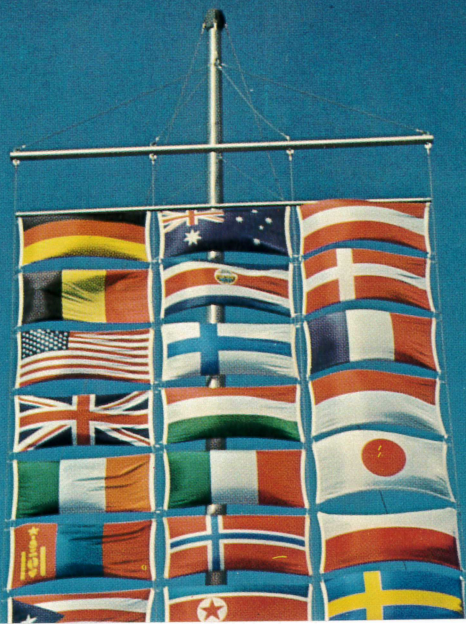
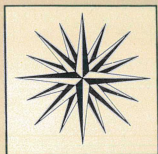


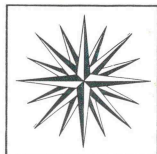
Beyond Sports



Olympic Symbols



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The Motto

"*Citius, altius, fortius*", which in translation reads: "Fastest, highest, strongest". This motto is attributed to a friend of Pierre de Coubertin, Father Didon, who was Prior of the College of Arcueil, not far from Paris. Father Didon played an important part in the Olympic Congress at Le Havre in 1897.

Most famous words

"The important thing is not to win, but to take part". These words were spoken at the time of the London games in 1908 by the Archbishop of Pennsylvania during a ceremony held at St Paul's in honor of the athletes. Coubertin, in his speech after a dinner given on 24 July 1908 by the British Government, repeated these words, and elaborated on them.

The oath

"Speaking on behalf of all the competitors, I swear that we who take part in the Olympic Games do so with loyalty, respectful of the rules which govern the games and with a desire to participate in a spirit of chivalry for the glory of sport and the honor of our teams".

This oath was spoken for the first

time at the beginning of the seventh Olympic Games in Antwerp in 1920, by the Belgian fencing champion Victor Boin. The original text spoke of "the honor of our country", but this was later altered to read "our teams".

The emblem

The five olympic rings correspond to the five continents; the six colors (including the basic white) of blue, yellow, black, green and red circles, represent the colors on all the flags of the world.

The flag with the olympic rings

Pierre de Coubertin, the leading spirit behind the reintroduction of the Olympic Games, designed the olympic flag and wrote in his *Olympic Memoirs* (Lausanne, 1931): "White, except for the five intertwined rings: blue, yellow, black, green and red. It symbolizes the five land masses united by olympism and reproduces the colors of every nation".

The flag was first displayed at the Sorbonne in 1914, at the time of the Paris Congress which celebrated the twentieth anniversary of the reintroduction of the Olympic Games, and it has been used ever since 1920.