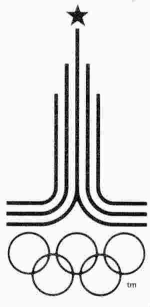
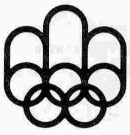
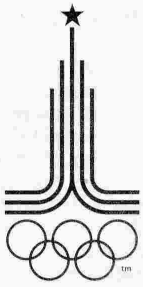
Official First Day Covers
Olympic Sports
Games of the XXII Olympiad



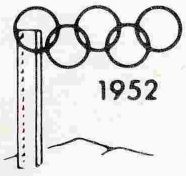
Copyright © (1978), Paramount International Coin Corporation.

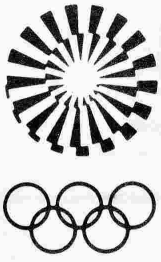


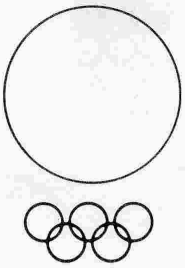


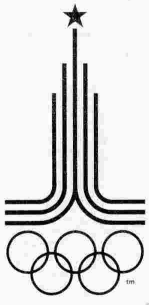
This Limited Edition Collection
of 1980 Olympic Official First Day Covers
belongs to

_____









The Olympic Symbol

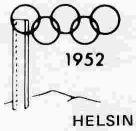
The Olympic symbol was created by Pierre de Coubertin, father of the Modern Olympics. From the stone altar at Delphi, where the ancient Pythian Games were held around 884 B.C., de Coubertin adapted the five carved rings to symbolize the five continents of the world. The symbol appeared on the white Olympic flag for the first time at the 1920 Games of Antwerp, Belgium. The five entwined circles are multicolored – blue, black, red, yellow and green – selected because at least one of these colors is represented in the flag of every participating nation. Since the London Games of 1948, each host country has had the opportunity to design its own Olympic Symbol incorporating the original five ring pattern. All nine symbols introduced since 1948 are pictured below.

MEXICO CITY
1968

MONTREAL
1976

MOSCOW
1980

LONDON
1948

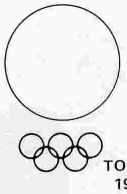


HELSINKI
1952

ROME
1960

MELBOURNE
1956

MUNICH
1972



TOKYO
1964

Official First Day Covers

Only 26,000 of each of the Official First Day Covers are available outside of the Soviet Union.

Copyright © (1978), Paramount International Coin Corporation. Printed in U.S.A.

PENTATHLON

The Modern Pentathlon is one of the few military-oriented events in the Olympic program. As originated by the Father of the Modern Olympics, Pierre de Coubertin, the pentathlon combines five events that a military messenger dispatched to the front line might encounter.

In this hypothetical situation, his horse was shot out from under him after he cleared various obstacles. So he fought with his sword until it broke and then resorted to his gun. After shooting his way to the riverbank, the messenger swam across and raced on foot to the front line with the message.

On that theme the first Modern Pentathlon was held in 1912 with cross-country riding, fencing, pistol shooting, freestyle swimming and a cross-country foot race included in the competition. The winner of the event was an American named Jim Thorpe, who won not only the pentathlon but the decathlon as well. Months later Thorpe was disqualified when it was discovered that he had been paid $60 for playing baseball for one month. Declared a professional, Thorpe's name was removed from the Olympic records.

Throughout the history of modern pentathlon events, Sweden has almost continually been the victor. In fact, Sweden won the gold, silver and bronze medals in three consecutive Olympic Games – 1912, 1920 and 1924. Interestingly enough, the only non-Swedish contender in the 1912 games who ranked among the top six contenders – with the exception of Thorpe – was a young American officer named George S. Patton – today recognized as one of the foremost generals of World War II.

Denomination 50+25 Kopecks

Copyright © (1978), Paramount International Coin Corporation.

SWIMMING

Swimming has been on the Olympic roster since the first modern Games of 1896. From the classic breaststroke dating to ancient Egypt, to the butterfly stroke introduced at the 1952 Olympics in Helsinki, swimming events have always rated high in Olympic popularity.

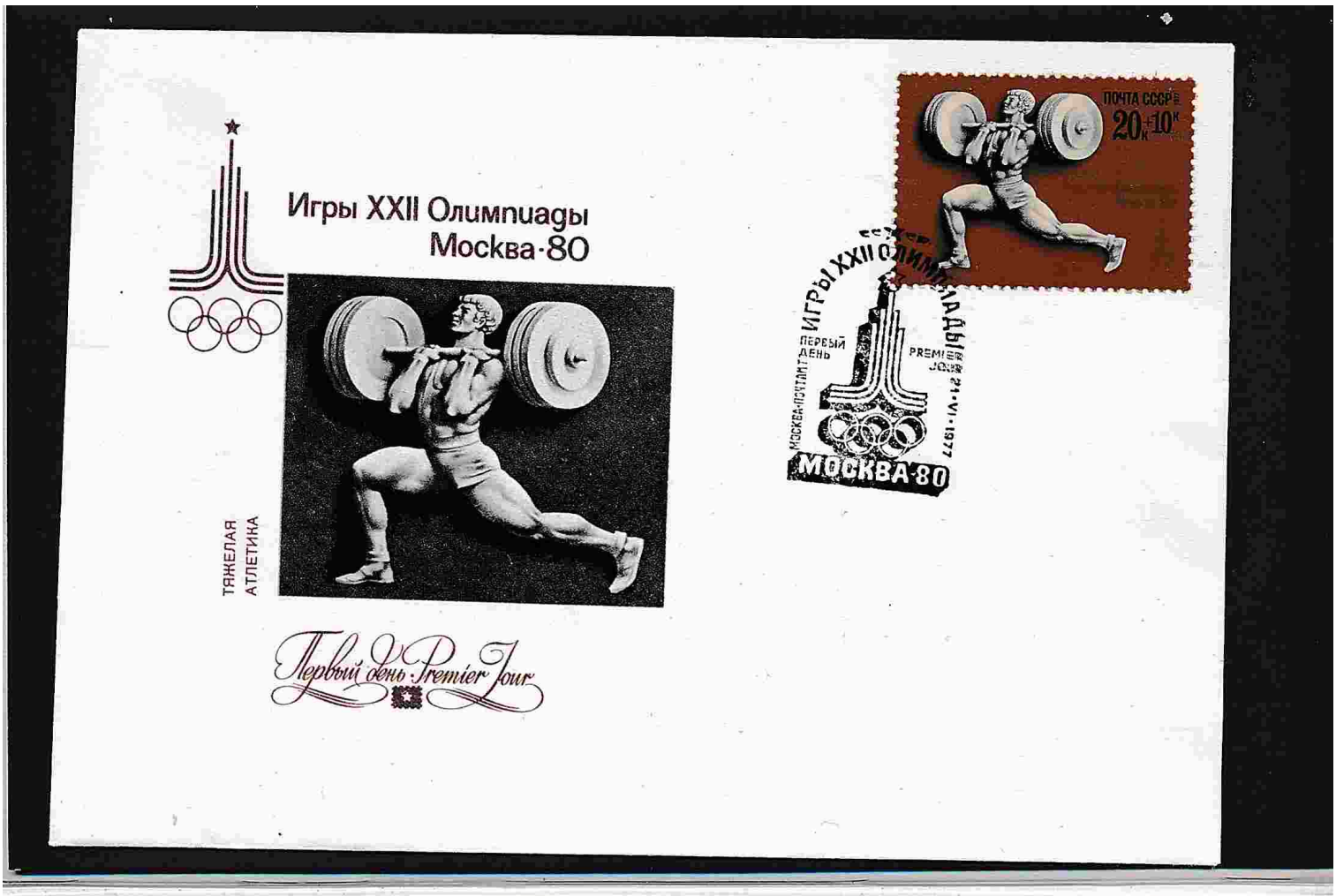
In 1896 Hungarian Alfred Hajos won the first Olympic title for freestyle swimming. But the competition was dangerous, for swimming races were held in the Bay of Zea at Athens, where the water was extremely cold and rough. The first Olympic swimming pool was constructed for the London Games of 1908. Dug out of the grass in the central athletic stadium, the water was neither heated nor filtered, but swimmers were at least relieved of the hazards of battling the sea.

Perhaps no other Olympic event has been as dominated by Americans as swimming. In the Games of 1912 and 1920, American Duke Kahanamoku — today recognized as the father of surfing — became the first man to win the 100-meter freestyle event at two successive Olympic Games. In 1924 and 1928 Johnny Weissmuller, later the Tarzan of movie fame, followed in Kahanamoku's footsteps to become the second man to win the freestyle events in two successive Olympic Games.

In 1964 American Don Schollander, whose front crawl technique was considered the best ever developed, became the first swimmer to win four gold medals in one Olympic competition. Four years later, Mark Spitz, also of the United States, shattered Schollander's record and set a world record of his own — the first athlete ever to win *seven* gold medals in one Olympics!

Denomination 4+2 Kopecks

Copyright © (1978), Paramount International Coin Corporation.



WEIGHTLIFTING

Competitions between strong men go back for thousands of years. In Greek mythology Atlas held the heavens on his shoulders. Samson's remarkable strength was attributed to never having cut his hair. Indeed, references to weightlifting competition and comparisons of power can be found in legends and traditions all over the world.

Competitive weightlifting as a sport began in Germany and spread quickly through Europe. By the 1860's athletic clubs for strong men were being formed. The competitions of one hundred years ago were quite different from those of today. Weights were simple and could not be adjusted. A metal bar with a ball at each end was the first form of weight. The balls were either solid iron or filled with sand, pebbles, lead shot or pieces of metal. Competitions included lifting with one hand as well as both hands. In this form, weightlifting was included in the Olympic program of 1896.

Weightlifting took its present-day form in 1928. It was then that the exercises done with one hand were abolished and disc barbells appeared. The program of the Amsterdam Olympics in 1928 included the press, the snatch and the jerk, all with two hands.

Except for the Games in Paris (1900), London (1908) and Stockholm (1912), weightlifting has always been on the program of the Olympics.

"The World's Strongest Man" today is Olympic gold medal winner Vasili Alexeev of the Soviet Union. Alexeev earned that title in Montreal in 1976 when he set a new Olympic record with a combined lift of 440 kilos – 970 pounds! Alexeev went home a champion for the second successive Olympics.

Denomination 20+10 Kopecks

Copyright © (1978), Paramount International Coin Corporation.

CYCLING

Three years before the 1896 Olympic Games in Athens the first world cycling championship was held in Chicago. So it came as no surprise when cycling was added to the program of the Athens Games.

At that time the cycling competition was divided into events that today have been forgotten. For example, in Athens in 1896, riders endured a 12-hour race, and in London in 1908, one of the events was a 660-yard sprint.

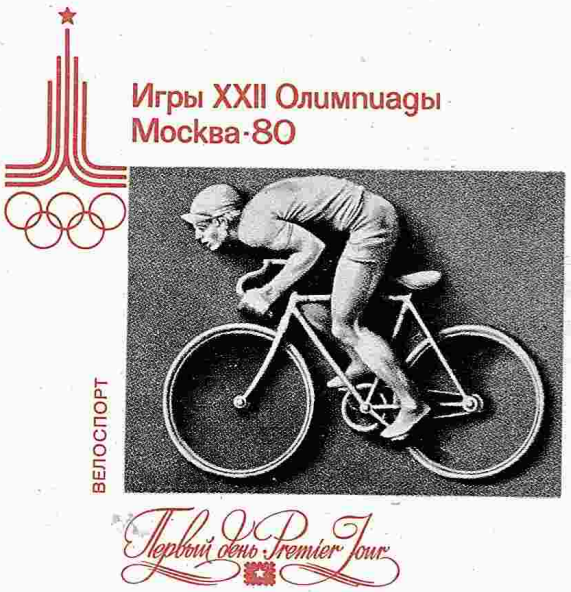
Present-day cycling in the Olympic Games consists of two kinds of road races, the team event and the individual competition. There are also four wooden track races: a 1,000-meter sprint, a 100-kilometer time trial, a 4,000-meter individual pursuit and a 4,000-meter team pursuit. Until the 1972 Olympic Games in Munich, a 2,000-meter tandem was also part of the program, but this event has since been removed as cycling's contribution to cutting the number of events in the Olympic program.

For many years the countries in which cycling as a sport arose and developed — France, Belgium, Italy, Switzerland, the Netherlands, Great Britain and Luxembourg — have taken great pride in their Olympic success. But in 1960, during the Rome Olympics, cyclists emerged from countries new to the sport: Poland, Germany, Romania and the U.S.S.R.

Over the years the superiority of cyclists from Scandinavia and the East European countries has emerged, especially in road races. Yet, on the whole, European cyclists are still in a class of their own.

Denomination 4+2 Kopecks

Copyright © (1978), Paramount International Coin Corporation.



SPORT WALKING

Sport walking as an organized sport began around the mid-19th century, although individual feats were recorded earlier. The Amateur Athletic Club of England sponsored a seven-mile event in 1866, and during the 1870's and 1880's there were races held in New York City. These indoor championships consisted of six days of walking, with breaks, naturally, for resting and eating.

Elements of this distinctive racing style are a rapid pulling motion of the legs, pronounced and rhythmic motion of the hips, and exaggerated arm and shoulder movement. Top sport walkers travel at a rate of about six minutes per mile, or twice that of experienced hikers.

The rules stipulate that (1) there must be unbroken contact with the ground and (2) the leg on the ground must be straightened for at least one moment. Perhaps the hardest part of the sport is resisting the temptation to break these rules. Infringements are difficult to detect, so the judges are highly trained. A white flag constitutes a warning (there is only one allowed) and a red flag signals disqualification.

Olympic sport walking does not include women. The 50-kilometer event was introduced in 1932 (but was not part of the 1976 Games) and the 20-kilometers came in 1956. Most top Olympic striders have emerged from Europe — primarily East Germany, Great Britain and the U.S.S.R. Exceptions are the 1956 50-kilometers and the 1976 20-kilometers gold medalists. They were from, respectively, New Zealand and Mexico.

Denomination 10+5 Kopecks

Copyright © (1979), Paramount International Coin Corporation

HIGH JUMPING

The Celts included high jumping in their outdoor games, a vital part of their fairs and festivals. And Scottish immigrants carried on the tradition in America with such events as the New World Highland Games held in Boston in 1853.

Olympic high jumping began in 1896 for men and 1928 for women. In this event, the athlete must get himself over the crossbar. There is only one stipulation — he must leave the ground from *one* foot, not two. High jumpers are allowed three attempts at clearing each height.

Through the years there have been many different styles of clearing the crossbar. They range from the scissors to the Eastern cut-off, the Western roll, the Fosbury flop and the straddle. Indeed, every possible method has been explored.

At the 1924 Paris Games, Harold Osborn of the U.S.A. pushed the bar back onto the pegs as he jumped. That caused a change in apparatus —thereafter the support pegs pointed inward. Another change has been in the landing surface. Once a ground level sandpit, then a sawdust pit, it now consists of inflated or foam-rubber pads.

These innovations in style and equipment have aided the Olympic high jumpers in their constant breaking of previous records. Men have progressed from 5 ft., 11¼ in. to 7 ft., 4½ in. and women have moved from 5 ft., 2¾ in. to 6 ft., 4 in. The U.S.A. is the chief medal winner in the men's event (although in the last two Games they won only bronze awards) but the women's medals almost always go to Europeans.

Denomination 16+6 Kopecks

Copyright © (1979), Paramount International Coin Corporation

Индекс предприятия связи места назначения

SOLING CLASS

Yachting has been an Olympic sport since 1896. In fact, only the St. Louis Games of 1904 did not make provisions for yacht racing. And since that time, classes of yachting and designs of racing crafts have changed considerably.

New to the Olympics held in Munich in 1972 was the Soling class. The Soling craft, the boat currently most popular with racing enthusiasts, was designed by Jan Linge of Sweden. Chosen as the three-man keelboat class for the 1972 Games in Germany, some 2,300 Soling crafts are today raced throughout the world.

At 27 feet long, the Soling craft is the longest of the Olympic racing boats. And at over one *ton,* it surely is the heaviest. In view of those statistics, it is surprising that the Soling craft is so fast and nimble. But to sail this boat properly means hanging over the rail and trapezing at great length. The trapeze is a contraption which crew members can clip onto a harness thus attaching themselves to the craft at the end of the rope. This enables them to stand on the edge of the boat and lean out without falling overboard.

Once again, six out of seven races with the least amount of points marks the winner.

The Soling craft is distinguished by a horseshoe above the craft registration number on the mainsail.

Denomination 6+3 Kopecks

Copyright © (1978), Paramount International Coin Corporation.

470 CLASS

Relatively unnoticed until two years ago, the 470 Class racing craft became widespread after receiving international status and being adopted for the 1976 Olympic Games held in Montreal.

Designed by Frenchman Andre Cornu, this high performance two-man racing dinghy is made completely of fiberglass. At just 260 pounds, the boat is the lightest of the six Olympic racing class crafts.

The 470 class sailboat is distinguished by its flat bottom, full bow and centerboard. The helmsman sits while his crew of one rides the trapeze throughout the course.

Although the 470 class is new to the Olympics, boats from approximately 70 countries are expected to compete in this single event in Moscow in 1980.

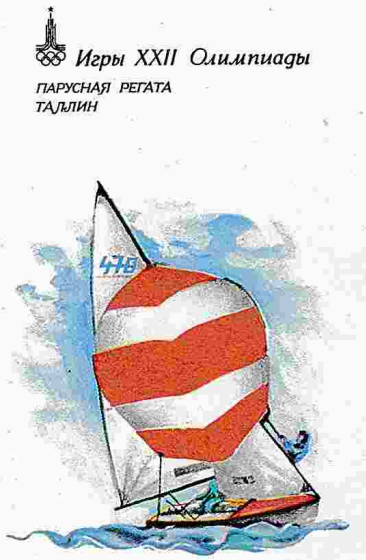
And, as is the tradition, the hosts of the regatta prepare these yachts for the Olympic athletes. Finn crafts and 470's for the 1980 Olympic Regatta are being built at the Tallinn Experimental Sports Shipyard in the Soviet Union.

The 470 class is composed of seven races over a prescribed course with the best six results determining the winning status of the yacht. The winner of the race is the craft with the *least* points.

The numbers 470 on the mainsail distinguish this craft from all others.

Denomination 10+5 Kopecks

Copyright © (1978), Paramount International Coin Corporation.



FINN CLASS

The single-handed Finn class came from the drawing board of Swedish naval architect Richard Sarby especially for the Olympic Games held in Helsinki, Finland, in 1952. Eight years later the Finn craft was also chosen to be the single-handed boat for the 1960 Olympics in Rome.

The high performance Finn sailboat represents perhaps the ultimate one-man racing dinghy design. The boat carries a 155 square foot mainsail on an unstayed mast. The mast bends slightly with the wind. Thus, the stronger the wind the more the mast bends, allowing a full-cut sail to flatten out in heavy air.

With the large area of the single sail, the Finn calls for a fairly tough and certainly, athletic, skipper to race it hard. Indeed, to keep the boat upright and moving, the helmsman must often be willing to trapeze outside the craft for two-thirds of the race. However, the Finn craft is more seaworthy than one might expect.

Like every other yachting class event, the Finn class is composed of seven races over a prescribed course with the best six results determining the winning status of the yacht. The winner of the race is the craft with the *least* points.

Finn class racing yachts are denoted by two wavy parallel lines above the number of the boat on the mainsail.

Denomination 16+6 Kopecks

Copyright © (1978), Paramount International Coin Corporation.

FLYING DUTCHMAN CLASS

The Flying Dutchman was originally conceived as a European leisure lake boat some 20 feet long. But it proved so good as a racing boat, it was adapted as a two-man centerboard class craft. It came as no surprise then when in 1957 the International Yacht Racing Union recommended that the two-man centerboard boat for the 1960 Olympic Games should be the Flying Dutchman.

The boat originally had been adopted as an international class for inland waters, but trials off Brittany showed that the Flying Dutchman was a good sea boat. One of the longest two-man racing boats, it is a little slower in going about than most racers are used to. But with the aid of the trapeze,the Flying Dutchman planes quickly and travels fast.

In each racing class there are seven races over a prescribed course marked by buoys. The fastest time naturally wins. Crafts count the best six results from seven races and the winner is the yacht with the *least* points.

The Flying Dutchman is relatively stable, but is a sensitive racing boat and needs an experienced and knowledgeable helmsman to drive it at top speed. Flying Dutchman crafts are distinguished by the sail marking of "FD" above the number of the boat.

Denomination 20+10 Kopecks

Copyright © (1978), Paramount International Coin Corporation.

FREE-STYLE GYMNASTICS

Gymnastics has a long history in the world of athletic competition. The Fédération Internationale de Gymnastique (FIG) was formed in 1881, five years before the first large scale meeting of gymnasts at the Olympic Games in Athens in 1896.

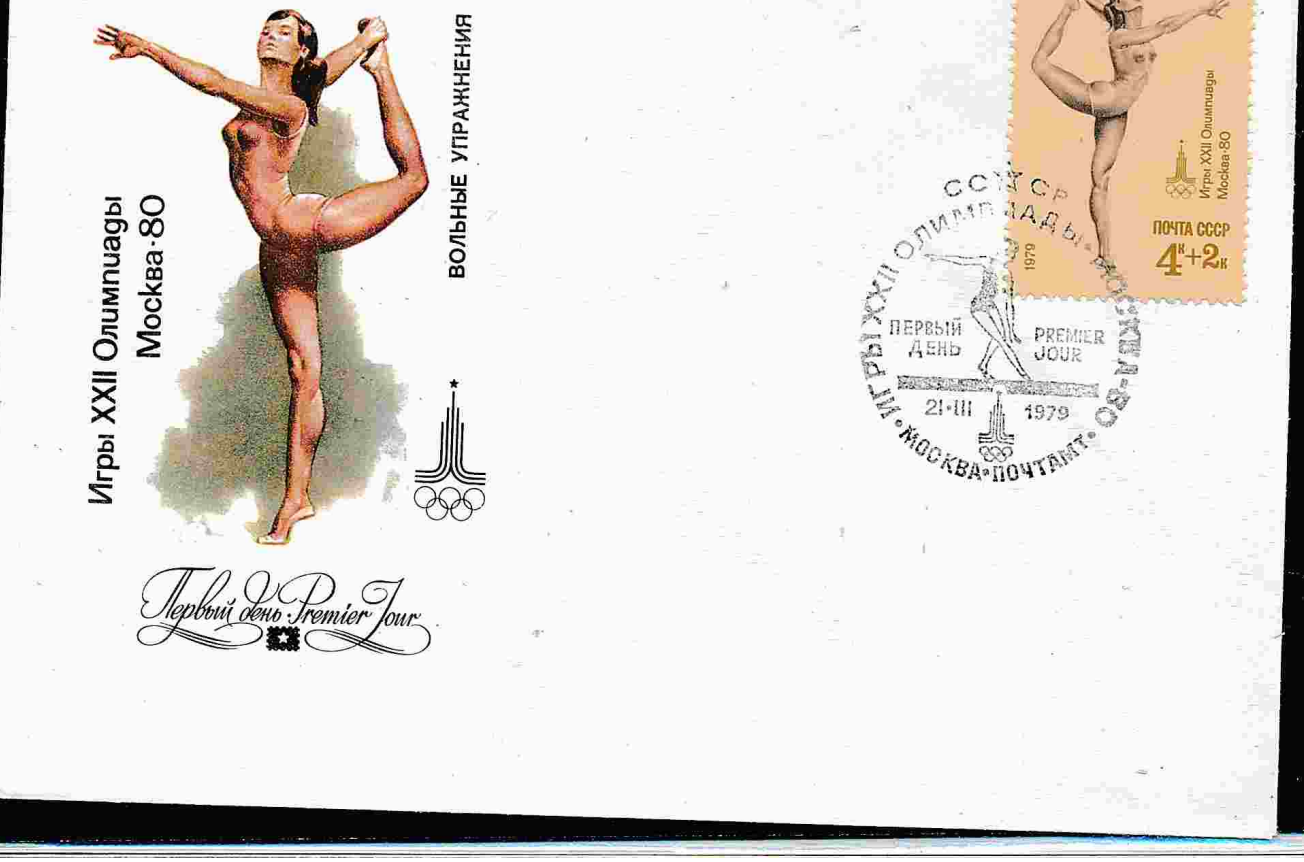
Free-style gymnastics is a women's event during which the athlete must present a 50-70 second exercise set to music. And more than any other gymnastics event, free-style is really a combination of motion and emotion. The movements must demonstrate flexibility — tumbling movements such as handsprings, cartwheels and somersaults in the air — leaps and jumps, strength, holding of poses, balances and other stunts.

The gymnast usually starts and finishes the exercise with a series of tumbling movements followed by one-leg balances, handstands pressed into by sheer strength — with ballet and jumps interposed! All this combined with music offers the spectator a truly exciting performance of grace, beauty and style plus highly tuned skill and precision.

The women of the Soviet Union currently hold the top places in free-style gymnastics. Nellie Kim, currently the sweetheart of gymnastics, earned the coveted gold medal in 1976 in Montreal while her teammate Olga Korbut won the gold medal at Munich in 1972.

Denomination 4+2 Kopecks

Copyright © (1979), Paramount International Coin Corporation.



ACADEMIC ROWING

While competitive rowing dates from the 19th century, the technique itself began with professional watermen, with boats for hire, who have plied their trade for hundreds of years.

Academic rowing has been a part of the Olympic Games since 1900. But the two most important inventions in academic rowing were introduced long before that time. In 1844 the *outrigger* was invented by an Englishman who discovered that oarlocks attached to metal rods "rigged out" from the side of the boat relieved the need for the leverage a wide boat offered. This made possible the design of long, narrow boats for greater speed. These long boats led to wide seats on which the oarsmen slid back and forth to increase the length of their strokes. In 1857, an American rower — well familiar with the pain of constant body friction on the seats — developed the *sliding seat.* This not only lengthened the strokes of the rowers, but also transferred the physical exertion of rowing from their backs to their legs.

There are presently eight academic rowing events for men and six for women, who have competed in rowing only once — Montreal in 1976. Joan Lind won the first United States medal in women's academic rowing — a silver medal for having finished a close second to gold medal winner Christine Scheiblich of East Germany.

Of all the academic rowers in the world, none are as proficient in their sport as the Germans. Time and time again — and in every rowing event — Germany has earned Olympic medals — gold, silver and bronze. It is no wonder that their style and skill is envied the world over.

Denomination 50+25 Kopecks

Copyright © (1978), Paramount International Coin Corporation.

STAR CLASS

The Star class, which originated in the United States in 1911, is the most widespread and certainly the most popular of all the international class racing yachts.

The largest keelboat class in the world, the Star class is one of three keelboat classes in the Olympic Games. Keelboat, in this instance, refers to a shallow flat-bottomed craft. A Star craft is also distinguished by its tall, large sail.

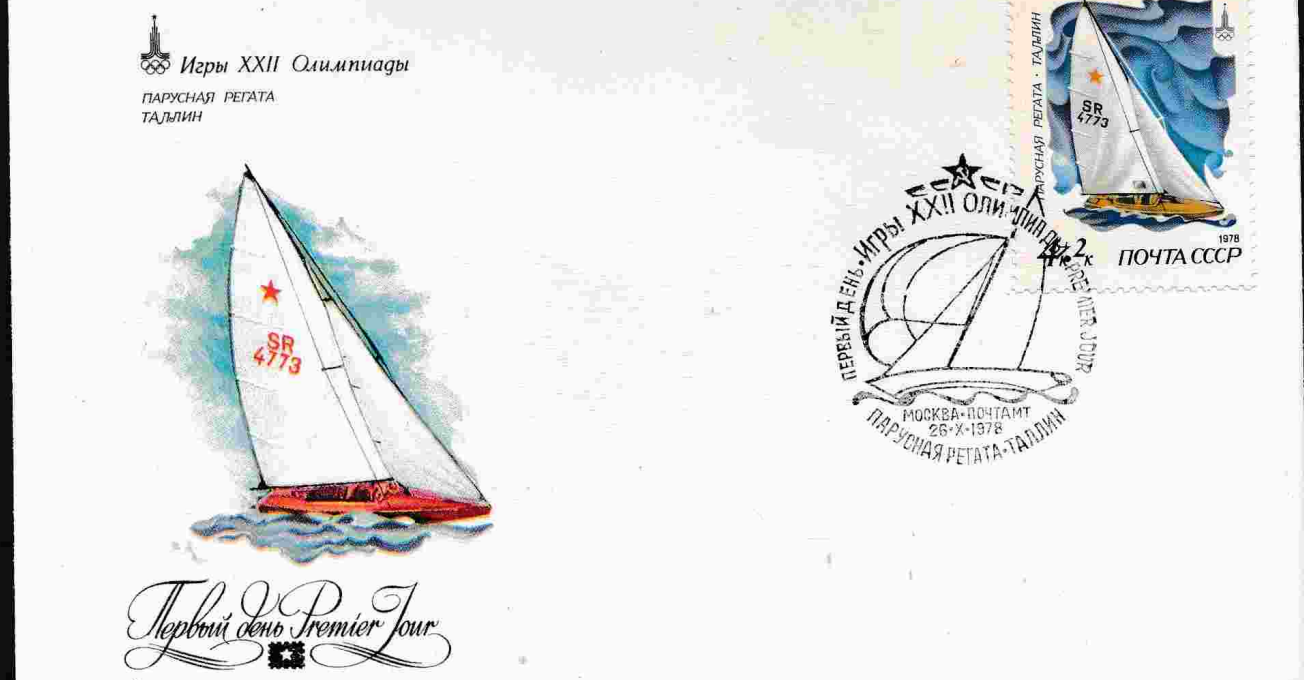
The crew of two normally "hikes" in a breeze in a Star craft; that is, clings to the topsides completely outside the hull in an effort to help bring the boat upright. Winning Stars in the Olympic competition have traditionally been from the United States or Italy.

As with all other racing classes on the international and Olympic levels, the Star class is composed of seven races over a prescribed course. Although the fastest time wins, the best six results from the seven races are judged and the winner is the yacht with the *least* points.

Star class crafts are marked by a five-point red star emblem on the sail above the registration number of the boat.

Denomination 4+2 Kopecks

Copyright © (1978), Paramount International Coin Corporation.



RELAY RACE

The relay race is one of the most exciting of all track and field events because four individual runners combine their separate talents to ensure victory for their team. Individual running events call for all-out effort or careful pacing but this event calls for that and more — skillful passing of the baton.

A badly passed baton results in precious moments wasted. And since the receiving teammate is already on the run, it oftentimes throws him off of his stride. Every fraction of a second is crucial in the relay race.

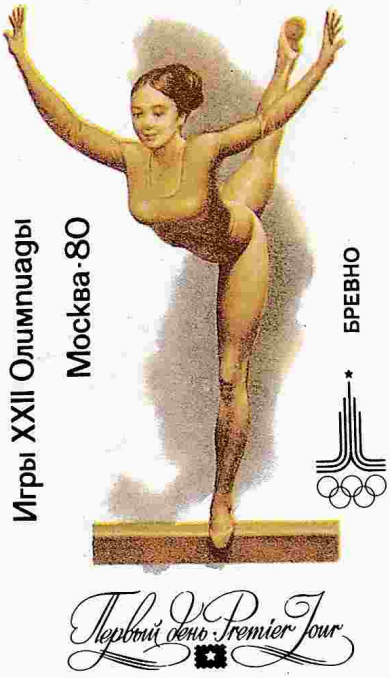
In 1912 the two existing men's events were added to the Olympic roster — the 4×100-meter and 4×400-meter races. In 1928, women ran in their first Olympic relay race — the 4×100 meters. It wasn't until 1972 that the women's 4×400 meters event was introduced.

As in all running events, speed has improved greatly, partly due to the substantial improvement of running surfaces. In the early Games dry cinders and grass made for shaky footing but today's runners have the benefit of modern technology — Tartan — a magnificent running surface.

In the men's category, U.S. athletes have dominated both relay events. U.S. women have won their share of 4×100-meter races but never the 4×400-meter race (won both times by the German Democratic Republic). There have been numerous European contenders and also success from smaller, underdeveloped countries such as Jamaica and Kenya.

Denomination 50+25 Kopecks

Copyright © (1979), Paramount International Coin Corporation



BALANCE BEAM

Imagine if you will, the skill needed to balance yourself on a beam just *four inches* wide. That alone is a feat. Imagine still doing a back flip and landing, gracefully yet, on the same four-inch surface!

The beam measures 16 feet long and a mere four inches wide. The exercise itself runs approximately 75 seconds and may or may not be executed to music.

The athlete begins her exercise by mounting the beam either by vault or by jumping. She then begins a series of movements that must include ballet steps, running, jumps, turns, sitting and/or lying positions and some held, or posed positions.

Since the inception of the balance beam event in the Helsinki Olympics of 1952, the women of Western Europe have excelled. In 1968 Natalia Kutchinskaya of the U.S.S.R. gained fame as gold medal winner of the balance beam. Four years later her teammate, little Olga Korbut, won the gold medal and the hearts of the world on the beam.

The current belle of the balance beam is young Nadia Comaneci of Romania. Truly the darling of the Montreal Games, Comaneci finished this exciting event with a near perfect score of 19.950 on a scale of 20.000!

Denomination 16+6 Kopecks

Copyright © (1979), Paramount International Coin Corporation.

Игры XXII Олимпиады

ПАРУСНАЯ РЕГАТА
ТАЛЛИН

Первый день Premier Jour

Игры XXII Олимпиады

ПАРУСНАЯ РЕГАТА · ТАЛЛИН

№ 068087

TORNADO CLASS

The Tornado catamaran craft was designed only a few years ago by Englishman Rodney March as an all-out racing machine. The Tornado class for international racing was founded in 1967 in England and chosen as the two-man catamaran class for the 1976 Olympics in Montreal, Canada.

Innovative in its use of a very tall mast, the Tornado craft is amazingly lightweight for a 20-foot racing boat. Stripped down, the Tornado weighs just over 300 pounds! A minimum lightweight boat like this one is most certainly for the expert who knows how to handle it. While the Tornado's super-light body allows unlimited movement and control, the unique sail design allows great weather buoyancy. A flick of the wrist turns the weather pin and a full sail takes the wind.

The first year Tornados were allowed as a class, they were raced with and on the same course as the Solings. The Tornado never failed to out run the Soling fleet in the 12-mile course. It wasn't long before Tornados were in a class of their own.

Like all Olympic yacht racing events, the Tornado class is run seven times over a prescribed course. Crafts count the best six of the seven races and the winner is the yacht with the *least* points.

Tornado class crafts are distinguished by a "T" and two parallel lines over the registration number on the mainsail.

Denomination 50+25 Kopecks

Copyright © (1978), Paramount International Coin Corporation.

RUNNING

Ancient Greek sculpture, ceramics and poetry depict running, thought by many historians to be the very oldest form of organized sport. In the Modern Olympics, running events for men were instituted early in the Games' history — most in 1896 and the latest in 1972. These distances include the 100, 200, 400, 800, 1,500, 5,000 and 10,000-meter races — and the marathon.

While most events are held on a track, this exhausting run takes the participant over roads and through the countryside. Twenty-six miles and 385 yards takes its toll on the long-distancer and the two hours and some odd minutes seem, in painful retrospect, like days.

Women's running events were slowly added to the Olympic roster starting in 1928 when the 100 and 800 meters were introduced. The 200 meters appeared in 1948; 400 meters, 1964 and, most recently, the 1,500 meters, in 1972.

To list the many countries proficient in running would be tedious. Suffice it to say, however, that besides the usual American and European victors, this sport offers an opportunity for many smaller, underdeveloped nations to make an Olympic showing.

Some of the great sprinters in Olympic history are Spiridon Louis, Paavo Nurmi, Jesse Owens, Emil Zatopek, Peter Snell, Abebe Bikila and Lasse Virén.

Denomination 4+2 Kopecks

Copyright © (1979), Paramount International Coin Corporation

HURDLING

The history of how this sport developed remains vague but the first hurdles were the same objects used by shepherds for folding sheep.

Hurdling has a long Olympic history — being an event of the first (1896) Games. All three men's events were introduced early while the only women's event, the 80 meters, made its Olympic debut in 1932 (in 1972 it was lengthened to 100 meters).

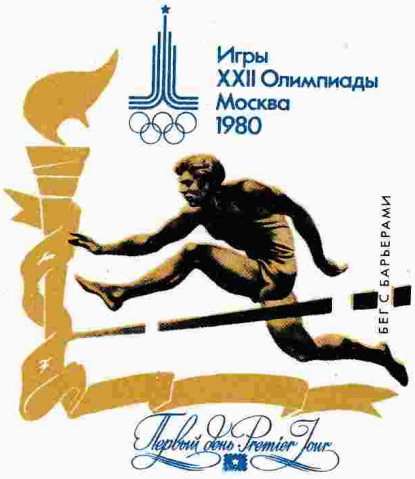
Men run the 110 and 400-meter races and the steeplechase. The two former contain ten obstacles each with the shorter race having taller hurdles, by six inches. The steeplechase, measuring 3,000 meters, contains a taxing 28 barriers and 7 water jumps.

The object in hurdling is to spend the least possible time in the air. In 1885 A.C.M. Croome of Oxford University developed a step-over method that has remained to this day. This technique involves a straight front leg, forward lunge of the trunk and snapping action of the trailing leg.

The U.S.A. fares quite well in the 110 and 400 meters. In the steeplechase, however, Finland, Great Britain and recently Kenya have proven to be strong. Medal-winning female hurdlers have come from Austria, the U.S.S.R., East and West Germany. The only two-time gold medalist in this sport is Lee Calhoun (U.S.A.), winner of the 110 meters in 1960 and 1964.

Denomination 6+3 Kopecks

Copyright © (1979), Paramount International Coin Corporation



Индекс предприятия связи места назначения

ПАРАЛЛЕЛЬНЫЕ БРУСЬЯ

PARALLEL BARS

The gymnastic program at the 1924 Games in Paris formed the basis of present day Olympic competition. For it was here that athletes began to compete in combined exercises for individual and team competition as well as for individual Olympic titles on the apparatus.

The parallel bars is usually the strongest event of the all-around gymnast. Strictly a man's event, the parallel bars truly offers a show of strength.

The two wooden bars are oval and measure eleven and a half feet long. They stand five and a half feet high from the ground. This exercise requires a sequence of at least 11 different movements. The routine must combine swings, vaults, strength and balance, with no more than three balances — handstands — in an exercise. There must be one movement of strength as well, plus the release and regrasping of the bar! Truly a spine tingler for the audience, the release and regrasping is traditionally one of the highlights of the parallel bars exercise.

The parallel bars competition has been won by the Japanese — without defeat — since 1964. Sawao Kato earned the gold in this event at both the 1972 and 1976 Olympic competitions and is expected to give another fine showing at the 1980 Games in Moscow.

Denomination 6+3 Kopecks

Copyright © (1979), Paramount International Coin Corporation.

HORIZONTAL BAR

Also known as the Crossbar, the Horizontal Bar event is traditionally the last event in the gymnastics meet because it is considered the most spectacular.

The bar itself measures seven and a half feet long and stands some eight and a half feet from the ground. It is made of polished steel and measures 28 millimeters in diameter.

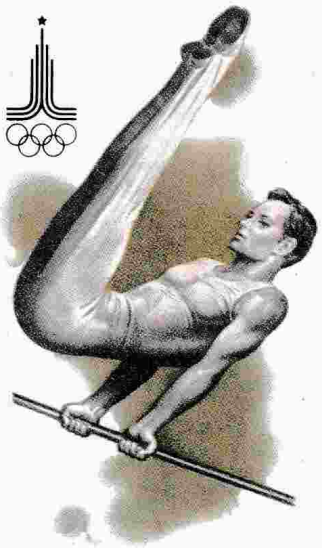
Only movements of swinging and vaulting — without pause — are permitted. Moreover, the 60-75 second routine must include various turns and changes of body position with releasing and regrasping of the bar. The dismounts in the horizontal bar event are usually very spectacular, with straddles over the bar or high forward and backward somersaults from the bar.

The prime contenders for this event's title are Japanese and Russian. In 1968, there was a gold medal tie between Mikhail Voronin of the Soviet Union and Akinori Nakayama of Japan.

Today the reigning champion is Mitsuo Tsukahara of Japan, who earned the prized gold medal in both 1972 and 1976. Indeed, the horizontal bar competition in Moscow should be an exciting one when Japan and the Soviet Union once again vie for the title.

Denomination 10+5 Kopecks

Copyright © (1979), Paramount International Coin Corporation.



Индекс предприятия связи места назначения

LONG JUMPING

Long jumping was one of the five original pentathlon events in the Ancient Olympic Games. The Greeks used weights, called halteres, and it is not known if they jumped from a standing or running position.

Crucial to the modern long jump is the approach run. The athlete fouls if he touches beyond the take-off board yet loses precious inches if he misses short of his mark. There are two basic styles employed by modern long jumpers. In one, the "hang" or "tuck" style, the knees are simply tucked under the body. The more complicated but more popular technique is called the "hitch-kick". It involves taking a long step in midair.

Olympic competition for men started in 1896, yet women did not participate until 1948. The Games' rules allow for three trials (just as in high jump) and the official distance is measured from the take-off board to the nearest break in the sand made by any part of the body.

The great all-around U.S. athlete Jesse Owens set an Olympic record in 1936 that wasn't beaten until the 1960 Games. And Bob Beamon, also of the U.S., jumped 29 ft., 2½ in. in 1968, a distance still unbeaten in the Olympic records. This feat has been called by many sports experts the greatest single achievement in track and field history.

As in the high jump event, U.S. men excel in this sport while European women hold the most Olympic honors.

Denomination 20+10 Kopecks

Copyright © (1979), Paramount International Coin Corporation

UNEVEN BARS

Another new event introduced in the 1952 Games at Helsinki, the Uneven Bars permit more movements and action than any of the other apparatus events.

One bar is seven and a half feet high while the other is four feet, eleven inches from the floor. Most bars are made of laminated hardwood, although some of the newest types available are of fiberglass with a wood veneer.

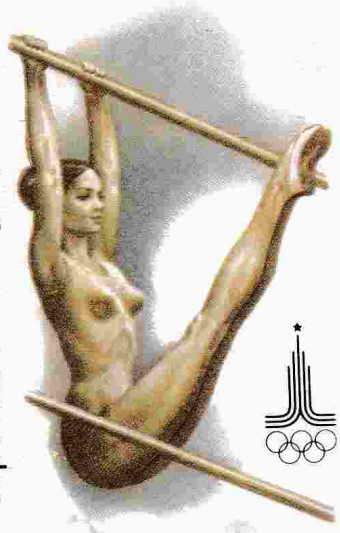
The uneven bars permit a variety of movements, although hanging and swinging exercises predominate most routines. One of the more popular movements is that of hanging from the higher bar and swinging forward to the lower bar. Interspersed are extremely difficult support and balance movements. Indeed, Olga Korbut brought the crowd to its feet with an amazing back somersault from the high bar at Munich in 1972.

In 1976 Nadia Comaneci of Romania stunned the entire stadium of spectators with a perfect score of 10 on the uneven bars! Today she reigns supreme and is expected to give her rivals a tough match in 1980.

Denomination 20+10 Kopecks

Copyright © (1979), Paramount International Coin Corporation.

Игры XXII Олимпиады Москва·80



РАЗНОВЫСОКИЕ БРУСЬЯ

Первый день Premier Jour

KAYAK ROWING

The canoe was the earliest form of true boat, so it seems appropriate that rowing be included in the Olympic Games. And although there were canoe demonstrations at the Paris Games of 1924, plus many petitions to have the event added to the roster, rowing was not finally accepted as an Olympic sport until 12 years later in Berlin.

There are three types of rowing events in the Olympics: kayak rowing, canoe rowing and academic rowing. The fourth Olympic stamp in Issue IV depicts Kayak Rowing.

In Kayak Rowing the canoeist sits in the bottom of the boat and uses a paddle with a blade at each end. He uses the left-hand blade on the left side of the Kayak and the right-hand blade on the right side of the kayak alternately performing a slightly rolling and twisting action with the body. Kayak competition includes singles rowing, pairs and four-man teams.

In Munich in 1972, a new dimension was added to Kayaking. Slalom races were introduced on a timed run down a set course on fast turbulent water. Penalty seconds for faulty negotiation were also added. Although this event was not part of the 1976 Games, it is expected that slalom races will be on the 1980 Olympics roster.

Since 1936, the eastern European countries have continually been the Olympic medal winners. In fact, Germany and the Soviet Union are currently the dominant countries in Kayak Rowing.

Denomination 16+6 Kopecks

Copyright © (1978), Paramount International Coin Corporation.

POLE VAULTING

The feat of pole vaulting supposedly evolved from men crossing streams, gullies or fences with the assistance of poles. It has a long Olympic history, being in every Games since 1896.

The pole vaulter, just like the high jumper, is given three tries at each height. His approach run measures 100 to 150 feet and in this distance he gains the great speed and momentum needed to hurl himself over the crossbar. Two things can disqualify the vaulter — a shift of his hands on the pole after takeoff or the dislodging of the crossbar.

Throughout the years the pole has been altered. It has been wood, metal and finally fiberglass. The fiberglass pole brought about the most revolutionary change in the sport, for in just 8 years the record soared from 16 to 18 feet. (Previously, it had taken 13 years for the record to move from 14 to 15 feet.)

Japan, Finland and the German Federal Republic have captured silver and bronze medals in this event, yet the Americans lead in the gold metal category. The U.S.A. captured the title at every Olympics without fail until 1972. Then they lost to the German Democratic Republic; again in 1976 they lost, this time to Poland.

It goes without saying that at the 1980 Olympics American pole vaulters will be striving hard to recapture the championship title.

Denomination 4+2 Kopecks

Copyright © (1979), Paramount International Coin Corporation

CANOE ROWING

Often called Canadian rowing, Canoe Rowing is depicted on the fifth Olympic stamp in Issue IV. Canadian canoeing is executed in a kneeling position with a single-bladed paddle used on each side of the canoe. Olympic events include both single and pairs rowing.

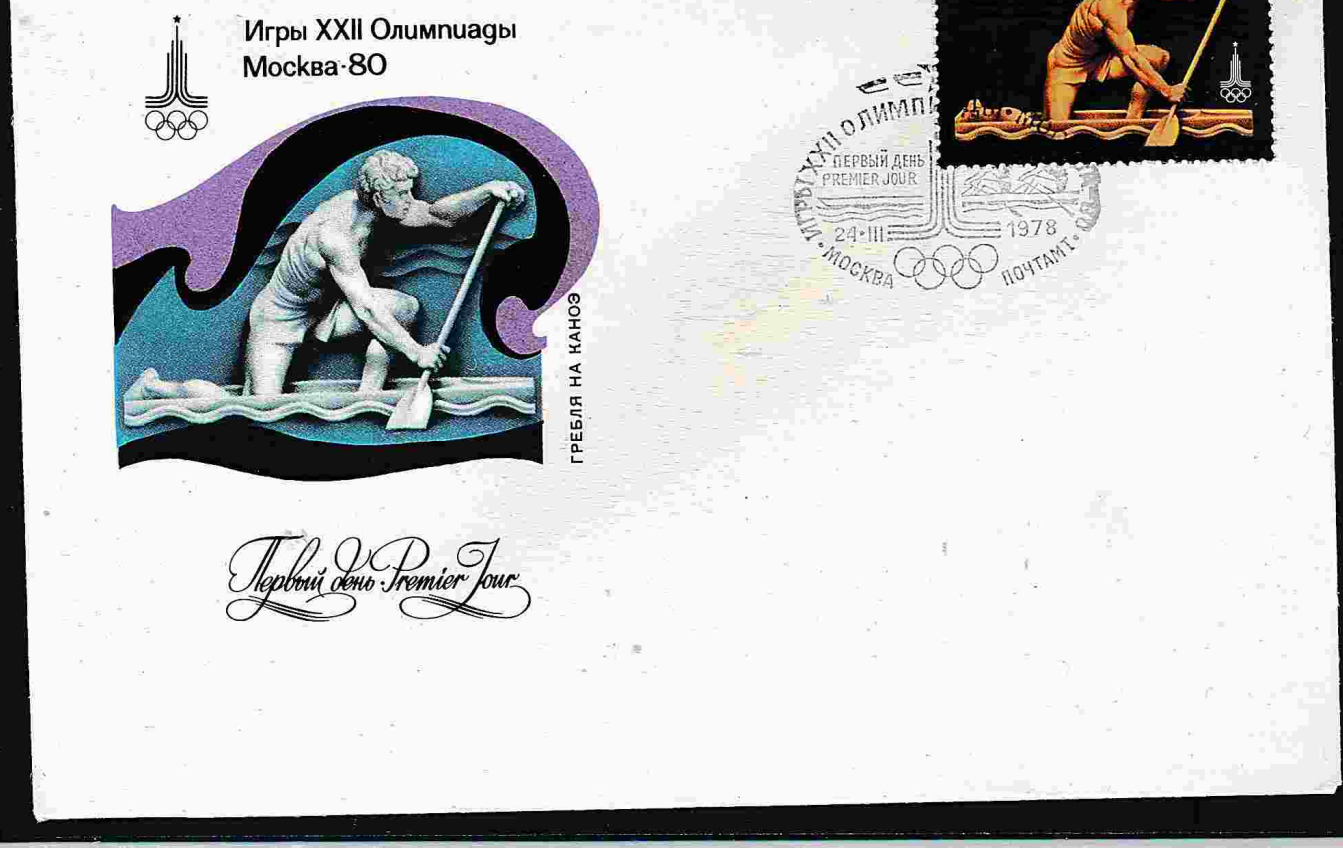
Canoeing as a modern sport is attributed to a Scotsman, John MacGregor who, in 1865, traveled extensively over the lakes and rivers of Europe in a boat designed after the kayak of the Eskimos. Following his travels, MacGregor wrote and lectured about his new sport and soon attracted adventurous people from all over the globe. Only one year later the first Canoe Club was formed. Today, there are scores of dedicated canoeists throughout the world.

In Berlin in 1936 — the first time Canoe Rowing was an official Olympic event — competition was conducted at the site of the rowing course at Grunau, a suburb on the River Spree. Unfortunately, these first competitions were held during stormy and unsettled weather, causing considerable difficulty and danger to participating athletes.

As is the case in kayaking, the eastern European nations are the most proficient in Canoe Rowing. However, it was appropriate that a Canadian won a medal in the Canadian Canoe class of the XXI Olympic Games in Montreal, Canada. The silver medal won by John Wood of Toronto, and another medal won by Spain, were the only two Canoe Rowing medals that didn't go to eastern European nations.

Denomination 20+10 Kopecks

Copyright © (1978), Paramount International Coin Corporation.



CANOE ROWING

Often called Canadian rowing, Canoe Rowing is depicted on the fifth Olympic stamp in Issue IV. Canadian canoeing is executed in a kneeling position with a single-bladed paddle used on each side of the canoe. Olympic events include both single and pairs rowing.

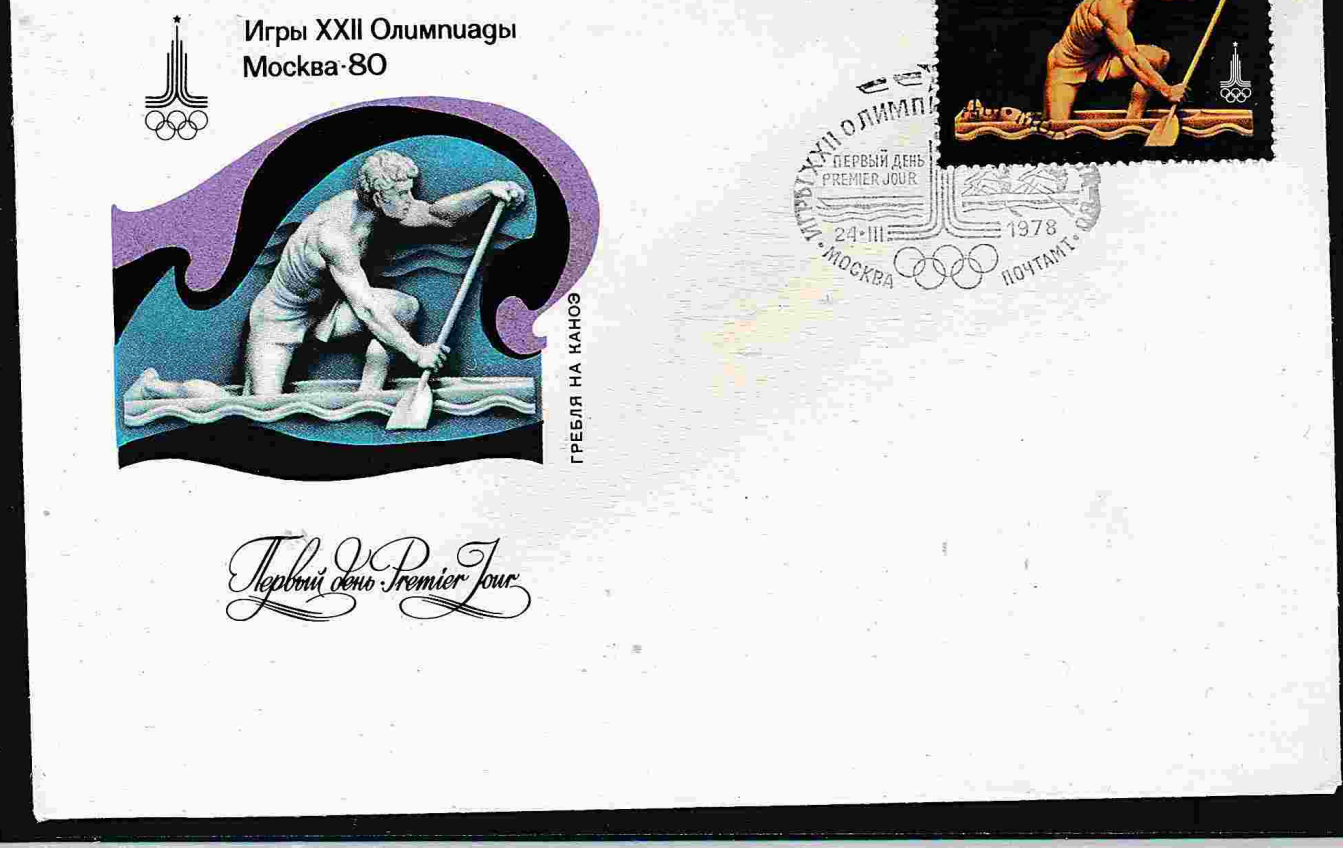
Canoeing as a modern sport is attributed to a Scotsman, John MacGregor who, in 1865, traveled extensively over the lakes and rivers of Europe in a boat designed after the kayak of the Eskimos. Following his travels, MacGregor wrote and lectured about his new sport and soon attracted adventurous people from all over the globe. Only one year later the first Canoe Club was formed. Today, there are scores of dedicated canoeists throughout the world.

In Berlin in 1936 — the first time Canoe Rowing was an official Olympic event — competition was conducted at the site of the rowing course at Grunau, a suburb on the River Spree. Unfortunately, these first competitions were held during stormy and unsettled weather, causing considerable difficulty and danger to participating athletes.

As is the case in kayaking, the eastern European nations are the most proficient in Canoe Rowing. However, it was appropriate that a Canadian won a medal in the Canadian Canoe class of the XXI Olympic Games in Montreal, Canada. The silver medal won by John Wood of Toronto, and another medal won by Spain, were the only two Canoe Rowing medals that didn't go to eastern European nations.

Denomination 20+10 Kopecks

Copyright © (1978), Paramount International Coin Corporation.



BOXING

Boxing, or pugilism, was introduced into the ancient Olympics in 686 B.C. Opponents first wrapped leather straps around their hands to increase the force of their blows. Later the Romans brutalized the sport by putting metal spikes over the knuckles of hard leather gloves.

The organizers of the first modern Olympics at Athens decided to omit boxing from the slate of events because it was ungentlemanly, dangerous and "practised by the dregs of the population". Eighty years later a record number of 337 fights in 11 weight categories were viewed by spectators at the Montreal Games.

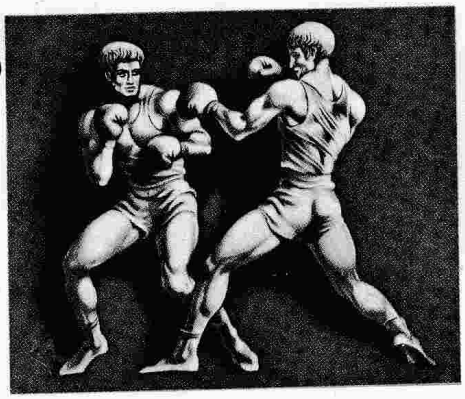
Boxing made its first appearance in the modern Games in 1904 at St. Louis when the program included a demonstration of women boxing. From the 1924 Olympics of Antwerp came American flyweight Frankie De Genaro, the first Olympic winner to go on to become a professional world champion. The 1960 Rome Games turned out another future world champion in American light heavyweight Cassius Clay (Muhammad Ali), while heavyweight Joe Frazier was to come out of the 1964 Games in Tokyo.

While the Eastern European nations had traditionally dominated Olympic boxing, the tide turned in 1976. At Montreal the United States firmly established superiority over the well-seasoned amateur boxers from Cuba and the Soviet Union. Five gold medals, a silver and a bronze — the greatest haul of awards ever earned by a boxing team in Olympic Games history — were captured by the United States Boxing Team.

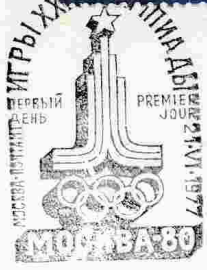
Denomination 16+6 Kopecks

Copyright © (1978), Paramount International Coin Corporation.

Игры XXII Олимпиады
Москва·80



БОКС



Первый день Premier Jour

HANDBALL

Olympic Handball is very different from the handball that Americans know. Handball in the Olympics is a team game with 12 players — 10 courtmen and two goaltenders — on each side, with seven of those on the court at all times. The game is played on a field 131 feet, four inches long and 65 feet, eight inches wide. The nets are six feet, six and three-quarter inches high and nine feet, 10¼ inches wide.

This style of handball, played mainly in Europe, is a combination of basketball and soccer. Although it is played mainly with the hands, players also may advance the ball using any part of the body above the knees. The ball itself is about the size of a large grapefruit and looks like a volleyball.

Handball is a fast game, and the rules permit passing in any direction at any time. Handball matches generally are fairly high-scoring because players may throw the ball at the net and the goalie has a wide expanse of net to cover.

This particular form of handball has appeared in only three Olympics. In the Berlin Games of 1936, there were 11 players to a side. During the 40's and 50's that form of the game declined in popularity and soon after the rules changed to seven players on a side. It was this form of men's handball that appeared at the Munich Games in 1972. In 1976, women's handball was introduced.

The current gold medal holder in both men's and women's handball is the Soviet Union.

Denomination 16+6 Kopecks

Copyright © (1979), Paramount International Coin Corporation

JUDO

Although practiced for centuries, the ancient combat sport of Judo was not added to the Olympic program until 1964 in Tokyo. Judo is derived from medieval Japanese fighting skills, the most famous of which is jujitsu, used by warriors when unarmed. And while Judo is certainly a sport, it is intense physical education and self-defense as well.

The fundamental principle of Judo is using the opponent's own moves to get him off balance in order to throw him. The contest is won at the moment a fighter either throws an opponent on his back, armlocks him into submission, or holds him immobile on his back for 30 seconds.

It was not until after World War II that the competitive sport of Judo really flourished. Judo was included in the 1964 Olympics under the ruling that the host country could select a sport of its own choice for the program, but was not part of the Mexico City Games in 1968. It was again added to the competition in Munich four years later and in Montreal in 1976.

While the Japanese — inventors of the sport — have always reigned supreme in the competition, the U.S.S.R. has done remarkably well. One of the world's foremost Judo experts, however, is Anton Geesink of the Netherlands. Geesink was, in fact, the first competitor to beat the Japanese Judo champion in his own country and make Judo truly an international sport.

Denomination 10+5 Kopecks

Copyright © (1978), Paramount International Coin Corporation.

GRASS HOCKEY

Grass or Field Hockey is played everywhere in the world, and is known by almost as many names as the number of countries in which it is played.

First introduced to the Olympics in the London Games of 1908, grass hockey was from the beginning one of the fastest and roughest of the team sports. England won the gold medal then and again in 1920 in Antwerp when a hockey competition was held for the second time.

In Amsterdam in 1928, India won the gold medal and became the unbeatable masters of hockey until it was finally defeated by Pakistan in 1956 — seven Olympic Games later! India regained its title in 1964 but lost again to Pakistan in '68. In spite of its fluctuations of fortune, India is still widely regarded as the foremost exponent of the game. In 1972, West Germany took the gold medal and became the first continental European country to win this Olympic championship. The present Grass Hockey gold medal holder is New Zealand.

The game of hockey begins with 11 players on a side, an outdoor grass field measuring 100 yards long and 55 yards wide and a plastic hockey ball slightly lighter than a nine ounce baseball. Each player uses a curved stick, flat on one side for hitting and rounded on the other. At each end of the field is a net, seven feet high and 12 feet wide. A half circle, called the striking circle, extends 16 feet in front of each net. A goal is scored whenever the ball passes into the opponents net after being touched within the striking circle by the stick of an attacking player.

A hockey match lasts for two 35-minute halves with a 10-minute interval.

Denomination 20+10 Kopecks

Copyright © (1979), Paramount International Coin Corporation

HAMMER

The origin of this event reaches far, far back to ancient times. In the Tailteann Games, dating to 2000 B.C., Celtic heroes gripped wheels by the axles, then whirled them through the air.

Centuries later, boulders with wooden handles were thrown. Then, a blacksmith's hammer was used (in the 16th century, King Henry VIII took his turn throwing this device). Though the implement of today is different still, the name "hammer" has remained.

Today's hammer is a 16-pound ball attached by steel wires about 4 feet in length to a handle which is gripped by both hands. The hammer throw is the only Olympic track and field throwing event in which women do not compete — men have been hurling it since the 1900 Games.

The action of hammer throwing involves a tremendous centrifugal force — the athlete must exert full strength but also beware of the pulling nature of the implement. He faults if he steps outside of the 7-foot throwing circle. Just as in the discus, the landing area is a 45-degree arc and spectators are protected by a wire cage.

Irish-born hammer throwers have made an impressive showing in Olympic records. One, U.S. citizen John Flanagan, captured three consecutive gold medals starting in 1900. Most recently however, Eastern Europeans, especially the U.S.S.R., are most proficient in the event.

Denomination 16+6 Kopecks

Copyright © (1979), Paramount International Coin Corporation

SHOT PUT

The shot evolved from the hammer, and since the hammer evolved from the wheel, it too is of Celtic origin. But unlike the hammer, the shot is not actually thrown — instead it is violently pushed from the shoulder.

Because of this action, called "putting", men and women competing in this event are the brawniest of all track and field athletes. The men's shot weighs 16 pounds while the women's weighs 4 kilograms (8 lbs., 13 oz.). It is spherical in shape and is usually composed of metal.

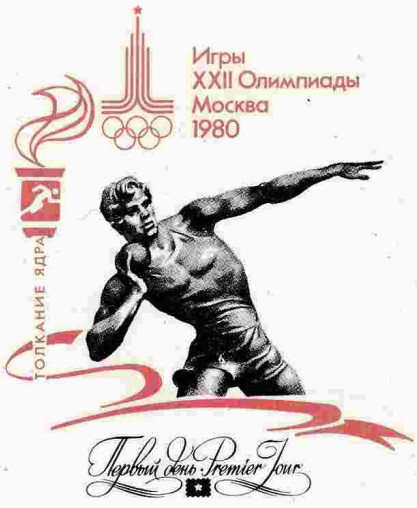
There were male shot putters in the very first (1896) Games — yet women did not appear in the event until the 1948 Olympics.

For years the conventional method of shot putting entailed a 90-degree turn of the body. In the 1950's, Parry O'Brien of the U.S.A. forever changed the nature of the event. This athlete, a three-time medalist, would tuck the shot under his chin, carefully maneuver a full 180-degree turn and then push the shot explosively from his hand. With this method, records were easily improved by four or five feet.

The U.S.A. holds a satisfying 14 Olympic titles in the men's shot put event (although in 1972 and 1976 they were unsuccessful in attaining the gold medal). In the women's event, as might be guessed, Eastern Europeans are superior.

Denomination 20+10 Kopecks

Copyright © (1979), Paramount International Coin Corporation



GRECO-ROMAN WRESTLING

Wrestling was held in the highest esteem by the ancient Greeks, and was, naturally, an important competition in the early Games. The Greco-Roman style is a Roman adaptation of the classical Greek method and, as such, has survived for over 2,000 years. In this form of the sport, use of the legs is forbidden in either attack or defense, and no holds are allowed below the waist. Athletes from the Scandinavian countries favor this classical style of wrestling and it has brought Sweden and Finland many successes in international competition.

In 1912, a Greco-Roman wrestling match set a record that still stands today for the longest contest ever to be staged in a combat sport. Anders Ahlgren (Sweden) and Ivar Bohling (Finland) fought to a draw after nine hours!

When the U.S.S.R. competed for the first time in an Olympics (1952), Soviet wrestlers took four gold medals for Greco-Roman wrestling (and two additional for freestyle). Since that time, the U.S.S.R. has given the leading Greco-Roman Scandinavian countries a stiff run for top honours.

Wrestlers from Turkey, Hungary, Bulgaria and Japan have also proved adept at Greco-Roman wrestling, but other countries, like the United States, although doing well in freestyle events, have never won a gold medal for Greco-Roman wrestling events.

Renewed interest worldwide in Greco-Roman wrestling has assured that this classical style of combat will continue to grow in popularity.

Denomination 4+2 Kopecks

Copyright © (1978), Paramount International Coin Corporation.

FREESTYLE WRESTLING

Freestyle wrestling is popularly described as catch-as-catch-can grappling and usually attracts more agile athletes than the Greco-Roman style. Very few wrestlers have ever been proficient in both styles, with one notable exception. In 1960, West German heavyweight Wilfried Dietrich won the gold medal in the freestyle and the silver medal in the Greco-Roman.

The United States has always been a leader in freestyle wrestling. Over the years, an impressive 26 gold medals have gone to the U.S. for these events. However, in recent years, the Japanese in the lighter weights, and the Soviets and Turks in the heavier divisions have captured many gold medals.

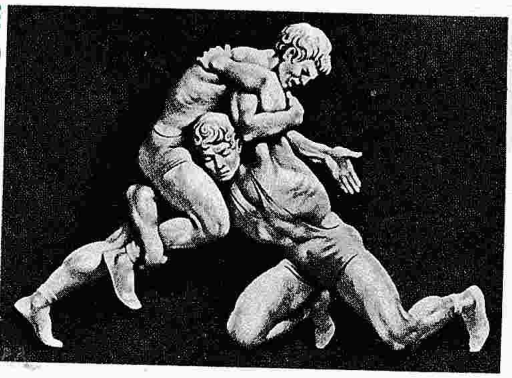
One of the most outstanding freestyle wrestlers of all time is Aleksandr Medved of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. In three successive Olympics, Medved took gold medals. In 1964, he captured the light heavyweight first; in 1968 he won the heavyweight title; and in 1972, he won the newly-created super heavyweight event. No one else has ever duplicated this astounding feat.

Olympic wrestling has expanded greatly since the end of World War II. Although the Greco-Roman events are more popular in the European and East Asian countries, the United States has helped to popularize the freestyle events. And, today, all nations fiercely compete in both.

Denomination 6+3 Kopecks

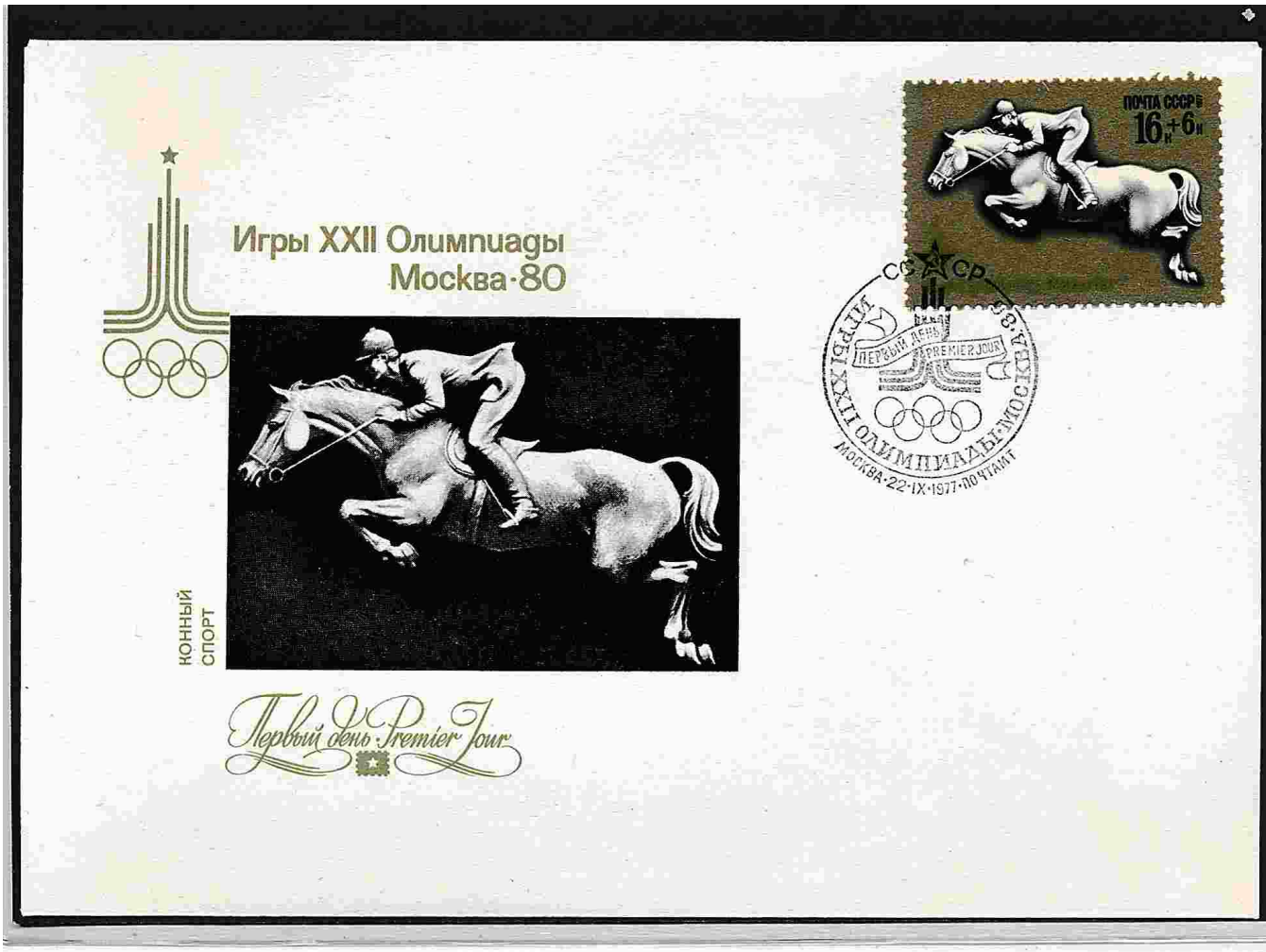
Copyright © (1978), Paramount International Coin Corporation.

Игры XXII Олимпиады
Москва·80



ВОЛЬНАЯ БОРЬБА

Первый день Premier Jour



EQUESTRIAN SPORTS

The very first equestrian events were ancient chariot races. Later, at the 33rd Olympics of 648 B.C., races on horseback were introduced. And so the sport has evolved. Today equestrian events are as much a part of the Modern Olympics as swimming.

The first Modern Olympic equestrian events were introduced in the Paris Games of 1900. Twenty-four competitors entered the show jumping high jump and long jump events. Twelve years later the program was changed to include those events which still endure today: show jumping, the three-day event and dressage – the training of horses in precisely executed movements. The three-day event begins with a dressage test, followed by the main endurance test and finishes with the jumping competition. But the real highlight of the equestrian sport is traditionally the very last event held in the central Olympic stadium on closing day – the Nation's Cup or Grand Prix team jumping competition.

Equestrianism is often called the Sport of Kings and there was, indeed, royalty in the 1976 Olympic Games of Montreal. It was here that Princess Anne of England made her Olympic debut on the British Equestrian team in the three-day event.

But the three-day event was of much greater significance for the United States Equestrian team. For the first time since the London Games in 1948, American riders took the gold, silver and bronze medals in the competition.

Denomination 16+6 Kopecks

Copyright © (1978), Paramount International Coin Corporation.

FENCING

Fencing has held a place in the Modern Olympic Games from the very beginning. In fact, fencing is one of only four sports that have been included in every Olympic competition since 1896. A sport of attack and defense, fencing is considered to be a competition of athletics and art as well, for grace and style are as important in fencing as scoring opponent hits.

Modern fencing competition is broken down into three events for which three different weapons are used. The épée sword has a rigid blade tapered to a sharp but non-cutting point for fencing. The foil, by comparison, is much lighter in weight and has a flexible blade tapered to a blunt point. In contrast to the foil and épée, the sabre is a thrust and cut weapon designed with a tapering flexible blade and an 8-inch cutting edge on the back of the tip.

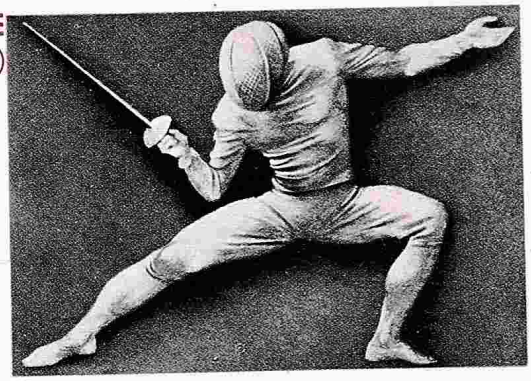
The foil and épée are thrust weapons with points or "hits" scored only with the very tips of the weapons. The use of electronic scoring equipment, which records hits on the target area with lights, allows spectators as well as judges to witness the hit immediately.

While no single nation has been consistently successful in Olympic fencing, Hungary is best known for its fine épée and sabre contenders. The U.S.S.R. has also turned out several seasoned foil contenders. And although women's competitions in fencing have not experienced the popularity of the men's competitions, the women of Italy and the Soviet Union join the Hungarians as some of the best fencers in the world.

Denomination 20+10 Kopecks

Copyright © (1978), Paramount International Coin Corporation.

Игры XXII Олимпиады
Москва·80



ФЕХТОВАНИЕ

Первый день Premier Jour

DIVING

In 1920 the youngest Olympic competitor in history, Aileen Riggen of the United States, then only 12 years old, earned a gold medal in springboard diving. Until that time, diving had been an Olympic sport of little consequence. But when young Riggen won her medal with a series of extraordinary dives, the world took notice.

By 1924 another American, Pete Desjardins, was the star of the springboard and of plain high diving. Yet in Paris he was beaten by Australian Richmond Eve in the plain high dive and lost the gold medal. Eve and high diver Joaquin Capilla Perez — the first Mexican to earn an Olympic title — in 1956, were the *only* exceptions to the incomparable American monopoly on diving titles which continued from 1924 until 1960. In 1960, Ingrid Kramer of Germany put an end to the American reign and took the coveted gold in both springboard and high diving.

The diving competition in Montreal in 1976 brought together the greatest springboard and platform high divers the world had ever seen in international competition. In fact, diving performances were so close in skill and degree, winners were never decided until the last dives.

Perhaps the greatest high diver in the world today is Italy's Klaus Dibiasi who, in 1976, won his third consecutive gold medal and fourth medal in four consecutive Olympic Games. Yet both the men and women's springboard titles still belong to Americans — Captain Phil Boggs of the United States Air Force and 17-year-old Jennifer Chandler of Alabama.

Denomination 6+3 Kopecks

Copyright © (1978), Paramount International Coin Corporation.

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL

Association Football — known in the United States as soccer — was the first team game admitted to Olympic competition. Its sound international organization and widespread popularity made it the main financial stay of the Olympic Games in the early years, before track and field events captured the imagination and interest of the public.

In 1904 the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) was founded and became the world administrative body for the game, assuming responsibility for organizing the football competition in the Olympic Games.

Association Football teams consist of 11 players. Matches last 90 minutes with two 45-minute halves. Preliminary competition to select the 16 sides which compete at the Games extends through the two years prior. Between 70 and 80 countries enter the competition, and preliminary rounds take place throughout the world. Final competition is naturally the most complex and demanding.

Countries which do not have any professional sports at all have dominated Olympic football since 1952. During the past 20 years only four countries from outside Eastern Europe have placed teams among the medal winners.

The 1976 Olympic gold medal holder in Association Football is East Germany. Among the other winners since 1952 are Hungary, the U.S.S.R., Yugoslavia and Poland.

Denomination 4+2 Kopecks

Copyright © (1979), Paramount International Coin Corporation

DISCUS

The sport of discus throwing is truly classical. The poet Homer wrote of the event and there are even ancient Grecian statues depicting discus throwers. In the Ancient Games the discus was one of the five original pentathlon events.

Early discus throwers began their throw in a forward facing position. Yet beginning in 1908, a new method evolved — the thrower began with his back facing the throwing circle. After a quick one and one-half revolutions of his entire body the thrower lets go of the discus.

Men started their Olympic competition in 1896 and women made their Olympic debut in 1928. The ladies' discus weighs 1 kilogram (2 lb., 3.27 oz.) while the men's weighs 2 kilograms (4 lb., 6.55 oz.). The implement is composed of wood or hard rubber and contains a metal rim on the outer edge.

Discus throwers often double in the shot put. The athletes of both events tend to be large, well over 200 lbs., with discus throwers being a bit taller and leaner. Male winners in this event often come from the U.S.A., while female victors consistently emerge from Eastern European countries — the Soviet Union in particular.

There have been several discus throwers to win more than one medal, but the all-time greatest is Al Oerter who won four gold medals from 1956 to 1968. This makes him the only Olympic athlete *ever* to win four consecutive titles in the same event — *a true first-class champion.*

Denomination 6+3 Kopecks

Copyright © (1979), Paramount International Coin Corporation

RINGS

Perhaps no gymnastic event demands greater strength and stamina than the Rings. Strictly a men's event, the rings require incredible arm and shoulder muscles for the two major movements involved — swinging parts and hold positions.

The rings hang eight and a half feet from the floor and are made of wood. The rings must remain as still as possible! Meanwhile, the exercise must combine two handstands, one of which must be pressed into by strength with the body held above the rings.

An example of the incredible dedication of ring men is the story of 26-year-old Shun Fujimoto. In Montreal Fujimoto broke his leg in the floor exercises. Fitted with a plastic cast from hip to toe, the gymnast was helped to the rings. There he achieved a 9.70, the best score of his life. He finished with a triple somersault with a twist, landed perfectly and stood for the necessary amount of time to complete the exercise. Then he collapsed in pain. His efforts were enough to win him a gold medal in the all-around competition!

As with the women's events, Japan and the Soviet Union rival for medals. In 1968 and 1972, Akinori Nakayama of Japan captured the gold medal in the rings. It currently belongs to Nikolai Andrianov of the Soviet Union. In 1980, Andrianov will again fight to regain his title as King of the Rings.

Denomination 50+25 Kopecks

Copyright © (1979), Paramount International Coin Corporation.

JAVELIN

One of prehistoric man's first attempts at weaponry was a pointed stick. Countless centuries passed before the throwing of a spear became a sport and was named the "javelin". The javelin, like the discus, was one of the five original pentathlon events included in the Ancient Greek Olympics.

An instrument capturing the fascination of Napoleon, the old-style javelin had a loop attached to the grip — this gave great pulling power and imparted a rifling effect to the spear.

Today's javelin consists of a shaft made of metal or wood, a grip or cord binding at the midpoint, and a weighted metal tip. Regulations state that this tip need not stick in the ground but it must be the first thing to touch the ground. The men's instrument weighs 800 grams (28.22 oz.) and the women's javelin weighs 600 grams (21.16 oz.).

The javelin thrower, unlike other track and field throwers, does not begin from a circle but instead, from a runway. Holding the javelin head-high, he approaches the end of the 100-foot runway and, gathering strength with the crucial last three steps, hurls the implement forward. (Currently, it is being thrown approximately the length of a football field.)

The men's event was introduced in the Olympics in 1908; the women's event, in 1932. Finland men have the most impressive Olympic record while Eastern European women hold top honors in the sport.

Denomination 10+5 Kopecks

Copyright © (1979), Paramount International Coin Corporation

WATER POLO

Water Polo is a team swimming sport played with seven men on a side. The game is played in a pool measuring no more than 20 yards wide by 19 yards long. Goals are scored by maneuvering the ball one-handed — rules stipulate that the ball can be touched with one hand only — into the opponents' goal net. Team play lasts four periods of five minutes each with a break of two minutes between each period.

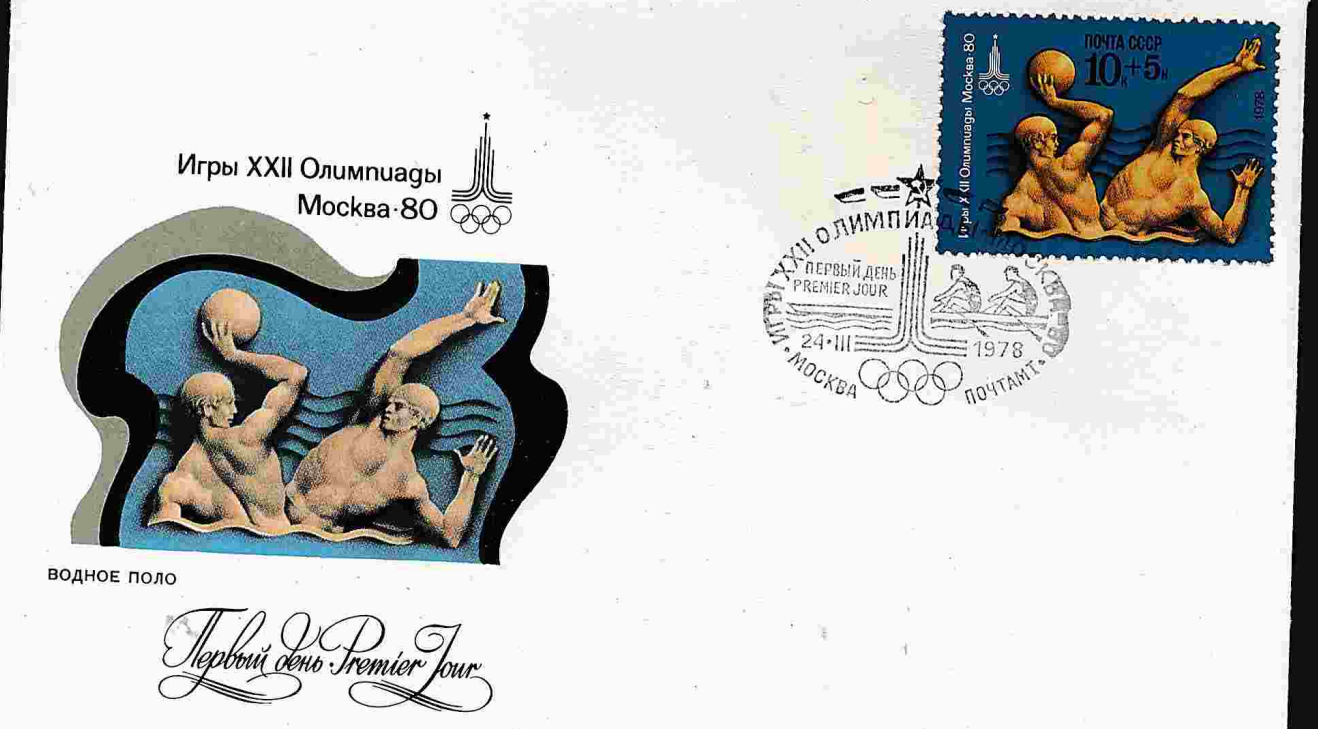
Water Polo was introduced into the Olympic schedule of events in the II Games of Paris in 1900. The first gold medal was won by Great Britain. Although Great Britain lost its title to the United States in 1904, it regained and held it in the subsequent Games of 1908, 1912 and 1920.

After earning the silver medal in the 1928 Games held in Amsterdam, Hungary began a medal-winning history that endures even to this day. In the 1932 Olympic Games at Los Angeles, Hungary won the Water Polo title from Germany. Hungary came back again and again to recapture the gold medal title in the Games of 1936, 1952, 1956 and 1964. The team took silver medals in 1948 and 1972 and bronze medals in 1960 and 1968.

In 1976 after a 12-year hiatus, Hungary regained the Olympic Water Polo title, winning the gold for the sixth time since earning its first gold medal in the Games of 1932. A medal in every Olympic Games since 1928 — 11 medals in all!

Denomination 10+5 Kopecks

Copyright © (1978), Paramount International Coin Corporation.



BASKETBALL

Basketball was born in 1891 in Springfield, Massachusetts, when two peach baskets were nailed at opposite ends of a gymnasium. Only a few years later, basketball's popularity in the U.S. had grown to such proportions that it was made a demonstration sport for the 1904 Games in St. Louis. When finally admitted to competition in the 1936 Games in Berlin, 23 nations from five continents entered teams.

It is only natural then that the United States, where basketball was invented and refined, should have displayed its superiority through the first seven Olympiads after the game was introduced. When the U.S.S.R. reappeared at the Olympics in 1952, however, new life was breathed into the game.

The United States and the Soviet Union always met head-on in the finals, with America traditionally taking the gold medal and the U.S.S.R. the silver. But in 1968 Yugoslavia broke in and took second place. This may have been just the impetus the U.S.S.R. needed.

In 1972 the U.S.A. era of dominance was ended abruptly in Munich when the Soviet Union scored a sensational 51-50 victory in a championship game that will be talked about for years. In the final seconds of the last quarter, and amid the confusion of a time-out and the resetting of the time clock, the U.S.S.R. scored one point to beat the Americans!

The United States' run of victories in international matches had been broken at 63 straight and the U.S. was beaten at a game of its own invention.

The Games of 1980 should be very interesting, indeed.

Denomination 6+3 Kopecks

Copyright © (1979), Paramount International Coin Corporation

VOLLEYBALL

When William Morgan, athletic director of the Holyoke (Mass.) YMCA invented volleyball in 1895, he envisioned his game as a diversion for those persons who found basketball too strenuous. Today it is not exactly the embodiment of Morgan's vision . . . as part of the Olympics, volleyball is one of the most strenuous team sports on the roster.

Because of the many interpretations of volleyball rules, international rules were not enforced until the 1950's. Fourteen years later — in the Tokyo Games of 1964 — volleyball was included in the Olympic program, and two years later a women's competition was added.

Six players, three up close to the net and three along the base line, play in a court 60 feet long and 30 feet wide. The top of the net is eight feet from the floor for men and seven feet, four and a half inches for women. The ball, slightly smaller and much lighter than a basketball, is inflated with five to seven pounds of air.

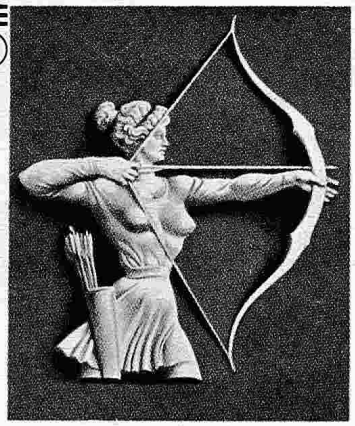
Perhaps no one in the Olympic movement is as well known for its unique training methods and game tactics than the Japanese. The Japanese women's volleyball team puts on a show that few who see it will ever forget. Not far behind is the women's team from the Soviet Union.

It is no wonder then that since Olympic volleyball competition began in 1964, both the Japanese and Soviet women's teams have each won two gold and two silver medals. No doubt the competition will be as fierce as ever in 1980.

Denomination 10+5 Kopecks

Copyright © (1979), Paramount International Coin Corporation

Игры XXII Олимпиады
Москва·80



СТРЕЛЬБА ИЗ ЛУКА

Первый день Premier Jour

ARCHERY

Archery has been in existence for some 10,000 years. It has been a part of the Olympics since the second Games competition held in Paris in 1900. In those first archery events competitors shot only one arrow at a turn, thus giving their target partners the opportunity to shoot one arrow, as opposed to the English custom of shooting three arrows before stepping back from the shooting line.

At the third Olympic competition held in St. Louis in 1904, the only archery competitors were American — men and women. But in 1900 and 1904 the archery events were treated as merely demonstrations. In 1908 archery was recognized as an Olympic sport and the rules were established. Among the most explicit was that "Gentlemen will not be allowed to smoke at the Ladies' targets."

According to the rules of that year, a maximum of 30 men were accepted as competitors for the Double York Round, 30 women for the Double National Round and 30 men for the 40 arrows at 50-meter competition.

Although archery was included in the seventh Games at Antwerp in 1920, its popularity again faded and it was 52 years before the sport was reinstated to Olympic competition. Since that time American archers have regained their winning status. In 1972 at Munich — the year the sport was reintroduced — the United States took gold medals in the double men's international round and the double women's international round. In Montreal four years later the U.S. was able to retain its winning title by again earning the coveted gold.

Denomination 6+3 Kopecks

Copyright © (1978), Paramount International Coin Corporation.

SHOOTING

Shooting is one of the traditional Olympic sports that has been included in the games since 1896. But the sport of shooting has greatly changed over the years. Preparation, training and selection of competitors has shifted from the traditional military aspect to shooting strictly as sport.

In Athens in 1896 some 111 Greeks competed in shooting events while 173 Frenchmen entered the event in 1900. Under modern rules, however, only two marksmen per country are permitted to compete in order to have specialized shooting events for the most qualified and experienced competitors.

American shooters have always held a dominant role in international competition. In 1972 the United States captured both gold medals in Munich. Four years later the American shooting team again won two gold medals plus a silver medal, earned by the only woman on the U.S. team, Margaret Murdock of Kansas.

Actually, Murdock earned the same score as the male gold medal winner in the small bore, three-position rifle competition. But because the International Shooting Federation rejected the idea of awarding two gold medals in the event of a tie, a coin was flipped and Murdock ended up with the silver medal.

At the awards ceremony, however, gold medal winner Lanny Bassham shared the limelight and rostrum with Murdock as the U.S. national anthem was played. Said Bassham, "I wanted to show her that I felt her performance had equaled mine. There was no way she deserved to stand lower while the anthem was played."

Denomination 10+5 Kopecks

Copyright © (1978), Paramount International Coin Corporation.