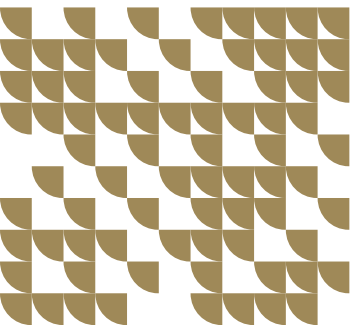




**VLADIMIR
POTANIN
OLYMPIC
COLLECTION**





Vladimir Potanin
Olympic Collection
www.olympic-collection.ru

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VLADIMIR POTANIN OLYMPIC COLLECTION



In 2018, Vladimir Potanin, a renowned Russian businessman, began putting together one of the largest private collections of Olympic medals and awards. The collection is his new undertaking to promote the ideals of sportsmanship, the Olympic spirit, and Games' legacy.

Vladimir Potanin has made a great contribution to the Olympic movement. He inspired the creation of and invested in the Rosa Khutor mountain resort, a centerpiece of the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympic Games. Rosa Khutor has become one of the most popular all season tourist destinations, welcoming some two million people annually from Russia and other countries.

The RIOU, Russian International Olympic University, is another of Vladimir Potanin's signature projects. Together with the Ministry of Sports of the Russian Federation and Russian Olympic Committee, Vladimir Potanin's company, Interros, co-founded the University and has been the only sponsor of the educational institution which has become an international leader in training sports managers. The International Olympic Committee made the RIOU the official keeper of the legacy of the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics.

On the five year anniversary of the Sochi Games, Vladimir Potanin Olympic Collection will be presented for public viewing for the first time.

The intent in exhibiting Vladimir Potanin's collection is to share the legacy and the history of the Olympic movement. The collection boasts a full range of Olympic artifacts, from the 1896 Games in Athens to the 2018 Games in PyeongChang.

As of now, the collection includes 135 gold, silver

of the torch. For example, only 100 torches were manufactured for the 1992 Games in Albertville. They were designed by Philipp Stark, a cult figure among world's designers.

Exhibitions, featuring different objects from the collection, will be shown at the world's largest sports

Citius, Altius, Fortius! Vladimir Potanin Olympic Collection continues to grow through the acquisition of new artifacts which carry an inspirational charge of high Olympian ideals.

and bronze Olympic medals from the 1896 – 2014 Summer and Winter Games, 78 commemorative participation medals from the 1896 – 2016 Summer and Winter Olympic Games, 30 Olympic torches from the 1936 – 2018 Summer and Winter Olympics, 92 Olympic diplomas of winners and participants from the 1900 – 2016 Summer and Winter Olympic Games, and 39 badges of honor, medals and pins from 1936 – 1982, including 5 undated artifacts, seven trophies, statues and horns from different Games.

Auction prices for medals range from 2 to 250 thousand dollars, and the most expensive ones are medals with names.

Olympic torches' prices range between 1.5 and 170 thousand dollars, depending on the rarity

events, such as the 2nd European Games in Minsk (2019), the XXXII Summer Olympics in Tokyo (2020), the XXIV Winter Olympics in Beijing (2022), and the XXXIII Summer Olympics in Paris (2024).

Visitors will be able to see the Olympic memorabilia and learn about them, diving into history with the help of modern multimedia technologies.

A group of experts from the RIOU, headed by the University dean academician Lev Belousov, will curate the exhibitions.

Citius, Altius, Fortius! Vladimir Potanin Olympic Collection continues to grow through the acquisition of new artifacts which carry an inspirational charge of high Olympian ideals.

HISTORY OF OLYMPIC AWARDS

No ancient Olympic medals survive today for the simple reason that they never existed. In ancient Greece, winners received very different kinds of prizes. The legendary Hercules was crowned with a wild olive wreath. Gold coins were a popular prize. In the modern Olympic Games, medals have been

Paris in 1900, were the only Summer Olympics where instead of medals winners received rectangular plaquettes. Again, athletes received silver for first place and bronze for second. Third-place winners received no awards during these early Games, although later the International Olympic Committee

There was only one Olympics where winners received medals that were pure gold: the Games in Stockholm in 1912.

in use since the very beginning. The decision to award winners medals was made at the First Olympic Congress in 1894, two years before the Games of the I Olympiad in Athens.

Today the expression “Olympic gold” implies receiving the first prize in a competition. In reality, gold medals are typically made of 925 grade silver and gilded with 6 grams of pure gold. There was only one Olympics where winners received medals that were pure gold: the Games in Stockholm in 1912. Silver medals are also made of 925 grade silver; bronze medals are 97% copper, 2.5% zinc, and 0.5% tin.

At the Games of the I Olympiad in Athens, first place earned a silver medal and second place a bronze medal. The next Games, which took place in

(IOC) distributed bronze plaquettes retroactively.

The first set of gold, silver, and bronze medals was bestowed at the 1904 Games in Saint Louis. Since then, the tradition has remained unchanged.

At the 1928 Olympic Games in Amsterdam, Giuseppe Cassioli’s medal design was adopted and ultimately became the classic. The obverse side features Nike, goddess of victory, lifting a laurel wreath with her right hand and holding palm fronds in her left. To the right of her is a fragmented outline of an amphitheater that resembles the Roman Colosseum.

The reverse side features semi-nude athletes carrying the winner of the competition. The winner’s right hand is lifted in greeting, while the left is holding palm fronds.

Before the 1956 Olympic Games in Melbourne, the IOC mandated engraving medals with the name of the sport for which the medal was to be bestowed. However, by that point all of the medals for that year had already been made, so the new rule was not implemented until the following Games.

The 1972 Munich Olympics set a new tradition of changing the design of the reverse side while keeping the classic image on the obverse. Since then, each host country has striven to make its Olympic awards distinctive. The best medal artists have created the designs. There is a visible trend as artists slowly move away from the classical style that incorporated baroque elements towards more sober designs, some fully abstract or with references to cubism.

Giuseppe Cassioli’s classic design was completely abandoned for the 2004 Olympics in Athens. Many had noted that the Cassioli design featured the Roman Colosseum and not the Athenian Panathinaikos, the starting point of the Olympic torch relay. It was decided that this incongruity should be fixed in time for the Games scheduled to take place in the Greek capital.

Before 1960, the medals were handed to the athletes, with the exception of the 1904 Games in Saint-Louis, where the medals hung on ribbons. For the Rome Olympics, the organizers made thin bronze chains shaped like olive branches, so as to

place the medals around the winners’ necks. In case there were athletes who might object, the young ladies who presented the medals were equipped with scissors, so they could quickly cut the chains during the bestowal if needed. But the idea was appreciated and the practice stayed on.

Another novelty was introduced during the 1998 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City. There, medals were made with a slit to make it easier to put them on ribbons. Since then almost all Olympic medals have been made that way.

In addition to the award medals, commemorative medals are made for every Olympic Games. The commemorative medals are awarded to members of the IOC and the Organizing Committee, honored guests, athletes who competed in the Games, and the press. The commemorative medal designs change with each Olympic Games.

THE 1896 SUMMER OLYMPICS IN ATHENS, OR THE GAMES OF THE I OLYMPIAD

One thousand five hundred and three years after the Games were last held in ancient Greece, the Olympic Games were revived on the suggestion of Baron Pierre de Coubertin. In the spirit of continuity, Greece was chosen as the place to hold the Games. Athletes from 14 countries competed in

wrestlers were not separated into different weight categories.

An incident that took place during the first modern-era Olympic Games became a symbol of true brotherhood in sports. During the hundred-kilometer bicycle race, all of the athletes except for

In Baron de Coubertin's own words, the main achievement of the Games in Athens was "the union of the different sports: the greatness of the achievement was in that it gave rise to a whole world".

nine sports for 43 sets of medals. Altogether, 241 persons participated in the competition. At the time, Olympic sports included track and field, gymnastics, Greco-Roman wrestling, swimming, weightlifting, fencing, bicycle racing, shooting, and tennis.

In Baron de Coubertin's own words, the main achievement of the Games in Athens was "the union of the different sports: the greatness of the achievement was in that it gave rise to a whole world". Many of today's rules were yet to be defined at the time of Games in Athens. For example,

Léon Flameng from France and Georgios Koletis from Greece had dropped out of the race. And then the Greek athlete's bike broke down. Flameng, the French cyclist, also stopped to wait for his competitor to get a new bicycle. At the finish line, the French sportsman was greeted with an ovation.

The Russian team did not make it to the Games of the I Olympiad because of difficult logistics and financial problems. Athletes from many other countries also were unable to make it to Athens, so these Games could not boast wide participation.

Award medals from the 1896 Summer Olympics in Athens, or the Games of the I Olympiad

On the obverse of the medal, we see Phidias' image of Zeus at Olympia with an olive wreath on his head. In his right hand, he holds a sphere with a standing figure of Nike, who also holds an olive branch. To the left of the figure is the name of the city – Olympia – written in Greek. It is in Olympia that a competition of athletes from all over Greece was held in 776 B.C. Since that time, these competitions have been called the Olympic Games. On the right side along the rim of the medal are the engraved initials and the last name of the artist – Jules Clement Chaplain. On the reverse of the medal is a panoramic view of the Acropolis in Athens.



Commemorative participation medals from the 1896 Summer Olympics, or the Games of the I Olympiad

On the obverse is an image of Nike soaring above an arena in Athens holding a scepter in her left hand and an olive garland in her right. Next to her is the Phoenix, a bird that symbolizes the resurrection of the Olympic Games. Under the Phoenix's wing is an engraving of the name of the city, Athens, in Greek. On the distant horizon is the outline of an antique temple against the setting sun. On the reverse, along the rim of the medal, there are laurel leaves intertwined with a ribbon. The name of the artist - W. Pittner - is engraved at the bottom.



THE 1900 SUMMER OLYMPICS IN PARIS, OR THE GAMES OF THE II OLYMPIAD

The second Olympic Games of the modern era were held in the home country of the IOC's first president, Baron Pierre de Coubertin. The Games took place at the same time as the Exposition Universelle of 1900 (Paris World's Fair). A total of 997 athletes competed in the Games, including for the first time 22 female competitors. Charlotte Cooper, a tennis player from England, became the first female Olympic champion. Athletes


five months, became known for being the longest and the least organized Olympics. Baron de Coubertin himself later admitted that making the Games dependent on – in his words – a “chaotic and tasteless fair” was an unacceptable mistake. “It produced interesting results but none of the Olympic spirit” – was how the man who inspired the modern Olympic Games described the Paris Games in his memoirs.

The Paris Games, which lasted for five months, became known for being the longest and the least organized Olympics.

representing 24 countries competed for 95 sets of medals. Since there were also some competitions held as part of the World's Fair, different interpretations persist regarding the number of sports represented at the Paris Olympics. Some sources list 18 different sports, while others claim there were 20. The Paris Games, which lasted for

Ray Ewry, an American athlete, came first in standing jumps – a sport that today is all but forgotten. He became living proof of Baron de Coubertin's theory that sport and good health go hand in hand. As a child, Ray contracted polio, and it was physical activity that helped him overcome the illness.



 Award plaquette for the 1900 Summer Olympics in Paris or the Games of the II Olympiad

The obverse features goddess Nike holding olive branches as she soars above the arena. The name of the artist, Frederick-Charles Victor de Vernon, is on the bottom right of the plaquette. On the reverse side, we see a nude athlete in a cape, holding the winner's olive branch in his hand. Far behind him on the horizon stands an ancient temple against a rocky landscape, and a bit lower the outline of a stadium is visible.



Commemorative participation medal from the 1900 Summer Olympics in Paris or the Games of the II Olympiad

The medal's obverse features winged Nike holding an olive wreath and a palm frond. She is carrying a winner who is holding a lit torch. The engraved sign in French reads: International World Fair / Paris / 1900. The engraving in the lower part of the medal against a panoramic view of Paris reads: Sports and Physical Exercise. The reverse side of the medal features Marianne, the symbol of France, against the background of a bridge across the Seine and an oak tree. The medal was designed by Jules Clement Chaplain, the same artist who designed the award for the Games of the I Olympiad in Athens.



Commemorative participation plaquettes from the 1900 Summer Olympics in Paris, or the Games of the II Olympiad

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PARIS-1900



Diplomas for winners and participants of the 1900 Summer Olympics in Paris, or the Games of the II Olympiad



THE 1908 SUMMER OLYMPICS IN LONDON, OR THE GAMES OF THE IV OLYMPIAD

Berlin, Milan, and Rome competed to host the 1908 Olympic Games. Rome won, but the Games had to be moved elsewhere because of Vesuvius' powerful eruption. The government of Italy had to spend great sums of money to clean up after the raging volcano, and holding the Games would have put an additional unbearable strain on the country's coffers. The government of Great Britain quickly jumped in with an offer to put on the Games, and the IOC agreed to hand over the 1908 Games to London.

The London Olympics, as the Paris Olympics before it, coincided with a fair, in this case the Franco-British Exhibition, and this circumstance did not please Pierre de Coubertin. Later it was decided not to hold the two events together.

A new, 70,000-seat Olympic stadium known as White City and a 100-meter swimming pool were built in record time for the Olympics.

The 1908 Olympics brought in 2008 athletes from 22 countries, of which 1971 were men and 37 women. They competed for 110 sets of medals in 25 sports, although some sources claim there were only 22 different sports.

At the time of the London Games, Pennsylvania bishop Ethelbert Talbot said during a service at St. Paul's Cathedral in London: "the important thing is not winning, but taking part". The quote was later mistakenly attributed to Baron de Coubertin.

It was the London Games that brought Russian athletes their first medals. Figure skating was featured as an Olympic winter sport for the first time. Nikolay Panin-Kolomenkin, a Russian figure skater, won first place.

The London Games showcased some new sports that were candidates for inclusion in the official program. Some of the sports were rather unusual, for example angling or timed firefighting.

The first serious judging controversy also took place at this Olympiad. Three American athletes and Wyndham Halswelle from the UK competed in the 400 meter race. The British athlete was the clear favorite. In the home stretch, he tried to overcome John Carpenter, an American, on the outside, but Carpenter moved to the right and blocked the British athlete. Carpenter was disqualified and the race was scheduled to be re-run. The other two American athletes – John Taylor and William Robbins – refused to participate in the repeat race out of solidarity. Halswelle had to run it alone. He won that competition, but decided to stop competing. According to his contemporaries, he could not overcome the embarrassment. Halswelle died in the war in 1915.



Award medals from the 1908 Summer Olympics in London, or the Games of the IV Olympiad

The obverse features a nude athlete. To the left and to the right of him on pedestals are the goddess Nike's assistants, who are placing the winner's wreath on his head. At the base of the pedestals are military attributes tied with a ribbon: a shield, a sword, a bow and arrows. The image is a reminder of the ancient tradition of ceasing all hostilities at the time of the Olympic Games. The name of the artist – Bertram Mackennal - is visible in the lower part of the medal. The reverse side of the medal features Saint George slaying the dragon with a spear. St. George is met by Nike holding a palm frond in her right hand.



Commemorative participation medal from the 1908 Summer Olympics in London, or the Games of the IV Olympiad

The obverse of the medal features a quadriga, manned by a driver. A nude athlete with an olive branch in his left hand and a winner's wreath in his right is standing in the chariot. The initials of the artist – Bertram Mackennal – are visible at the bottom of the medal. The reverse of the medal features winged Nike with a palm frond and a winner's wreath in her right hand and an aulos in her left.



Diploma for winners and participants of the 1908 Summer Olympics in London, or the Games of the IV Olympiad, A.H. Noble, Hockey, United Kingdom

THE 1924 WINTER OLYMPICS IN CHAMONIX, OR THE I OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES

This sports competition was officially held as International Sports Week on the occasion of the Games of the VIII Olympiad, which took place in Paris in April of the same year. At first, winter sports were not taken very seriously, and it was thought that those sports should not lay claim to full inclusion in the Olympic Games' program.

combination, and won bronze in ski jumping. Fifty years later it turned out that Haug should not have received the bronze medal for ski jumping. In 1974 Jakob Vaage, a Norwegian journalist, studied the Games' film archive and made a discovery that prompted an investigation. It found that judges made a mistake. The bronze medal should have gone

The first Winter Games placed Canadians in the lead in ice hockey, a position they held for many years.

Nonetheless, just a year after the Games in Chamonix, the IOC decided to hold Winter Games on a regular basis.

The first Winter Games involved 258 athletes from 16 countries, including 11 women. The athletes competed for 16 sets of medals in seven types of sports – ski racing, Alpine combination, ski jumping, figure skating, speedskating, bobsled, and hockey. Only sports played on snow or ice were included in the Games. Athletes from Norway and Finland took home more than a half of all medals.

Thorleif Haug, a skier from Norway, became famous thanks to the Games in Chamonix. He won the 18- and 50-kilometer races, won the Alpine

to Anders Haugen, a Norwegian who competed for the USA. At the time of the discovery Haug was no longer alive. His sister handed over the medal to the 86-year-old Haugen.

The first Winter Games placed Canadians in the lead in ice hockey, a position they held for many years. Their final match against the US team was a real barn burner, and the Canadians won 6-1. Harry Watson, an outstanding Canadian hockey player, scored three times. During World War I he had been a fighter pilot in the Royal Flying Corps. After the Olympic Games, at the apex of glory, he wrapped up his career in sports and refused many very lucrative offers from the NHL.



Award medals from the 1924 Winter Olympics in Chamonix, or the I Olympic Winter Games

The obverse of the medal features an athlete with skates in his right hand and skis in his left, against the backdrop of a mountain landscape. The name of the engraver is written in French on the right side – Raoul Benard. On the reverse side, there is a sign in French that reads: “Chamonix, Mont Blanc, Winter Olympics January 25 – February 5, 1924, organized under the aegis of the Olympic Committee of France with the support of the International Olympic Committee on the occasion of the Games of the VIII Olympiad”. This commemorative medal was the same bronze medal as the one awarded to third-place winners.



Participation Diploma
from the Olympic Games in Chamonix.
M. Rondet

THE 1928 OLYMPIC GAMES IN AMSTERDAM, OR GAMES OF THE IX OLYMPIAD

For the first time since ancient times, the Olympic flame was lit at the opening ceremony as a sign of continuity with the Olympic Games of ancient Greece. The flame was lit in a bowl installed on top of the tower of the stadium, designed by the famous Dutch architect Jan Wils. The tradition took root during the Games in Amsterdam and has continued since.

United States, squeezing out Finland. But the Finns still made their mark, for instance in the competition between Ville Ritola and Paavo Nurmi. In the 5000-meter race they won gold and silver, respectively. In the 10,000-meter race, the athletes switched places. Their relationship was so complicated that Nurmi refused to be

After a sixteen-year hiatus, the German team returned to the Games and immediately snatched second place in team total after the United States, squeezing out Finland.

A total of 2883 athletes (2606, according to some sources) from 46 countries, including 277 women, took part in the Games. The athletes competed for 109 sets of medals in 17 sports.

After a sixteen-year hiatus, the German team returned to the Games and immediately snatched second place in team total after the

photographed with his competitor. The reasons for such hostility remain unknown. Nurmi had a different bearing with Lucien Duquesne, a French athlete who helped him get up after a fall. Out of gratitude, the Finnish athlete wanted to let the Frenchman take the lead at the finish line, but the latter refused the offer.



**Award medals from the 1928 Olympic Games
in Amsterdam, Games of the IX Olympiad**

The obverse features Nike, the goddess of victory, lifting a laurel wreath with her right hand, and holding a palm frond in her left. To the left of her on a cliff is a Panathenaic amphora. To the right of the goddess is a fragmented outline of an amphitheater that resembles the Roman Colosseum. The medal's reverse side features jubilatory semi-nude athletes who carry a triumphant competition winner on their shoulders. The winner's right hand is lifted in greeting, while the left is holding a palm frond. The initials of the artist, Giuseppe Cassioli, are inscribed on the right edge of the medal.

Juan Leon Evaristo

Juan Leon Evaristo (June 20, 1902 – May 8, 1978) is an Argentinian defensive football player, the winner of silver at the 1928 Olympic Games in Amsterdam. A player at the first World Cup, he invented the “Marianela” – a football move in which a defender running towards his team's goal posts makes a sharp turn and turns the ball away when an attacking player shoots at the goal.



Commemorative participation medals from the 1928 Olympic Games in Amsterdam, Games of the IX Olympiad

The central part of the obverse features an altar with a sacrificial cup on it. To the left and to the right are a naked man and woman, who are holding an Olympic torch in one hand and a grape vine in the other. Under the altar, we see a scale, a symbol of impartiality, with olive shoots on the left and the right. The reverse side of the medal features Nike soaring over a stadium with a wreath in her left hand and an aulos in her right. Fluttering flags surround the stadium. On the bottom of the medal, between olive trees we see depictions of the Western and Eastern hemispheres, separated by the coat of arms of the city of Amsterdam. Dutch engraver Johannes Cornelis Wienecke designed the commemorative medal.

Diplomas for the winners and participants from the 1928 Summer Olympics in Amsterdam. Ch.H. Sherrill, IOC



THE 1936 SUMMER OLYMPICS IN BERLIN, THE GAMES OF THE XI OLYMPIAD

The Berlin Games became one of the most controversial in the history of the Olympic movement. They are nicknamed “The Nazi Olympiad”. The Games were officially declared open by German chancellor Adolf Hitler. On the eve of the Games, and for the first time in the history of the

A total of 3963 athletes (4066, according to some sources), including 331 women, took part in the competitions. Representatives from 49 countries came to the Games. Athletes competed for 129 sets of medals in 22 sports.

For the first time in modern history, the Berlin

For the first time in modern history, the Berlin Games pioneered the Olympic Torch Relay, which has since become an indispensable part of the Olympics.

Olympic movement, there were calls to boycott the Games because of human rights violations in the host country. However, the IOC was impressed by the Germans’ organizational skills and believed that Germany would conduct an honorable competition.

Originally, Hitler saw no point in the Olympic Games and called it an “invention of the Jews and the Masons”. He believed that Aryan athletes should not have to compete against athletes from “inferior” nations. However, Joseph Goebbels, the Third Reich’s main propagandist, explained to the Führer that the Games offered an excellent opportunity for Germany to show itself to the world in all its might and glory. Therefore, Nazi Germany used the Olympic Games for propaganda purposes.

Games pioneered the Olympic Torch Relay, which has since become an indispensable part of the Olympics. The first torchbearer, who lit the flame at the Berlin stadium, was German athlete Fritz Schilgen. A total of 3075 athletes took part in the relay, each carrying the torch for one kilometer. Since then, before each Games, the torch is lit in Greece, in the ruins of ancient Olympia, and then carried to the host country. The relay lasts several months. It symbolizes sports, peace, and unity, and today it is hard to believe that it was invented by the Nazis. To be exact, the idea belonged to Alfred Schiff and Carl Diem. Alfred Schiff, a Jew, fled Germany in 1939 with his family. When Goebbels heard the idea, he saw that it had great propaganda potential. The

designer torch was made by Krupp AG, a weapons manufacturer. The whole length of the relay, the runners were followed by a film crew in cars. The footage can be seen in Leni Riefenstahl’s film “Olympia”.

Hitler spared no expense to make his Games the best in history. He approved a record budget. An 86,000-seat stadium and other sports facilities were built in record time. It was during the Games in 1936 that the Olympics were broadcast live for the first time. Sports has always spurred progress in broadcasting. But few know today that it was the “Nazi Olympics” in 1936 that ushered in widespread live television broadcasting. In 1936, 160,000 people in three German cities alone watched broadcasts in movie theaters.

The IOC loved the way the German government organized the Olympic Games. In fact, the IOC was so impressed that it decided to let Germany host the 1940 Winter Olympics as well. Originally, the Winter Olympics was meant to be held in Sapporo, but Japan’s war with China got in the way. But in 1939, after Germany attacked Poland, the IOC decided to cancel the 1940 Games altogether.

Before the 1936 Olympic Games, the Nazis “cleaned up” the streets of the Olympic capital by arresting all Roma Gypsies and interning them at the Marzahn concentration camp. Jews and people of other “inferior” ethnic groups had been kicked out

of sports organizations and sports societies several years before the Games. Still, the fascists had to put up with victories by “non-Aryan” athletes. For example, Jesse Owens, an African American, won four gold medals in track and field. When Hitler saw that Owens was winning the competition, he left the stadium in a fury. After Owens died in 1980, a street and a school in Berlin were named after him.

But Providence had no mercy on the heroes of the 1936 Olympics. Wolfgang Fürstner, the head of the Olympic village, committed suicide three days after the Games ended. He was fired because he had concealed his Jewish origins. Polish swimmer Ilya Shraibman and fencer Roman Kantor perished in the concentration camps. Most of the German athletes died on the front lines. Shot putter Hans Velke served in a punitive military unit and was killed by guerilla fighters close to Khatyn in 1943.



Award medals from the 1936 Summer Olympics in Berlin, the Games of the XI Olympiad


The obverse features Nike, the goddess of victory, lifting a laurel wreath with her right hand and holding a palm frond in her left. To the left of her on a cliff is a Panathenaic amphora. To the right of the goddess is a fragmented outline of an amphitheater that resembles the Roman Colosseum. The medal's reverse side features jubilatory semi-nude athletes carrying a triumphant competition winner on their shoulders. The winner's right hand is lifted in greeting, while his left is holding a palm frond. At the right edge of the medal we see the initials of the engraver, Giuseppe Cassioli.



Commemorative medals from the 1936 Summer Olympics in Berlin, the Games of the XI Olympiad


The obverse of the medal features five nude athletes, symbolizing the five continents. The athletes are holding the ropes of the Olympic bell. The reverse of the medal shows a bell with a Prussian eagle on its side, holding interlaced Olympic rings in its claws. The sign in German on the bell's lower rim reads: "I call upon the youth of the world" The name of the engraver – Otto Placek – is visible on the right.



 **Olympic torch from the relay in the 1936 Summer Olympics in Berlin, the Games of the XI Olympiad**

Total height – 27 cm, width of the hand guard – 16 cm, width at the base of the handle – 8.6 cm, handle diameter – 3.9 cm. Weight – 450 g. Sculptor Walter E. Lemcke designed the torch. It was manufactured by Friedrich Krupp out of stainless steel.



 **Diploma for winners and participants from the 1936 Summer Olympics in Berlin, silver, Zweiter, gymnastics, Czechoslovakia**

THE 1952 SUMMER OLYMPICS IN HELSINKI, OR THE GAMES OF THE XV OLYMPIAD

A total of 4955 athletes, including 519 women, competed in the 1952 Games. They fought for 149 sets of medals in 21 sports.

Two outstanding Finnish runners, Paavo Nurmi and Hannes Kolehmainen, lit the Olympic flame at the Helsinki stadium. On the last day of the Games, Sigfrid Edström, the Chairman of the IOC, delivered his closing remarks and forgot to finish his

speech with: “I hereby declare the Games of the XV Olympiad closed”.

Because of this mishap, the 1952 Olympic Games are still officially considered open. The team from the Soviet Union, 295 athletes strong, debuted at the Olympic Games in the Finnish capital. They competed in almost all sports. On July 20, 1952 Soviet women discus throwers, with Natalia Ponomareva (Romashkova) in the lead, swept the event. This was the historic day when the Soviet Union earned its first Olympic gold medal. Viktor Chukarin, a gymnast, earned four gold and two

silver medals for his country. The athlete, a war veteran, had spent time in Nazi camps, including Buchenwald. The Games were also marked by some unfortunate events. The Soviet government decided to disband the CDSA football team after it lost to the Yugoslav team in the eighth-finals. At the time, the USSR had a complicated relationship with Yugoslavia.

The CDSA team was withdrawn from the national championship and had the results of its games annulled. Regretfully, politics has mingled with sports on more than one occasion in the history of the Olympic movement. Czech athlete Emil Zátopek outran the American competitors, who had led for years in running and jumping. His were brilliant wins in long distance running, including the marathon. In those days, many outstanding athletes took unusual paths to sports. In this, Zátopek was no exception. Here is what he said: “At 14 I left my village and started

working at the Bata shoe factory in Zlin. To deal with my homesickness, I started jogging a kilometer or two after work. I had no particular goal in mind. In 1941, our foreman told me to sign up for a run through the town of Zlin. During the run, people applauded me, and I liked it. All of a sudden, I got the feeling that I was worth something. And this is how it all began”.

Zátopek kept training and honing his physical condition during the war, even when Soviet tanks were advancing and German troops were retreating in disarray.

At the Helsinki Games, Walter Davis from the USA jumped to 2.04m and won in high jump. Seeing him compete, it was hard to believe that just a few years earlier he had been on crutches. When he was 8 years old, Davis contracted polio, and he spent a long time in a wheelchair. It was the rejuvenating energy of sports that brought him back to health.



Commemorative medals from the 1952 Summer Olympics in Helsinki, or the Games of the XV Olympiad

The medal's obverse features two male heads in profile, crowned by winner's wreaths against the backdrop of a fragment of a stadium. The name of the engraver – Kauko Räsänen – is written in Finnish under the left profile. The reverse shows a man and a woman holding up Olympic torches in their outstretched right arms. To the left of them are interlaced Olympic rings.



Award medals from the 1952 Summer Olympics in Helsinki, or the Games of the XV Olympiad

The obverse features Nike, the goddess of victory, lifting a laurel wreath with her right hand and holding a palm frond in her left. To the left of her on a cliff is a Panathenaic amphora. To the right of the goddess is a fragmented outline of an amphitheater that resembles the Roman Colosseum. The medal's reverse side features jubilatory semi-nude athletes carrying a triumphant competition winner on their shoulders. The winner's right hand is lifted in greeting, while his left is holding a palm frond. At the right edge of the medal we see the initials of the engraver, Giuseppe Cassioli.

VLADIMIR POTANIN
OLYMPIC COLLECTION
HELSINKI-1952



Diploma for winners and participants of the 1952 Summer Olympics in Helsinki, silver, Vladimir Ivkovic, USSR

THE 1956 WINTER OLYMPICS IN CORTINA D'AMPEZZO, OR THE VII OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES

When it came to earning the right to host the Olympic Games, the third time was the charm for the Italian town of Cortina d'Ampezzo. The opening ceremony was marked by a mishap – speed skater Guido Caroli tripped over a TV cable and fell while carrying the Olympic torch. The Olympic flame went out and had to be relit.

The Olympic Games attracted 821 athletes, including 134 women, representing 32 countries. Athletes competed for 24 sets of medals in four sports. A team from the Soviet Union participated in the Winter Olympics for the first time. Altogether, 53 athletes from the USSR participated in the Games in Cortina d'Ampezzo. They won seven gold, three silver, and six bronze medals, and won the medal tally. Lyubov Kozyreva became the first Soviet winter Olympic champion. The Soviet team's victorious display ushered in a new balance of power in winter sports.

Tony Sailer, an Austrian skier who earned all three gold medals in Alpine skiing, thus helping his team to get second place in team total, became a star of the Games.

Mishaps continued during the Games. On the eve of the slalom competition each participant received as a memento a photo of a local skier, Ilio Colli, who died on the slope after hitting a tree. After the accident, the piste was named after him.

“Such a great parting message before the start!” - commented Sailer after receiving the gift. Shortly before the start of the competition he noticed that one of the straps used to attach his skis to his boots had broken. The coach of the Italian team came to his rescue just a few minutes before the start time.

The piste was hard that day, and almost half of the competitors did not make it to the finish line, while eight had to be hospitalized. Sailer won, outrunning his closest rival, the Swiss skier Raymond Fellay, by a full three and a half seconds.

The Americans dominated in figure skating. They won in every singles skating event. Some winners' paths to victory were truly heroic, such as that of Tenley Albright, an American athlete. On the eve of the competition, she badly hurt her right ankle with her left skate. Her father, a surgeon from Massachusetts, rushed over just in time to help. In the end, the injury did not stop her from winning.

Italian audience members showed their passion when the judges gave fourth place to Franz Ningel and 12-year-old Marika Kilius, a figure skating couple from Germany they liked. When the results were announced, oranges rained down on the judges.

After the 1952 Olympic Games, Cortina d'Ampezzo became one of the most popular winter resorts in the world.



Award medals from the 1956 Winter Olympics in Cortina d'Ampezzo, or the VII Olympic Winter Games

The medal's obverse side features a woman's head with her hair flowing, crowned with Olympic rings. Below it and to the right of the face is the top part of a burning Olympic torch. Along the edge an inscription in Italian reads: VII Olympic Winter Games. To the left of the woman's face we see an abbreviated first and last name of the artist – Constantino Affer. The reverse side features a snowflake against the outline of the Pomagagnon mountain. The Olympic motto "Faster, Higher, Stronger" is inscribed along the upper edge of the medal.



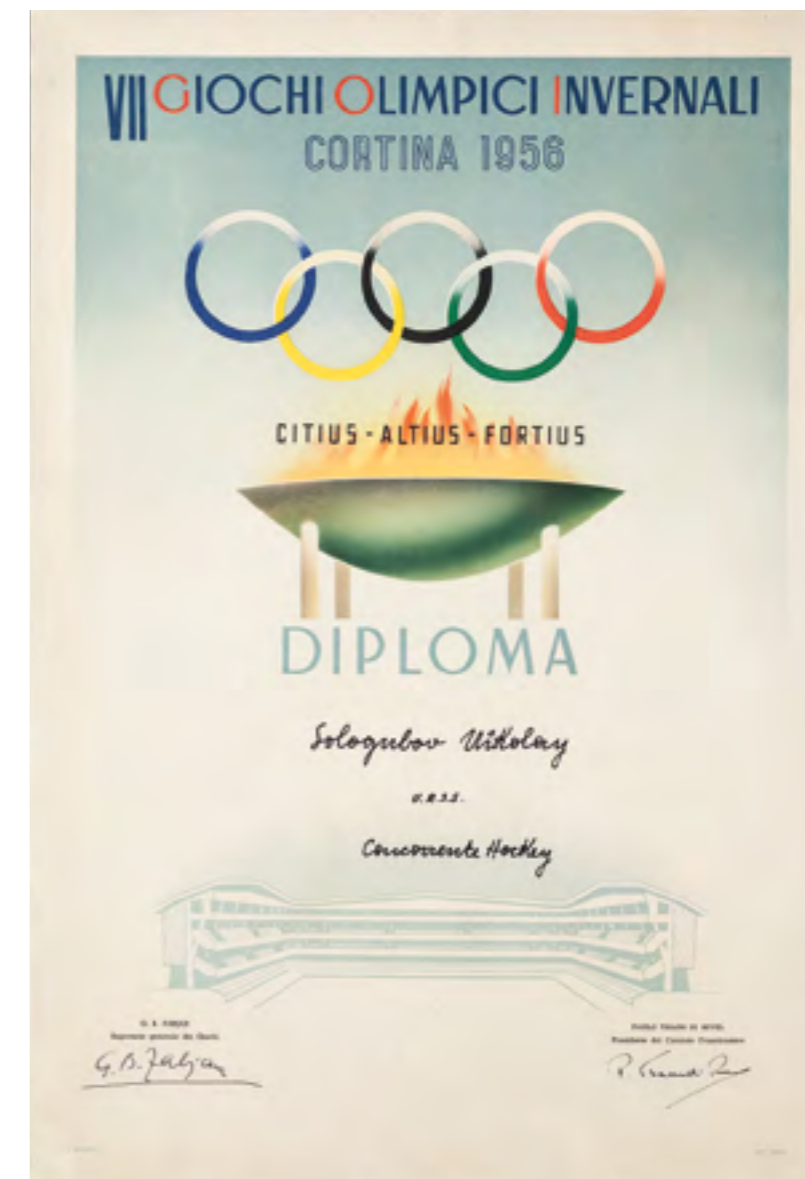
Champion's trophy
Length: 14.5 cm, Width: 14.5 cm



The Olympic torch from the 1956 Winter Olympics in Cortina d'Ampezzo
Length: 42 cm, Width of the head: 14 cm, Handle diameter: 2.5 cm

Diplomas for winners and participants of the 1956 Winter Olympics in Cortina d'Ampezzo, participant Nikolay Sologubov, hockey, USSR

As a child, Nikolay Sologubov played hockey and football. At 17, he started working as a technician at a meat processing facility. This is also when he started playing forward in a local football team. In the winter, the field turned into a skating rink, and Sologubov would become the team's captain as they played bandy. He enlisted when the war broke out and became a reconnaissance operative. He was wounded several times and had no hope of returning to sports. And yet, he managed to make a comeback. Moreover, after the war Sologubov mastered ice hockey with a puck. He played defense but, since he had been a forward, he combined defense with attack, a tactic that the opposing teams found difficult to overcome. In fact, Sologubov changed the traditional understanding of defense. As a player, he was known for the strength and accuracy of his hit and for masterful checking. Anatoly Tarasov, a Soviet-era veteran coach, used to say that over all the years of coaching he only let Nikolay Sologubov dribble in the attacking zone, because the player had mastered the technique on par with forwards.



THE 1980 SUMMER OLYMPICS IN MOSCOW, OR THE GAMES OF THE XXII OLYMPIAD.

On January 20, 1980, US President Jimmy Carter called on other countries to join the American boycott of the Moscow Games in response to the Soviet military invasion of Afghanistan. In doing this, the American President pursued electoral goals, as he had been accused of excessively liberal attitudes towards the Soviet regime. The assumption was that such decisive actions would win votes, but it didn't.

The opponents of the Soviet Union harbored hope that in the absence of delegations of athletes from world's leading countries, the 1980 Olympics would be relegated to a second-tier event. However, Juan Antonio Samaranch, who was elected the President of the IOC three days before the opening of the Games in Moscow, came out in support of the Olympics. Within a short time, he managed to convince Spain, Italy, the UK, and some other Western countries to send their teams to compete in the Olympics. Some athletes from countries that did boycott the Games came to Moscow on their own and competed under the Olympic flag.

Sixty-five countries supported the boycott. Altogether there were 5173 athletes from 81 countries at the Moscow Olympics, including 1115 women. The Soviet team was 491 athletes strong.

Athletes competed for 203 sets of medals in 25 sports. Moscow hosted 211,000 foreign tourists. The

Olympic press center gave accreditation to 5,600 journalists.

By then a well-established tradition demanded that a staged opening ceremony included a parade, oath-taking by athletes and judges, and a greeting from the head of state. To this day many remember the historical moments when the Secretary-General of the Central Committee of the Communist Party, Leonid Brezhnev, declared the Games open, basketball player Sergey Belov lit the Olympic flame, and thousands of white doves soared into the sky.

Soviet cosmonauts also sent a greeting to the Moscow Olympics from orbit. Their message was broadcast on the Stadium's central scoreboard.

The Soviet Olympic Games became a celebration of friendship and international spirit. At the time, all who wished to see a sports event could do so at a very affordable price. The Soviet government also took care to ship the "socially dangerous elements" more than 101 kilometers outside of Moscow.

The Moscow Olympics set 36 world records and 74 Olympic records. Vladimir Salnikov earned three gold medals in swimming and set a world record in the 1500-meter swim. Aleksander Dityatin earned eight medals in gymnastics, including three golds. A 15-year-old swimmer from East Germany, Rica Reinisch, earned four gold medals for her team.

Nellie Kim from the USSR and Nadia Comăneci from Romania earned two gold medals each. Vladislav Kozakevich, a pole vaulter from Poland, set an unbelievable world record of 5.78 meters.

But not every achievement is measured in medals. Krasimir Krastev, a 70 year old yachtsman from Bulgaria, entered the history of the Olympic Games as the oldest participant.

Prince Alexander de Merode, the head of the IOC's medical commission, noted that "The Moscow Olympics was one of the cleanest in the history of the Games". Out of 9292 doping tests, not one came back positive for banned substances.

The Olympic Bear was the mascot of the Moscow Games. The image was created by Viktor Chizhikov, a children's book illustrator from Moscow. For many, the lasting image from the 1980 Olympic Games is the touching moment of the closing ceremony, when the Olympic bear soared above the Luzhniki Stadium in Moscow, pulled up by air balloons, and drifted off into the sky. Spectators teared up as they bid farewell to the Games' bear mascot, who was returning to "his fairytale woods", as the song went. There was a tear rolling down the image of the bear's face comprised of people in the arena. To this day, the footage evokes emotion.

And what about those who opposed the Moscow Olympics? Twenty years later Henry Kissinger, an American politician who actively promoted boycotting the Games in Moscow, admitted that he was wrong. He said in an interview: "...I supported the boycott and thought that the Soviet Union had to be punished for the war in Afghanistan. Now that I have come to know the athletes, I understand that for many of them participation in the Olympic Games is their life's shining goal, and I realize that I was wrong. It was not the Soviet Union that we ended up punishing, but the athletes. I hope that those who retaliated with similar measures in 1984 also regret what they did". This last remark refers to the actions of the Soviet authorities, who engaged in retaliatory measures and called for a boycott of the Los Angeles Olympic Games.



Award medals from the 1980 Summer Olympics in Moscow, or the Games of the XXII Olympiad

The obverse side features Giuseppe Cassioli's classic design: Nike, the goddess of victory, lifting a laurel wreath with her right hand and holding a palm frond in her left. To the left of her on a cliff is a Panathenaic amphora. To the right of the goddess is a fragmented outline of an amphitheater that resembles the Roman Colosseum. On the left side of the reverse is a cauldron with the Olympic flame against the backdrop of a stylized sports arena. On the top right is the official emblem of the Moscow Olympics. The medal was designed by sculptor Ilya Postol.



Olympic torch from the relay of the 1980 Summer Olympics in Moscow

Length: 56.5 cm, Width: 10 cm. Narrow part of the handle: 2.5 cm. The torch was designed by a group of engineers in Leningrad led by Boris Tuchin. In the USSR, it was patented as invention #729414. The decorative element on the handle featured the emblem of the Moscow Olympics and served as a protective screen.



Horn from the 1980 Summer Olympics in Moscow

Width 13.5 cm, Length 73.5 cm. Banderole: Width 67 cm, Length 79 cm.



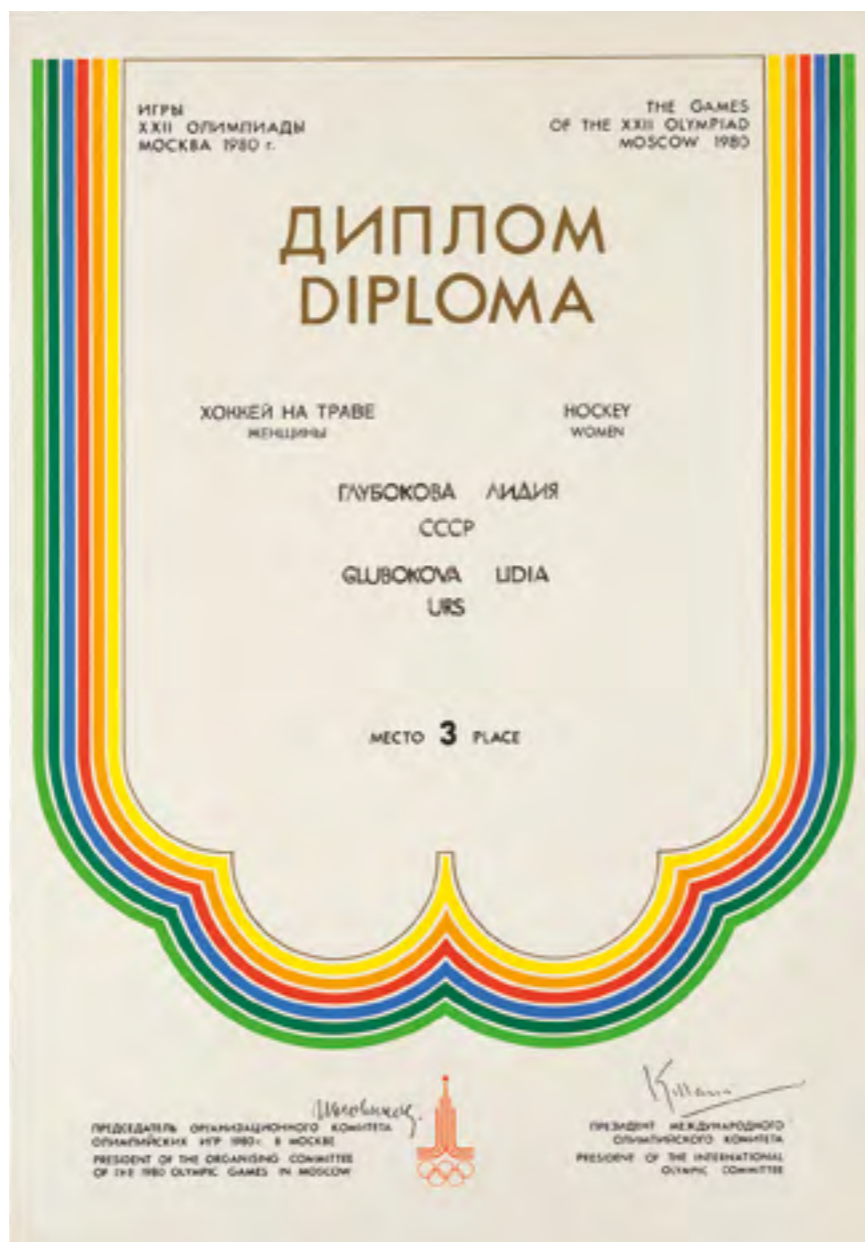
Commemorative medals from the 1980 Summer Olympics in Moscow, or the Games of the XXII Olympiad

On the left side of the obverse is the official emblem of the Moscow Olympics against the backdrop of a stadium. On the right side, four lines are inscribed in Russian: XXII/Olympics/Moscow/1980. Under the image of the bowl of a stadium we see the name of the artist, Angelina Leonova. On the reverse side is a panoramic view of the Moscow Kremlin and St. Basil's Cathedral from the Moscow River.

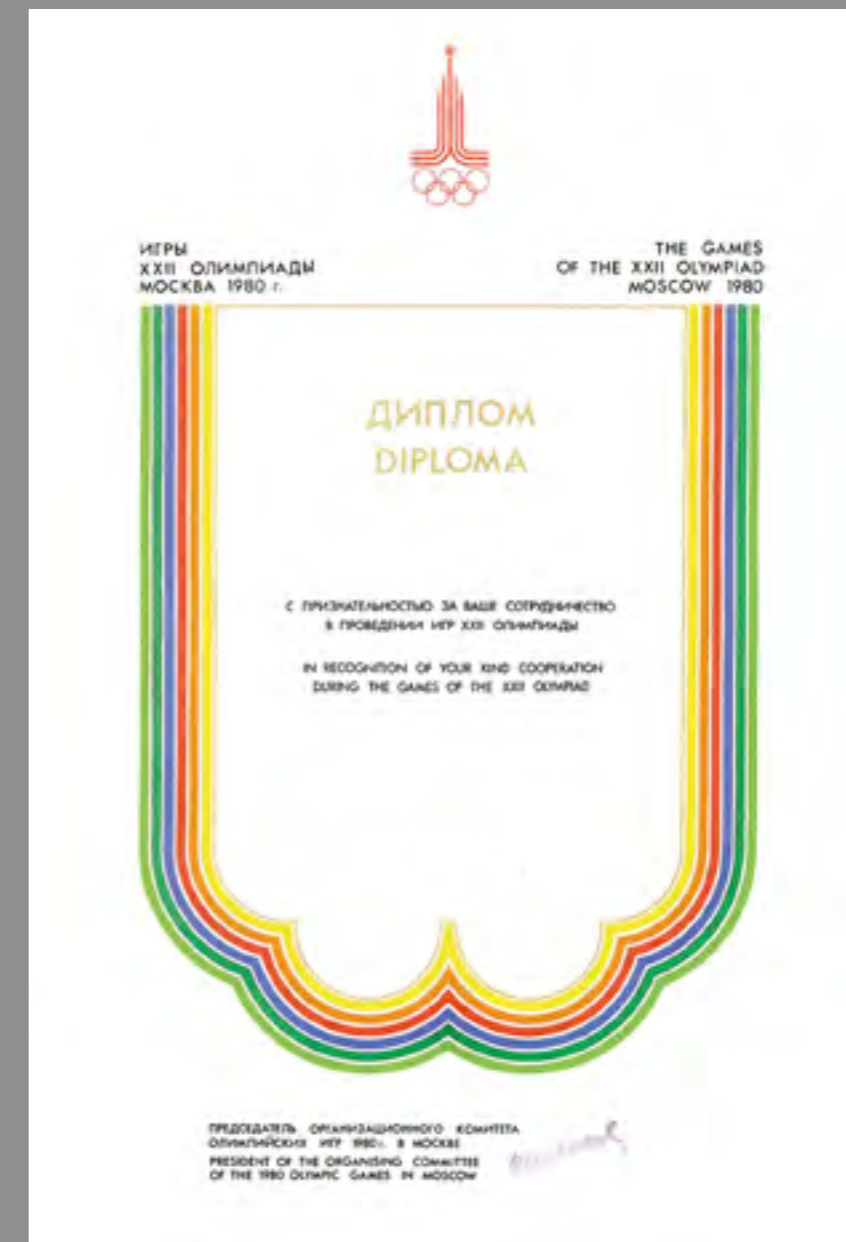


Diplomas for winners and participants in the 1980 Summer Olympics in Moscow, bronze, Lidiya Glubokova, field hockey, USSR

Lidiya Gorodnova (Glubokova) won bronze at the 1980 Olympic Games in Moscow and at the 1981 World Championship, and was the winner and silver medal recipient of the USSR Championships, playing for "Spartacus". Lidiya Glubokova responded to an ad about field hockey. She saw an advertisement in "Soviet Sports", a newspaper, calling young women to join the club. Prior to that, Ms. Glubokova played volleyball, basketball, football and hockey with a puck. At the time, the young woman knew nothing about field hockey. Coach Vladimir Menshikov immediately included Glubokova in his team. The coming of the 1980 Olympic Games spurred the creation of women's hockey teams. The young women who signed up at the time were the trailblazers of field hockey in the USSR.



Diplomas for winners and participants of the 1980 Summer Olympics in Moscow



THE 1994 WINTER OLYMPICS IN LILLEHAMMER, OR THE XVII OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES

The Games in Norway brought in 1737 athletes from 67 countries, including 522 women. Athletes competed for 61 sets of medals in 12 sports. Four additional sports were added to the Olympic program: freestyle skiing for men and women, men's 500-meter short track, and women's 1000-meter short track.

cities. It seemed like there were bigger Games and lesser Games. The new initiative gives more weight to the Winter Games." This is indeed what happened. Since then the so-called "white" Olympics have gained in importance to rival the summer Games.

The Olympic Games in Lillehammer were the first to which Russia sent its national team after the

The Games emphasized environmental considerations.

For the first time, the Winter Olympics was held two, rather than four years after the previous Games, which had taken place in Albertville in 1992. The change was due to a reform: the IOC decided to no longer hold the Winter and Summer Olympics the same year. Later, Juan Antonio Samaranch, the President of the IOC, said: "This was one of the best decisions made over the course of my mandate. Holding two Olympic Games the same year has always been challenging for the national Olympic committees, because they had to find sponsors for two national teams. At the same time, conducting negotiations about broadcasting rights the same year created additional challenges for the organizing

breakup of the USSR.

The Games emphasized environmental considerations. The roofed speedskating stadium was made almost entirely out of wood; many other buildings used natural rocks; the temporary walls in the media center were not spackled so they could be reused in the future. The fine for damaging trees was set at 10,000 kroner.

Despite the unsurprisingly fierce competition from Norway, the host nation, Russia came first in the medal count, and Norway came second.

Johann Olav Koss earned three gold medals in speed skating (1500-meter, 5000-meter, and 10,000-meter events) to become a four-time Olympic

champion. Skier Bjorn Daehlie won the 10-km race and the 15-km pursuit race. Vladimir Smirnov from Kazakhstan won the 50-km race. Russian skier Lyubov Egorova outcompeted other women skiers by earning three gold medals in the 5-km race, the 10-km pursuit race, and the 4x5-km relay race. Egorova became the first Russian woman athlete to be decorated with the Hero of the Russian Federation award for outstanding achievements in sports. Russian athletes won three gold medals in the biathlon.

The Russian figure skaters outdid their competition. Aleksei Urmanov came first in men's single skating. Ekaterina Gordeeva and Sergei Grinkov won in pair skating, while Oksana Grishuk and Evgeni Platov clinched the gold in ice dancing.

The Games had its share of drama. Cathy Turner, an American speed skater, was infamous for her extremely aggressive skating style, as she was known to push her competitors. In Lillehammer, Russian speedskater Elena Tihanina, Canadian skater Isabelle Charest, and Chinese skater Zhang Yanmei were all her victims. The Chinese delegation threatened to leave the Games, and their decisiveness prevented Turner from getting another gold medal, this time for the 1000-meter race. The skater from the United States was disqualified.

It was even worse in women's single skating. Two American skaters, Nancy Kerrigan and Tonya Harding, were considered to be in the lead. On the eve of the competition, someone hit Kerrigan on her leg with a metal rod. The investigators theorized that the attack had been arranged by Harding's ex-husband Jeff Gillooly on her request. In Lillehammer Nancy Kerrigan earned second place, while Tonya Harding only came in eighth. It was a Ukrainian skater, Oksana Baiul, who clinched the gold. In June 1994, Jeffrey Gillooly was sentenced to two years of imprisonment for organizing the attack, while Tonya Harding was fined \$160,000 and disqualified for life.

Gold medal from the 1994 Winter Olympics in Lillehammer, or the XVII Olympic Winter Games

The medal's core is made out of dark Norwegian granite and is encased in gold. (Second and third place medals are encased in silver and bronze). In the center of the obverse of the granite disk there are five interlaced Olympic metal rings. An inscription in English reads: The XVII Olympic Winter Games. The sign in the lower part of the metal casing reads: Lillehammer '94. The reverse features the name of the sport for which the medal was intended, and an ideogram representing the sport. The medal is attached to a bicolor ribbon. The designer was Ingjerd Hanevold.



Commemorative medal (plaquette) for participation in the 1994 Winter Olympics in Lillehammer, or the XVII Olympic Winter Games

The medal, made out of copper, is in the shape of an irregular quadrangle. The obverse features a miniature representation of the Games' official poster and sketches symbolizing moments from competitions in different sports in the Games' official program. The drawings are made in the ancient style of rock painting. Five lines inscribed in the center read: The XVII Olympic Winter Games, Lillehammer 1994. The lower part features Olympic rings. On the reverse side are sketches symbolizing Olympic winter sports.



Diplomas for winners and participants of the 1994 Winter Olympics in Lillehammer, 7th place, Jaroslav Sakala, ski jumping, Czech Republic.



**Olympic torch from the relay
of the 1994 Winter Olympics in Lillehammer**

Length: 153 cm, width: 6.5 cm, cross-section: 5 cm,
length of the handle's narrow part: 2.5 cm.

THE 2014 WINTER OLYMPICS IN SOCHI, OR THE XXII OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES

Sochi was selected to host the 2014 Winter Olympics at an IOC meeting in Guatemala in July, 2007. At the time, much still needed to be done. New sports facilities had to be built from scratch, and the infrastructure of the Olympic capital needed an upgrade. After the completion of the construction, Sochi was to become a unique year-round world-class resort city, offering many possibilities for relaxation in the mountains or by the sea. Investment in city infrastructure exceeded five times the sums put into the construction of the sports facilities. All of its transport systems were updated, and the energy hub and treatment plants were overhauled.

The Sochi Olympics beat every Winter Games record in terms of the number of officials present. More than fifty heads of state and government, twice as many as there were in Turin in 2006 and Vancouver in 2010 combined, came to see the Games. Sixty delegations from international organizations visited Sochi.

More than 1.1 million tickets were sold to see the Olympic competitions, and 324,000 tickets were sold to the Paralympic Games. More than 3.5 billion viewers, or half of the world's population, watched the Games, broadcast in 159 countries, on TV.

The Sochi Olympics opening ceremony - "Dreams of Russia" - lasted almost three hours and was an impressive theatrical show with themes drawn from Russian history. More than 3000 dancers, acrobats, ballet dancers, singers, and aerial gymnasts performed in the show. The audience also participated, as each spectator was handed a flashlight medallion that would light up when directed by technicians. This turned the bleachers into a giant glowing screen. The Olympic flame was lit by famous Olympic champions Irina Rodnina and Vladislav Tretyak.

The Russian Federation won in medal tally, followed by Norway and Canada in second and third place. Viktor An, a speed skater of Korean descent, became a star of the Games. He competed for the Russian team and won three gold medals in the 500-meter and 1000-meter short track, and in the 5000-meter relay race. Thus, Viktor An became a six-time Olympic champion.

The figure skater Evgeni Plushenko, a Turin 2006 Olympic champion, Salt Lake City 2002 silver medalist, and Vancouver 2010 silver medalist, earned gold for the Russian national team in team tournament. However, he refused to perform the short program because of his back issues, and later

announced that he was wrapping up his career in sports.

Vic Wild, an American-born Russian snowboarder, earned two gold medals. Forty-year-old Ole Einar Bjørndalen from Norway earned two gold medals in biathlon and became an eight-time Olympic champion. His 35-year-old compatriot Marit Bjørgen earned three gold medals: in the 30-km race, in skiathlon 7.5 + 7.5 km, and in team sprint.

Slovenia earned gold for the first time in the history of the Olympic Games. Tina Maze, a skier from Slovenia, won in giant slalom and downhill skiing.

The International Olympic Committee praised the excellent organization of the Games in Sochi. Thomas Bach, the President of the IOC, said: "We did not receive a single complaint from the athletes. They were extremely pleased with the facilities, they were impressed that the (Olympic) villages were so close to the venues. ... The Games were remarkable and, in a sense, unique in terms of logistics, because an athlete could walk to have breakfast and then walk to the training grounds in just a few minutes. The 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi were very successful. The Russians ensured that the Games were superbly organized. Sochi promised to provide excellent sports facilities, outstanding Olympic

villages and smooth organization. They delivered on every promise. The athletes concurred. ... A year after the Games it is crystal clear that in Sochi the Games' legacy translates into broad opportunities for development."

Jean-Claude Killy, a three-time Olympic champion and an honorable member of the IOC, noted: "Clearly, the difference between Sochi 2007 and Sochi 2014 is tremendous. The work was accomplished in the best way possible. It showcased the rich resources that Russia, a very large country, can draw on. I said that these Games would be the best in history, and this is exactly what happened".

The goal of transforming Sochi into a big and modern year-round resort city was accomplished. Rosa Khutor, the largest Olympic facility, where the world's best skiers and snowboarders competed in the Games, is now popular among those who love winter vacations. The Sochi and Krasnaya Polyana mountain cluster became a favorite destination for the organizers of all kinds of events on any scale. The Russian International Olympic University, a unique educational institution, is an important part of the 2014 Games' humanitarian legacy. The RIOU trains highly qualified sports managers for Russian and international sports industry.



Award medals from the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi, or the XXII Olympic Winter Games

The obverse side of the medal depicts Olympic rings. Sochi.ru 2014 is inscribed on the right of the reverse side. The rim of the medal is inscribed with the Games' official name in Russian, English, and French. A patchwork as a symbol of diversity of Russia's many ethnic groups' cultural traditions is engraved on the medal. The medal was designed by Sergey Tsarkov, Aleksander Fedorin, Pavel Nasedkin, and Sergey Efremov, and manufactured by «Adamas» jewelry group.



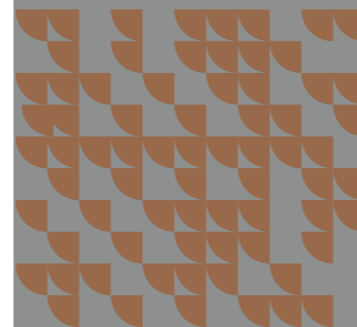
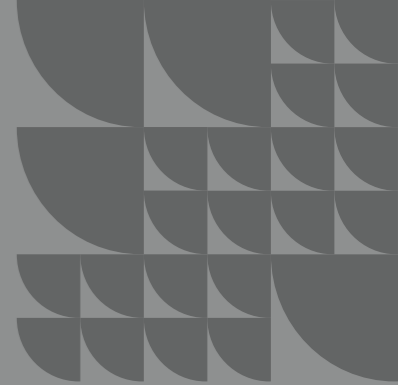
Commemorative medal from the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi, or the XXII Olympic Winter Games

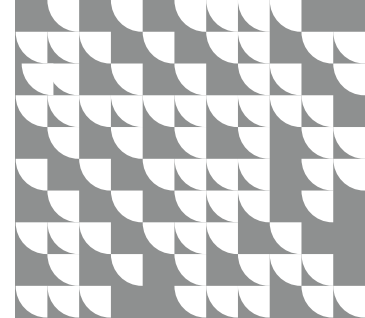
The inscription on the obverse side reads: sochi.ru 2014. Next to it are the Olympic rings against the backdrop of a mountainous landscape. On the bottom we see the reflection of the mountains and an inscription. Three agitos symbolizing mind, body, and spirit stand in place of the Olympic rings. This is the emblem of the Paralympic movement. The image is encircled with an inscription: 2014 Winter Games of the XXII Olympiad and XI Paralympic Winter Games in Sochi. The Olympic flame cauldron is pictured on the reverse side. Along the edge of the medal the inscription reads: from the President of the Russian Federation. On the left side in the lower part of the medal is an image of the Fisht Olympic Stadium in Sochi.



**Olympic torch from the relay
of the Winter Olympics in Sochi, 2014**

Length: 94.5 cm, width: 15 cm, handle width: 2 cm.
Designed by Vladimir Pirozhkov. Andrey Vodyanik, an engineer, was
charged with technical implementation. It weighs more than 1.5 kilograms
and is one of the heaviest torches in the history of the Olympic Games.





Vladimir Potanin
Olympic Collection
www.olympic-collection.ru