Olympic ceremonies stamps

The last three Olympic commemorative stamps, featuring the traditional ceremonies of the Games, the flame lighting, the opening, and the victory, were issued by Canada Post on June 18.

The Olympic series of 35 stamps, the largest ever undertaken by the Post Office, began in autumn 1973. In this final issue, a total of 35 million 8-cent, 14 million 20-cent, and 11 million



25-cent stamps will be printed. The 8-cent denomination depicts the transfer of the Olympic flame from Greece to Canada *via* satellite; the 20-cent shows the Olympic flag being carried in the opening ceremony; and the 25-cent denomination shows athletes receiving their Olympic medals.

Opening tradition

The opening ceremony will take place at the Olympic stadium and Queen Elizabeth, Canada's head of state, will declare the Games open. The day's ritual will include the entry of the athletes, headed by the Greek national team. Other countries will follow in alphabetical order, with the exception of Canada which, as host country, will appear last.

To welcome the competitors, a group of young Canadians will give a display of rhythmic dancing. The flame will arrive after three guns have been fired and a flock of pigeons ascends from the stadium. (This is assuming the birds co-operate — in 1936, when pigeons were released, they refused to depart!) After the runner with the torch has circled the track, he or she will light the Olympic flame which will burn until the Games end. The mayor of the previous host city,



Munich, will hand over the official Olympic flag to Montreal's mayor at the finale of the opening ceremony.

Victory ceremony

Shortly after the final contest in each sport, victory ceremonies take place at which first-, second-, and third-place winners receive their gold, silver, and bronze medals. Other activities will cease while the winners mount the podium to receive their medals from the president of the international federation of their particular



The entire collection of Olympic stamps issued by Canada Post has been gathered together and reproduced on a four-colour poster designed by Peter Swan. Suitable for framing, the 24- by 36-inch poster highlights the three Olympic ceremonies featured in Canada's newest issue of Olympic commemorative stamps — the flame ceremony, the opening ceremony and the victory ceremony.

sport. After the flags of the three winners' countries are raised and after the national anthem of the gold medallist's country is played, events resume.

Flame lighting

Spectators at the 1936 Berlin Games witnessed the first Olympic flame ceremony. Relay runners carried a torch from Olympia, Greece, to the German capital. At Olympia, in 1976, the sun will, as usual, kindle a flame, but once runners have carried it to Athens, a



satellite will transmit it to Canada.

At Athens, the flame, when placed between two metal plates will stimulate an electrical charge. This will start a device producing a sequence of tones which will travel over telephone lines to a transmitting station and subsequently to the satellite. When the tones reach Canada, they will flash via telephone wires to Parliament Hill in Ottawa, where they will revert to their fiery form through the medium of a laser beam. From Ottawa, runners will speed the flame to Montreal and Kingston.

Fraudulence fines

Consumer and Corporate Affairs Minister Bryce Mackasey reported on June 3 that 56 firms were convicted for offences under the Food and Drugs, Weights and Measures, Hazardous Products, Canada Agricultural Products Standards and Textile Labelling Acts from January to March 1976.

Fines for convictions for the three months totalled \$14,125 and bring the total for the six months from October to March to \$26,770.

Of the 56 convictions involving 103 charges, 28 were under the Weights