

REPORT on the 23rd World Olympic Collectors Fair 8 - 10 September 2017, Bratislava, Slovakia by Branislav Delej President of the Organizing Committee

The 23rd World Olympic Collectors Fair was conducted in Bratislava, Slovakia from 8 - 10 September 2017. The Fair was organized by Slovak Society of Olympic and Sports Collectors, with the support of the Slovak Olympic Committee and the Slovak Olympic and Sport Museum following the decision of the International Olympic Committee.

Branislav Delej, President of the SSOSC and a member of the Executive Board of AICO, was the President of Organizing Committee. Since China withdrew its bid to organize the 23rd WOCF on very short notice, the Bratislava 2017 committee had only 3 months to organize the fair. Typically, the time period is 3 years or more. Despite this, the committee succeeded in attracting 135 registered participants from 29 countries around the world (USA, China, Japan, India, Brazil, Hungary, Serbia, Croatia, Czech Republic, Poland, Russia, Lithuania, Latvia, Germany, Norway, Spain, Austria, Finland, Italy, Canada, Monaco, France, Greece, Switzerland, Romania, Netherlands, Turkey, Macedonia and Slovakia). In addition, there were about 200 visitors from Slovakia and the Czech Republic for whom entrance was free.

The day prior to the official opening of the fair, early registration was held in the late afternoon at which over 75% of participants were registered. During the registration, there was a Slovak wine tasting which was enthusiastically enjoyed by all participants. The remaining participants were registered the next day.

On Friday, 8 September – the first day of the fair which was held at the NH Gate One Hotel in Bratislava – the Slovak post office (Pofis) was at the participants' disposal. One could purchase special postage stamps and postcards bearing the fair logo, and obtain a special unique postmark created especially for the Olympic Fair. At the entrance table, participants and visitors could also buy a special pin, made only for this occasion, with the logo of the Fair.

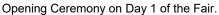


Slovak Post Office representative processing postmarks.



Olympic flag signed by participants.







Pin collection presented to ceremony guests.

The Opening Ceremony took place in the afternoon of the first day. In attendance at this ceremony were the President of the Slovak Olympic Committee, Mr. Anton Siekel; General Director of Sport at the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport, Mrs. Bozena Gerhatova; the representative from the International Olympic Committee, Mrs. Patricia Reymond; the Director of the Slovak Olympic and Sport Museum, Mrs. Zdenka Letenayova; and President of AICO, Roman Babut. During the Opening Ceremony the President of the Organizing Committee bestowed upon the ceremony guests, the full set of three commemorative pins with a personalized plaque.

Following the Opening Ceremony there was an opportunity to obtain autographs of Slovak Olympic Medalists: Miloš Mečíř, gold and bronze medalist in tennis (singles gold, doubles bronze) in Seoul 1988. Next was Juraj Minčík, bronze medalist from Sydney 2000 in canoeing slalom; Zuzana Rehák-Štefečeková, two-time silver medalist in shooting (trap) in Peking (Beijing) 2008 and London 2012; Jozef Gönci, two-time bronze medalist in shooting (rifle) in Atlanta 1996 and Athens 2004; and judoka Jozef Krnáč, the silver medalist from Athens 2004. Special cards were prepared for each Olympic medalist to autograph and hand to collectors.



The show floor was busy with Olympic activity.



Autograph signing event.







On tour at the Bratislava Castle.

In the late afternoon, following the conclusion of the first day of the fair, participants were invited to visit the Bratislava historical museum in the center of the city for a special exhibition "Find your own Hobby" created by the Slovak Olympic and Memorabilia collectors. A special sightseeing tour by train, organized by the fair committee, took participants to the Bratislava Castle and historical center of the old town of Bratislava.

Day 2 of the fair was devoted to extensive exchanges of collectibles with the avid participation of domestic collectors. At noon, there was another autograph ceremony with silver medalists from the Rio 2016 Olympic Games in the K4 1000m kayak sprint (Erik Vlček, Juraj Tarr, Denis Myšák – Tibor Linka was unable to attend) and their coach Peter Liker. Then, all participants were presented a Certificate of Participation by IOC representative, Patricia Reymond, and 2017 WOCF Organizing Committee President Branislav Delej.

That evening, a Silent Auction was conducted which included a dozen artifacts donated to the auction by the Olympic Museum in Lausanne and from domestic collectors. The auction received a great deal of interest mainly from collectors from China. Following the auction, a Gala Dinner was held at which the special guest was the President of the Slovak Olympic Committee.



Branislav Delej & President of the Slovak Olympic Committee, Mr. Anton Siekel, with a Barcelona Olympic Torch at the Silent Auction.



Roman Babut & Branislav Delej giving toasts at the Gala Dinner.

Sunday, the final day of the fair, saw collectors concluding their business; the fair closed at 2 p.m. in the afternoon. Collectors, it seemed, were pleased with the fair, departing with new artifacts for their collections, and happy memories of making new friends and getting reacquainted with old ones.

In addition to the activities of the WOCF, the AICO Executive Board held meetings that included those open to the public as well as, for the first time, meetings of the various Committees of AICO designed to greatly enhance the community of Olympic and sport collectors.

I would like to thank all those who participated and attended the fair. I would especially like to thank the Organizing Committee for their perfect organization of the Fair on such short notice. My personal warm thanks go to the representatives of the International Olympic Committee – especially to Stéphanie Coppex – the Slovak Olympic Committee, the Slovak Olympic Marketing Association, the National Sport Center, the Slovak Olympic and Sport Museum, AICO, and the Slovak Post (Pofis) as well as to the NH Gate One Hotel Bratislava.





Each Fair participant was presented with a handsome diploma from the IOC.



Juraj Minčík signing autographs.



During the AICO open meeting, Jean-Pierre Picquot previewed the new French Olympic stamp honoring the awarding of the 2024 Olympics to Paris.

WOCF 2017 Participants

	Name	Surname	State
1	Branislav	Delej	Slovakia
2	Vojtech	Jankovič	Slovakia
3	Pavol	Ondráška	Slovakia
4	Ervin	Smažak	Slovakia
5	Michal	Zika	Slovakia
6	Pavel	König	Slovakia
7	Peter	Špilák	Slovakia
8	Zdenko	Kríž	Slovakia
9	Velimir	Adžić	Croatia - Slovakia
10	Igor	Vico	Slovakia
11	Ľuboslava	Delejová	Slovakia
12	Katarina	Adžić	Slovakia
13	Pasquale	Polo	Italy
	UICOS - Unione Italiana	Collezionisti Olimpici e	
14	Sportivi	T	Italy
15	Mario Rosario	Capuano	Italy
16	Domenico	Di Pinto	Italy
17	Rufin	Schullian	Italy
18	Matteo	Melodia	Italy
19	Massimiliano	Bruno	Italy
20	Jan	Zimmermann	Germany
21	Frank	Neubauer	Germany
22	AGON SportsWorld GmbH		Germany
23	Thomas	Lippert	Germany
24	Andreas	Szymczykowski	Germany
25	Melanie	Konrad	Germany
26	Ingrid	O'Neil	U. S. A.
27	Michael	Bowlby	U. S. A.
28	Peter	Wade	U. S. A.
29	Sid	Marantz	U. S. A.
30	Mark	Maestrone	U. S. A.
31	Tsafrir	Shlomi	Japan
32	Helge	Bråthen	Norway
33	Irina	Dzidziguri	Russia
34	Sergey	Vinogradov	Russia
35	Vladimir	Anfinogenov	Russia
36	Vladimir	Nabokov	Russia
37	Stanislav	Rudenko	Russia
38	Sergey	Volkov	Russia

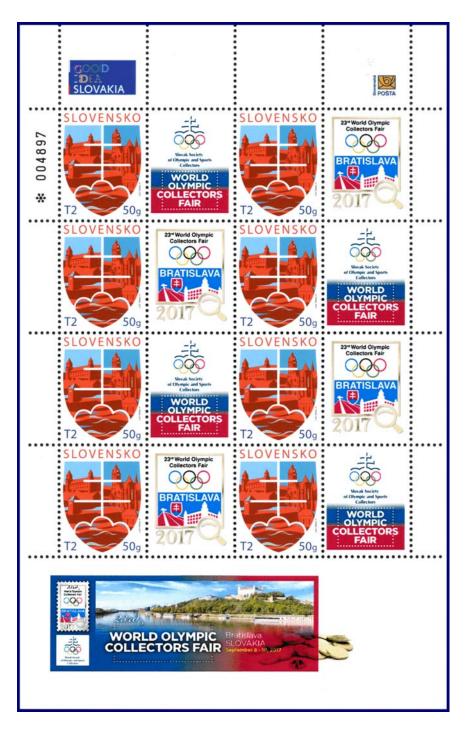
39	Vladimir	Gulin	Russia
40	Leonid	Novozhiloff	Russia
41	Konstantin	Borodin	Russia
42	Vladimir	Nigmatulin	Russia
43	Dmitrii	Egorov	Russia
44	Liudmila	Zorina	Russia
45	Tatiana	Nabokova	Russia
46	Rita	Zelenaya	Russia
47	Stathis	Douramakos	Greece
48	Nelly	Douramakou	Greece
49	Markus	Osterwalder	Switzerland
50	Marc	Levie	Switzerland
51	William	Grage	Switzerland
52	Peter	Müller	Switzerland
53	Lubomir	Král	Czech Republic
54	Josef	Koči	Czech Republic
55	Robert	Prat	Monaco
56	Catherine	Salaun	France
57	Claude	Renard	France
58	Philippe	Lapointe	France
59	Aït-Braham	Christophe	France
60	Edouard	Panossian	France
61	Michel	Delavaloire	France
62	Vincent	Girardin	France
63	Jean-Pierre	Picquot	France
64	Kestutis	Skerys	Lithuania
65	Rimantas	Dziutas	Lithuania
66	Pertti	Nurmi	Finland
67	Raul	Åkerblom	Finland
68	Hou	Kun	China
69	Boyi	Zhang	China
70	Yang	Huimin	China
71	Gradus	Eenink	Netherlands
72	Laszlo	Gergely	Romania
73	István	Gőthér	Romania
74	Puiu Emilian	Valea	Romania
75	Ladislau	Gergely	Romania
76	Tamás	Borovitz	Hungary
77	Josip	Zagrajski	Croatia
78	Zdenka	Zagrajski	Croatia
79	Dragan	Gajinov	Serbia
80	Vojin	Gajinov	Serbia
81	Nebojša	Mitrović	Serbia

82	Mihailo	Vukadin	Serbia
83	Lukasz	Frydel	Poland
84	Piotr	Debski	Poland
85	Roman	Babut	Poland
86	Arkadiusz	Gawron	Poland
87	Ahmat Baran	Meral	Turkey
88	Juris	Silovs	Latvia
89	Varun	Balakrishnan	India
90	Polish Olympic Committe	ee	Poland

OFFICIAL PINS



PERSONALIZED STAMPS & FAIR POSTMARK





OFFICIAL FAIR POSTCARD

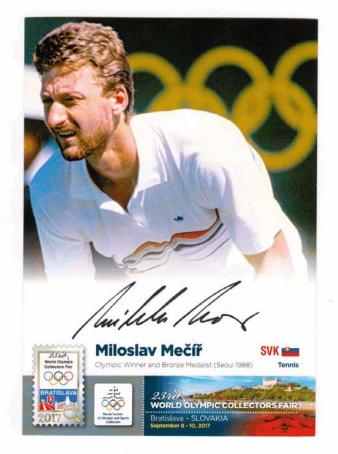


WORLD OLYMPIC COLLECTORS FAIR	
September 8 - 10, 2017	

AUTOGRAPH CARDS







ROLLUP



BULLETIN





FACEBOOK BANNER



Branislav Delej



Barbora Willmannová





TICKETS





FIRST SLOVAK FLYER



CASE – COMMEMORATIVE PINS

