



Olympic Summer Games Medals from Athens 1896 to Tokyo 2020

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Olympic Summer Games Medals from Athens 1896 to Tokyo 2020

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> INTRODUCTION

This document traces the evolution of the Olympic Summer Games medals, from the first Games in Athens in 1896 to those in Rio in 2016. Each medal is presented with a photo of its obverse and reverse, with a description of the design and the technical details available.

Taking a journey from the first modern Olympic Games into the 21st century using the emblematic Olympic medals is a fascinating artistic and cultural experience.

THE OLYMPIC SUMMER GAMES MEDALS

At the first Olympic Games of the modern era in Athens in 1896, the winner received an olive branch and a silver medal. James B. Connolly of Massachusetts was the first modern Olympic champion to be rewarded thus. The Olympic Games St Louis 1904 were the first at which gold, silver and bronze medals were awarded for first, second, and third place.

With the exception of the medals for the 1956 equestrian events, the medals for the Games of the Olympiad became standardized starting in 1928. On one side, there was the traditional design of the goddess of victory, holding a palm in her left hand and a winner's crown in her right hand. On the other, an Olympic champion was carried triumphantly by the crowd, with an Olympic stadium in the background. For the Olympic Games Munich 1972, the Organising Committee started a new trend, with a reverse designed by an artist from the Bauhaus school, Gerhard Marcks. A further design adaptation was introduced for the Olympic Games Athens 2004 when the International Olympic Committee (IOC) approved the Organising Committee's (OCOG) proposal for an updated version of the goddess of victory and the stadium.

In St Louis in 1904, the medal was attached to a coloured ribbon with a pin to fix it to the athlete's chest. It was not until 1960, in Rome however, that the medals were first designed to be placed around the winners' necks. On this occasion, a laurel leaf chain was designed for the purpose. At subsequent Games editions, however, it has most often been a coloured ribbon that was used.

Today, the design of the Summer Games medals must take into account certain visual elements defined by the IOC and the OCOG, with the IOC having the final approval. The medals must show the Greek goddess of victory, the Olympic emblem, the full name of the Games in question, the name of the sport or discipline concerned and the OCOG's emblem. Additionally, they should reflect the visual look, plus cultural and aesthetic elements selected by the OCOG. For example, the medals for the Olympic Games Beijing 2008 meld metal with jade.

> ATHENS 1896



Obverse / Reverse

First place winners were awarded a silver medal, an olive branch and a diploma. Those in second place were given a bronze/copper* medal, a branch of laurel and a diploma.

The obverse side of the Athens medal has Zeus' face along with his hand holding a globe with the winged victory on it, with the inscription "ΟΛΥΜΠΙΑ". The reverse side had the Acropolis site with the inscription "ΔΙΕΘΝΕΙΣ · ΟΛΥΜΠΙΑΚΟΙ · ΑΓΩΝΕΣ ΕΝ · ΑΘΗΝΑΙΣ · 1896."

| | 1 ST PLACE | 2 ND PLACE | 3 RD PLACE |
|---------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| Designer: | Jules Clément CHAPLAIN | Jules Clément CHAPLAIN | - |
| Composition: | Silver | Bronze, Copper * | - |
| Diameter: | 48 mm | 50 mm | - |
| Manufacturer: | Monnaie de Paris | Monnaie de Paris | - |

* Jim Greensfelder, Oleg Vorontsov and Jim Lally, *Olympic Medals: a reference guide*, Cincinnati: GVL Enterprises, 1998, p. 6.

> PARIS 1900



Obverse / Reverse

On the obverse, a winged goddess holding laurel branches in both hands, arms raised. In the background, underneath, a view of the city of Paris and the monuments of the Universal Exhibition.

On the reverse, a victorious athlete standing on a podium, holding a laurel branch in his right hand, arm raised. In the background, a stadium and the Acropolis of Athens.

| | 1 ST PLACE | 2 ND PLACE | 3 RD PLACE |
|---------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Designer: | Frédéric VERNON | Frédéric VERNON | Frédéric VERNON |
| Composition: | Gilt silver | Silver | Bronze |
| Diameter: | 42x60 mm * | 42x60 mm * | 42x60 mm * |
| Manufacturer: | Monnaie de Paris | Monnaie de Paris | Monnaie de Paris |

* Jim Greensfelder, Oleg Vorontsov and Jim Lally, *Olympic Medals: a reference guide*, Cincinnati: GVL Enterprises, 1998, pp. 9-10.

> ST. LOUIS 1904



Obverse / Reverse

On the obverse, an athlete standing on some steps, holding in his right hand a laurel crown, symbol of victory, and raising his left arm. In the background, a bas relief illustrating the sports disciplines from Antiquity. Behind, a Greek temple. Above the figure of the athlete, the inscription "OLYMPIAD" and on the rock bottom right "1904".

On the reverse, the goddess Nike, goddess of victory, standing on a globe. She is holding a laurel crown in her left hand and a palm leaf in her right hand. In front of her, a great crown, with in the centre a space for putting the name of the sports discipline. Behind Nike, the bust of Zeus on a plinth. The inscription "UNIVERSAL EXPOSITION ST. LOUIS U.S.A".

The design of these two sides was inspired by the medal of the Olympic Games Athens 1896 and Paris 1900. For the first and only time, the medal was attached to a coloured ribbon with a pin to fix it to the athlete's chest.

| | 1 ST PLACE | 2 ND PLACE | 3 RD PLACE |
|---------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Designer: | Dièges & Clust | Dièges & Clust | Dièges & Clust |
| Composition: | Gold * | Silver * | Bronze * |
| Diameter: | 39 mm * | 39 mm * | 38 mm * |
| Manufacturer: | Dièges & Clust | Dièges & Clust | Dièges & Clust |

* Jim Greensfelder, Oleg Vorontsov and Jim Lally, *Olympic Medals: a reference guide*, Cincinnati: GVL Enterprises, 1998, pp. 11-13.

> LONDON 1908



Obverse / Reverse

On the obverse, two female figures placing a laurel crown on the head of a young victorious athlete, with, in the bottom half, the inscription "OLYMPIC GAMES LONDON 1908".

On the reverse, the figure of St George, patron saint of England. Legend says that he was a fighting saint who slew a dragon to free a princess.

| | 1 ST PLACE | 2 ND PLACE | 3 RD PLACE |
|---------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Designer: | Bertram MACKENNAL | Bertram MACKENNAL | Bertram MACKENNAL |
| Composition: | Gold | Silver | Bronze |
| Diameter: | 33 mm | 33 mm | 33 mm |
| Manufacturer: | Vaughton & Sons | Vaughton & Sons | Vaughton & Sons |

> STOCKHOLM 1912



Obverse / Reverse

On the obverse, two female figures placing a laurel crown on the head of young victorious athlete.

On the reverse, a herald proclaiming the opening of the Games with, on the left, the statue of Ling, the founder of the institutions and the Swedish gym system. All around, the inscription "OLYMPISKA SPELEN STOCKHOLM 1912".

| | 1 ST PLACE | 2 ND PLACE | 3 RD PLACE |
|---------------|--|--|--|
| Designer: | Erik Jordan LINDBERG; Bertram MACKENNAL | Erik Jordan LINDBERG; Bertram MACKENNAL | Erik Jordan LINDBERG; Bertram MACKENNAL |
| Composition: | Gold / Gilt silver | Silver | Bronze |
| Diameter: | 33 mm | 33 mm | 33 mm |
| Manufacturer: | C.C. Sporrang & Co. | C.C. Sporrang & Co. | C.C. Sporrang & Co. |

> ANTWERP 1920



Obverse / Reverse

On the obverse, a tall, naked athlete, holding in his left hand a palm leaf and a laurel crown, symbols of victory. Behind him, the figure of the Renommée playing the trumpet. In the background, a frieze with a Greek motif with the inscription "VII OLYMPIADE" underneath.

On the reverse, the Antwerp monument, commemorating the legend of Brabo throwing into the Scheldt the hand of the giant Druoon Antigoon, who had been terrorizing the river. In the background, the cathedral and port of Antwerp. In the top half, the inscription "ANVERS MCMXX".

The legend says that in Antiquity, this cruel giant forced all vessels on the river to pay a toll. If the captain refused to pay, he cut off his hand. The giant spread terror amongst the sailors for many long years, until the day he met Silvius Brabo. This courageous Roman soldier dared to take on the giant and succeeded in killing him. As revenge for his victims, he cut off the giant's hand and threw it into the river. This is where the name of the city comes from- "Antwerp" means "thrown hand".

| | 1 ST PLACE | 2 ND PLACE | 3 RD PLACE |
|---------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Designer: | Josué DUPON | Josué DUPON | Josué DUPON |
| Composition: | Gilt silver | Silver | Bronze |
| Diameter: | 60 mm | 60 mm | 60 mm |
| Manufacturer: | Coosemans, Bruxelles | Coosemans, Bruxelles | Coosemans, Bruxelles |

> PARIS 1924



Obverse / Reverse

On the obverse, a naked victorious athlete, taking the hand of his rival, seated on the ground, to help him to get up. Underneath, the Olympic rings.

On the reverse, a harp as a symbol of the cultural programme of the Games and the different sports equipment, winter as well as summer, forming an arch. In the centre, the inscription "VIII^{ME} OLYMPIADE PARIS 1924".

| | 1 ST PLACE | 2 ND PLACE | 3 RD PLACE |
|---------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Designer: | André RIVAUD | André RIVAUD | André RIVAUD |
| Composition: | Gilt silver | Silver | Bronze |
| Diameter: | 55 mm | 55 mm | 55 mm |
| Manufacturer: | Monnaie de Paris | Monnaie de Paris | Monnaie de Paris |

> AMSTERDAM 1928



Obverse / Reverse

On the obverse, the traditional goddess of victory, holding a palm in her left hand and a winner's crown in her right. A design used since the Olympic Games Amsterdam 1928, created by Florentine artist Giuseppe Cassioli (ITA -1865-1942) and chosen after a competition organised by the International Olympic Committee. For these Games, the figure of victory is accompanied by the specific inscription: "IXe OLYMPIADE AMSTERDAM 1928".

On the reverse, an Olympic champion carried in triumph by the crowd, with the Olympic stadium in the background.

| | 1 ST PLACE | 2 ND PLACE | 3 RD PLACE |
|---------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Designer: | Giuseppe CASSIOLI | Giuseppe CASSIOLI | Giuseppe CASSIOLI |
| Composition: | Gilt silver | Silver | Bronze * |
| Diameter: | 55 mm | 55 mm | 55 mm |
| Manufacturer: | Government Mint, Utrecht | Government Mint, Utrecht | Government Mint, Utrecht |

* Jim Greensfelder, Oleg Vorontsov and Jim Lally, *Olympic Medals: a reference guide*, Cincinnati: GVL Enterprises, 1998, p. 41.

> LOS ANGELES 1932



Obverse / Reverse

On the obverse, the traditional goddess of victory, holding a palm in her left hand and a winner's crown in her right. A design used since the Olympic Games Amsterdam 1928, created by Florentine artist Giuseppe Cassioli (ITA -1865-1942) and chosen after a competition organised by the International Olympic Committee in 1921. For these Games, the figure of victory is accompanied by the specific inscription: "Xth OLYMPIAD LOS ANGELES 1932".

On the reverse, an Olympic champion carried in triumph by the crowd, with the Olympic stadium in the background.

| | 1 ST PLACE | 2 ND PLACE | 3 RD PLACE |
|---------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Designer: | Giuseppe CASSIOLI | Giuseppe CASSIOLI | Giuseppe CASSIOLI |
| Composition: | Gilt silver | Silver | Bronze |
| Diameter: | 55 mm * | 55 mm * | 55 mm * |
| Manufacturer: | The Whitehead & Hoag Co. | The Whitehead & Hoag Co. | The Whitehead & Hoag Co. |

* Jim Greensfelder, Oleg Vorontsov and Jim Lally, *Olympic Medals: a reference guide*, Cincinnati: GVL Enterprises, 1998, pp. 47-48.

> BERLIN 1936



Obverse / Reverse

On the obverse, the traditional goddess of victory, holding a palm in her left hand and a winner's crown in her right. A design used since the Olympic Games Amsterdam 1928, created by Florentine artist Giuseppe Cassioli (ITA -1865-1942) and chosen after a competition organised by the International Olympic Committee in 1921. For these Games, the figure of victory is accompanied by the specific inscription: "XI. OLYMPIADE BERLIN 1936".

On the reverse, an Olympic champion carried in triumph by the crowd, with the Olympic stadium in the background.

| | 1 ST PLACE | 2 ND PLACE | 3 RD PLACE |
|---------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Designer: | Giuseppe CASSIOLI | Giuseppe CASSIOLI | Giuseppe CASSIOLI |
| Composition: | Gilt silver | Silver | Bronze |
| Diameter: | 55 mm | 55 mm | 55 mm |
| Manufacturer: | B.H. Mayer | B.H. Mayer | B.H. Mayer |

> LONDON 1948



Obverse / Reverse

On the obverse, the traditional goddess of victory, holding a palm in her left hand and a winner's crown in her right. A design used since the Olympic Games Amsterdam 1928, created by Florentine artist Giuseppe Cassioli (ITA -1865-1942) and chosen after a competition organised by the International Olympic Committee. For these Games, the figure of victory is accompanied by the specific inscription: "XIVth OLYMPIAD LONDON 1948".

On the reverse, an Olympic champion carried in triumph by the crowd, with the Olympic stadium in the background.

| | 1 ST PLACE | 2 ND PLACE | 3 RD PLACE |
|---------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Designer: | Giuseppe CASSIOLI | Giuseppe CASSIOLI | Giuseppe CASSIOLI |
| Composition: | Gilt silver | Silver | Bronze |
| Diameter: | 51.4 mm | 51.4 mm | 51.4 mm |
| Manufacturer: | John Pinches Ltd. | John Pinches Ltd. | John Pinches Ltd. |

> HELSINKI 1952



Obverse / Reverse

On the obverse, the traditional goddess of victory, holding a palm in her left hand and a winner's crown in her right. A design used since the Olympic Games Amsterdam 1928, created by Florentine artist Giuseppe Cassioli (ITA -1865-1942) and chosen after a competition organised by the International Olympic Committee. For these Games, the figure of victory is accompanied by the specific inscription: "XV OLYMPIA HELSINKI 1952".

On the reverse, an Olympic champion carried in triumph by the crowd, with the Olympic stadium in the background.

| | 1 ST PLACE | 2 ND PLACE | 3 RD PLACE |
|---------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Designer: | Giuseppe CASSIOLI; Aukusti TUHKA | Giuseppe CASSIOLI; Aukusti TUHKA | Giuseppe CASSIOLI; Aukusti TUHKA |
| Composition: | Gilt silver | Silver | Bronze |
| Diameter: | 51 mm * | 51 mm * | 51 mm * |
| Manufacturer: | Kultakeskus Oy | Kultakeskus Oy | Kultakeskus Oy |

* Jim Greensfelder, Oleg Vorontsov and Jim Lally, *Olympic Medals: a reference guide*, Cincinnati: GVL Enterprises, 1998, pp. 72-73.

> MELBOURNE 1956



Obverse / Reverse

On the obverse, the traditional goddess of victory, holding a palm in her left hand and a winner's crown in her right. A design used since the Olympic Games Amsterdam 1928, created by Florentine artist Giuseppe Cassioli (ITA -1865-1942) and chosen after a competition organised by the International Olympic Committee. For these Games, the figure of victory is accompanied by the specific inscription: "XVIth OLYMPIAD MELBOURNE 1956".

On the reverse, an Olympic champion carried in triumph by the crowd, with the Olympic stadium in the background.

| | 1 ST PLACE | 2 ND PLACE | 3 RD PLACE |
|---------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Designer: | Giuseppe CASSIOLI | Giuseppe CASSIOLI | Giuseppe CASSIOLI |
| Composition: | Gilt silver | Silver | Bronze |
| Diameter: | 50 mm | 51 mm | 51 mm |
| Manufacturer: | K. G. Luke Ltd. | K. G. Luke Ltd. | K. G. Luke Ltd. |

> STOCKHOLM 1956



Obverse / Reverse

On the obverse, the ancient horse and rider emblem of the Equestrian Games in Stockholm accompanied by the specific inscription "XVI OLYMPIADENS RYTTARTAVLINGAR 1956 STOCKHOLM". The obverse was designed by John Sjösvard.

On the reverse, the Olympic rings with a superimposed torch, a composition based on the design by the Greek artist Vasos Falireas (1905-1979) and approved by the International Olympic Committee. In the background "OLYMPIA". Around the design, the motto "CITIUS ALTIUS FORTIUS" and the inscription "JEUX OLYMPIQUES".

| | 1 ST PLACE | 2 ND PLACE | 3 RD PLACE |
|---------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Designer: | Vasos FALIREUS; John SJÖSVARD | Vasos FALIREUS; John SJÖSVARD | Vasos FALIREUS; John SJÖSVARD |
| Composition: | Gilt silver | Silver | Bronze |
| Diameter: | 50 mm | 50 mm | 50 mm |
| Manufacturer: | Lagerströms Fabriks AB | Lagerströms Fabriks AB | Lagerströms Fabriks AB |

> ROME 1960



Obverse / Reverse ¹

Exceptionally, for the Games in Rome, the obverse and the reverse of the medal were inverted.

On the obverse, an Olympic champion carried in triumph by the crowd, with the Olympic stadium in the background.

On the reverse, the traditional goddess of victory, holding a palm in her left hand and a winner's crown in her right. A design used since the Olympic Games Amsterdam 1928, created by Florentine artist Giuseppe Cassioli (ITA -1865-1942) and chosen after a competition organised by the International Olympic Committee in 1921. For these Games, the figure of victory is accompanied by the specific inscription: "GIOCCHI DELLA XVII OLIMPIADE ROMA MCMLX".

The medals in Rome were set in a circle of bronze featuring a laurel wreath matched with a chain also designed like a sequence of bronze laurel leaves.

¹ Jim Greensfelder, Oleg Vorontsov and Jim Lally, *Olympic Medals: a reference guide*, Cincinnati: GVL Enterprises, 1998, p. 88.

| | 1 ST PLACE | 2 ND PLACE | 3 RD PLACE |
|---------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Designer: | Giuseppe CASSIOLI | Giuseppe CASSIOLI | Giuseppe CASSIOLI |
| Composition: | Gilt silver; bronze (chain) | Silver; bronze (chain) | Bronze; bronze (chain) |
| Diameter: | 68 mm | 70 mm | 69 mm |
| Manufacturer: | Stabilimenti Artistici Fiorentini | Stabilimenti Artistici Fiorentini | Stabilimenti Artistici Fiorentini |

> TOKYO 1964



Obverse / Reverse

On the obverse, the traditional goddess of victory, holding a palm in her left hand and a winner's crown in her right. A design used since the Olympic Games Amsterdam 1928, created by Florentine artist Giuseppe Cassioli (ITA -1865-1942) and chosen after a competition organised by the International Olympic Committee in 1921. For these Games, the figure of victory is accompanied by the specific inscription: "XVIII OLYMPIAD TOKYO 1964".

On the reverse, an Olympic champion carried in triumph by the crowd, with the Olympic stadium in the background.

| | 1 ST PLACE | 2 ND PLACE | 3 RD PLACE |
|---------------|---|---|---|
| Designer: | Giuseppe CASSIOLI; Toshitaka KOSHIBA | Giuseppe CASSIOLI; Toshitaka KOSHIBA | Giuseppe CASSIOLI; Toshitaka KOSHIBA |
| Composition: | Gilt silver; fine gold (6g) | Silver | Bronze |
| Diameter: | 63 mm | 60 mm | 62 mm |
| Manufacturer: | Japanese Mint | Japanese Mint | Japanese Mint |

> MEXICO 1968



Obverse / Reverse

On the obverse, the traditional goddess of victory, holding a palm in her left hand and a winner's crown in her right. A design used since the Olympic Games Amsterdam 1928, created by Florentine artist Giuseppe Cassioli (ITA -1865-1942) and chosen after a competition organised by the International Olympic Committee in 1921. For these Games, the figure of victory is accompanied by the specific inscription: "XIX OLIMPIADA MEXICO 1968".

On the reverse, an Olympic champion carried in triumph by the crowd, with the Olympic stadium in the background.

| | 1 ST PLACE | 2 ND PLACE | 3 RD PLACE |
|---------------|---|--|--|
| Designer: | Giuseppe CASSIOLI; Pedro RAMIREZ VASQUEZ; Eduardo TERRAZAS; Lance WYMAN | Giuseppe CASSIOLI ; Pedro RAMIREZ VASQUEZ; Eduardo TERRAZAS; Lance WYMAN | Giuseppe CASSIOLI ; Pedro RAMIREZ VASQUEZ; Eduardo TERRAZAS; Lance WYMAN |
| Composition: | Gilt silver | Silver | Bronze |
| Diameter: | 60 mm | 60 mm | 60 mm |
| Manufacturer: | - | - | - |

> MUNICH 1972



Obverse / Reverse

On the obverse, the traditional goddess of victory, holding a palm in her left hand and a winner's crown in her right. A design used since the Olympic Games Amsterdam 1928, created by Florentine artist Giuseppe Cassioli (ITA -1865-1942) and chosen after a competition organised by the International Olympic Committee in 1921. For these Games, the figure of victory is accompanied by the specific inscription: "XX. Olympiade München 1972".

On the reverse, Castor and Pollux, the twin sons of Zeus and Léda, the patrons of sports competitions and friendship, represented by two naked youths. The Organising Committee for the Olympic Games Munich 1972 broke new ground by having a different reverse which was designed by a Bauhaus representative.

| | 1 ST PLACE | 2 ND PLACE | 3 RD PLACE |
|---------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Designer: | Giuseppe CASSIOLI; Gerhard MARCKS | Giuseppe CASSIOLI; Gerhard MARCKS | Giuseppe CASSIOLI; Gerhard MARCKS |
| Composition: | Gilt silver | Silver | Bronze |
| Diameter: | 66 mm | 66 mm | 66 mm |
| Manufacturer: | Bayerisches Hauptmünzamt | Bayerisches Hauptmünzamt | Bayerisches Hauptmünzamt |

> MONTREAL 1976



Obverse / Reverse

On the obverse, the traditional goddess of victory, holding a palm in her left hand and a winner's crown in her right. A design used since the Olympic Games Amsterdam 1928, created by Florentine artist Giuseppe Cassioli (ITA -1865-1942) and chosen after a competition organised by the International Olympic Committee in 1921. For these Games, the figure of victory is accompanied by the specific inscription: "XXIe Olympiade Montréal 1976".

The reverse was designed as intentionally bare. It comprises a stylized laurel crown, symbol of victory since the Games of Antiquity, and the emblem of the Olympic Games Montreal 1976.

| | 1 ST PLACE | 2 ND PLACE | 3 RD PLACE |
|---------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Designer: | Giuseppe CASSIOLI | Giuseppe CASSIOLI | Giuseppe CASSIOLI |
| Composition: | Gilt silver | Silver | Bronze |
| Diameter: | 60 mm | 60 mm | 60 mm |
| Manufacturer: | Royal Canadian Mint | Royal Canadian Mint | Royal Canadian Mint |

> MOSCOW 1980



Obverse / Reverse

On the obverse, the traditional goddess of victory, holding a palm in her left hand and a winner's crown in her right. A design used since the Olympic Games Amsterdam 1928, created by Florentine artist Giuseppe Cassioli (ITA -1865-1942) and chosen after a competition organised by the International Olympic Committee in 1921. For these Games, the figure of victory is accompanied by the specific inscription: "ИГРЫ XXII ОЛИМПАДЫ МОСКВА 1980".

On the reverse, a stylised Olympic Bowl with a burning flame set against the background of a stadium arena. The upper right-hand segment, carries the emblem of the Olympic Games Moscow 1980. The name of the sport appears on the rim.

| | 1 ST PLACE | 2 ND PLACE | 3 RD PLACE |
|---------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Designer: | Giuseppe CASSIOLI; Ilya POSTOL | Giuseppe CASSIOLI; Ilya POSTOL | Giuseppe CASSIOLI; Ilya POSTOL |
| Composition: | Gilt silver | Silver | Bronze |
| Diameter: | 60 mm | 60 mm | 60 mm |
| Manufacturer: | Moscow Mint | Moscow Mint | Moscow Mint |

> LOS ANGELES 1984



Obverse / Reverse

On the obverse, the traditional goddess of victory, holding a palm in her left hand and a winner's crown in her right. A design used since the Olympic Games Amsterdam 1928, created by Florentine artist Giuseppe Cassioli (ITA -1865-1942) and chosen after a competition organised by the International Olympic Committee in 1921. For these Games, the figure of victory is accompanied by the specific inscription: "XXIII OLYMPIAD LOS ANGELES 1984".

On the reverse, an Olympic champion carried in triumph by the crowd, with the Olympic stadium in the background.

| | 1 ST PLACE | 2 ND PLACE | 3 RD PLACE |
|---------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Designer: | Giuseppe CASSIOLI; Dugald STERMER | Giuseppe CASSIOLI; Dugald STERMER | Giuseppe CASSIOLI; Dugald STERMER |
| Composition: | Gilt silver | Silver | Bronze |
| Diameter: | 60 mm | 60 mm | 60 mm |
| Manufacturer: | Jostens Inc. | Jostens Inc. | Jostens Inc. |

> SEOUL 1988



Obverse / Reverse

On the obverse, the traditional goddess of victory, holding a palm in her left hand and a winner's crown in her right. A design used since the Olympic Games Amsterdam 1928, created by Florentine artist Giuseppe Cassioli (ITA -1865-1942) and chosen after a competition organised by the International Olympic Committee in 1921. For these Games, the figure of victory is accompanied by the specific inscription: "XXIV Olympiad Seoul 1988".

On the reverse, a dove, the symbol of peace, soaring up, holding a laurel branch in its mouth, and the Games emblem for Seoul composed of three Taeguk patterns from the Korean national flag and the five Olympic rings.

| | 1 ST PLACE | 2 ND PLACE | 3 RD PLACE |
|---------------|--|--|--|
| Designer: | Giuseppe CASSIOLI ; Yang SUNG-CHUN | Giuseppe CASSIOLI ; Yang SUNG-CHUN | Giuseppe CASSIOLI ; Yang SUNG-CHUN |
| Composition: | 92.5% gold gilt with more than 5 gr. of gold | Silver (92.5%); Bronze (7.5%) | Bronze (95%); Zinc (1%); Copper (4%) |
| Diameter: | 60 mm | 60 mm | 60 mm |
| Manufacturer: | Korea Security Printing and Minting Corporation | Korea Security Printing and Minting Corporation | Korea Security Printing and Minting Corporation |

> BARCELONA 1992



Obverse / Reverse

On the obverse, the traditional goddess of victory, holding a palm in her left hand and a winner's crown in her right. For these Games, the figure of victory is in a Modernist style and accompanied by the specific inscription: "XXV OLIMPIADA BARCELONA 1992".

On the reverse the official emblem of the Olympic Games Barcelona 1992.

| | 1 ST PLACE | 2 ND PLACE | 3 RD PLACE |
|---------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Designer: | Xavier CORBERO | Xavier CORBERO | Xavier CORBERO |
| Composition: | Gilt silver | Silver | Bronze |
| Diameter: | 70 mm | 70 mm | 70 mm |
| Manufacturer: | Fábrica Nacional de Moneda y Timbre | Fábrica Nacional de Moneda y Timbre | Fábrica Nacional de Moneda y Timbre |

> ATLANTA 1996



Obverse / Reverse

On the obverse, the traditional goddess of victory, holding a palm in her left hand and a winner's crown in her right. A design used since the Olympic Games Amsterdam 1928, created by Florentine artist Giuseppe Cassioli (ITA -1865-1942) and chosen after a competition organised by the International Olympic Committee in 1921. For these Games, the figure of victory is accompanied by the specific inscription: "XXVI OLYMPIAD ATLANTA 1996".

On the reverse, the official emblem of the Olympic Games Atlanta 1996 and the 'Quilt of Leaves' design. For each sport the medals awarded to the athletes (not shown here) were minted with the addition of the relevant sport pictogram positioned in the centre of the 'Quilt of Leaves'.

| | 1 ST PLACE | 2 ND PLACE | 3 RD PLACE |
|---------------|--|--|--|
| Designer: | Giuseppe CASSIOLI; Malcolm GREAR Designers | Giuseppe CASSIOLI; Malcolm GREAR Designers | Giuseppe CASSIOLI; Malcolm GREAR Designers |
| Composition: | Gilt silver | Silver | Bronze |
| Diameter: | 70 mm | 70 mm | 70 mm |
| Manufacturer: | Reed and Barton | Reed and Barton | Reed and Barton |

> SYDNEY 2000



Obverse / Reverse

On the obverse, the traditional goddess of victory, holding a palm in her left hand and a winner's crown in her right. For these Games, the figure of victory is accompanied by the specific inscription: "XXVII OLYMPIAD SYDNEY 2000".

On the reverse, the Sydney Opera House, the Olympic torch and the Olympic rings are represented.

| | 1 ST PLACE | 2 ND PLACE | 3 RD PLACE |
|---------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| Designer: | Wojciech PIETRANIK | Wojciech PIETRANIK | Wojciech PIETRANIK |
| Composition: | Gold (6 gr.); Silver (99,99%) | Silver (99,99%) | Bronze (99%); Silver (1%) |
| Diameter: | 68 mm | 68 mm | 68 mm |
| Manufacturer: | Royal Australian Mint | Royal Australian Mint | Royal Australian Mint |

> ATHENS 2004



Obverse / Reverse

The main feature of the medals is the Greek character shown on both sides, since their basic side has been changed for the first time since the Olympic Games Amsterdam 1928. This is of particular importance, as from now on all Olympic medals will reflect the Greek character of the Games as regards both their origin and their revival.

On the medals awarded to Olympic athletes from 1928 until the Olympic Games Sydney 2000, goddess Nike was seated, holding an ear of corn in one hand and a wreath in the other. Here, she flies into the stadium bringing victory to the best athlete. The Organising Committee has chosen to show the Panathenaic Stadium, where the Games were first renewed in 1896.

On the obverse, the athlete's discipline is also engraved.

The reverse side of the medal is composed of three elements: the eternal flame that was lit in Olympia and travelled through the five continents by way of the 2004 Torch Relay; the opening lines of Pindar's Eighth Olympic Ode composed in 460 BC to honour the victory of Alkimedon of Aegina in wrestling and the emblem of the Olympic Games Athens 2004.

| | 1 ST PLACE | 2 ND PLACE | 3 RD PLACE |
|---------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Designer: | Elena VOTSI | Elena VOTSI | Elena VOTSI |
| Composition: | Gold; Silver | Silver | Bronze |
| Diameter: | 60 mm | 60 mm | 60 mm |
| Manufacturer: | Efsimon | Efsimon | Efsimon |

> BEIJING 2008



Obverse / Reverse

For the first time jade is used for the Olympic medals. The medals have been designed with inspiration coming from "bi", China's ancient jade piece inscribed with a dragon pattern. The medals symbolise nobility and virtue and are the embodiment of traditional Chinese values of ethics and honour, emitting a strong Chinese flavour.

Noble and elegant, the medals are a blending of traditional Chinese culture and Olympism. On their obverse side, the medals reflect the Greek character of the Olympic Games: the goddess of victory Nike pictured in the Panathenaic Stadium. While on their reverse side, the medals are inlaid with jade with the emblem of the Olympic Games Beijing 2008 engraved in the metal centrepiece. The design inspiration of the medal hook derives from jade "huang", a ceremonial jade piece decorated with a double dragon pattern and "Pu", the reed mat pattern.

| | 1 ST PLACE | 2 ND PLACE | 3 RD PLACE |
|---------------|--|--|--|
| Designer: | Medal Design Group, China Central Academy of Fine Arts | Medal Design Group, China Central Academy of Fine Arts | Medal Design Group, China Central Academy of Fine Arts |
| Composition: | Gold (6 gr.); Silver; Jade | Silver; Jade | Bronze; Jade |
| Diameter: | 70 mm | 70 mm | 70 mm |
| Manufacturer: | China Banknote Printing and Minting Corp | China Banknote Printing and Minting Corp | China Banknote Printing and Minting Corp |

> LONDON 2012



Obverse / Reverse

On the obverse, the traditional goddess of victory flies into the Panathenaic Stadium bringing victory to the best athlete. For these Games, the figure of victory is accompanied by the specific inscription: "XXX Olympiad London 2012".

The reverse features an abstract design with the emblem of the Olympic Games London 2012 at its centre as a metaphor for the modern city. The design also includes a ribbon representing London's Thames river and an interlocking grid pattern that radiates from the centre and pulls the design together, giving it a sense of outreach while also representing the achievements and efforts of Olympic athletes. A square, which encases the balance of the design, opposes the circular shape of the medals and emphasizes its focus on the centre, reinforcing the sense of place, as in a map inset.

| | 1 ST PLACE | 2 ND PLACE | 3 RD PLACE |
|---------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Designer: | David Watkins | David Watkins | David Watkins |
| Composition: | Gold (1.34%); Silver(92.5%); Copper | Silver (92.5%); Copper | Copper (97%); Zinc (2.5%); Tin (0.5%) |
| Diameter: | 85 mm | 85 mm | 85 mm |
| Manufacturer: | Royal Mint | Royal Mint | Royal Mint |

> RIO 2016



Obverse / Reverse

The obverse shows the design in place since the Olympic Games Athens 2004 with the inscription “XXXI Olimpiada Rio 2016”.

The reverse features the emblem of the Olympic Games Rio 2016 surrounded by laurel leaves, which represent the link between Olympic athletes and nature. Their crown shape recalls those awarded to the winners in Ancient Greece and evokes victory. The medals showcase sustainability. The gold used was extracted without using mercury. Part of the silver was taken from x-ray plates, car parts and pieces of mirror. Over 40 per cent of the copper in the bronze medals came from the maker’s own industrial waste. Half of the plastic used in making the ribbon came from recycled plastic bottles.

| | 1 ST PLACE | 2 ND PLACE | 3 RD PLACE |
|---------------|--|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Designer: | Casa da Moeda do Brasil | Casa da Moeda do Brasil | Casa da Moeda do Brasil |
| Composition: | Silver (494g - 92.5% pure), Gold (6g - 99.9% pure) | Silver | 97% copper (475g), 3% zinc (25g) |
| Diameter: | 85 mm | 85 mm | 85 mm |
| Manufacturer: | Casa da Moeda do Brasil | Casa da Moeda do Brasil | Casa da Moeda do Brasil |

SOURCES

- "[Medalhas Olímpicas e Paralímpicas são as mais sustentáveis da história dos Jogos](#)", notícia, website of Casa da Moeda do Brasil, 14 juin 2016 (modified 18 June 2016).
- "Rio 2016 reveals Olympic medals, celebrating nature and sustainability", news, website of Rio 2016, 14 June 2016.
- "Sustainable secrets of the Rio 2016 medals", news, website of Rio 2016, 20 July 2016.

> TOKYO 2020



Obverse/Reverse

The obverse features the design used since the Olympic Games Athens 2004, with the inscription “Games of the XXXII Olympiad Tokyo 2020”.

On the reverse, around the emblem of the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020, which expresses the message of “unity in diversity”, the lines collect and reflect myriad patterns of light, symbolising the energy of the athletes and those who support them. The design is intended to symbolise diversity and the constant efforts of athletes striving for victory. The medals resemble rough stones that have been polished and which now shine with light and warmth, evoking the friendship created between the peoples of the world.

In order to come up with a range of medal designs from which to choose, Tokyo 2020 held a competition open to professional designers and design students which attracted more than 400 entries.

As part of its environmental protection efforts, the Organising Committee launched a huge programme to obtain the metals needed for the medals, and installed recycling points to collect used electronic devices all over Japan. In all, 78,985 tonnes of devices were collected, from which the 30.3kg of gold, 4,100kg of silver and 2,700kg of bronze needed to produce the medals were obtained.

For its part, the medal ribbon features traditional Japanese design motifs in a modern presentation. Silicone convex lines are applied on the surface of the ribbon so it is possible to recognise the type of medal by simply touching it.

| | 1 ST PLACE | 2 ND PLACE | 3 RD PLACE |
|---------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------|
| Designer: | Junichi Kawanishi | Junichi Kawanishi | Junichi Kawanishi |
| Composition: | Gold (more than 6 gr.), silver | Silver | Red Brass (95% copper and 5% zinc) |
| Diameter: | 85 mm | 85 mm | 85 mm |
| Manufacturer: | Japan Mint | Japan Mint | Japan Mint |

SOURCES

- "[Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games Medal](#)", official website Tokyo 2020.
- "[Designs of Tokyo 2020's recycled medals unveiled](#)", news, website of the International Olympic Committee, 24 July 2019.

> CREDITS

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