OLYMPIC OBSERVATIONS

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

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 "Olympian" 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

OLYMPÉ a French feminine personal name

OLYMPÈNE a Greek or Latin proper name

OLYMPHAS a Scripture proper name

OLYMPHEST 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

OLYMPIADES a Greek or Latin proper name

OLYMPIADIC pertaining to an Olympiad

OLYMPIADICAL pertaining to an Olympiad

OLYMPIADIC ERA 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 Olympian gods

OLYMPIANIZE to convert into an Olympian

OLYMPIANLY in an Olympic manner

OLYMPIAN RELIGION worship of the Olympian 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

OLYMPIA ORANGE-TIP an American butterfly, Synchloé olympia, occurring in the southwestern United States

OLYMPIA OYSTER a small flavorful native oyster (Ostrea lurida) of the Puget Sound area of the Pacific coast of North America

OLYMPIAS a feminine personal name

OLYMPIC of or relating to the ancient Greek region of Olympia; of or relating to Mount Olympus in Thessaly; superlative; of or relating to the Olympic Games

OLYMPICAL an obsolete form of the adjective "Olympic"

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 international Olympic Games

OLYMPICLY

OLYMPICS an international celebration of athletic and cultural achievement, held every four years

OLYMPIAN, an athlete participating in 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

OLYMPICYCUS a Greek or Latin proper name

OLYMPIE a German feminine personal name

OLYMPIEION a temple of the Olympic Zeus

OLYMPIEUIM a temple of the Olympic Zeus

OLYMPIO the surname of Sylvanus Olympio, 1902-1963, an African statesman, the first president of the Republic of Togo, 1961-1963

OLYMPIODORUS a Greek historian of the 5th century AD

OLYMPIONIC an ode in honor of a victor in the Olympic Games

OLYMPIONICES a Greek or Latin proper name

OLYMPIONICEST a victor in the Olympic Games

OLYMPIUM a temple of the Olympic Zeus

OLYMPPUS a Biblical name, occurring at 2 Maccabees vi 2

OLYMPS a mountain in Macedonia believed by the ancient Greeks to be the abode of the Olympian gods

OLYMPIA is nothing more than a curtailment of both OLYMPIAD and OLYMPIAN, while OLYMPIONICES is a nice curtailment of OLYMPIONICEST. OLYMPUS can be derived from OLYMPHAS and OLYMPIAS by deleting, respectively, the H and the I. Further, OLYMPIAD and OLYMPIAN are ethegrams -- that is, they differ only in their eighth letters. OLYMPHAS and OLYMPIAS are similarly zetagrams.