With the staging of the 1976 Olympic Games, we felt that it would be fitting for the word-lover to investigate the Olympic phenomenon.

The earliest celebration of the ancient Olympic Games (more properly called "Olympian Games") of which there is a definite record is that of July 776 BC, though their origin probably dates from about 1370 BC. The ancient Games were terminated by the Roman Emperor Theodosius in AD 394. The Olympic Games of the modern era were inaugurated in Athens in April 1896. Celebrations have been held:

1896 I Athens 1940 XII *Tokyo, then Helsinki
1900 II Paris 1944 XIII *London
1904 III St. Louis 1948 XIV London
1908 IV London 1952 XV Helsinki
1912 V Stockholm 1956 XVI Melbourne
1916 VI *Berlin 1960 XVII Rome
1920 VII Antwerp 1964 XVIII Tokyo
1924 VIII Paris 1968 XIX Mexico City
1928 IX Amsterdam 1972 XX Munich
1932 X Los Angeles 1976 XXI Montreal
1936 XI Berlin

An asterisk denotes that the Games were cancelled because of war.

As a logologist, we have been busy in preparation for this Olympic year. Because of the barrage of newspaper, radio and (most importantly) television coverage that this year's Games will receive, we felt that it would be useful to draw up a list of "Olympic" words and terms which could be referred to whenever necessary. It has been difficult to decide just what is and what is not an "Olympic" term or word. Finally, though, we decided that any dictionary entry beginning with the letters OLYMP was eligible for inclusion in our list. We have, however, omitted the many placenames beginning with these letters which can only be found in extensive gazetteers and atlas indexes.

The list should be of great use. For example, it will enable you to distinguish between the OLYMPIAN GAMES and the OLYMPIC GAMES. It will help you to distinguish between the colors OLYMPIAN BLUE and OLYMPIC BLUE. When a sports reporter or commentator at Montreal refers to the OLYMPIC POOL, our list will instantly enlighten you as to the nature of such an object. No Olympic Games enthusiast can afford to be without a copy of the list!
OLYMPAS the name of a mid-first century Christian of Rome, mentioned in the Bible
OLYME a French feminine personal name
OLYMEN a Greek or Latin proper name
OLYMENUS a Greek or Latin proper name
OLYMENUS a Scripture proper name
OLYMENES a series of school contests in athletics, spelling, cooking, drawing, music and handicrafts
OLYMPIA the capital of the state of Washington; of the kind or style prevalent in Olympia; a valley of ancient Greece which was a center of religious worship
OLYMPIAD a quadriennial celebration of the modern Olympic Games
OLYMPIAD a Greek or Latin proper name
OLYMPIADIC pertaining to an Olympiad
OLYMPIADICAL pertaining to an Olympiad
OLYMPIADIC the epoch of the first Olympiad, 776 BC, July 1st
OLYMPIAN of or relating to the ancient Greek region of Olympia; a native or inhabitant of ancient Olympia; a participant in Olympic Games; befitting or characteristic of the gods conceived as inhabiting Mount Olympus in Thessaly, displaying majestic omniscience or detachment; one of the gods conceived as inhabiting Mount Olympus
OLYMPIAN BLUE a deep blue that is greener and duller than Yale blue and greener and slightly lighter than royal
OLYMPIAN GAMES a Panhellenic festival dedicated to Zeus, originating in 776 BC and held every fourth year in the first month after the summer solstice, and consisting of contests in sports, music and literature
OLYMPIAN GREEN a moderate yellowish green that is greener, stronger, and slightly lighter than tarragon, lighter and stronger than average almond green, and deeper and slightly yellower than verdigris
OLYMPIANISM worship of the Olympic gods
OLYMPIANIZE to convert into an Olympian
OLYMPIANLY in an Olympic manner
OLYMPIAN RELIGION worship of the Olympic gods, especially as a dominant cult or religion
OLYMPIANWISE in the characteristic manner or fashion of an Olympian
OLYMPIAN ZEUS a statue by Phidias, in the Temple of Zeus at Olympia, representing Zeus seated on a throne
OLYMPIC one of the statesman
OLYMPIC BLUE a strong greenish blue that is bluer and deeper than grotto, greener, lighter and stronger than average cerulean blue, and bluer, lighter and stronger than indigo carmine
OLYMPIC ERA an era dating from 776 BC, the supposed date of the beginning of inter...
beginning of the Olympic Games
OLYMPIC GAMES a modified revival of the Olympic Games originating in Athens in 1896, held once every four years, and consisting of international athletic contests
OLYMPICLY in an Olympic manner
OLYMPIC MOUNTAINS a mountain system in northwest Washington
OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK a national park in northwest Washington
OLYMPICNESS the state of being Olympic
OLYMPIC PASSION PIT a drive-in cinema
OLYMPIC POOL a drive-in cinema
OLYMPICS Olympic Games
OLYMPICUS a Greek or Latin proper name
OLYMPE a German feminine personal name
OLYMPIEION a temple of the Olympian Zeus
OLYMPIEUM a temple of the Olympian Zeus
OLYMPIONIC a Greek historian of the 5th century AD
OLYMPIONICES a Greek or Latin proper name
OLYMPIONICEST a victor in the Olympic Games
OLYMPIUM a temple of the Olympian Zeus
OLYMPIUS a Greek or Latin proper name
OLYMPIX a driving cinema
OLYMPO the surname of Sylvanus Olympio, 1902-1963, an African statesman, the first president of the Republic of Togo, 1961-1963
OLYMPOIDORUS an ode in honor of a victor in the Olympic Games
OLYMPOINICES a Greek or Latin proper name
OLYMPOIONICEST a victor in the Olympic Games
OLYMPOUS a mountain in Macedonia believed by the ancient Greeks to be the abode of the Olympian gods.

Checking the list carefully, we noticed that at least three of the items on it are transposable -- that is, capable of being anagrammed to give other words. Thus, OLYMPIAD gives POLYAMID, OLYMPIADES gives POLYAMIDES, and OLYMPIAN gives POLYMNIA. Furthermore, the plural of the last word, OLYMPIANS, can be anagrammed to form AMYLOPSIN. Some items on the list are more closely related than the casual observer might believe. OLYMPE is derived from OLYMPIE by simply deleting the I in the latter; OLYMPIEUM is similarly derived from OLYMPIEION by deleting, respectively, the H and the I. Further, OLYMPIAD and OLYMPIAN are zetagrams -- that is, they differ only in their eighth letters. OLYMPHAS and OLYMPIAS are similarly zetagrams.