



OFFICIAL REPORT

SHARE OUR OLYMPIC HISTORY

www.wocfprague2025.org

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Organizing Committee

Josef Kočí
President of the Organizing Committee



Branislav Delej
AICO representative



Radek Jásek
Vice President – Marketing, Communications



Václav Diviš
Vice President – Logistics, Program



Jan Petrás
Finances, Exhibitions



Zdeněk Škoda
Marketing, program



Jindřich Jirásek
Technical support, web



History of WOCF

The World Olympic Collectors' Fairs (WOCF) are events for collectors of sporting items and Olympic memorabilia. The WOCF was first held in October 1994 in Lausanne, Switzerland, on the occasion of the opening of the Olympic Museum.

The fairs are organized by the International Association of Olympic Collectors (AICO), formerly FIPO, in cooperation with its member organizations. The Fair was held every year, and the hosting location changes in order to provide opportunities for meeting, exchanging, and exhibiting the Olympic heritage to an ever-growing number of enthusiasts.

In the history of the WOCF, there have been exceptions to the above: out of the first twelve WOCFs, a full nine fairs took place in Lausanne. Since 2007, the WOCF hosting baton has truly been passed around the world. The WOCF was not held in 1996, 2008, and 2024 due to the opportunity for Olympic collectors to meet directly at the Olympic Games venues. In the years 2020–2022, the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic prevented the WOCF from taking place. Conversely, in 2010, two WOCFs were held, namely in Cologne, Germany, and Beijing, China.

The purpose of the WOCF is to enable fans and collectors of Olympic memorabilia to meet regularly, strengthen old friendships and forge new ones, and facilitate the mutual exchange, purchase, or sale of Olympic items.

List of World Olympic Collectors' Fairs

I World Olympic Collectors' Fair 1994 Lausanne, Switzerland
II World Olympic Collectors' Fair, 1995, Lausanne, Switzerland
III World Olympic Collectors' Fair, 1997, Lausanne, Switzerland
IV World Olympic Collectors' Fair, 1998, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
V World Olympic Collectors' Fair, 1999, Lausanne, Switzerland
VI World Olympic Collectors' Fair, 2000, Lausanne, Switzerland
VII World Olympic Collectors' Fair, 2001, Seoul, South Korea
VIII World Olympic Collectors' Fair, 2002, Lausanne, Switzerland
IX World Olympic Collectors' Fair, 2003, Bo, Norway
X World Olympic Collectors' Fair, 2004, Lausanne, Switzerland
XI World Olympic Collectors' Fair, 2005, Lausanne, Switzerland
XII World Olympic Collectors' Fair, 2006, Lausanne, Switzerland
XIII World Olympic Collectors' Fair, 2007, Beijing, China
XIV World Olympic Collectors' Fair, 2009, Warsaw, Poland
XV World Olympic Collectors' Fair, 2010, Cologne, Germany
XVI World Olympic Collectors' Fair, 2010, Beijing, China
XVII World Olympic Collectors' Fair, 2011, Chicago, Illinois, USA
XVIII World Olympic Collectors' Fair, 2012, Athens, Greece
XIX World Olympic Collectors' Fair, 2013, Bo, Norway
XX World Olympic Collectors' Fair, 2014, Lausanne, Switzerland
XXI World Olympic Collectors' Fair, 2015, Lake Placid, New York, USA
XXII World Olympic Collectors' Fair, 2016, Gothenburg, Sweden
XXIII World Olympic Collectors' Fair, 2017, Bratislava, Slovakia

XXIV World Olympic Collectors' Fair, 2018, Los Angeles, California, USA

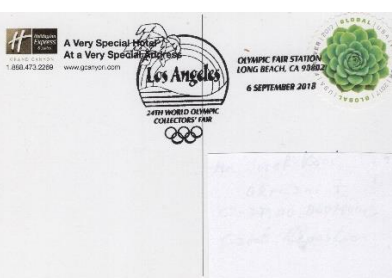
XXV World Olympic Collectors' Fair, 2019, Warsaw, Poland

XXVI World Olympic Collectors' Fair, 2020, 2021, 2022, Ardena (Rome), Italy (cancelled due to pandemic)

XXVII World Olympic Collectors' Fair, 2023, Paris, France

XXVIII World Olympic Collectors' Fair, 2025, Prague, Czechia

There is a wealth of collector documentation for the fairs, especially for philatelists and pins collectors.



History of the World Olympic Collectors' Fair WOCF Prague 2025

First, a few words about the organizer of this Fair, the OLYMPSPORT society.

The Olympic and sports philately society **OLYMPSPORT** was founded in 1966 and is one of the oldest such societies in Europe. It stood at the birth of, and is a founding member of, international organizations – FIPO in 1994, and AICO in 2014.

An integral part of the activities of the AICO organization, and the former FIPO, is the organization of world exhibitions of Olympic philately under the name **OLYMPHILEX**. While the first of these was held in Lausanne in 1985, the Olympsport society organized its first specialized thematic exhibition on Olympic and sports themes back in 1970, with others following subsequently.

Olympsport, as a thematic society, is part of the Union of Czech Philatelists and is a collective member of the Czech Olympic Academy. Currently, it brings together mainly those interested in sports and Olympic philately, but in line with the focus of the AICO organization, it strives for the increasing involvement of collectors from other fields as well.

In 2023, representatives of Olympsport attended WOCF Paris 2023, where they were approached by representatives of the AICO Executive Committee with an offer to participate in the selection process for organizing the fairs in 2025, 2026, and 2027. Upon returning home, the Olympsport representatives began to seriously consider this possibility.

In August 2023, the AICO Executive board officially launched a tender for the organization of the world fairs in 2025–2027. In October 2023, the Olympsport committee decided to bid for the organization of the fair in **2025**. This year was not chosen by chance – 2025 marked the **100th anniversary of the "VIII Olympic Congress"** held in Prague in 1925.

On November 5, 2023, the AICO Executive Committee announced that it had selected Olympsport to host the 28th World Olympic Collectors' Fair. This selection was subsequently confirmed by the IOC's Olympic Foundation for Culture and Heritage. The first official meeting of the WOCF Prague 2025 Organizing Committee took place in Prague on January 10, 2024, symbolically at the Hotel Olympik.

Founding Organizing Committee



*From left to right: Jan Petrás, Václav Diviš, Jindřich Jirásek, Josef Koči, Branislav Delej
(Hotel Olympik Prague)*

The Organizing Committee was supplemented in August 2024 with the following members:

- Radek Jásek – Olympsport
- Zdeněk Škoda – Czech Olympic Academy

The Organizing Committee made the following decision at this meeting:

Date of WOCF Prague 2025: The Fair will take place from **May 29 to June 1, 2025**, which is the same period during which the VIII International Olympic Congress was held in Prague 100 years ago (May 29 – June 4, 1925).

Venue of WOCF Prague 2025: The Organizing Committee decided to organize WOCF Prague 2025 at the **Hotel Olympik**. The hotel is located in the Prague district Karlin, only 4 metro stops from the center. The hotel was built during the time Prague was bidding to host the 1980 Olympic Games. It is now a complex of 3 buildings with a large congress center (capacity of approximately 230 exhibitor tables), a large restaurant and bar, and of course, accommodation (capacity of over 500 rooms for more than 1,200 visitors). Everything in one place... The Sběratel international fair has been held in the same complex for many years, with the participation of over 5,000 collectors and visitors. A large parking area in front of the hotel is a matter of course.

Program: An informative time schedule for the individual days May 29 – June 1, 2025.

Other Important Milestones:

- **March 1, 2024:** A communiqué on cooperation in organizing the Fair was signed between the presidents of AICO and OLYMPSPORT.
- **December 15, 2024:** The WOCF Prague 2025 logo was officially approved and published. (For the logo development, see a separate chapter.)
- **January 25, 2025:** Official launch of the website and commencement of registration.



Call for Expression of Interest

Organization of World Olympic Collectors' Fairs for 2025, 2026 and 2027

World Olympic Collectors' Fair Background

The International Olympic Committee supports the Olympic collector movement by granting patronage to different forms of Olympic collector activities as well through the direct assistance of the Cultural and Olympic Heritage Commission. The World Olympic Collectors Fair, which has been an almost annual event since 1994, is an expression of the IOC's support.

The World Olympic Collectors' Fairs are excellent opportunities for Olympic enthusiasts to share their combined interests in Olympic history and collecting. The Fair has travelled around the globe visiting past and future Olympic host cities.

The Fair can be organized in any appropriate place, however, this would be an excellent opportunity for museums which are members of the Olympic Museum Network to organize the event. The benefits of holding the Fair are many:

1. Collectors and the public are made aware of the museum's collections;
2. This is an opportunity for the museum and collectors, who are very often highly knowledgeable experts in different domains of Olympic history and memorabilia, to exchange information;
3. It provides the environment for the museum to increase its own holdings.

The IOC considers that a primary duty of AICO is organising events such as fairs and exhibitions associated with Olympic philately, numismatics and memorabilia.

The IOC Cultural and Olympic Heritage Commission and AICO are responsible for accepting proposals from entities wishing to host a World Olympic Collectors' Fair. Currently, we are accepting proposals for Fairs to be conducted in 2025, 2026 and 2027.

1. Eligible Prospective Organiser

The Call is open to all organisations/institutions which are in compliance with the regulations of the IOC and Olympic Charter, as well as with all applicable laws and regulations, and who maintain a practice reflecting the principles of good governance at the time of the Event.

The list of eligible Prospective Organisers includes, but is not limited to:

- a. Olympic Games Organizing Committees;
- b. National Olympic Committees;
- c. International Sports Associations recognized by the IOC;
- d. Members of the Olympic Museum Network;
- e. Members of AICO, the International Olympic Collectors Association.

2. Application procedure

The purpose of this Call is to identify eligible candidates to organize the World Olympic Collectors Fair in 2025, 2026 and 2027. To qualify for consideration, Applicants must submit an **EXPRESSION OF INTEREST** by 15 October 2023. This document must include the following information:

- a. Fair location (city/country) and duration (dd/mm/yy to dd/mm/yy);
- b. Information on main objective/s of the Fair and the relationship of the Fair, if any, to other Olympic/sports celebrations to be held at the same time;
- c. Information on any support and/or involvement of the NOC;
- d. Main accompanying events and activities planned for Fair participants (e.g. any cultural or social events, tours, etc.);
- e. Prospective financial resources.

If there are multiple candidates to host the WOCCF in any one year, a competitive procedure will be applied. AICO will initiate a dialogue with all parties to define, in the best interests of the family of Olympic collectors, a schedule of successful candidates.

3. Expected WOCCF Start Dates and Durations

The Fairs are expected to start not earlier than May/June. The duration of the WOCCF should be 3-4 days and include a weekend.

4. Funding Source

It is expected that the Organizer will be responsible for financing the WOCCF. However, once selected, the Organizer may apply for the financial support from the IOC, based on the assumption that the Fair is a non-profit event.

5. Submission Requirements

The complete **EXPRESSION OF INTEREST** should be submitted electronically, in English, to reach the AICO Secretary General Mark Maestroni, not later than **15 October 2023**. The email address is: mark.maestroni@aicolympic.org



M. Josef KOCI
Olympsport President

Paris, 5 novembre 2023

Objet : WOCCF 2025 Bid

Dear President, Cher Ami Olympique,

First of all, the AICO thanks you for your candidacy to host the WOCCF in Prague, for the very first time in the history of the WOCCF.

I wanted to personally thank you for your proposal to submit this candidacy for the year 2025.

The AICO EB decided that the WOCCF 2025 edition would therefore be organized by Olympsport.

We will now present our choice to the IOC Culture and Olympic Heritage Foundation. I will get back to you as soon as they are validated.

We are already looking forward to coming to Prague and celebrating with you the 100th anniversary of the IOC Session in Prague which marked Olympic history.

Avec mes meilleurs sentiments,

Christophe AIT-BRAHAM
Membre de la Commission Culture et Héritage du Comité International Olympique
AICO President

AICO is an Organization recognized by the International Olympic Committee * www.aicolympic.org

Mr AIT-BRAHAM Christophe - 7, ter rue du Docteur Leray - 95100 ARGENTEUIL - FRANCE
Tel : (+33) 6.81.55.89.26 * e-mail : president@aicolympic.org



Unclassified

Association Internationale des
Collectionneurs Olympiques (AICO)
Mr Christophe Ait-Braham
2, chemin de Malateraz
1807 Blonay
Switzerland

Lausanne, 27 February 2024
Ref. ATO/etc

World Olympic Collectors' Fair in Prague in 2025

Dear President,

I am delighted to acknowledge the candidacy of the City of Prague, Czech Republic, to host the World Olympic Collectors' Fair in 2025.

The Olympic Foundation for Culture and Heritage is committed to supporting the World Olympic Collectors' Fair in Prague. Ms. Stéphanie Coppex, Communities Manager (email: stephanie.coppex@olympic.org), will soon reach out to you separately with pertinent information regarding the Fair's agreement, event emblem, and its usage.

Prague's proposal to celebrate the Centenary of the Olympic Congress, Baron Pierre de Coubertin's final Congress held from 29 May to 4 June 1925, holds great significance. Being a part of the IOC legacy, Prague offers a world-class location that befits the importance of this event.

I extend my best wishes for success in your noble endeavour.

Best regards,

Angelita Teo
Director

Quai d'Ouchy 1, 1006 Lausanne, Switzerland | Tel. +41 21 621 65 11 | Fax +41 21 621 65 12 | www.IOC.org

The Foundation is the IOC's cultural heart - nurturing The Olympic Museum, The Olympic Studies Centre, Heritage Management and International Cultural Affairs.



Paris, Prague, le 1^{er} mars 2024,

COMMUNIQUE
XXVIII^e WORLD OLYMPIC COLLECTORS FAIR PRAGUE 2025

On 27 February 2024, the Olympic Foundation for Culture and Heritage officially awarded the organization of the XXVIII World Olympic Collectors' Fair to Prague 2025 (Czech Republic).

It is with great honor and pleasure that Mr. KOCI Josef, President of OLYMPSPORT (Czech Association for Olympic Philately), and Mr. AIT-BRAHAM Christophe, President of AICO (International Association of Olympic Collectors) and Member of the IOC Commission for Culture and Olympic Heritage, welcomed this decision, and warmly thanked Mrs. TEO Angelita, Director of the Olympic Foundation.

This event, jointly organised by AICO and OLYMPSPORT will bring together Olympic collectors from all over the world from 29 May to 1 June 2025 to share and discuss their passion and Olympic culture.

The WOCCF will be in the same date, like 100 years before it was in Prague the historical IOC Congress.

The Organizing Committee is already in place to ensure the success of this event, to which all collectors and enthusiasts of Olympism are invited.

More information about the upcoming organization can be found on www.aicolympic.org

Christophe AIT-BRAHAM
AICO President

Josef KOCI
OLYMPSPORT President

WE COLLECT OLYMPIC HISTORY



23th of July, 2024

COMMUNIQUE

World Olympic Collectors' Fair Prague 2025
Foire Mondiale des Collectionneurs Olympiques Prague 2025
Světový veletrh olympijských sběratelů Praha 2025
From May 30 to June 1, 2025

The Czech Association for Olympic and Sport Philately OLYMPSPORT and the International Association of Olympic Collectors AICO are pleased to formalize the dates of the World Olympic Collectors' Fair of Prague 2025.

The official program and all the terms of participation will be unveiled in December 2024.



Prague Castle, Czech Republic - Prague Castle

WOCF Logo and its Evolution

Immediately after Prague was officially awarded the WOCF 2025 organization, the Organizing Committee contacted two graphic designers to request a draft logo for the Fair. The logo was required to contain the mandatory information while simultaneously symbolizing Prague as the heart of Europe and, if possible, commemorating the 100th anniversary of the 1925 International Olympic Congress. The following four variants were shortlisted:



The Organizing Committee decided to proceed with Variant No. 4, which the designer elaborated upon following comments, resulting in a design that was sent to the Olympic Foundation for Culture and Heritage. However, this version was not approved, and it was recommended that the combination of multiple logos within a single design - specifically the logo of the 1925 Olympic Congress in Prague and the Olymposport company logo - be removed, thereby avoiding a "logo within a logo."

The logo was subsequently modified according to the committee's requirements. However, it still featured the silhouette of the "Dancing House," architecture of which is protected by copyright. Given the time required to obtain permission to use the silhouette and to avoid all possible issues, the silhouette of the Dancing House was replaced with a building that does not require such permission/approval.



This led us to the final version of the logo, which was approved by the IOC's Olympic Foundation for Culture and Heritage and has become the symbol for all activities of the 28th WOCF.



Program

THURSDAY MAY 29, 2025

from 10:00 a.m. Accommodation of participants at the Olympik Congress, Olympik Tristar and Olympik Artemis hotels

1 p.m.: Registration of exhibitors, obtaining the allocation of the table(s)

4:30 p.m.: End of registration, closing of the Congress Center rooms.

5.00 p.m.: visit the Tyrš House (seat of Sokol organisation)

- Guided tour of the exhibition "100 Years Since the 8th Olympic Congress in Prague 1925" with a commentary on the technical and pedagogical parts of the congress.
- Lecture on the Sokol movement and a tour of the Tyrš House sport halls (in English)



8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. - Cruise on the Vltava River with the historic steamboat of the "Parníky Praha" company, including refreshments (buffet dinner) and a guide's commentary on the sights (in English).



FRIDAY MAY 30, 2025

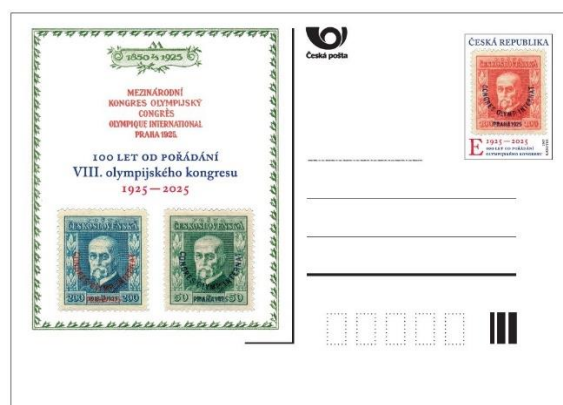
8 a.m. Opening of the Congress Center rooms to exhibitors

9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Open to the public – free entrance

9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Olympsport stand opened – sale of Fair items by the Czech Post - the special cards, cancellations

11 a.m. Official opening of the Fair.

2 p.m.: An autograph session with Mr. Kamil Knotek, the author of the commemorative postmark and postcard issued to the 100th anniversary of the International Olympic Congress Prague 1925



7 p.m.: Silent auction in hotel Olympik (Olymp Lounge) on the 19th floor with panoramic view of Prague.



A view of Prague from the "Olymp Lounge" hall, where the silent auction will take place.

SATURDAY MAY 31, 2025

8 a.m.: Opening of the Congress Center rooms to exhibitors.

9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Open to the public – free entrance

11 a.m.: Presentation of famous Czech athletes, autograph signing



6.30 p.m.: „Gala“ dinner in the city center in the oldest brewery (pub) and the most visited famous restaurant in Prague „U Fleku“

SUNDAY JUNE 1, 2025

8 a.m.: Opening of the Olympik halls to exhibitors

9 a.m. to 2 p.m: Open to the public – free entrance

10 a.m.: Diploma ceremony for exhibitors

6 p.m.: Closing evening for organizers

AN ACCOMPANYING PROGRAM:

May 24 – June 1, 2025

Exhibition „100-year anniversary of Prague IOC Congress 29May - 1June 1925“ (Tyrs' House)



Wednesday May 28, 2025

Seminar – workshop „Prague IOC Congress 29May – 1 June 1925“
National Museum Prague.

May 29 – June 1, 2025

International Fairs and Exhibitions with Olympic and Sports theme - FIPO, OLYMPEX, OLYMPHILEX, AICO, WOCF (in Congress Center)



October 16, 2024 – September 30, 2025 "Olympic Stories: Successes of Czech Athletes Over the Past 100+ Years" (National Museum Prague)

Accompanying Exhibitions

Exhibition "100 Years Since the VIII International Olympic Congress 1925 in Prague"

A tour of the IOC 1925 Exhibition was included in the WOCF Prague 2025 program for those interested and was combined with an excursion to Tyršův Dům.

The exhibition itself was presented on six display frames and included the following thematic areas:

VIII International Olympic Congress 1925 Prague

- Information on the program of the IOC Technical and Pedagogical Congress
- Accompanying events of the IOC Congress
- Competitive philatelic exhibits related to the IOC 1925 Congress (Jaroslav Justýn, Peter Osuský)
- Exclusive IOC 1925 memorabilia (Vaclav Divis: philately, medals, and pins)

Significant Personalities of the IOC 1925 Congress

- Pierre de Coubertin – IOC President
- Stanislav Jiří Guth-Jarkovský – COC Chairman (Czech Olympic Committee)
- Josef Rössler-Ořovský – COC Secretary General Olympic Committee (up to 1925)



Exhibition "International Fairs and Exhibitions with Olympic and Sports Theme – FIPO, OLYMPLEX, OLYMPHILEX, AICO, WOCF)"

In the lobby of the Hotel Olympik Congress Center, Olympsport prepared an exhibition for visitors recalling a piece of Olympic collecting history. The progression of Olymphilex and later the multi-genre Olympex exhibitions was mapped out on 180 display sheets using philatelic artifacts, from Olymphilex 1985 in Lausanne to Olympex 2012 in London. These successful exhibitions ended here, and there has been no successful follow-up to date. After all, what is more important for Olympic collectors than exhibiting at a world exhibition held as part of the Olympic Games program?

Three-dimensional items related to Olymphilex and Olympex, such as medals, pins, catalogs, palmarès (awards/results), etc., were then placed in display showcases. Among all the exhibited items, the **Juan Antonio Samaranch Medal**, which was awarded to the former Chairman of Olympsport, Jaroslav Petrášek, in 2012 for promoting Olympic philately, was placed in a place of honour.



Course of WOCF Prague 2025

After seventeen months of preparations, the decisive moment finally arrived. That day was Friday, May 30, at 11 a.m., when the Chairman of the Organizing Committee and President of Olympsport, Josef Kočí, opened the three-day World Olympic Collectors' Fair and welcomed 95 exhibitors from 18 countries, spanning from Japan to the USA. Greetings were also delivered by the President of AICO, Christophe Ait-Braham, Zdeněk Škoda, Vice-Chairman of the COA (Czech Olympic Academy), and David Beer, representative of the Czech Post. The entire opening ceremony was moderated by Jakub Bažant, a sports editor for Czech Television (



Organizing Committee Chairman Josef Kočí



**Moderator Jakub Bažant, sports
comentator ČT**



Christophe Ait-Braham, President of AICO



Zdeněk Škoda, Vice-Chairman of COA



David Beer, representative of Czech Post



Various artifacts were offered for sale or exchange: pins, postage stamps, medals, tickets, mascots, torches, books, flags, clothing, plaques – all themed around the Olympic Games and Olympism. In short, the five intertwined rings are a global phenomenon of our time.



An essential part of such an event is the cultural program. The evening before the opening, fair participants had the opportunity to take a guided tour of Tyršův Dům, which in 1925 became one of the venues for the VIII Olympic Congress, and this year commemorated the 100th anniversary of its opening. Those present showed great interest in the exhibition organized by Olympsport, which was dedicated to philatelic artifacts issued for the 1925 Olympic Congress. This was followed by a cruise on the Vltava River onboard a historic steamboat.





On the penultimate evening, a gala dinner was held at Prague's most renowned and visited restaurant and oldest brewery, **U Fleků**. Here, AICO President, Christophe Ait-Braham, thanked the organizers, led by Chairman Josef Kočí, for the smooth running of the event, the kind welcome, and the hospitality, and presented him with an award for his contribution to the development of Olympic collecting and culture in the Czech Republic and worldwide.



Two autograph sessions should also be mentioned: one with **Mr. Kamil Knotek**, the author of the commemorative postcard and the special hand-cancellation postmark for the 1925 Olympic Congress anniversary, and another with Czech Olympians, **Mr. David Svoboda** and **Mr. Pavel Benc**.



Kamil Knotek, author of the commemorative postcard and postmark for the 1925 Olympic Congress anniversary.



The accompanying program included:

- a **seminar** on the 100th anniversary of the Olympic Congress in Prague,
- a **Silent Auction**, and
- a **philatelic exhibition** in the lobby area focusing on the History of World Exhibitions with Olympic and sports themes (OLYMPHILEX and OLYMPEX), as well as various medals, plaques, pins, and catalogs displayed in showcases—all featuring Olympic and sports themes, both and provided courtesy of Olympsport.



The seminar took place in the historic building of the National Museum on Wenceslas Square.



The Silent Auction took place on the 19th floor of the Olympik hotel complex.



The philatelic exhibition on the History of World Exhibitions with Olympic and sports themes.



Fair visitors had the opportunity to receive two **special hand-cancellation postmarks** at the temporary counter of the Czech Post Prague 8, which was available only on May 30.



The temporarily established counter of the Czech Post Prague 8



The special hand-cancellation postmarks

28TH WORLD OLYMPIC COLLECTORS' FAIR PRAGUE 8 (left)

INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC CONGRESS * PRAGUE 8 (right)



The Czech Post also prepared and offered for sale a **postal postcard** commemorating the 100th anniversary of the VIII Olympic Congress, which took place from May 29 to June 4, 1925, in Prague.

Olympsport, in cooperation with the Czech Post, prepared two **souvenir sheets**. One was dedicated to the 28th World Olympic Collectors' Fair, featuring the **Discus Thrower** stamp and the fair's logos in a bilingual overprint. The second commemorated the 100th anniversary of the VIII Olympic Congress 1925, featuring the Discus Thrower stamp and a **series of overprinted postage stamps** that were originally issued in 1925, alongside the hand-cancellation postmark on the overprint.



The Organizing Committee also issued **four postcards** and a **series of three pins** for collectors and visitors of the 28th World Olympic Collectors' Fair.



During the final day, Josef Kočí and Christophe Ait-Braham presented all exhibitors and organizers with **IOC Certificates** of participation in the fair.



Shortly after noon, the gates of the 28th World Olympic Collectors' Fair closed, and it was time to say goodbye...



Budget and Financial Result of WOCF Prague 2025

The following circumstances primarily contributed to the balanced financial result:

- Financial subsidies from the IOC (International Olympic Committee), the COC (Czech Olympic Committee), and a private donor.
- The selection of service providers with whom Olympsport had collaborated in the past.
- The work of many volunteers who worked without entitlement to financial reward throughout the preparation and execution of the WOCF.

Regarding the pricing for services and events for exhibitors and participants, the organizer, similar to the preceding WOCF 2023 Paris, refrained from using packages with various categories (including benefits increasing with price – with the exception of the tables). Exhibitors and visitors were thus able to book tables and all individual events separately.

The price of a table (width 85 cm, length 100 cm) including a welcome bag (containing a bag with the WOCF logo, a participant badge, the official program, a set of postcards, and promotional materials for Prague) was set as follows:

- For the first and second table: **75.00 EUR**
- For the third and subsequent tables: **50.00 EUR**

Other paid services included:

- Cultural visit – Tyršův Dům and Vltava River cruise by steamboat: **80.00 EUR**
- Concluding dinner – Gala Dinner: **110.00 EUR**

In addition to these paid services, the organizers prepared the traditional Silent Auction. The financial proceeds from this auction covered the costs of the venue rental, the welcome drink, and refreshments, while the event primarily served as another opportunity for a friendly gathering.

28th World Olympic collectors Fair Pague 2025
Final Financial Evaluation of the Event

	Revenue	CZK	EUR approx.*
No.	Description		
01	Subvention from the Interantional Olympic Committee (IOC)	215 000,00	8 600,00
02	Subventzion from Czech Olympic Committee (COC)	30 000,00	1 200,00
03	Private donation	100 000,00	4 000,00
04	Participant payments - Table sales	206 177,97	8 247,12
05	Participant payments - Cultural programme (Tyršův Dům + boat trip)	93 600,00	3 744,00
06	Participant payments - Gala Dinner "U Fleků"	107 250,00	4 290,00
07	Silent auction	29 232,00	1 169,28
08	Sales of WOCF material, ingluding pins	212 760,00	8 510,40
		994 019,97	39 760,80

* Exchange rate used for conversion: 25,00 CZK/EUR

	Expenses	CZK	EUR approx.*
01	Technical support (Double Impact)	145 942,94	5 837,72
02	Servises and rent (Hotel Olympik) inc. silent auction	186 920,00	7 476,80
03	WOCF logo	20 400,00	816,00
04	Web services - domain, hosting, website creation	24 466,25	978,64
05	Event insurance	7 989,00	319,56
06	Accommodation for the Organizing Committee	49 763,00	1 990,52
07	Cultural events – Tyrš's House + boat trip od Vltava river	115 725,00	4 629,00
08	Gala Dinner "U Fleků"	44 600,00	1 784,00
09	Czech Post services - Production of commemorative postmarks, counter	33 944,01	1 357,76
10	Exhibitions at Olympik and Tyrš's house	27 230,94	1 089,24
11	Purchase of philatelic materials	132 268,00	5 290,72
12	Purchase of pins	124 963,81	4 998,56
13	Promotion, advertising in magazines	18 278,54	731,12
14	Bank fees	10 773,46	430,94
15	Travel expenses (Fares)	15 138,00	605,52
16	Refreshments	19 016,00	760,64
17	Office supplies, copying	7 250,39	290,00
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* Exchange rate used for conversion: 25,00 CZK/EUR

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43	KUKAČKA	Pravoslav	Czechia
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51	MEDINA	Rodolfo	Czechia
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56	NOWAKOWSKI	Wojciech	Poland
57	O'NEIL	Ingrid	USA
58	OIKONOMOU	George	Greece
59	OSTERWALDER	Markus	Switzerland
60	PANOSSIAN	Edouard	France
61	PETRAS	Jan	Czechia
62	POLO	Pasquale	Italy
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64	PRAT	Robert	Monaco
65	REAVIS	Tracey	USA
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78	TODD	Doug	USA
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81	UJDAK	Damian	Poland
82	VASHEDI	Erik	Japan
83	VORONTSOV	Oleg	Spain
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93	ZIMMERMANN	Jan	Germany

FOIRE MONDIALE DES COLLECTIONNEURS Prague, ses tours et sa foire olympique

Christophe Ait-Braham, président AICO

Cette foire mondiale des collection-neurs Olympiques Prague 2025 fut un peu particulière, car elle prenait le flambeau de celle de Paris 2023, où nous étions alors à la manœuvre, très occupés et préoccupés par le bon déroulement de toute l'organisation.

C'est donc presque en «touriste» que pour cette édition j'ai pu arpenter les allées des exposants et c'est toujours un plaisir de retrouver ses amis collectionneurs. Ce fut aussi un plaisir d'échanger enfin de visu avec Josef Koci et son équipe d'Olympsport (après une année intensive d'échanges électroniques); Josef, président d'Olympsport et du comité d'organisation, que je remercie de nouveau, car avec son équipe, ils n'ont pas épargné leurs efforts pour cette organisation. Tout le monde aura pu apprécier, entre autres, la convivialité de l'événement.

Ce fut donc un honneur de lui remettre au nom de l'AICO, **le prix AICO 2025 du Collectionneur olympique**, lors du dîner de gala dans une taverne historique du centre de Prague.



Le programme culturel nous a permis de visiter à deux reprises les splendeurs de la ville, ses nombreuses tours et une partie de son héritage historique.

Pour l'anecdote, le site même de la foire était situé sur un complexe olympique prévu initialement pour les **Jeux d'été de 1980** avant que Prague et la Tchécoslovaquie ne doivent céder leur place dans la course aux Jeux, à Moscou et au grand frère de l'URSS.



Les deux expositions présentées par Olympsport ont permis de mettre en lumière **le congrès du CIO à Prague en 1925** (année du centenaire donc!) et l'histoire d'Olymphelex et d'Olympsport.

La foire favorise désormais des temps d'échanges officiels et informels entre les associations membres de l'AICO: présentations des projets, échanges sur le développement de la collection olympique ...



Nos amis d'Olympin et de SPI en ont profité pour nous dévoiler les dates officielles de la prochaine foire à **Colorado Springs (USA)**, au cœur du mouvement olympique américain (centre d'entraînement et musée olympique): nous nous y retrouverons donc du **22 au 24 mai 2026**. J'espère que l'équipe de France AFCOS des collectionneurs olympiques y sera, une fois encore, tout aussi présente et enthousiaste!



Postcards from Prague: My Visit to the 2025 World Olympic Collectors' Fair

Mark Maestrone, vice-chairman AICO

Prague has long perched at the top of my travel wish list, and this year's World Olympic Collectors' Fair (Figure 1) offered the perfect excuse to finally make the trip. As one of the few European cities largely untouched by the destruction of the 20th century's two world wars, Prague (Figure 2) remains a jewel box of historic charm, and it didn't disappoint.



Figures 1 & 2. (Left) View of the show floor during the Fair. (Right) On the Vltava River dinner cruise Thursday evening.

Arriving a day early to settle in, I checked into the aptly named Hotel Olympik (Figure 3), the official show hotel. As a member of the AICO Executive Board - AICO being the International Association of Olympic Collectors and the WOCF organizer-I had the privilege of staying on-site. Built in the 1970s with hopes that Prague would host the 1980 Olympics (spoiler alert: Moscow got the nod [Figure 4]), the hotel is a time capsule of that era, albeit with some modern touches. It also seems to be a favorite of tour groups and student travelers; on my first evening, I counted no fewer than 30 enormous tour buses parked outside!

Early arrivals on Thursday were treated to a cultural excursion to Tyrš House, birthplace of the



Figure 3-5. (Left) Olympik Hotel. (Middle) An amusing postcard from the Museum of Communism in Prague: Misha, the 1980 Olympic mascot, but holding a kalashnikov! (Right) WOCF Organizing Committee President, Josef Kočí, at the Opening Ceremony. An Olympic flag with the signatures of all the attendees is on the wall..

Czech Sokol Movement. Much like Germany's Turnverein, the Sokol (meaning "falcon") movement blended cultural pride with athleticism, with a particular focus on gymnastics. We toured the impressive 9th-century building, taking in historical artifacts and a fascinating

philatelic exhibit honoring the 1925 Prague Olympic Congress (Figure 6) - which, as luck would have it, took place exactly a century before our own gathering.

From there, it was off to the Vltava River for an evening cruise, complete with a generous spread of traditional Czech snacks and (naturally) some excellent local beer. While we hit a few snags with the buses - delayed departures and a last-minute vehicle swap - it didn't dampen the festive mood among the attendees. Friday, 30 May, marked the official opening of the Fair, and foot traffic was strong from the start. An Olympic flag signed by all the attendees provided a colorful backdrop for the opening



Figure 6. On our Tyrš House tour we were shown this ornate meeting room which was likely used during the IOC Session of 1925 - exactly 100 years ago!

ceremonies, hosted by Czech TV personality Jakub Bažant. Josef Kočí, Chairman of the WOCF 2025 Organizing Committee, welcomed guests, joined by AICO President Christophe Ait-Braham and Czech Olympic Academy Vice-Chairman Zdeněk Škoda. Also on hand was David Beer of Czech Post, who introduced the event's commemorative stamps and postmarks. Collectors eagerly lined up to purchase the limited-edition issues and to receive two special hand-cancellations at a temporary Czech Post counter set up inside the venue. That three ladies from Czech Post did a marvelous job of postmarking all the various covers and cards brought to their table. There were two cancels available: one showing the fair logo and text (in Czech) 28th World Olympic Collectors' Fair, and the other was a view of the Vltava River and famous Charles Bridge. Both cancels were from the Prague 8 post office and dated 30.5.2025. The post office was present only on Friday so if you wanted either or both of the show cancellations you had to hustle. All postal products are shown on the next page.

The organizing committee's counter at the entrance to the show stocked all the stamps, postal card, show postcard, and other special merchandise that was for sale through out the period of the fair.

Friday evening saw collectors gather atop the Olympik for the Silent Auction, held in the hotel's penthouse. Greeted with glasses of Prosecco, bidders perused a tempting array of donated lots. I had the honor of serving as official timekeeper for the 30-minute bidding window. All but two items found new homes by night's end. Afterward, although light refreshments were available, most of us headed out for dinner.

Our AICO group stumbled upon a charming outdoor café in Prague's Old Town, a perfect setting to enjoy the warm spring evening. One pleasant surprise: Prague remains a very budget-friendly destination. A full dinner - entrée, beer or wine, dessert, and tip - came to just \$25-30 per person. And a 30-minute metro, tram ticket? A mere \$1.38!

One of the high points Saturday morning was an autograph session with two well-known Czech Olympians (Figure 7). David Svoboda, a native of Prague, was a top performer in the Modern Pentathlon, winning an individual gold medal at the London 2012 Olympic Games. Cross-country skier, Pavel Benc, from the northern Czech town of Jablonec nad Nisou, won a bronze medal in the 4 × 10 km relay at the 1988 Winter Olympics in Calgary, Canada. In addition to signing specially printed cards provided by the hosts, both athletes were happy to chat and take selfies with the attendees.

That evening we reconvened for a festive gala dinner at the legendary U Fleků, a local institution that's been brewing beer since 1499 (Figure 8). In a private room, we enjoyed free-flowing dark and light lagers and hearty Czech fare. Spirits were high, and the laughter plentiful. A hearty bravo to Josef Kočí and the entire organizing team for putting on a first-class event. I was fortunate to have been able to extend my Czechia stay for another week, savoring the hospitality of the Czech people and the timeless beauty of this storied city. I very much hope to return.

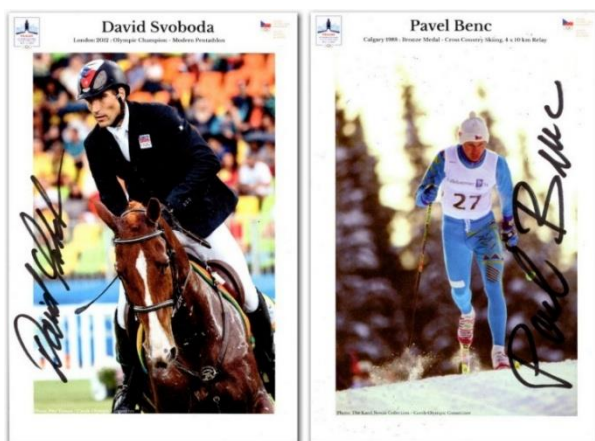


Figure 7. The autograph session on Saturday had long lines of attendees waiting to meet Czech Olympians David Svoboda and Pavel Benc. The free 4x6 cards were supplied by the organizers.



Figure 8. Some of our European colleagues at the gala banquet U Fleků: (L-R) Claus Fink, Rufin Schullian, Ingrid O'Neil, Markus Osterwalder, and Wolfgang Fuhr.



(Left) Czech postal stationery card commemorating the 1925 IOC Con-gress and reproducing the special over-printed stamps from a century ago. The "E" postal rate for Europe was valued at 48 Kč at the time of posting. An additional 6 Kč was required for USA paid for by the 9 Kč stamp. Above are the two special postmarks: WOCF logo and 100th anniversary IOC Congress..



Pane of 7 "B" rated Discobolos stamps ("B" = 31 Kč, domestic economy letters). Six IOC overprint stamps as labels were attached with an additional two labels showing the 1925 IOC Congress postmark. The panes had a face value of 217 Kč, but were sold at a premium for 750Kč. Total issued: 70 panes..



Pane of 7 "B" rated Discobolos stamps ("B" = 31 Kč, domestic economy letters). Eight WOCF Logo labels were attached in either English or Czech (4 of each). The panes had a face value of 217 Kč, but were sold at a premium for 800 Kč. Total of 200 panes issued.

World Olympic Collectors Fair 1925 in Prag Olympiageschichte, Sammlerleidenschaft und internationale Begegnungen

Rufin Schullian, Vorsitzender der IMOS

Vom 30. Mai bis zum 1. Juni 2025 wurde Prag zum Treffpunkt olympischer Sammlerherzen. Die World Olympic Collectors Fair lockte Sammler, Händler und Olympiabegeisterte aus aller



Welt in die goldene Stadt an der Moldau – nicht nur zum Sammeln, Tauschen und Fachsimpeln, sondern auch zum Feiern eines bedeutenden Jubiläums: Vor genau 100 Jahren fand hier der historische IOC-Kongress von 1925 statt.

Die Teilnehmer waren im Hotel Olympic untergebracht, unweit vom Ausstellungssaal im Hotel Artemis – ein perfektes Arrangement für entspannte Tage mit kurzen Wegen.

Donnerstag: Geschichte zum Anfassen und stimmungsvolle Moldaufahrt

Der Donnerstagabend stand ganz im Zeichen der olympischen Geschichte. Ein Besuch im ehrwürdigen Tyrš-Haus, dem ehemaligen Michna-Palast in der Prager Kleinseite, erinnerte an den IOC-Kongress von 1925.



Der prachtvolle Barockbau, heute Sitz der Tschechischen Sokol-Gemeinde¹, diente als würdige Kulisse für eine eigens eingerichtete Sonderausstellung, bei der unser slowakisches Mitglied Peter Osusky Schätze aus seiner Sammlung zu diesem Teil früher IOC-Geschichte zeigte.



¹ Die Sokol-Bewegung, 1862 in Prag gegründet, ist eine Turnbewegung mit (damals) nationaler und patriotischer Ausprägung.

An Bord eines Moldauschiffes klang der erste Abend aus, vorbei an der berühmten Karlsbrücke und anderen Sehenswürdigkeiten im Herzen Prags.

Freitag: Offizielle Eröffnung und lebhafter Sammlertag

Am Freitagvormittag wurde der IMOS-Werbekstand mit unseren Journalen, Flyern und Informationsmaterialien bestückt – bereit für Gespräche und neue Kontakte. Um 11 Uhr dann der offizielle Startschuss: Josef Koci, Präsident der tschechischen Sammlervereinigung OLYMPSPORT, und Christophe Ait-Braham von der AICO eröffneten die Messe.



Reges Treiben im vollen Saal - eine Internationale Gemeinschaft mit Teilnehmern aus der Slowakei, Deutschland, Österreich, Frankreich, Spanien, der Schweiz, Mexiko, Litauen, den USA, Kanada, China, GB und dem Gastgeberland, erfüllt von einer gemeinsamen Leidenschaft. Es wurde gehandelt, getauscht, verhandelt, gestaunt. Besonders gefragt waren Ansichtskarten, Pins, Abzeichen und philatelistische Raritäten.

Die tschechische Post sorgte für eine attraktive Postkarte mit Sonderwertzeichen-eindruck.

Und sie sorgte für zwei Sonderstempel -

- einen zur Olympia-sammler-Messe und
- einen in Erinnerung an das 100-jährige Jubiläum des Olympischen Kongresses.





Die gastgebende Gruppe OLYMPSPORT präsentierte neben zwei Postkarten auch zwei ansehnliche personalisierte Briefmarkenbogen, die ebenfalls beiden Anlässe gewidmet waren. Der Buchstabe B steht für die Freimachung im Inland.



Zur WOCF-Tradition gehört eine so genannte „Silent Auction“, bei der in entspannter Atmosphäre gespendete Sammlerstücke zu Gunsten der Organisation angeboten werden. Wer nach 30 Min. als Letzter sein Gebot auf den jeweiligen Gebotslisten gesetzt hatte, war der Gewinner. Obwohl alles *silent* ablief, entwickelte sich manch spannendes Kopf-an-Kopf-Rennen um besonders begehrte Objekte.



Samstag: Volles Haus und festlicher Ausklang

Business as usual: Alles, was das Sammlerherz begehrte, wechselte die Besitzer – Pins, Autogrammkarten, Fackeln, Teilnehmermedaillen, Startnummern, Eintrittskarten, Maskottchen, Programmhefte – und etwas im Hintergrund, aber keineswegs vergessen – war auch die Philatelie mit ihren vielfältigen Dokumenten nicht zu übersehen.

Am IMOS-Stand wurden Kontakte gebahnt. Im interessanten Gespräch mit einem engagierten jungen Sammler aus Bratislava ging es um Olympische Winterspiele und Curling und ein deutscher Maskottchensammler nutzte die Gelegenheit, um über die IMOS neue Kontakte in der deutschen Sammlerszene zu knüpfen.

Ein besonderes Highlight war der Besuch zweier tschechischer Olympioniken: David Svoboda, Goldmedaillengewinner im Modernen Fünfkampf bei den Spielen in London 2012, sowie Pavel Benc, Bronzemedailien-Gewinner mit der CSSR- Langlauf-Staffel in Calgary 1988. Beide standen den Besuchern mit großer Offenheit für Autogramme, Fotos und Gespräche zur Verfügung.



Der krönende Abschluss des Tages war der Festabend im Traditions-lokal *U Fleků*, einem historischen Gewölbe mit beeindruckendem Innenhof.

Sonntag: Abschied, Rückblick und ein Blick nach vorn

Für viele hieß es nach 14 Uhr Koffer und Rucksäcke neu packen, um Platz für all die Schätze zu schaffen, die über die letzten Tage zusammengetragen wurden – keine einfache Aufgabe bei so mancher Ausbeute.

Im Rahmen der Messe fand zudem die Sitzung der Vertreter der anwesenden AICO-Mitgliedsvereine statt. Vorgestellt wurden die ersten Pläne rund um die Olympischen Winterspiele 2026, möglicherweise in Zusammenarbeit mit dem offiziellen Pin-Hersteller Honav. Und schließlich lud Mark Maestroni als einer der Co-Organisatoren schon zur kommenden World Olympic Collectors' Fair 2026 nach Colorado Springs (USA) ein. Begleitend zur Fair nutzte der AICO-Vorstand, zu dem von uns Rufin Schullian als dessen Schatzmeister gehört, die Gelegenheit zu täglichen Updates über laufende und zukünftige Projekte - ein weiterer Beweis für die enge und engagierte internationale Zusammenarbeit.



Auch gab es erfreulichen Zuwachs: William Grage aus Neuenburg in der Schweiz trat der IMOS bei. Er sammelt Gewinner-Medaillen von Olympischen Spielen und WM, Teilnehmerabzeichen von Athleten der Schweiz sowie olympische Münzen.

Herzlicher Dank

Ein besonderer Dank gilt unseren Sammlerfreunden **Josef Koci/ Tschechien** und **Branislav Delej/ Slowakei**, die die Hauptlast der Veranstaltungs-Organisation trugen.



Am IMOS-Stand waren als Ansprechpartner Rufin Schullian, Thomas Lippert und Christian Kunz (samt Familie) präsent, hier besucht vom AICO-Präsidenten Christophe Ait-Braham, Mark Maestroni (Präsident der SPI/ USA) und Steffen Eckstein aus unseren Reihen, dessen familiärer Prag-Ausflug „zufällig“ mit der WOCF zusammenfiel.



Cheforganisator Josef Koci zusammen mit den IMOS-Ausstellern Thomas Lippert, Rufin Schullian, Markus Osterwalder, Ingrid O'Neil, Christian Kunz, Wolfgang Fuhr und Klaus Fínek. Auf dem Bild fehlt Harald Riemer, der als Autogramm-Sammler ebenfalls die Chance nutzte, auf der WOCF seine Sammlung zu bereichern.

Final Assessment and Acknowledgments/Thank you

When we considered organizing the WOCF, we asked ourselves what we could offer the fair's visitors, given that no Olympic Games had ever taken place in the Czech Republic, or Czechoslovakia previously held. The **100th anniversary of the VIII International Olympic Congress in Prague in 1925** was therefore unanimously chosen as the main theme for the 28th WOCF 2025, and the timing of the fair coincided with the dates of the VIII Olympic Congress 1925.

Prague, the capital of the Czech Republic, had much to offer its visitors: amazing monuments where centuries of architecture blend together, a rich cultural program, the hospitality of the locals, gourmet specialties, and last but not least, Czech beer. Participants were able to "taste" a bit of everything. The boat trip on the Vltava River offered a view of the beauty of Prague and fine wines. The visit to the National Museum provided a look at its opulent premises and the seminar by the Czech Olympic Academy on the VIII Olympic Congress. The tour of Tyrš's house recalled the history of the Sokol physical education movement, which has had and still retains an international scope. In Tyrš's house, members of Olympsport prepared a small display of their exhibits featuring materials related to the VIII International Olympic Congress.

The centre of the main events of the 28th WOCF was the **Hotel OLYMPIK** and its congress centre. The hotel stands a silent witness to the time when Prague sought to host the 1980 Olympic Games, but the political situation of that time made it impossible, and the Olympics were hosted by our "big red brother." (Note: This term refers to the Soviet Union). The hotel staff and the Double Impact agency did everything they could to make the visitors feel at home.

The highlight of the fair was the gala dinner at the renowned Prague restaurant "**U Fleků**," where beer has been brewed since 1499 - almost as long as Europe has known about America.

The references from the guests are overwhelmingly positive, and as the Chairman of Olympsport and the Organizing Committee of the 28th WOCF 2025 in Prague, I want to conclude by extending my thanks to **the IOC**, its Culture and Heritage Commission, and **AICO** for the trust placed in us to host the WOCF in Prague. I believe we have not disappointed this trust.

My primary gratitude, however, goes to the members of the Organizing Committee—specifically, Olympsport members **Mr. Radek Jásek, Honza Petrás, and Vašek Diviš**—and to **Branislav Delej**, AICO Vice President. His experience in organizing previous WOCFs was a great asset. Thanks are also due to **Zdeněk Škoda**, Vice-Chairman of the Czech Olympic Academy.

Last but not least, a word of thanks goes to the **Double Impact Agency** not only for hosting the Fair at the hotel's Congress Centre but also for their excellent cooperation throughout the entire preparation period. Similarly, great thanks are due to the management of **Hotel Olympik** for their accommodating approach and willingness to resolve our issues at a time when tourist interest in accommodation in Prague had significantly increased.

In my acknowledgment, I must not forget the partners who contributed to shaping the overall image of the WOCF. They included: the Czech Olympic Committee, the Czech Olympic

Academy, Czech Post, the National Museum, the Postal Museum, the Czech Sokol Community, and others.

We now pass the baton to the USA, where the WOCF 2026 will take place in **Colorado Springs** from May 22–24, 2026, and we wish them every success in their preparation and successful execution.

On behalf of the WOCF Prague 2025 Organizing Committee

Josef Kočí – Chairman

Report prepared by:

Radek Jásek, Jan Petrás, Josef Kočí

