



# Beijing 2008 Collectibles Preview

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The Beijing 2008 Olympic Games are fast approaching, so let's take a look at some of the official collectible items that have been released to date. Such items are popular and widely collected and are actively exchanged at the Games.



### Mascots

The 5 Friendlies are the official mascots of the Games, each representing one of the 5 Olympic rings, as well as a group of sports. Table Tennis has Yingying for its mascot; according to the official description, Yingying is symbolic of the Tibetan antelope and represents the yellow Olympic ring.



Many items showing Yingying swinging a Table Tennis racket have been issued: a coin, coffee mug, keychain, pin, round badge (this may not be an official product) and a small, unusual magnet in the form of a curved ceramic dish.



### Sponsor Pins

Many of the inevitable sponsor pins are generic, with just their logo and the Beijing Olympic Games logo. But some



sponsors have created a series of pins, one for each sport in the Summer Games program. Thus far there are Table Tennis sponsor pins by Visa, Lenovo, Haier and CNC. Last year Coca Cola issued a Table Tennis pin marking 500 days remaining until the start of the Games.



### Logo Pins

Besides the mascot and sponsor items, several pins have been produced with the official logo, including a two-piece pin for men's singles and 4-piece pin for women's doubles. There is also a logo pin with racket and ball.



### Sport Symbol Collectibles

Each sport in the Olympic Games is represented by a stylized action symbol. The figure for Table Tennis is very well done, minimal detail with a curved white outline of a player, racket and ball.



One pin, a money clip and a green coffee mug have been produced with this symbol.



### Let the Games Begin ...

Doubtless there will be other pins & collectibles issued in the upcoming months before the Games begin. The ITTF Museum naturally wants to have a complete set for our Olympics room, so we will be grateful for your help. At this writing we lack the coin and a sponsor pin by Haier. Good luck to our hosts for a successful and memorable Games, and to all of our athletes - play with heart!