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## Newsletter 27th World Olympic Collectors' Fair PARIS 2023

### A word from the Vice-President of AFCOS, Catherine SALAÜN:



Friends collectors and Olympic collectors,

It was in 1994, during the Winter Olympics in Lillehammer, to which I went, that a young Russian, whom I met at the Coca-Cola pin exchange center set up in the city during the games, informed me that a World Fair for Olympic Collectors would be held in Lausanne, at the new Olympic Museum, which was just inaugurated in 1993.

Never mind, I couldn't miss this first meeting, the initiator of a long series, and it was with amazed eyes that I landed in the Swiss city to find some of the many pins still missing from my collection of Albertville 1992, I was then only a simple visitor.

It was by rubbing shoulders with eminent collectors at these fairs that, without ever abandoning the pin, I took the plunge to acquire objects in the so-called Memorabilia category and exhibit in turn.

Some Fairs have remained memorable, such as that of Rio in 1998, whose participants had the trip offered, that of Beijing in 2007, 1 year before the Games, or that of Athens in 2012 which enabled us to attend the lighting of the flame of the London Games in Olympia, but also at the handover ceremony in the Panathenaic stadium in Athens. I missed a few, 4 to be precise, either because I didn't have the availability, the period was not suitable, or for reasons beyond my control like in Cologne in 2010 where the cloud of the famous Eyjafjöll volcano acted up and caused the cancellation of my flight.

In any case, the pleasure of finding my collector friends at these meetings remains one of the driving forces, beyond that of finding a piece missing from the collection.

For the first time, it is in Paris and in France that the next World Collectors' Fair will take place, the 27th of the name, and I have no doubt that it will be one of the memorable ones!

So, come and visit these collectors from all over the world (to date: USA, Canada, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Japan, Lithuania, Mexico, Monaco, Norway, Poland, Slovakia, Spain, Switzerland, Bas and China).

Catherine SALAÜN

### Proposed events:

For this 27th Fair, the Organizing Committee has prepared an Olympic program for all exhibitors. Here are the highlights :

It all starts on Thursday 22 at the end of the afternoon with a cultural visit "Le Paris Olympique 1924". Meeting is given in front of the Sébastien Charléty stadium at 5 p.m. to go to Colombes.





On Friday 23, 9 a.m., the Salle Charpy opens to the public for three days. The entrance is free. The official Opening Ceremony of the Fair, and yes like at the Games, will take place at 11 a.m. At the same time, an exhibition on the theme "Let's share our Olympic history" will also be held over these three days, in the press room next to the stadium.

At the end of this first day, silent auctions, by reservation only, will take place in an adjoining room.



At the end of the day on Saturday 24, the meeting is given on the forecourt of the stadium at 7.30 p.m., for boarding a privatized boat for a gala dinner cruise on the Seine, between the Statue of Liberty and the Bibliothèque Nationale de France, by reservation only. You will discover the emblematic monuments of the most beautiful city in the world during your meal.



During this cruise, you will be able to transport yourself and imagine yourself in 13 months, on July 26, 2024, during the Opening Ceremony of the Olympic Games in Paris. Indeed, the Seine will be the setting for this Ceremony.

It will be the first time in the history of the Olympic Games that an opening ceremony will take place outside a traditional sports arena. And also for the first time, the parade of delegations will open this parade between the Pont d'Austerlitz and the Pont d'Iéna, before disembarking at the Trocadero, facing the Eiffel Tower, for the final part of the ceremony.

More than 160 boats will welcome sportsmen and women from more than 200 delegations who will parade on the river for nearly 6 km.



Photo : <https://www.paris2024.org/fr>

The Fair will close its doors to the public on Sunday 25 at 2 p.m. and we will leave after the closing evening at 7 p.m. This Fair will reserve many other surprises for you, which we will let you discover.



For any reservation or information, find us on our website or on Facebook:

<https://aicolympic.org/wocf2023>

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