

Olympic Issues for the 1968 Games



During the time the 1950-75 definitives were being issued, the 19th Olympic Games were to be held in Mexico in 1968. This marked the first time Mexico hosted these games, so it was an extraordinary event to be held on Mexican soil. These games held great expectations and the first issues for them were done in 1965 and illustrate pre-Columbian clay figures of athletes of early Mexico. These stamps not only show the love of sports in Mexico, but also illustrate the fact that sports date back into the early stages of the first Millennium, circa 300-500 CE, in Mexico. Five issues were printed during this year, as an advance celebration of these games, plus two imperforate Souvenir Sheets. These sheets were priced at a premium to help defray costs of the Olympics. This would also be done with future Souvenir sheets.



Both Definitive and Air Mail issues were produced over a period of four years and each of the issues included beautiful souvenir sheets containing imperforate versions of stamps. The second issue done in 1966 has line illustrations of athletes performing their sports. These second designs were done by famous Mexican artist Diego Rivera. A total of five different designs were done in different sports for both regular and airmail issues.





In 1967 and 1968 the stamps featured colorful designs of athletes silhouetted against vivid background colors. As with the prior issues, these featured souvenir sheets for special sales to collectors. Due to separating these design issues, nine designs were used in 1967 and ten followed in March of 1968.



The second set to be released in 1968 for the Olympics actually were done following the summer games in October, and I feel they have one of the most interesting designs of any stamps from Mexico. The backgrounds of the designs on most of these stamps are done in a 'Pop Art' style with lines of multiple colors making a striking effect for the various subjects like the Olympic stadium, the Temple of the Sun with an Eternal Flame, and the Dove of Peace with the Olympic Rings. There were also two Cinco Peso issues with the icons of the different sports event and an incredible Ten Peso designed with a black and white lined spelling out Mexico and including the Olympic Rings. These eleven different stamps were reproduced on imperforated Souvenir Sheets, and again sold at a premium.



Collectors the world over collected these stamps to add to their World Wide Specialized collections of Olympic stamps. of all the different commemorative issued during this period they are still widely collected and they still make great additions to any Mexican collection. Errors, proof and essays are highly prized for these stamps in specialized collections. These sets represent the best of collecting modern Mexico for collectors of Mexico and the world.