

OLYMPIC MEDALS

GREEK 101: Introduction to Ancient Greek



Beginning with the 2004 Summer Games in Athens, all Olympic medals will reflect the Greek character of the Games as regards both their origin and their revival. On the obverse, the goddess Nike flies into the Panathenian stadium, where the Games were first renewed in 1896, bringing victory to the best athlete. On the reverse side of the medal are three elements: the eternal flame from Olympia that traveled through the five continents; the Olympic Games emblem; and the opening lines of Pindar's Eighth Olympic Ode composed in 460 BCE to honor the victory of Alkimedon of Aegina in wrestling, which reads:

Mother of the gold-crowned Games,
Olympia, mistress of truth...



Try your hand re-writing the inscriptions from the obverse and reverse in lower-case Greek letters:

Obverse:

ΟΛΥΜΠΙΑΔΑ ΑΘΗΝΑ

Reverse:

ΜΑΤΕΡ Ω ΧΡΥΣΟΣΤΕΦΑΝΩΝ ΑΕΘΛΩΝ ΟΛΥΜΠΙΑ
ΔΕΣΠΟΙΝ' ΑΛΛΑΘΕΙΑΣ