



The Athens 1896 Olympic Pin

Historical Description

The first pin in the history of the Olympic Games was created in Greece. Shortly before the Athens 1896 Olympics, the Greek Olympic Organizing Committee (EOA - Epitropi Olympiakon Agonon) created a limited number of pins depicting the Greek national emblem (blue with white cross). The pins were made by hand from a cloth fabric and given a few days before the Opening Ceremony, to a select number of Greek athletes who finished first in the Athens 1896 preliminary trials.

The existence of the Athens 1896 handmade cloth pin was unknown to the Olympic world for 123 years. For the first time in the world, the pin was presented live in front of the public on the 25th of May 2019, by Mr. Ioannis Thomakos, a knowledgeable Olympic historian & collector from Greece, during one of his historical presentations, delivered to the participants of the 25th World Olympic Collectors' Fair, at the Museum of Sports and Tourism in Warsaw, Poland.