



Gisbert Palmie, Painter of US Presidents
Portrait of Ernst Baier (1945)



Ernst Baier "The Ice Skaters" Painting, 1993



Booklet "Review of a Skating Life"
1995, by Christel Baier



"Skates of Gold" Worldwide Olympic Gold Medal Winners,
Boston, October 31, 1993



Metal Postcard with Signatures

The Olympic Victory, Life and Career of Ernst Baier (1905-2001)

On February 13, 2014, when the XXII Olympic Winter Games opened in Sochi, it was exactly 78 years to the day when Ernst Baier won his gold medal in Garmisch-Partenkirchen. It was the third gold medal for Germany, and Ernst Baier went on to also win a silver medal in Figure Skating the following day, February 14. He was the oldest participant at the age of 31. The jubilation of the spectators was immense.

As a little boy his mother led him to skate on frozen lakes and from this his love of skating was born. He studied to become an architect but his passion was figure skating.

He met Maxi Herber in the fall of 1933 when she was 13 years old and already German skating champion, and a very successful skating partnership started. Ernst Baier invented the so-called "shadow-skating in which two skaters perform the exact same moves without touching. In an unusual reversal of normal procedure, the German government made a film of Baier and Herber's routine and commissioned a composer to create a piece to match their moves". (ex: David Wallechinsky, Complete Book of the Winter Olympics). After their victory the International Skating Federation accepted shadow-skating in their rules.

Ernst Baier and Maxi Herber married in 1940, and they are since the 1930's Germany's most successful figure skating pair. They became world

champions from 1936 through 1939, European champions from 1935 through 1939, and seven times German champions 1934-1941 without 1937. Ernst Baier himself was six times German champion from 1933 to 1938.

After the end of World War II their skating style had changed – no longer sportive, they leaned in their choreography to classic – modern dancing. In 1951 they founded the Eisballet Maxi und Ernst Baier" (Ice Ballet Maxi and Ernst Baier), and they toured throughout Europe. In 1961 the "Eisrevue GmbH" (Ice Revenue Co.) followed for a very successful South American Tour.

In 1965 Maxi and Ernst divorced. Ernst became a skating teacher in Garmisch-Partenkirchen from 1965 to 1987. In 1980 the U.S. Figure Skating Association accepted both in their Hall of Fame in Colorado Springs, an honor which made both of them very proud.

Ernst's last highpoint in his skating life happened on October 31, 1993. "Sports Television International" presented in Boston a meeting of all worldwide Olympic ice skating gold medal winners, "Skates of Gold". At the age of 88, Ernst Baier was the oldest participant.

In 1978, Ernst married a third time, Christel. Ernst took up painting in the 1980's, and he was a talented painter who exhibited successfully in Germany and abroad. He passed away peacefully on July 8, 2001 at the age of 96.

Extremely Rare Official Torch of the 1956 Stockholm Equestrian Games



2. **Official Stockholm 1956 Torch.** Aluminum alloy, 41cm (16.1") high. Cut-out Olympic rings above legend "XVI OLYMPIAD 1956: OLYMPIA-STOCKHOLM:". The torch has been used in the torch relay in Sweden, and it shows darkening by the flame beneath the bowl and on the inside of the bowl. Our research so far revealed that only five torches were used in the torch relay in Sweden. Two of these torches reside in the Olympic Stadium Museum in Stockholm. Another torch (one only ?) was used in the torch relay in Copenhagen, Denmark. Two torches came up a few years ago from people whose relatives had worked in important positions for the manufacturer of the torches.

Since the torches from the relay in Sweden from Malmo to Stockholm burnt for long hours they were blackened as can be seen on the photos of the Official Report. We assume that this torch was one of the torches used on the opening day.

A unique opportunity to acquire an important piece of the unique Equestrian Olympic Games in Stockholm. Less than 10 torches are known, one of the rarest of all Olympic torch relays. VF-EF. (\$175,000)

The 1956 Equestrian Olympic Torch Relay from Olympia to Stockholm

When Melbourne was awarded the 1956 Olympic Games at the 43rd IOC Session in Rome in 1949, the strict 6-month quarantine rules regarding the entry of horses into Australia was not considered. At the 50th IOC Session in Athens 1954, Stockholm was chosen - against Paris, Rio de Janeiro, Berlin and Los Angeles - to hold the 1956 Equestrian Olympic Games.

The fire for the Olympia-Stockholm torch relay was lit on June 2 in Olympia, Greece, and carried by runners with the Helsinki 1952 torch over 325 km to Athens. A hurricane lamp was lit by a representative of SAS Airlines, and a few hours later it landed at Copenhagen's Kastrup Airport. Riders carried the torch into the city where it was kept overnight in the Town Hall.

The following day the flame was flown to Malmö in the south of Sweden. From there 150 riders took the flame in five days and nights to Stockholm.

On the opening day on June 10, 1956, Hans Wikne rode with the flaming torch into the stadium where he lit the cauldron. Then two gold medal winners, Karen Lindgren (Gymnastics, Helsinki 1952) and Henry Eriksson (1500 Meters, London 1948) ran with their lit torches to the two stadium towers where already during the Stockholm 1912 Olympic Games fires had been burning throughout the Games. According to eyewitness and IOC member Wolf Lyberg, no flame was lit on the opening day on the towers, only on and off during the duration of the Games.



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The prize for the 1896 Marathon (copy)
First Olympic victor, Spyros Louis.



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3. **Athens 1896. Marathon Winner Spyros Louis' Michael Breal Cup: Official Copy from 2004.** Silverplated, 21cm (8.3") high, 11cm (4.3") wide. The Cup is decorated with high relief native Greek plants, and an olive branch around the foot. It is inscribed in five lines in Greek "Olympic Games/1896/Marathon Race/Given by Michael Breal". Housed in a clear Plexiglass case with a base of 20x20cm (7.9"x7.9"), 30cm (11.8") high, and decorated with engraved olive leaves on two sides. A metal plaque on the base reads "The prize for the 1896 Marathon (copy) / First Olympic Victor Spyros Louis". Michael Breal had proposed to add Marathon to the program of the first modern Olympic Games and he donated the Cup to the winner of the first Olympic Marathon in 1896. It was sold in April 2012 by the grandson of Spyros Louis at auction for \$865,000 to the Stavros Niarchos Foundation in Greece, and it is presently on view at the Acropolis Museum in Athens. The copy was made in 2004 by the Athens 2004 Organizing Committee together with Louis' grandson and the mayor of Marathon City in seven copies. Five of them were awarded to the following:

- 1) IOC Museum, Lausanne
- 2) Pope John Paul II
- 3) Hellenic Olympic Committee
- 4) President of the Athens 2004 Organizing Committee, Gianna Angelopoulos
- 5) President of the Republic of Cyprus

The two remaining Cups went to private collections, and this Cup is one of them. EF. Extremely rare. **(\$25,000)**

4. **Paris 1900. Silver Winner's Plaque for the 4th International (Olympic) Rifle Match.** Silver, 41x59mm, by F. Vernon. Fame scattering laurel branches over exposition. Rev. Victorious athlete on podium inscribed "4th Match International/Fusil". *The Free Rifle Team Event was held on August 4 and 5, 1900. Six teams (5 shooters each team) participated: Switzerland, Norway, France, Denmark, and Holland. The first place Swiss team received gold plaques, all other teams received a silver plaque (25). This is one of the 25 silver plaques.* Rare. EF. **(\$3,000)**

5. **St. Louis 1904. Anthropology Athletic Meet Days, August 4-13, 1904. Official's Badge.** Bronze uniface, 33x34mm, by Dieges & Clust. Peace over laurel and oak branch. EF. Suspended from bar "OFFICIAL" and purple ribbon, disconnected, frayed, inscribed "Anthropology/Day/Aug. 11, 1904". *The athletic meet was to show the athletic ability of Aborigin people from various continents. Spalding's official report pp. 248-264, including nine photographic plates.* Medal EF, ribbon in poor condition, in original cardboard box by Dieges & Clust. Rare. **(\$3,000)**

6. **Athens 1906. Silver First Place Winner's Medal for Teams.** Silverplated bronze, 30mm. Nike, Goddess of Victory, seated on panel inscribed "Olympia". Rev. 6-line Greek legend in open laurel wreath. With blue ribbon, white stripes on sides. *The first place team received a silver medal, the second place team a bronze medals, as in the 1896 Olympic Games.* Abt. EF. **(\$4,500)**

7. **Athens 1906. Bronze Second Place Winner's Medal for Teams.** Bronze, 31mm. Nike, Goddess of Victory, seated on panel inscribed "Olympia". Rev. 6-line Greek legend in open laurel wreath. With blue ribbon, white stripe in center (Greek colors). *The first place team received a silver medal, the second place team a bronze medals, as in the 1896 Olympic Games.* EF. **(\$3,500)**



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8. **London 1908 Olympic Winter Games. Skating Participant's Badge.** Silvered, 30mm, partially blue enamel. Helmeted head l. of Athena facing laurel sprig, surrounded by legend on blue enamel. Numbered on back. Elbel S-9. *The first winter sport events in Olympic Games were held in London, October 28 and 29, 1908; Gentlemen's and Ladies Figure Skating won by U. Salchow, Sweden and Mrs. Syers, United Kingdom; Pair Skating, won by Hübler/Burger, Germany, and Special Figures, won by N. Panin, Russia.* According to the London 1908 official report 26 skaters participated. "WG" and number on reverse (polished). Toned EF. Very rare. **(\$5,000)**
9. **Stockholm 1912. Gold First Place Winner's Medal.** Goldplated silver, 33mm, by Erik Lindberg and Bertram MacKenna, struck by Sporrang & Co. Herald proclaiming Olympic Games, bust of Ling on pedestal at r. Rev. Victorious athlete being crowned by two seated females. *Goldplated silver medals were awarded to teams.* Abt. EF. **(\$7,000)**
10. **Stockholm 1912. Bronze Participation Medal.** Bronze, 51mm, by Lindberg/MacKenna. Zeus seated on Ionian column holding figure of Victory, Stockholm in back. Rev. Quadriga with triumphant winner dashing l. *Only 100 medals were struck in bronze for presentation to high dignitaries.* EF. Very rare. **(\$2,750)**
11. **Stockholm 1912. English Interpreter's Badge.** Goldplated, 30x25mm. British flag, enameled in blue, white and red, with "Olympiska Spelen/1912" in gold. Elbel S-10. EF. Rare. **(\$2,750)**
12. **Stockholm 1912. French Interpreter's Badge.** Goldplated, 30x25mm. French tricolor enameled badge with "Olympiska Spelen/1912" in gold. Elbel S-11. EF. Rare. **(\$2,750)**
13. **Brothers of the Wind Plaque, 1925.** Bronze, uniface, 12.7x3.4cm (5"x1.3"), by R. Tait McKenzie. Group of eight nude speedskaters in characteristic poses during a race, "Brothers of the Wind" on raised panel below. Masterful composition: The two leaders are followed by a third skater preparing to take the lead, arms swinging; closely followed by the fourth skater "trailing" the third (taking shelter of his wind). *R. Tait McKenzie (1867-1938) was North America's foremost*

14. **St. Moritz 1928 Winter. Boxed Participation Medal.** Bronze, 37mm, by M. Martin. Victory with laurel branch in horse-drawn sled to left, Olympic rings in sledge. Rev. French legend in six lines over laurel branch. In original box, EF. Rare with box. **(\$1,500)**
15. **Lake Placid 1932 Winter. Honor Guest Badge.** Goldplated, 34x34mm, octagonal. With two red-white-blue ribbons inscribed "HONOR GUEST" in gold. Numbered on back. Elbel (W-7) no photo! With original stock paper by The Robbins Co., Attleboro, Mass. One of 25 badges. EF. Very rare. **(\$9,000)**