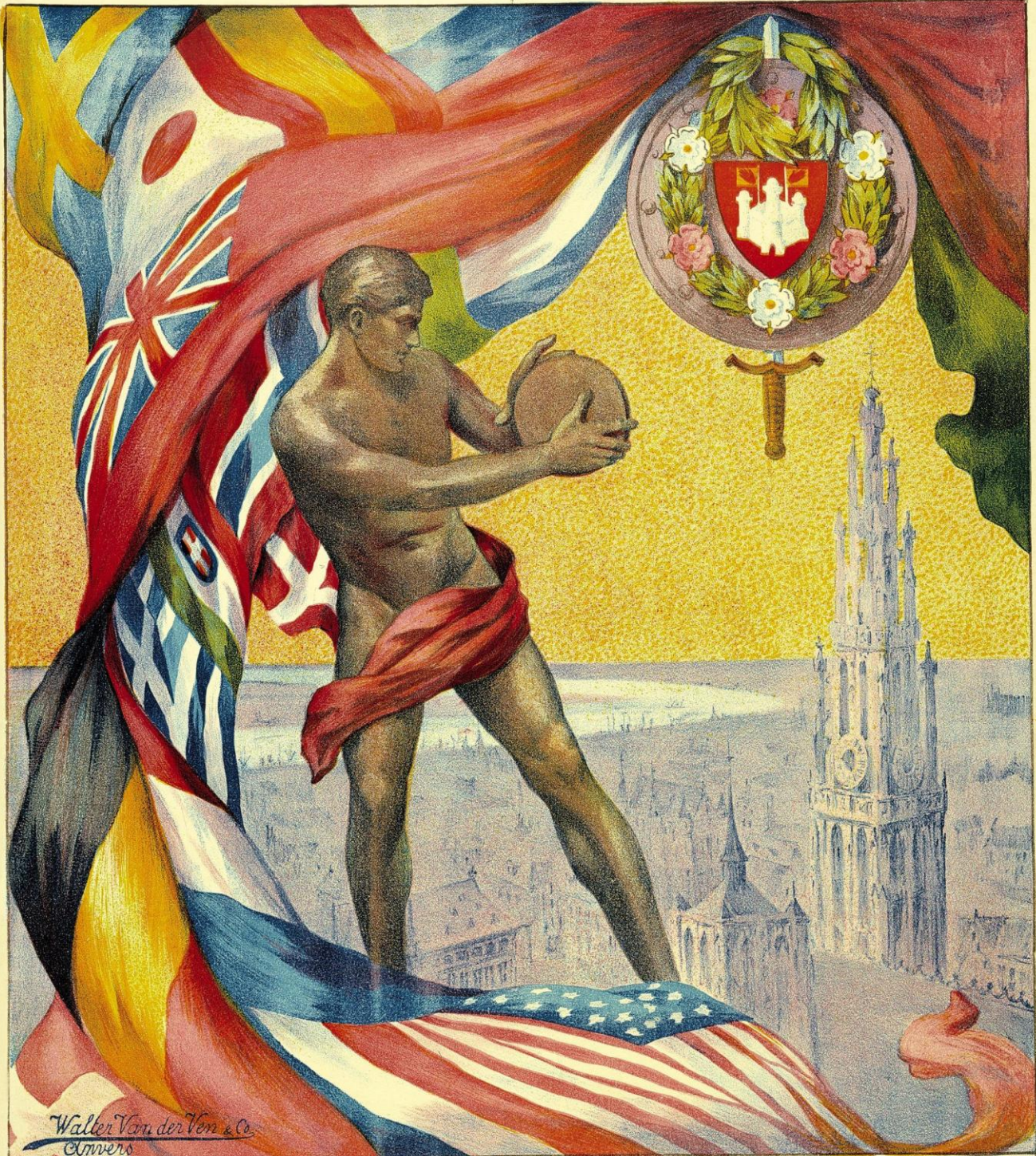


History of equestrian events at the Games of the VII Olympiad



- VII^E OLYMPIADE -
ANVERS (BELGIQUE)
1920 AOUT-SEPTEMBRE 1920

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LITHO: VAN DIEREN & C^o ANVERS

Games of the VII Olympiad Antwerp (BEL), 14 August – 12 September 1920

World War I had only just ended in 1918 and there were serious doubts that the Games of VII Olympiad in 1920 would be able to go ahead. It was only on 3 April 1919 that the IOC decided to accept the offer from Antwerp, Belgium, with a programme very similar to Stockholm 1912.

On 14 August 1920 King Albert declared the seventh Olympic Games opened.

When it came to results in the equestrian events, Sweden's solid and meticulous preparations were well rewarded, as they effectively picked up more than half of the 15 medals at stake, and confirmed their stronghold on the sport, already demonstrated in 1912. Indeed, they won four of the five gold medals: team Jumping, individual Dressage, team and individual Eventing; along with two silver and two bronze.

This was also the first and last appearance of Vaulting on the Olympic programme, which was open to non-commissioned officers. Belgium, France and Sweden participated while the Swiss, who were all set and ready to go, were stopped at the last minute by the Swiss government due to an alleged outbreak of foot and mouth disease in Belgium.

The short term allocation of the Games to Antwerp did leave some in the lurch such as team USA who, at first unable to find a passage to Europe at that late stage, were able to secure the help of the military to transport the team. The steamer they intended to use was however damaged at the last minute and they finally sailed in a much smaller ship which arrived one week later – on 8 August, barely a week before the competitions began.

Despite these shortcomings, the Games were a success. However, it was the lack of uniform rules for most of the sports that was perceived as the greatest threat to the Olympic movement which Pierre De Coubertin decided to overcome by calling in Lausanne in May 1921, a meeting of all interested sports to discuss universal rules and to form International Federations. The date at which the FEI came into being...

Games facts & figures

- **29** nations
- **2,626** athletes (65 women; 2,561 men)
- **22** sports
- **First use of the Olympic flag** with the five rings signifying the union of five continents, created by Baron de Coubertin;
- **First time a competitor took the Olympic oath;**
- **First release of doves as a symbol of peace.**

Equestrian facts & figures

- **8** nations (Belgium, Finland, France, Italy, Netherland, Norway, Sweden, USA)
- **72** riders
- **87** entries (45 in Jumping; 17 in Dressage; 25 in Eventing)

JUMPING

The two Jumping competitions – team and individual – were held on the same day, and as the rule that riders and horses competing in the team event could not go on and compete in the afternoon for individual honours, it actually meant that a nation with full participation would be sending 10 combinations for Jumping alone. Just Italy and Sweden managed to fulfil the maximum quota, which worked in favour of the Italians as Tommaso Lequio di Assaba was able to clench individual gold.

Medallists – Individual

1. Gold	Tommaso Lequio di Assaba (ITA)	Trebecco
2. Silver	Alessandro Valerio (ITA)	Cento
3. Bronze	Carl Gustaf Lewenhaupt (SWE)	Mon Coeur

Medallists – Team

1. Gold	Sweden	Hans VON ROSEN (Poor Boy), Frank H. MARTIN (Kohort), Daniel NORLING (Eros II), Claes KÖNIG (Tresor)
2. Silver	Belgium	Henri LAAME (Biscuit), André COUMANS (Lisette), Herman DE GAIFFIER (Miss), Herman D'OULTREMONT (Kitchener)
3. Bronze	Italy	Giulio CACCIANDRA (Fortunello), Ettore CAFFARATTI (Tradittore), Alessandro ALVISI (Raggio di Sole), Carlo ASINARI DI SAN MARZANO (Varone)

DRESSAGE

Sweden was omnipresent on the podium, raffling all three medals.

Medallists – Individual

1. Gold	Janne Lundblad (SWE)	Uno
2. Silver	Bertil Sandström (SWE)	Sabel
3. Bronze	Hans von Rosen (SWE)	Running Sister

Medallists – Team

In 1912, 1920, 1924 no team medals were distributed.

EVENTING

Twenty-five riders from eight nations competed. On this occasion, the Dressage test was dropped in favour of a second roads and tracks ride of 20 km. Of the 25 horses, 12 did not make the time allowed for the Cross Country and 13 had faults at the obstacles. The 20 km endurance ride was held in the pouring rain, and it was said to be 3km too long. Sweden was again at the forefront of all medal stakes, taking individual gold and silver as well as team gold.

Medallists – Individual

1. Gold	Helmer Mörner (SWE)	Germania
2. Silver	Age Lundström (SWE)	Yrsa
3. Bronze	Ettore Caffaratti (ITA)	Caniche

Medallists – Team

1. Gold	Sweden	Helmer MÖRNER (Germania), Age LUNDSTRÖM (Yrsa), Georg VON BRAUN (Diana), Gustaf DYRSCH (Salamis)
2. Silver	Italy	Ettore CAFFARATTI (Caniche), Garibaldi SPIGHI (Otello), Giulio CACCIANDRA (Facetto), Carlo ASINARI DI SAN MARZANO (Savari)
3. Bronze	Belgium	Roger MOEREMANS D'EMAUS (Sweet Girl), Oswald LINTS (Martha), Jules BONVALET (Weppelghem), Jacques MISONNE (Gaucho)