



गुल्लक Gullak



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Your Complete Monthly Newspaper for Coins, Medals, Paper Money, Collectibles, Antiquities, Decorative Arts & Hobby

Medals of Rio Olympic 2016



Weight: 500 grams
Size: 85 mm
Mint: Brazil mint

Gold Medal: 1% Gold, 92.5% Silver and 6.5% Copper
Rough value of the Medal is \$ 564

Silver Medal: 92.5% Silver, 7.5% Copper
Rough value of the Medal is # 330

Bronze Medal: 97% Copper, 2.5% Zinc and 0.5% Tin
Rough Value of the Medal is \$ 4.70

Details of the Rio Medals:

2,488 medals produced for Rio 2016
(812 gold, 812 silver and 864 bronze)



An **Olympic medal** is awarded to successful competitors at one of the Olympic Games. There are three classes of medal: gold, awarded to the winner; silver, awarded to the 1st runner-up; and bronze, awarded to the 2nd runner-up. The granting of awards is laid out in detail in the Olympic protocols.

Medal designs have varied considerably since the first Olympic Games in 1896, particularly in size and weight. A standard obverse (front) design of the medals for the Summer Olympic Games began in 1928 and remained for many years, until its replacement at the 2004 Games as the result of controversy surrounding the use of the Roman Colosseum rather than a building representing the Games' Greek roots. The medals of the Winter Olympic Games never had a common design, but regularly feature snowflakes.

In addition to generally supporting their Olympic athletes, some countries provide sums of money and gifts to medal winners, depending on the classes and number of medals won.

Introduction and early history

The olive wreath was the prize for the winner at the Ancient Olympic Games. It was an olive branch, of the wild-olive tree that grew at Olympia, intertwined to form a circle or a horse-shoe. According to Pausanias it was introduced by Heracles as a prize for the winner of the running race to honour Zeus.

When the modern Olympic Games began in 1896 medals started to be given to successful olympian competitors. However, gold medals were not awarded at the inaugural Olympics in 1896 in Athens, Greece. The winners were instead given a silver medal and an olive branch, while runners-up received a laurel branch and a copper or bronze medal. In 1900, most winners received cups or trophies instead of medals.

The custom of the sequence of gold, silver, and bronze for the first three places dates from the 1904 Summer Olympics in St. Louis, Missouri in the United States. The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has retroactively assigned gold, silver and bronze medals to the three best placed athletes in each event of the 1896 and

1900 Games. If there is a tie for any of the top three places all competitors are entitled to receive the appropriate medal according to IOC rules.

Medals are not the only awards given to competitors; every athlete placed first to eighth receives an Olympic diploma. Also, at the main host stadium, the names of all medal winners are written onto a wall. Finally, as noted below, all athletes receive a participation medal and diploma.

The IOC dictates the physical properties of the medals and has the final decision about the finished design. Specifications for the medals are developed along with the National Olympic Committee (NOC) hosting the Games, though the IOC has brought in some set rules:

Recipients: The top three competitors receive medals

Shape: Usually circular, featuring an attachment for a chain or ribbon

Diameter: A minimum of 60 mm

Thickness: A minimum of 3 mm

Material:

1st: First place (the "Gold" medal): It is composed of silver of at least .925 grade, plated with 6 grams of gold.

2nd: Second place (the "Silver" medal): .925 silver.

3rd: Third place (the "Bronze" medal): It is mostly copper with some tin and zinc; the metal value was about US\$3 in 2010.

Event details: The sport for which the medal has been awarded should be written on the medal

The first Olympic medals in 1896 were designed by French sculptor Jules-Clément Chaplain and depicted Zeus holding Nike, the Greek goddess of victory, on the obverse and the Acropolis on the reverse. They were made by the Paris Mint, which also made the medals for the 1900 Olympic Games, hosted by Paris. This started the tradition of giving the responsibility of minting the medals to the host city. For the next few Olympiads the host city also chose the medal design. Until 1912 the gold medals were made of solid gold.

Trionfo

In 1923 the International Olympic Committee (IOC) launched a competition for sculptors to design the medals for the Summer Olympic Games. Giuseppe Cassioli's *Trionfo* design was chosen as the winner in 1928. The obverse brought back Nike but this time as the main focus, holding a winner's crown and palm with a depiction of the Colosseum in the background. In the top right section of the medal a space was left for the name of the Olympic

host and the Games numeral. The reverse features a crowd of people carrying a triumphant athlete. His winning design was first presented at the 1928 Summer Olympics in Amsterdam. The competition saw this design used for 40 years until the 1972 Summer Olympics in Munich became the first Games with a different design for the reverse side of the medal.

Cassioli's design continued to inspire the obverse of the medal for many more years, though recreated each time, with the Olympic host and numeral updated. The obverse remained true to the *Trionfo* design until the 1992 Summer Olympics in Barcelona, Spain, where the IOC allowed an updated version to be created. For the next few events they mandated the use of the Nike motif but allowed other aspects to change. The trend ended in 2004 due to the negative publicity in reaction to the design of medal for the 2000 Summer Olympics in Sydney. Wojciech Pietranik, the designer of the medal, along with the organisers of the Games were criticised by the Greek press for using the Roman Colosseum rather than the Greek Parthenon. Pietranik's original design had featured the Sydney Opera House on the obverse but the IOC concluded that it should be replaced by the Colosseum and a chariot rider. He made the changes and, despite the criticism, the Sydney Organising Committee for the Olympic Games decided to continue with the design as it was, noting that there was insufficient time to complete another version and that it would be too costly. The error had remained for 76 years until a new style depicting the Panathinaiko Stadium was introduced at the 2004 Summer Olympics in Athens. This new obverse design would go on to be used at the 2008, 2012 and 2016 Games.

Custom reverse designs

The German Olympic Committee, Nationales Olympisches Komitee für Deutschland, were the first Summer Games organisers to elect to change the reverse of the medal. The 1972 design was created by Gerhard Marcks, an artist from the Bauhaus, and features mythological twins Castor and Pollux. Since then the Organising Committee of the host city has been given the freedom of the design of the reverse, with the IOC giving final approval.

Comparison between Summer and Winter

The IOC has the final decision on the specifications of each design for all Olympic medals, including the Summer Games, Winter Games, and Paralympic Games. There has been a greater variety of design for the Winter Games; unlike with the Summer Games, the IOC never mandated one particular design. The medal at the inaugural 1924 Winter Olympics in Chamonix, France did not even feature the Olympic rings. Nike was featured

on the medals of the 1932 and 1936 Games but has only appeared on one medal design since then. One regular motif is the use of the snowflake, while laurel leaves and crowns appear on several designs. The Olympic motto *Citius, Altius, Fortius* features on four Winter Games medals but does not appear on any Summer Games medal.

For three events in a row, hosts of the Winter Games included different materials in the medals: glass (1992), sparagmite (1994), and lacquer (1998). It was not until the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing, China that a Summer Olympic host chose to use something different, in this case jade. While every Summer Olympic medal except for the 1900 Games has been circular, the shapes of the Winter Games have been considerably more varied. The Winter Games medals are also generally larger, thicker, and heavier than those for the Summer Games.

Presentation

The presentation of the medals and awards changed significantly until the 1932 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles brought in what has now become standard. Before 1932 all the medals were awarded at the closing ceremony, with the athletes wearing evening dress for the first few Games. Originally the presenting dignitary was stationary while the athletes filed past to receive their medals. The victory podium was introduced upon the personal instruction in 1931 of Henri de Baillet-Latour, who had seen one used at the 1930 British Empire Games. The winner is in the middle at a higher elevation, with the silver medallist to the right and the bronze to the left. At the 1932 Winter Olympics, medals were awarded in the closing ceremony, with athletes for each event in turn mounting the first-ever podium. At the Summer Olympics, competitors in the Coliseum received their medals immediately after each event for the first time; competitors at other venues came to the Coliseum next day to receive their medals. Later Games have had a victory podium at each competition venue.

The 1960 Summer Olympics in Rome, Italy were the first in which the medals were placed around the neck of the athletes. The medals hung from a chain of laurel leaves, while they are now hung from a coloured ribbon. When Athens hosted the 2004 Summer Olympics the competitors on the podium also received an olive wreath crown. In the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, each medalist received a wooden statuette of the Olympic logo.

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Mobile: Amit: 91 98193 81833, Ashok: 91 98200 81833
Email: nareshsrn@yahoo.co.in / amit@suranaart.com / Website: www.suranaart.com
Office No. 17, 1st Floor, J. R. Shetty Building, 72, Nakoda Street, Pydhonie,
Mumbai - 400 003, India. Tel: 022 - 2345 2927

Calendar of Events 2016-17

Month	Date	Place	Event	Venue
August	5-7	Ahmedabad	8 th Annual Ahmedabad Coins & Currency Fair	The President Hotel, C.G. Road, Opp. Municipal Market, Navrangpur, Ahmedabad
August	13-15	Chandrapur	Chanda Mulak 2016	Chandrapur Coin Society, Rajiv Gandhi Kamgar Bhawan, Behind Jayant Talkies, Chandrapur (Saklecha # 093715 99553)
August	27	Internet	Rajgor's Auction 52	3.00 pm onwards
September	10	Kota	Rajgor's Auction 53	5.00 pm., Binani Sabhagar, Rotary Club Kota Building, Shopping Centre, Kota
September	10-11	Kota	6th Coin Festival - Kota 2016 Kota Mudra Utsav 2016	Binani Sabhagar, Rotary Club Kota Building, Shopping Centre, Kota
September	23	Mumbai	Rajgor's Auction 54	(3.00 pm onwards) at World Trade Centre, Cuffe Parade
September	23-25	Mumbai	14 th Annual Coin, Banknote & Philately Fair	World Trade Centre, Cuffe Parade, Mumbai Coin Society
October	21-23	Jabalpur	Puratatva Mudra Utsav 2016	Jalsa Hall, 4th Floor, Hotel Grend Samdariya, Jabalpur, M.P.
October	28	Internet	Rajgor's Dhan Teras Auction 55	3.00 pm onwards
November	5	Indore	Rajgor's Auction 56	(6.00 pm onwards) Sajan Prabha Garden, Vijaynagar Square, Indore
November	4-6	Indore	Maha-Mudra Utsav 2016	Sajan Prabha Garden, Vijaynagar Square, Indore
November	4-6	Tirunelveli	Nellai Coin Exhibition	Tirunelveli
November	11-13	Delhi	Delhi Coin & Stamps Exhibition	AIFACS, 1 Rafi Marg, New Delhi 110 001.
December	9-11	Pune	Coinex - Pune 2016	Sonal Hall, Karve Road, Pune (Shri Basti Solanki) International Collector's Society of Rare Items
December	10-12	Jamshedpur	Jharkhand Jam Coin -2016	Tulsi Bhavan, Inner Cir, Bistupur, Jamshedpur, Jharkhand
December	23-25	Kolkata	Mudra Utsav 2016	Haldiram Banquet Hall, Ballygunj, Numismatic Society of Kolkata
January	6-8	Nashik	Rare Fair 2017	Indraprastha Hall, Old Gangapur Naka, Gangapur Rd, Nashik - 422002.

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