

ROYAL MAIL LONDON 1908 OLYMPIC GAMES COMMEMORATIVE COIN COVER

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East Anglia design consultancy Silk Pearce has teamed up with Royal Mail and Royal Mint to design a commemorative stamp and coin cover marking the 100th anniversary of the first London Olympic Games in 1908. The special pack includes a brilliant uncirculated, limited edition £2 coin; an insert card charting some of the unique achievements associated with the event; four 1st class definitive stamps symbolising the games, and a distinctive postmark.

The cover design highlights probably the most memorable event from the London games with a photograph of Dorando Pietri, the famous Italian marathon runner. Pietri had to be helped over the finishing line by the umpires and, although first to complete the 42 km course, he was subsequently disqualified from winning. However his feat so touched the spectators that he was presented with a cup as a consolation prize and subsequently became a worldwide celebrity. The special postmark is dated 24 July 2008, exactly 100 years after the event.

The detailed insert card including further marathon images and details of Ray Ewry who, despite contracting polio as a boy, landed two gold medals in London. He is also the only person ever to win a career total of eight golds. The reverse of the card features a biography of Sir Bertram Mackennal, the talented Australian sculptor who designed the medals for the 1908 games, as well as several stamp issues of the period.





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