America. The globe is integrated into a stylised fleur-de-lis, which is an element of the coat of arms and flag of Louisiana. Hermes' winged feet are depicted on both sides. A ribbon with the inscription "Athletic Meeting Open Handicap" encircles the edge. The reverse side bears the name of the event, the winner's name, and the manufacturer's mark "Mermod & Jaccard." The medal is attached using a typical decorative plate of the Universal Exposition.

Other medals were created for the Olympic 440-yard swimming handicap event. The centre of the obverse side depicts an athlete kneeling, receiving a palm twig from the winged goddess of victory. To the right is the emblem of the Universal Exposition in St. Louis, with a bust of Hermes against the backdrop of a rising sun, and a ribbon with the inscription "Peace" ("Pax"). The upper edge is inscribed "Olympic Games". The engraving "St. Louis" appears at the bottom.



Medal-shaped badge belonging to the inspector of handicap athletic competitions at the IIIrd Olympiad in St. Louis in 1904



Bronze medal for third place in the 440-yard swimming handicap at the IIIrd Olympiad in 1904

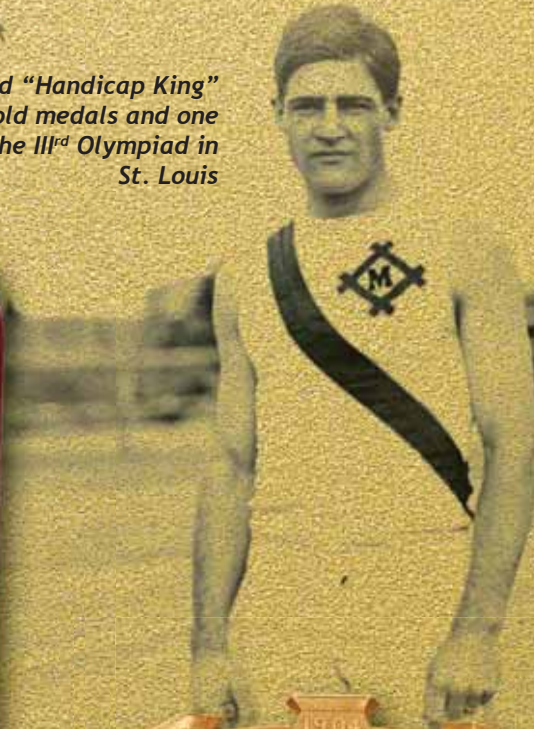




Winner's medal for the Olympic running broad jump competition (handicap).
 Manufacturer: Mermod & Jaccard Jewelry Co, St. Louis. Gold.
 Weight: 2.8 g. Diameter: 30 mm



American athlete, so called "Handicap King"
 Calver Gastedt won four gold medals and one silver at the 1904 Games of the IIIrd Olympiad in St. Louis



Winner's medal for the WAAAU running broad jump (handicap) in the original case. Manufacturer: Mermod & Jaccard Jewelry Co, St. Louis. Gold. Weight: 2.8 g. Diameter: 30 mm



Winner's medal for the Olympic 100-yard dash (open handicap) in the original case. Manufacturer: Mermod & Jaccard Jewelry Co, St. Louis. Gold. Weight: 2.8 g. Diameter: 30 mm

For the 1906 Intercalated Olympic Games in Athens, which played a fundamental role in the development of the Olympic movement, award, participant medals, and a commemorative plaquette were issued.

Winners and runners-up in individual events were awarded medals for first (gilded silver, weighing 63 g), second (silver, weighing 63 g), and third place (bronze, weighing 58 g). All medals had a diameter of 50 mm and a thickness of 2 mm. The medal was designed by the renowned French sculptor and medalier Jules-Clément Chaplain, with production by the Paris Mint (Monnaie de Paris).

The obverse of the medal depicted the head of Olympian Zeus holding a globe on which stands a winged Nike with an olive twig in her hands. The reverse featured the Acropolis. The only difference from the medal of the 1896 Olympic Games was the inscription, where the year was changed to "International Olympic Games in Athens 1906."

The medal was presented in a case.

Medals awarded to winners in individual and team events differed. In team events, athletes who finished in first and second place were awarded silver (weighing 18 g) and bronze medals, respectively. These medals had a diameter of 31 mm. The obverse of the team event medal displayed a winged Nike holding a palm twig, seated on a podium inscribed "Olympia." The lower part of the medal was adorned with an olive twig, replicating the obverse of an ancient stater of Chalias. The reverse of the medal featured an olive wreath and an inscription in Greek in five lines: "International Olympic Games in Athens 1906."

Intercalated Olympic Games. Athens, 1906



Jules-Clément Chaplain – French sculptor and medalier, member of the Academy of Fine Arts, creator of the award medal for the 1906 Intercalated Olympic Games



◀ Award medal for the winner of team events at the 1906 Intercalated Olympic Games in Athens. Silver. Weight: 18 g. Diameter: 31 mm



Award silver medal of the 1906 Intercalated Olympic Games in Athens. Design: Jules-Clément Chaplain. Manufacturer: Monnaie de Paris. Silver. Weight: 63 g. Diameter: 50 mm. Thickness: 2 mm



Award medal for the winner of the 1906 Intercalated Olympic Games in Athens. Design: Jules-Clément Chaplain. Manufacturer: Monnaie de Paris. Gilded silver. Weight: 63 g. Diameter: 50 mm. Thickness: 2 mm



Award bronze medal of the 1906 Intercalated Olympic Games in Athens. Design: Jules-Clément Chaplain. Manufacturer: Monnaie de Paris. Bronze. Weight: 58 g. Diameter: 50 mm. Thickness: 2 mm



Award medal of the 1906 Intercalated Olympic Games in Athens in a presentation case



Λ Ε Υ Κ Ω Μ Α

ΤΩΝ ΕΝ ΑΘΗΝΑΙΣ

Β' ΔΙΕΘΝΩΝ ΟΛΥΜΠΙΑΚΩΝ ΑΓΩΝΩΝ

1906

The participant medal, designed by the Greek artist Niki-foros Lytras, was produced at the Wilhelm Pittner Mint in Vienna.

The medals, made of gilded bronze, silver-plated bronze, and bronze, weighed 58 g and had a diameter of 50 mm.

The obverse of the medal depicted the figure of the goddess of victory holding a victor's olive wreath in her outstretched right hand and a sceptre in her left. Next to her was a Phoenix, symbolising the revival of the Olympic Games. Above her head was an ancient temple bathed in the rays of the rising sun. To the right was an inscription in Greek: "Olympic Games 776 BC–1896 AD," with "Athens" below. The reverse of the medal featured an olive wreath around the edge, tied with a ribbon, with a small five-pointed star in the centre and an inscription in Greek in five lines: "International Olympic Games Athens 1896." At the bottom was the manufacturer's mark: "Wilhelm Pittner, Vienna".

The medals were placed in presentation cases.

A commemorative plaquette was also issued for these Games, created by the French sculptor and medalier Paul Vannier. The plaquette, made of silver-plated bronze, weighed 96.6 g, measured 48x70 mm, and had a thickness of 3 mm.

The obverse depicted an athlete holding a shield and sword aloft, along with the victor's awards: a palm twig as a symbol of peace and an olive wreath as confirmation of victory in the Olympic competitions. He stands before the Olympic stadium filled with spectators, with the sun rising behind and the Acropolis in the distance. The reverse shows the winged goddess of fame, PHEME, flying over an olive tree near the Parthenon, holding a trumpet in her left hand to proclaim the victor and a palm twig in her right hand.

For members of the Greek Organising Committee of the 1906 Games, special medals were created, representing a copy of an ancient Greek coin from Kos, minted in 460 BC. These were issued in silver-plated bronze (weighing 14 g, measuring 25x38 mm) and bronze (weighing 18 g, measuring 24x27 mm). A total of 841 copies were awarded.

The obverse of the medal featured the figure of a discus thrower and a tripod, with a drop ornament and the inscription "Kos". The reverse showed a tablet with an inscription in Greek in four lines and a signature.



Medal of a member of the Greek Organising Committee, awarded for services in the preparation and execution of the 1906 Olympic Games in Athens. Silver-plated bronze. Weight: 14 g. Dimensions: 25x38 mm



Commemorative medal of the 1906 Intercalated Olympic Games in Athens on an award ribbon in the colours of the Greek national flag. The obverse of the medal featured the winged goddess Nike in flight (a creation by Paionios), with a circular inscription in Greek: "International Olympic Games Athens 1906." The reverse showed a bird's-eye view of the Panathenaic Stadium against the backdrop of two Athenian temples, with a circular inscription in Greek: "Panathenaic Stadium"

Participant medal of the 1906 Intercalated Olympic Games in Athens. Design: Nikiforos Lytras. Manufacturer: Wilhelm Pittner Mint, Vienna. Gilded bronze. Weight: 58 g. Diameter: 50 mm



Participant medal of the 1906 Intercalated Olympic Games in Athens. Design: Nikiforos Lytras. Manufacturer: Wilhelm Pittner Mint, Vienna. Silver-plated bronze. Weight: 58 g. Diameter: 50 mm



Participant medal of the 1906 Intercalated Olympic Games in Athens. Design: Nikiforos Lytras. Manufacturer: Wilhelm Pittner Mint, Vienna. Bronze. Weight: 58 g. Diameter: 50 mm



Participant medal of the 1906 Intercalated Olympic Games in Athens in a presentation case

Commemorative plaque of the 1906 Intercalated Olympic Games in Athens. Silver-plated bronze. Design: Paul Vannier. Weight: 96.6 g. Size: 48x70 mm. Thickness: 3 mm

For the 1908 Games of the IVth Olympiad in London, award and participant medals were produced. The design of both types of medals was entrusted to the renowned Australian sculptor and medalier Sir Bertram Mackennal. They were manufactured by the jewellery and metalworking company Vaughton & Sons in Birmingham, England.

Winners and medallists of the Olympic competitions were awarded gold, silver, and bronze medals. In team sports (football, ice hockey, polo, and water polo, except for team events in rowing), only one award medal was given to the team captain, who then passed it on to the National Sports Federation.

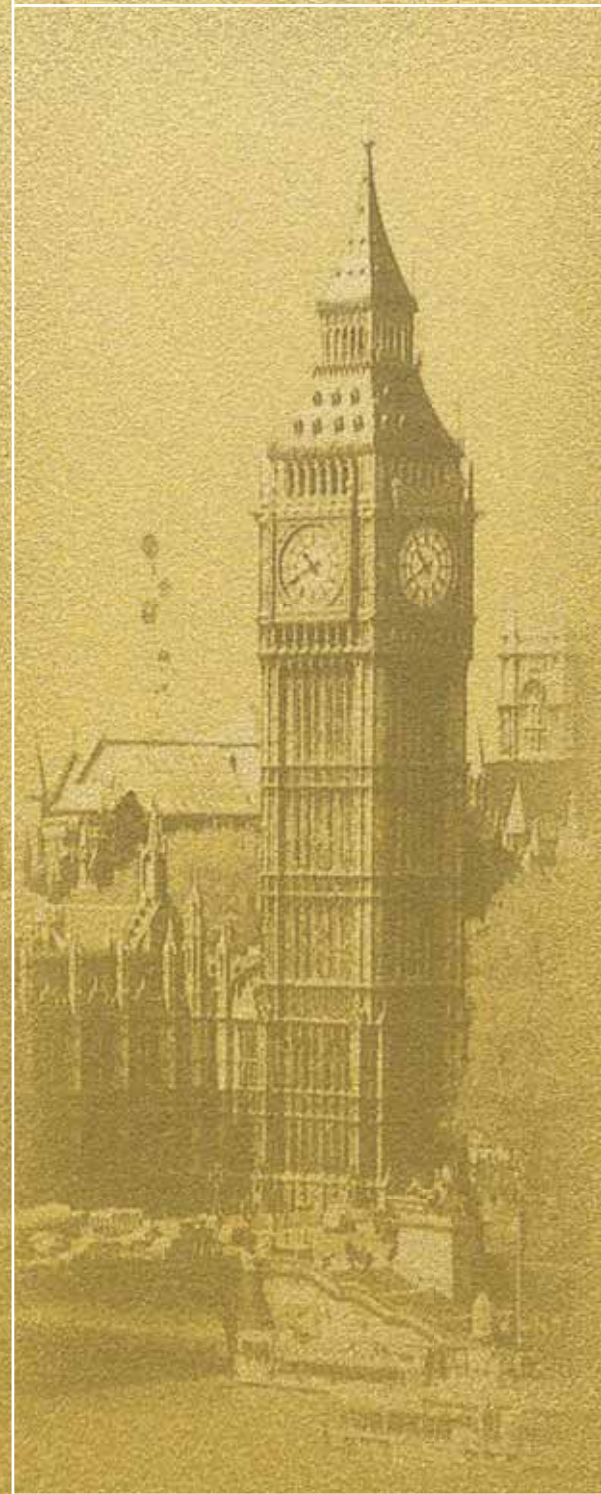
In sports such as gymnastics and sailing, awarding of medals in team events was also unique. The winning team was awarded as follows: the captain received a gold medal, and team members received silver medals; if the team won silver, the captain received a silver medal, and team members received bronze medals; if the team came third, everyone received bronze medals.

A notable feature of the 1908 Games' award medals was their small size due to the high cost of production. The winner's medal in individual competitions was made of 14-carat gold (weighing 25 g, with a diameter of 33.5 mm, and a thickness of 1.8 mm), the second-place medal was made of 925 sterling silver (weighing 19 g, with a diameter of 33.3 mm, and a thickness of 2.2 mm), and the third-place medal was made of bronze (weighing 19 g, with a diameter of 33.5 mm, and a thickness of 2.7 mm). A total of 250 gold, 260 silver, and 260 bronze medals were produced.

On the obverse of the medal, an athlete-winner with a palm twig in hand is depicted, accompanied by two goddess ready to crown the victor. On the reverse side, there are figures of Saint George the Victorious on a horse slaying a dragon (it is worth noting that Saint George is the patron saint of London), and the winged Nike holding a palm twig. The edge of the medal is engraved with the name of the champion and the sport in which the medal was awarded.

The medals were placed in the presentation cases with gold embossing: red for winners, blue for silver medallists, and bronze for third-place medallists. The cases were embossed with the inscription in English in four lines: "Olympic Games, Winner (Second Prize, Third Prize), Sport, Event, London, 1908."

The Games of the IVth Olympiad. London, 1908





Award gold medal of the 1908 Games of the IVth Olympiad in London. Design: Sir Bertram Mackennal. Manufacturer: Vaughton & Sons, Birmingham, England. Gold. Weight: 25 g. Diameter: 33.5 mm. Thickness: 1.8 mm



Award silver medal of the 1908 Games of the IVth Olympiad in London. Design: Sir Bertram Mackennal. Manufacturer: Vaughton & Sons, Birmingham, England. Silver. Weight: 19 g. Diameter: 33.3 mm. Thickness: 2.2 mm



Award bronze medal of the IVth Olympiad in 1908 in London. Design: Sir Bertram Mackennal. Manufacturer: Vaughton & Sons, Birmingham, England. Bronze. Weight: 19 g. Diameter: 33.5 mm. Thickness: 2.7 mm

Presentation cases for storing award medals: red with gold embossing – for gold, blue – for silver, bronze – for bronze medal



Each participant of the Games also received a commemorative medal. The medal was made of gold-plated silver (weighing 61 g), silver (60 g), silver-plated bronze (60 g), bronze (60 g), and tin (47 g). Their diameter was 50.7 mm, and their thickness was 5mm. Gold-plated medals were given to VIPs, silver and bronze to officials. Each athlete who participated in the Olympic competitions was awarded a tin medal.

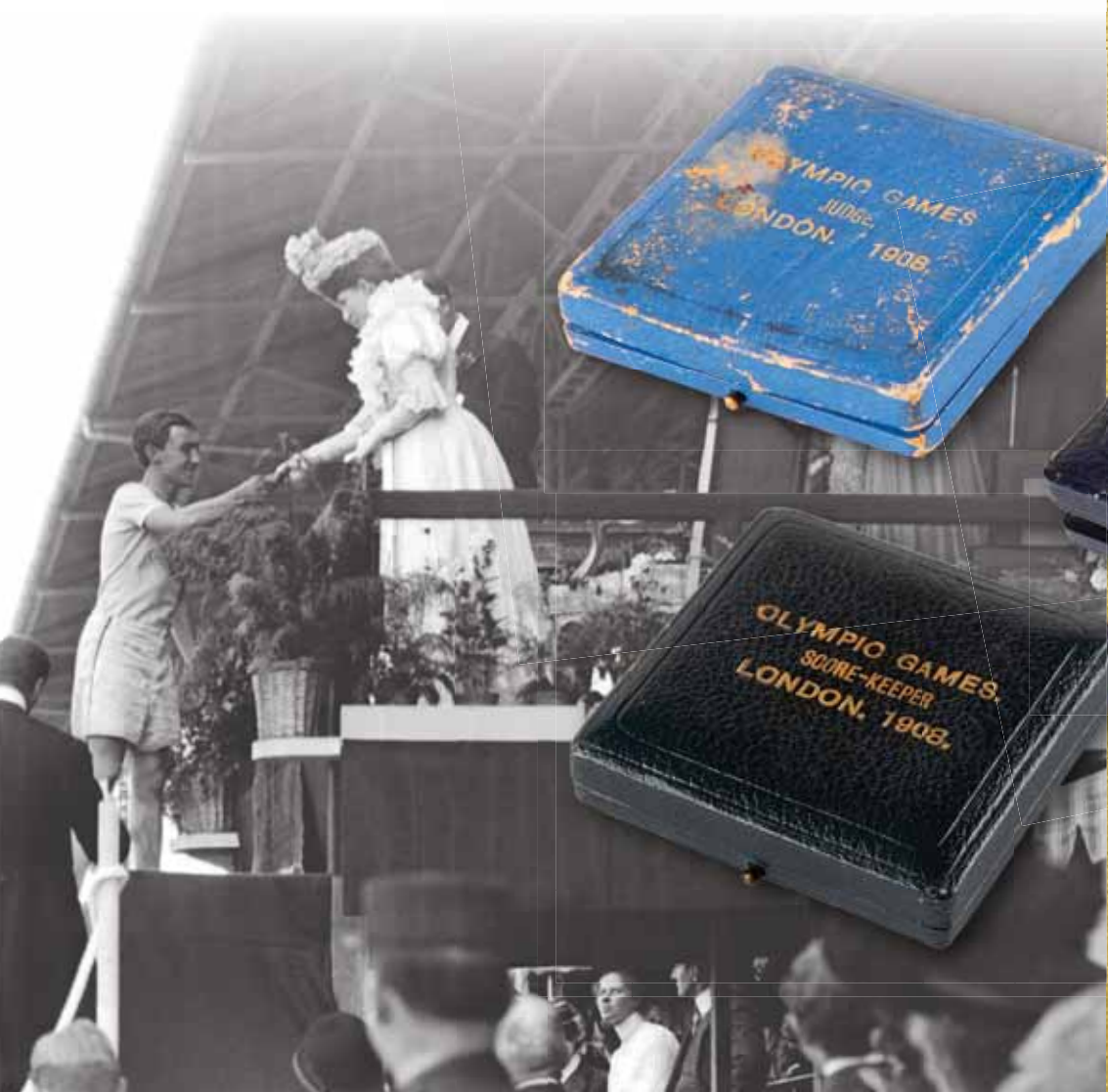
On the obverse, a charioteer drives a chariot while a judge, holding a palm twig in one hand and a victory wreath in the other, announces the winner.

On the reverse, the winged goddess of fame, Pheme, rises above the globe with a long trumpet, heralding news, and a palm twig, symbolising supremacy. To the left of the goddess is a list of cities that hosted the Games of the Olympiad: Elis (the city-state where Olympia is located), Athens, Paris, St. Louis, London. To the right is an inscription in English in six lines: "In commemoration of the Olympic Games held in London 1908."

The medals were placed in the presentation cases of red, light blue, dark blue, and black colours.



Sir Bertram Mackennal – Australian sculptor and medalier, creator of the award and commemorative medals of the 1908 London Games of the IVth Olympiad. The first Australian sculptor to be knighted



Presentation cases for the participant medals of the 1908 Games of the IVth Olympiad in London



Participant medal of the 1908 Games of the IVth Olympiad in London. Design: Sir Bertram Mackennal. Manufacturer: Vaughton & Sons, Birmingham, England. Gold-plated silver. Weight: 61 g. Diameter: 50.7 mm. Thickness: 5 mm



Participant medal of the 1908 Games of the IVth Olympiad in London. Design: Sir Bertram Mackennal. Manufacturer: Vaughton & Sons, Birmingham, England. Silver. Weight: 60 g. Diameter: 50.7 mm. Thickness: 5 mm



Participant medal of the 1908 Games of the IVth Olympiad in London. Design: Sir Bertram Mackennal. Manufacturer: Vaughton & Sons, Birmingham, England. Silver-plated bronze. Weight: 60 g. Diameter: 50.7 mm. Thickness: 5 mm



Participant medal of the 1908 Games of the IVth Olympiad in London. Design: Sir Bertram Mackennal. Manufacturer: Vaughton & Sons, Birmingham, England. Bronze. Weight: 60 g. Diameter: 50.7 mm. Thickness: 5 mm



Participant medal of the IVth Olympiad in its presentation case



Participant medal of the 1908 Games of the IVth Olympiad. Design: Sir Bertram Mackennal. Manufacturer: Vaughton & Sons, Birmingham, England. Tin. Weight: 47 g. Diameter: 50.7 mm. Thickness: 5 mm

VAUGHTON

For the 1912 Games of the Vth Olympiad in Stockholm, award, participant, and commemorative medals and plaquettes were issued by the Organising Committee of the Games.

Winners were awarded gold medals in individual events and gold-plated silver medals in team events. Athletes who placed second and third received silver and bronze medals, respectively. All medallists in both individual and team events were awarded medals.

However, the Swedish Olympic Committee made the following exceptions to the rules: a gold medal was awarded to each member of the winning team in equestrian events, doubles in lawn tennis, and in sailing (12 m class yachts) to the helmsman and his assistant.

Thus, medals were made of gold (weighing 24 g), gold-plated silver (18 g), silver (16 g), and bronze (19 g). Each medal had a diameter of 33 mm and a thickness of 2.5 mm.

The obverse of the award medal remained unchanged from 1908, designed by Australian sculptor and medalier Sir Bertram Mackennal. The reverse was created by Swedish sculptor Erik Lindberg. CC Sporrang, Kungsholmen, Sweden, produced the following quantities of award medals: 90 gold, 200 gold-plated silver, 285 silver, and 270 bronze — a total of 845 pieces.

The centre of the obverse features an athlete standing between two goddess who crown him with a wreath. On the reverse, a young herald figure announces the start of the Olympic Games, holding a scroll in his raised right hand and a trumpet in his left. Next to the herald figure is a monument to the distinguished Swedish educator and sports scientist Pehr Henrik Ling. The edge bears the Swedish inscription "Olympic Games Stockholm 1912."

The medals were placed in the presentation cases with golden embossing, made by Ernström & Medberg, Stockholm.



The Games of the Vth Olympiad. Stockholm, 1912



◀ Award medal for the team that placed first in the 1912 Games of the Vth Olympiad in Stockholm. Designers: Sir Bertram Mackennal (obverse), Erik Lindberg (reverse). Manufacturer: CC Sporrang, Kungsholmen. Gold-plated silver. Weight: 18 g. Diameter: 33 mm. Thickness: 2.5 mm



Award medal for the winner of individual events at the 1912 Games of the Vth Olympiad. Designers: Sir Bertram Mackennal (obverse), Erik Lindberg (reverse). Manufacturer: CC Sporrang, Kungsholmen, Sweden. Gold. Weight: 24 g. Diameter: 33 mm. Thickness: 2.5 mm



Award silver medal in individual events at the 1912 Games of the Vth Olympiad. Designers: Sir Bertram Mackennal (obverse), Erik Lindberg (reverse). Manufacturer: CC Sporrang, Kungsholmen. Silver. Weight: 16 g. Diameter: 33 mm. Thickness: 2.5 mm



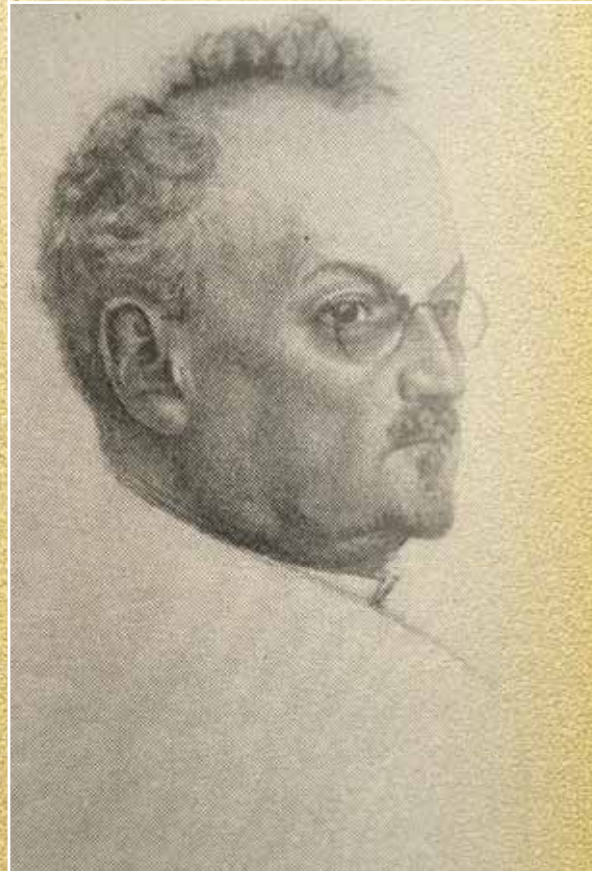
Award bronze medal in individual events at the 1912 Games of the Vth Olympiad. Designers: Sir Bertram Mackennal (obverse), Erik Lindberg (reverse). Manufacturer: CC Sporrang, Kungsholmen. Bronze. Weight: 19 g. Diameter: 33 mm. Thickness: 2.5 mm

In May 1910, the Swedish Olympic Committee decided to commission participant medals to be presented to officials and athletes who took part in the 1912 Games of the Vth Olympiad. Participant medals made of gold were presented to His Majesty King Gustaf and His Royal Highness the Prince of Sweden on behalf of the Organising Committee of the Games. Silver medals were given to members of the Swedish Olympic Committee and the International Olympic Committee, bronze medals to the presidents of special committees and the heads of international judging panels, and pewter medals to all participants, officials, and personnel of the Swedish Olympic Committee.

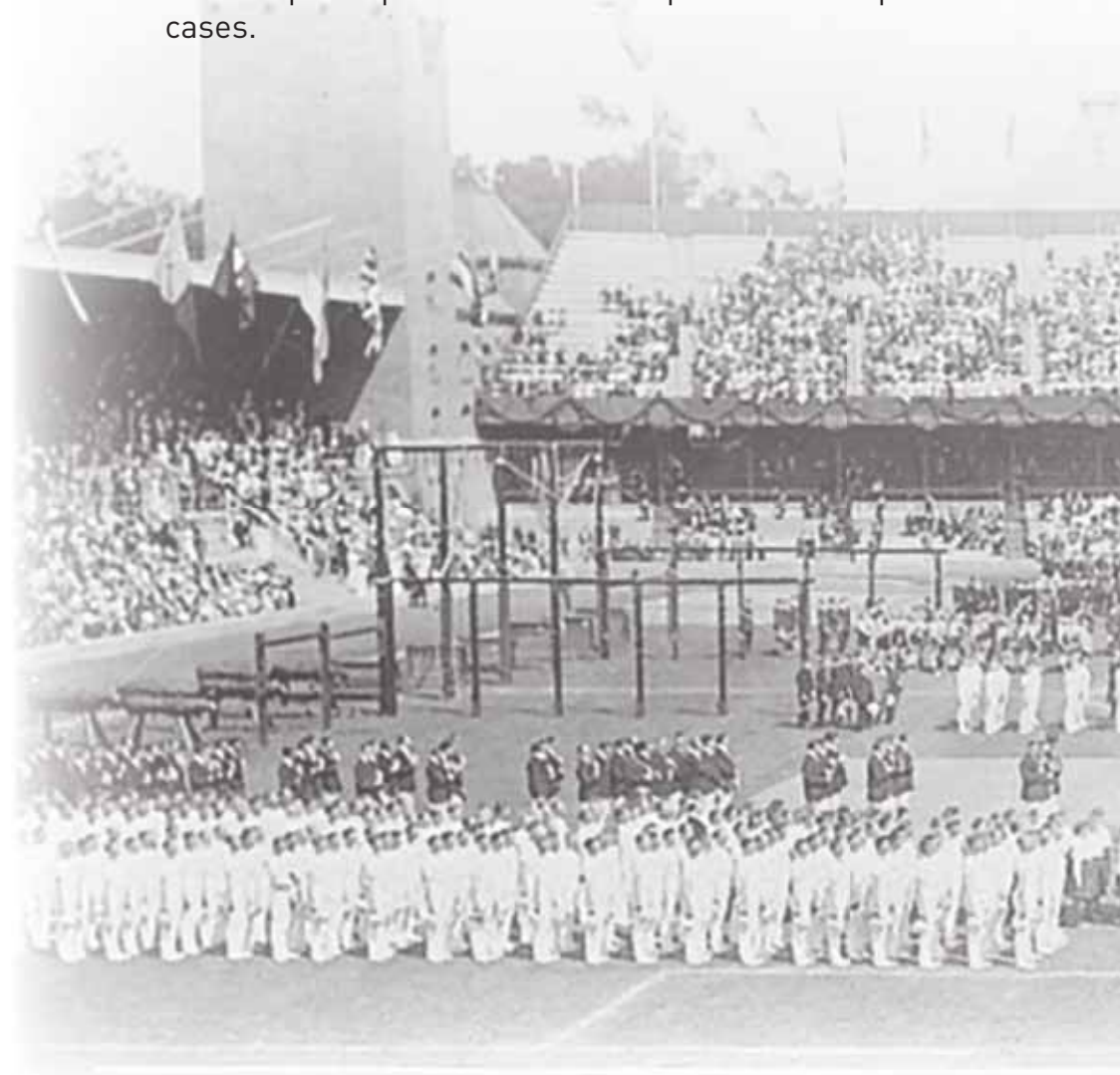
The medals were produced by Vaughton & Sons, Birmingham, England, from gold (weight unknown), silver (53 g), bronze (55 g), and tin (45 g). Diameter 51 mm, thickness 5 mm.

The obverse of the participant medal, created by Sir Bertram Mackennal, remained the same as for the 1908 Games of the IVth Olympiad in London, while the reverse was redesigned by Swedish sculptor Erik Lindberg. The reverse depicts a statue of Zeus seated on the capital of an Ionic column, holding a sceptre and a winged Nike rising above the globe. In the background are outlines of the Stockholm Royal Palace, the island of Helgeandsholmen, and the facade of the Swedish Parliament building (Riksdag). The upper edge bears the Swedish inscription in two lines "In memory of the Olympic Games Stockholm 1912."

The participant medals were placed in the presentation cases.



Johan Erik Lindberg – Swedish sculptor and medalier, creator of the reverse of the award and commemorative medals for the 1912 Games of the Vth Olympiad in Stockholm





Participant medal of the 1912 Games of the Vth Olympiad in Stockholm. Designers: Sir Bertram Mackennal (obverse), Erik Lindberg (reverse). Manufacturer: Vaughton & Sons, Birmingham, England. Gold. Diameter: 51 mm. Thickness: 5 mm



Participant medal of the 1912 Games of the Vth Olympiad in Stockholm. Designers:

Sir Bertram Mackennal (obverse), Erik Lindberg (reverse). Manufacturer: Vaughton & Sons, Birmingham, England. Silver. Weight: 53 g. Diameter: 51 mm. Thickness: 5 mm



Participant medal of the 1912 Games of the Vth Olympiad in Stockholm. Designers: Sir Bertram Mackennal (obverse), Erik Lindberg (reverse). Manufacturer: Vaughton & Sons, Birmingham, England. Bronze. Weight: 55 g. Diameter: 51 mm. Thickness: 5 mm



Participant medal of the 1912 Games of the Vth Olympiad in Stockholm. Designers: Sir Bertram Mackennal (obverse), Erik Lindberg (reverse). Manufacturer: Vaughton & Sons, Birmingham, England. Tin. Weight: 45 g. Diameter: 51 mm. Thickness: 5 mm





A commemorative medal was issued to honour high-ranking officials, members of the National Olympic Committees and the Swedish Olympic Committee, members of Royal Families, as well as Swedish athletes who were winners of the 1912 Games of the Vth Olympiad. The medal was designed by renowned Swedish sculptor and medalier, Professor Adolf Lindberg, made of silver, weighing 22 g (with ribbon), and measuring 38x44 mm.

The obverse features the left profile of King Gustav V of Sweden. The upper edge bears the Swedish inscription "Gustav V King of Sweden." At the bottom is the medallist's name "A. Lindberg." On the reverse, crossed palm and olive twigs are depicted, surrounded by the symbol of Sweden – three royal crowns. The upper edge bears the Swedish inscription in three lines "In memory of the Olympics Stockholm 1912." The medal is topped by the royal crown of Sweden and attached to a ribbon in the colours of the national flag of the country.

Commemorative medal of the 1912 Games of the Vth Olympiad in Stockholm. Design: Adolf Lindberg. Silver. Weight: 22 g (with ribbon). Size: 38x44 mm



Commemorative medal of the 1912 Games of the Vth Olympiad for officials on a decorative ribbon in the colours of the national flag of Sweden



Johan Adolf Lindberg – Swedish sculptor and medalier, professor of drawing at the School of Arts in Stockholm, known as the engraver of medals for the King of Sweden, creator of the commemorative medal for the Games of the Vth Olympiad, commissioned by King Gustav V



Commemorative medallion in honour of the victorious US Olympic team in New York. Manufacturer: Dieges & Clust, New York. 1912

Residents and the municipalities of certain cities and sports organisations, wishing to express their attitude towards the Olympic Games and the winners of the Olympic competitions, initiated commemorative awards. For example, the administration of New York City prepared commemorative medallions for participants of the 1912 Games of the Vth Olympiad – members of the US team, which were presented to them upon their return from Europe. The medallion was produced by “Dieges & Clust,” New York.

The obverse of the medallion bears the inscription in English in 14 lines “Founded by the citizens of New York City in memory of the victorious return of the American team from the Olympic Games in Stockholm 1912.” At the top is a shield depicting the US national flag, to the left an olive twig, and a shield with the coat of arms of New York City. The reverse features the American flag flying over an ancient Greek column. A young woman dressed as an ancient Greek goddess greets an athlete, holding an olive twig in her outstretched hand. At the feet of the goddess is a palm twig, at the feet of the athlete standing on a podium as a member of the American team, is a bald eagle, the national symbol of the USA. In the background are hilly terrain and outlines of an ancient Greek temple. In the upper right corner, the inscription in English reads “New York welcomes.”

Equally beautiful commemorative plaquettes were awarded to members of the US team who, on 23 July 1912, after the Games of the Vth Olympiad, participated in sports competitions to mark the opening of Parc de Pommery (France), where the International Olympic Committee was then located.

On the front side of the plaquette, created by André Mare, a Greek athlete is depicted, contemplating the location of the International Olympic Committee. A laurel twig bears a French inscription in three lines: “Reception in honour of American Olympians. 23 July 1912.” At the top is the inscription “Parc de Pommery.”

On the reverse side of the plaquette, there is a beautiful view of Parc de Pommery with the château of the Pommery estate in Reims, and a panel indicating the name of the winner, the sport, and event.



Commemorative plaquette in honour of the victorious US Olympic athletes in Parc de Pommery on 23 July 1912. Design: André Mare. Bronze. Weight: 72 g. Size: 7x4.5 cm



For the 1920 Games of the VIIth Olympiad in Antwerp, award, participant, and commemorative medals were issued by the Organising Committee of the Games.

After World War I, financial conditions did not allow maintaining the traditions of awarding winners and medallists as in previous Games. Therefore, it was decided to award them in individual sports with gold-plated silver, silver, and bronze medals. In team sports, the awards were given as follows: members of the winning team received gold-plated silver medals, while the second and third place teams received silver and bronze medals only for the team captains.

The winner award medal was made of gold-plated silver, the first runner-up medal was made of silver, and the second runner-up medal was made of bronze. All award medals had a diameter of 60 mm and a thickness of 3.5 mm. A total of 450 gold-plated silver medals, 400 silver medals, and 400 bronze medals were produced (1,250 medals in total).

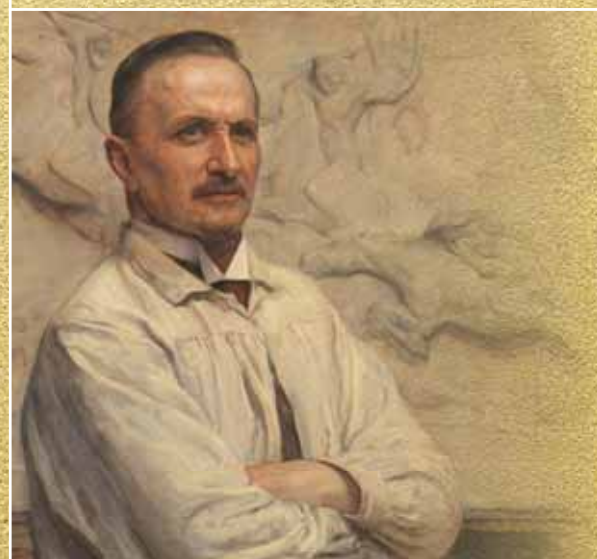
The designer of the award medal was the Belgian sculptor Josuë Dupon, and the manufacturer was the Coosemans Mint in Brussels.

On the obverse side of the medal, a victorious Olympian is depicted holding a victory wreath and a palm twig in hand. To his left is the winged goddess Pheme, announcing the joyful event with a trumpet. To the right is the silhouette of the Triumphal Arch. Beneath the horizontal meander band is the inscription "VII Olympiad." At the bottom, the name of the creator, "Josuë Dupon," is engraved.

In the centre of the reverse side of the medal is a statue of the hero from ancient legends named Brabo, who is throwing the severed hand of the giant villain into the river. According to legend, in ancient times, the giant Antigonus demanded tribute from all ships passing through the river. If the captain refused to pay, the villain would cut off his hand. This continued for a long time until the Roman soldier Brabo killed Antigonus, cut off his hand, and threw it into the river. Hence, the name of the city Antwerp, which in Old Flemish means "thrown hand." The statue, set on a fountain with figures, symbolises the triumph of good and justice. In the background is a panorama of Antwerp: the cathedral, the seaport, and ship masts. At the top, around the upper edge, is the inscription "Antwerp, MCMXX" (this is the Roman numeral representation of the year 1920). At the bottom is the coat of arms of Antwerp against a background of olive twigs.

The medals were placed in the presentation cases with gold embossing: "1st (2nd/3rd) prize VII Olympiad Antwerp 1920."

The Games of the VIIth Olympiad. Antwerp, 1920



*Josuë Dupon - Belgian sculptor,
creator of the award medal for the
1920 Games of the VIIth Olympiad in
Antwerp*