



World's Largest Olympic Collectors Club
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Established 1982 - Our 35th Year - Issue No 137 - March 2016

Greetings to all of our 496 Olympin 2016 members in 33 nations around the world. And a warm welcome to our 9 new members! This year should be an interesting one! In August, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil hosts the 31st Summer Olympiad. Many of our members plan on attending!

Two of our long-time members have written informative articles for those planning to attend Rio. The rest of the newsletter includes information on the 35th Annual Olympin Memorabilia Festival in Atlanta in October, the 2016 Board Member elections and more Olympin website enhancements.

C L U B

B U S I N E S S

2016 RENEWALS MOSTLY FINISHED!

Thanks to those of you who renewed for this year in a timely fashion! It makes Don's job so much easier!

There are only 9 more members whose decision to renew or not is has not been received. We have been unable to reach the members below. If anyone has news on these folks, please let us know:

James Cumming (GA)	Phillip Kelly (TN)
Nick Golic (Croatia)	Vladimir Nabokov (Russ)
Vladimir Gulin (Russ)	Marcus Orsi (Switz)
Richard LiVoti (CA)	Giorgio Sala (Italy)
Juris Silovs (Latvia)	

ELECTRONIC VS WRITTEN MEMBERSHIP

76% of you have now decided to convert to an Electronic membership and receive your newsletters and Directory via the internet. Good for you! **You save 40% on dues!** Those who decided to remain on the postal mail distribution had this newsletter mailed to you. If you would prefer Electronic, please contact Don at don.biggsby@yahoo.com.

2016 MEMBER BADGE

Everyone who has paid for 2016 has had their 2016 Member Badge mailed to them as of March 1st.

2017 BOARD MEMBER ELECTIONS

Club members will be voting to elect two Board Members for the 3-year term starting in January 2017. The two seats up for election are Pam Litz and Scott Reed.

We invite members interested in running for the Board to contact Election Committee Chairman Sid Marantz at sidmarantz@aol.com or call him at 323-588-6800 to discuss the duties and responsibilities associated with the Board position. All Candidates must submit a candidate statement by May 20th to be considered by the full committee for inclusion on the Ballot. Sid will give any prospective candidates the details of the election process, as well as the responsibilities of Board Members to all interested parties.

96TH BIRTHDAY FOR EDDIE BEAUPRE!

Most long time members will remember Eddie Beaupre, who dedicated himself to being our Club Secretary from 1983 to 2002. Now he lives in a nursing home. He would love to hear from any of you at 518-355-6493. **April 12th is the big day!**

MORE SAD MEMBER NEWS

We have learned that Dave Campbell (Ohio) and Roland Hassanein (California) passed away in 2015

Visit our Website! www.olympinclub.com

more CLUB

BUSINESS

TRADING PINS AVAILABLE!!!

If you are looking for nice, inexpensive pins to trade in Rio or at future Games or events, or just to give away locally to children or non-profits, we have the answer for you! Thanks to our friends at BP, we have an assortment of BP Olympic sponsor pins to offer to our members at wholesale prices. We are offering 100 pins, (20 each of 5 styles), for \$49.95 - just 50 cents per pin! These pins all have the Olympic rings and are undated so they can be used any time. To take advantage of this opportunity, go to EBay and search under Seller ID "Olympicdad".

As a benefit of Olympin membership, shipping is FREE for all Olympin members in the USA, a savings of \$13.45 over the cost for non-members (this savings alone will virtually pay for your annual club membership!). Just identify yourself as an Olympin member when you place your order, and a customized invoice will be sent to you with FREE shipping. For international members, we will deduct \$13.45 from the cost of shipping internationally. There is no limit to how many times you can take advantage of this offer. Your Olympin Club will receive 100% of the net proceeds from each sale. Please contact Scott Reed at scottered3@gmail.com with any questions.

JOB OPENING – COMMITTEE on UNAUTHORIZED NOC PINS

As we move toward the start of the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, the Olympin Committee on Unauthorized NOC pins has immediate openings for at least two new committee members. These new members will be primarily responsible for finding images of new NOC pin on online auction sites like EBay.com and communicating with the NOCs to determine the authenticity of these new pins. No knowledge of NOC pins is required. Our existing committee members can teach you everything you need to know. The only requirement is a desire to serve the Olympic collecting community. Please contact comm. chair Steve Robie at sbrobie@comcast.net or illegal_pin_comm@comcast.net for more info.

OLYMPIN CHAT ROOM ADDED!

We are pleased to announce a new exciting feature on the OlympinClub.com website. We have just added an interactive chat room / forum, where Olympin members can communicate directly with other members on a variety of topics. Buy, sell, trade, post your want lists, get information, and share news directly with other members on a real time basis. Check out the link on the web site home page, and then come back often to get the latest updates. This feature is only available to members, and is another benefit of Olympin membership.

KNOW YOUR CLUB WEBSITE PASSWORD?

Several members changed from a Written to an Electronic membership in 2016. If you did make the change, do you know your personal password to get on olympinclub.com and enter the "MEMBERS" section? If anyone who has an Electronic Olympin membership needs to know their password, please contact Don at don.bigsby@yahoo.com and ask for yours. Without it, you are missing so much value to your membership!

SPEAKING OF EBAY

If you are a seller on ebay then please consider this as a way to help our club to grow and expand by adding something similar to this on all your Olympic related listings. You are welcome to cut and paste this and use the exact text.

"If you are a collector of Olympic memorabilia, please consider becoming a member of the OLYMPIN COLLECTORS CLUB, the largest Olympic collectors club in the world and recognized by the International Olympic Committee's Collectors Commission. With over 500 Members, it's an excellent opportunity to meet and communicate with the majority of the world's best collectors. Membership includes : Annual dated Olympin Club pin . . . 4 Newsletters . . . Online Member Directory . . . Classified Advertising . . . Annual Collectors Fairs . . . Informative Website! Check it out at the following Website: www.olympinclub.com. You will be glad you did!"

2016

SHOWS

35th OLYMPIN 2016 FESTIVAL

Note: If you have previously made hotel arrangements for the Atlanta Festival, please be aware the venue for the show has changed from the Hyatt Regency to the Omni Hotel. Below is a summary of the plan for the Atlanta Show.

It's not too soon to start making your plans for the 2016 Olympin Collector's Festival, to be held October 7-9 in Atlanta. This will be the first national Olympic trading event in the USA after the Rio Games. It is also the 20th anniversary of the 1996 Summer Games in Atlanta. We are pleased to announce that this year's show will be hosted at the **Omni Hotel in downtown Atlanta**. The Omni Hotel is a luxury property that is perfectly located directly across from Centennial Olympic Park, and is within a short walking distance from the World of Coca Cola, the Georgia Aquarium, and the new College Football Hall of Fame. It is attached to CNN Center, so shopping and dining are all easily accessible without ever going outside if you choose to do so.

The show itself will be three days, Friday the 7th through Sunday the 9th. We will offer special activities on Thursday the 6th for those who choose to arrive early to take advantage of all that the local area offers. Our annual banquet will be on Friday the 7th at the Omni Hotel, on a special enclosed terrace that overlooks CNN Center on one side and has a picture window view of Centennial Olympic Park on the other. On Saturday the 8th we will have a private event across the park at the Hard Rock Café, similar to the popular evening we had there the last time the Olympin show was in Atlanta in 2012.

Go ahead and make your plans now, so you don't have to worry about it as you are planning for or coming back from Rio. To learn more, and to make table or hotel reservations, go to the link on the OlympinClub.com web site. Feel free to contact Scott Reed at scottered3@gmail.com with any questions. We look forward to seeing you in Atlanta in October!

PIN TRADER MEETING(S) AT RIO?

There has been some discussion and groundwork done by Board member Ingrid O'Neil, Pete Wade and Roberto Gesta DeMelo (in Brazil) as to the practicality of holding a gathering during the Rio Olympics. The jury is still out due to so many variables right now.

First, we need to get an idea of how many Olympin members will be at the Games, and if the idea appeals to them. Next, because Rio is so spread out, we need to guess where the venue for such an event should be located. A lot is up in the air in Rio regarding the completion of certain transport systems that may, or may not be completed in time for the Games. We also are still in the dark as to Coca-Cola's Pin Trading Center plans.

Once we have more answers, we can formulate a plan for either a one-time gathering, or a frequent meeting place.

As members of Olympin travel to Rio to make their plans, we hope to get the answers to most of the above questions. We certainly will have to make a decision in time for the June Olympin newsletter.

In the meantime, members should check our website frequently for updates and specific details as they become available.

22nd IOC FAIR IN MAY 2016

Every attendee to past IOC Olympic Fairs should have received an invitation to the 22nd World Olympic Collector Fair in May 2016.

The Fair will be hosted by the Gothenburg Sports Museum in Gothenburg, Sweden from May 13th to May 15th 2016.

If you have any questions regarding the Fair, their website www.gothenburg2016.com should provide answers. If you still need information, contact them at info@gothenburg2016.com or you may telephone +46 31 72 66 180.

GENERAL

NEWS

LOS ANGELES 2024 LOGO REVEALED

On February 16, Olympin members Brad Frank, Pam Litz, Sid Marantz, Dan Presburger, and Richard and Virginia Murray were on hand when the Los Angeles 2024 Olympic Bid Committee revealed its official logo and slogan. A lively reception/ceremony was held in the thirtieth-floor city-view penthouse of the USC Building overlooking downtown Los Angeles. More than 100 attended the event, including L.A. Mayor Eric Garcetti and several Olympians and Paralympians, among them Olympic champion swimmer Janet Evans, who is vice-chair of L.A. 2024 and director of athlete relations.

The logo features a soaring winged figure and was explained by Casey Wasserman, chairman of Los Angeles 2024, as symbolic of “athletes reaching for their dreams” and also as suggesting the original Spanish name for Los Angeles, the City of Angels, as well as “the Angeleno spirit of optimism and progress that defines Southern California.”

The figure is “empowered by the rays of the sun, which emanate from . . . the figure's heart.” The sun itself inspires L.A. 2024’s slogan, Follow the Sun. “We're inviting the world to follow the sun to California in 2024,” Wasserman declared, “to join us in L.A. for Olympic and Paralympic Games that signal the dawn of a new era for the Olympic movement.”

Mayor Eric Garcetti, a major advocate for bringing the Olympics back to Los Angeles, further added, “This logo captures the essence of L.A. -- a soaring belief that through hard work, creativity and ingenuity, we can follow the sun and reach the highest levels of success. It is with that commitment that we are excited to continue following our dream of bringing the Games back to a city that loves them.”

Also speaking in endorsement of L.A.’s bid was three-time Olympian Thiago Pereira of Brazil, who lives and trains in Los Angeles in preparation for

swimming in his home country's Olympics this summer. “What I most love about Los Angeles is no one has to be an American to feel at home,” Pereira said. “Los Angeles is open-minded. Los Angeles is based on acceptance, not just tolerance. There's something here for everyone.”

A short film highlighting the diversity of the city was also shown, and in it people were asked what they will be doing in 2024. Among those featured were Kobe Bryant, Jessica Alba, Will Ferrell, Greg Louganis, and Janet Evans.

After the ceremony, logo pins and T-shirts were handed out to attendees, who then watched a screening of the newly released film “Race,” which tells the story of U.S. track star Jesse Owens and his triumphs in the 1936 Berlin Olympics.

Los Angeles is competing against Paris, Rome and Budapest for the right to host the 2024 Olympics. The IOC will select the host city in September 2017.

Below is the Los Angeles 2024 logo design.



SOME THOUGHTS AFTER A SHORT TRIP TO RIO

By Timm Jamieson

My wife Ginger and I spent four days aboard a cruise ship in Rio de Janeiro during Carnival this year, and I've been asked to share some of what I learned from my time there. If you like, check out my Face Book page "Timm Jamieson" to see my photos. (Friend me if you need, to view these images.)

The landscape and physical attractions of Rio rank at the top of many people's lists, and they do not disappoint. We visited Ipanema and Copacabana beaches, both gorgeous but crowded. The views from Sugarloaf Mountain and from the Christ the Redeemer statue were spectacular. From the latter, we could see the infamous lagoon where the Olympic rowing venues will be held, which I didn't think looked as polluted as the media reports. The lagoon is picturesque for sure. If you are going to Rio, be sure to allow time to visit these attractions.

You might think that Rio is compact, but because of the many mountains scattered about and the forest in the middle of the city, we were always driving around in circles and through tunnels (in taxis). Some lanes of traffic were blocked for Carnival, so it was slow going, and we assume it will be similar during the Olympics.

We found the Brazilian people to be warm and friendly, and not pushy as in some countries. They are laid-back people, not in a hurry, so there was no cutting in line or anything like that. The money exchange was still favorable while we were there, but I would watch your local banks and get the "reals" when they are 4 to 1 or better and not wait until you get to Rio. The exchange rate in Rio varied a lot from place to place; we got some at 4.1 and some at 3.8, but I saw other places where the exchange rate was as low as 3.5. 4 to 1 seems like a good rate to me. What this means is that U.S. dollars will

go far. I know in Canada your dollar is not as strong now because of oil prices, but hopefully you can wait and things will be better for you before the Games start.

Brazilian wood crafts, fabric items, and clothing are all cheap and well-made. However, when we found some Olympic items for sale, the pins were 30 reals, about 7 dollars, so I think that Olympic souvenirs will not be a huge bargain. Another thought about pins and retail: we only saw Olympic items in miscellaneous shops; there were no Olympic stores that we could find. We did find the shops with Olympic items near the Palace Hotel that Tom Burke had mentioned, but they didn't have much variety. We were also surprised that even during Carnival, there were really no places to buy a logoed shirt, pin, hat or anything else for Carnival 2016. What a missed opportunity on the retail profit side. We would have spent many dollars on such dated items, but we didn't buy anything because there wasn't anything to buy. It makes me wonder if the Rio Olympic Committee is going to underestimate this marketing opportunity like Nagano did.

As far as Carnival goes, we had the time of our lives! 12 hours of pure insanity--floats, thousands of dancers, music, samba beauty from 7 at night 'till 7 in the A.M. YIKES! Since we had box seats on the ground level, we managed to talk our way into some Olympic sponsor boxes, made a few contacts, and scored some great sponsor pins (Coke, Samsung, and Panasonic). I had Rio pins to trade, but these corporate big wigs didn't understand the idea of swapping badges, so we got some for free! It really felt like being at the Games. The first float of Carnival was the Rio Olympic Committee float, and they handed out mascot pins. So, all in all, it was a great pin event that we hadn't counted on.

All was not perfect, though, and the negatives we found are something to think about. The slums of Rio are nestled into every crevice along every hillside and are close to the best

neighborhoods. Millions of people in Rio live at the poverty level. The city fathers of Rio didn't figure out how to plan the city to protect the view shed, so the poorest and most desperate people are everywhere. I had a gold necklace ripped off my neck. (I forgot I had it on.) So, you should not wear any jewelry, only a cheap watch, if at all, and dress down when doing the tourist spots. At every Games, I think about whether to be "USA proud" or just anonymous. I suppose near the Olympic Park it will be fine to have USA logos on or the Canadian maple leaf, but if you are downtown near the attractions, I would not have any jewelry and no big cameras unless they are double-strapped to your body. These thieves are smart, young, and quick. They grab and run. When we were near the train to the Christ statue buying our tickets, we could see the desperate young boys watching our every move. If you carry a backpack, keep it in front of you when in this kind of close quarters. Don't have a wallet in your back pocket, etc. I might be overreacting a bit, but I suggest watching your surroundings at all times and being in groups of 3-4 or more if possible. I wandered away at one point to take a photograph, and a policeman came running up to me and gestured with his fingers as if putting a trigger to my head, meaning if I wandered any farther, it could mean certain death.

So it is what it is. I am glad I got all of the touristy stuff out of the way so I can concentrate on the Games and on the Olympic Park when I am there for three weeks. If I were you, I would go early or stay later so you can do sight-seeing before or after the Games. At least you might have better control of your surroundings then.

Regarding taxis, if possible, three people to a cab is a good concept, and good for security.

We found the taxi drivers to be inconsistent; some drivers will try to get you, if you are not aware of what to pay. And you should negotiate; the taxis are metered, but I think it is

better to get a fixed price. I had negotiated a 30 real ride, gave the guy a 50, and he claimed that that is what we agreed to. Fortunately, I had written down the number on a brochure and showed him. He was going to leave, but I insisted, and he gave me the 20 in return. However, if you are at all timid, they will take you. By USA standards the 30 real is only 7 dollars, but I think the fares will be going up. Most of the Brazilians I talked to think they are going to get rich during the Games. The government has promised them that rich visitors will be coming with pots of money! I was looking for accommodations for the Games, but the real estate agents were still in "get rich" mode. With the Zika scare and the economy, though, I think that condo rates and hotel rates will be plummeting in May.

The people that boarded our ship from the Rio airport said it was total chaos there. So I imagine the Olympics will be much worse. If you have someone picking you up, be sure they have your name in bold letters on a placard because the Brazilians seem to be used to chaos. Keep control of your bags. I had friends on the ship that still didn't have all of their bags five days later. Nothing we haven't experienced in previous Games, but maybe a bit more concerning in Rio.

Also, the Rio airport is a long way from Barra and other places where people will be staying; a couple of hours or more depending on traffic. The city is very spread out, again because of the landscape.

Rio is amazing but very dangerous. I saw lots of people passing out brochures on the Zika virus but didn't see any mosquitoes anywhere in Rio, although I did see them in other ports close by Rio. So bring your deet and try to avoid areas with standing water. Thanks for letting me provide some insights. If anyone has any questions, feel free to email me at timjam@aol.com.

BRINGING PINS TO RIO FOR TRADING

by Daniel Benniston

As we approach the next Summer Olympic Games, I wanted to help our members with some information on how things work in Brazil, and sometimes how things don't work. I have been based in Rio now since July 2015, as we are working with these Games both as an Authorized Ticket Reseller (ATR) for 43 countries and also as an Official Licensee for a number of products.

We have many Olympic collectors that will come to the Games for all different reasons. Pins, Plush, Posters, Medals, Torches, Ties and Scarves (plug: make sure you look for our limited version) and much more.

Brazil has very strict import rules and regulations. If you ship any items through standard postal services or a courier, everything is taxed and very heavily, to protect local industry. Recently we carried some pins in our suitcase as one of the NOC's ordered their product early. As customs X-ray nearly all bags, and by landing in Rio, which is better prepared and understanding for the Games than Sao Paulo, they were aware of pins and the desire for them during the Games. We were asked if we were athletes, but we were prepared. As a licensee we had all of the necessary paperwork for importation on behalf of an NOC because we knew what to expect and had no excuse. The product was cleared by customs as we ticked all the necessary boxes and followed the necessary procedure for temporary import by an NOC or agent acting on their behalf. I asked what about the collectors that will bring pins to the Games.

I was warned, that collectors can bring a small collection of pins, but carry any commercial quantity into Brazil and the pins will be confiscated and the quantity they will allow in will also be taxed.

It seems our Brazilian customs department is both educated and aware of what is coming, as one staff member was a representative of Rio 2016 and fully trained with the necessary knowledge of protecting their borders on fake and illegal merchandise.

So if you are coming to the Games and plan on bringing some pins with you, bring enough to have fun and to trade. Also just be a bit careful if trading in public areas and stick to any official zones that are set up by Rio 2016 / IOC / Sponsors to pin trade, or in the secure zones of Barra Olympic Park or Deodoro Olympic Park. I would not recommend under any circumstance attempting to set up or trade pins in Copacabana. Do not even attempt to be attracted to the high traffic flow, you will be a target, you will lose your product by either the local authorities or the organized groups of kids that target tourists (unless you can run fast in a snatch and grab!).

Rio is an incredible city and will host a truly wonderful Games. Do not be put off by negative press, you all know better than that, it happens at every Games. These will be a magical Games in an extraordinary country. Less than 160 days to go, I personally welcome everyone to come to my current home city and celebrate the Olympics – you will not be disappointed!