

TORCH BEARER



SOCIETY of OLYMPIC COLLECTORS

TORCH BEARER

Volume 1. Issue 3. September 1984.

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■ Front page

I am happy to report that our membership has increased steadily since the last issue, and we can now boast members in many parts of the world. Welcome to you all.

You will probably have read in the philatelic press that both Stamp Collecting and Philatelic Magazine were taken over by Stamp News in June. It meant that the special Olympic issue of Stamp Collecting had to be abandoned. However, I did arrange with Irwin Margolis, the Editor of Stamp News, that some of the articles would be used in his publication. I do hope that you all managed to obtain a copy for your files. If you did not, I am sure that you will still be able to get a copy, if you write to Stamp News, 100 Fleet Street, London EC4Y 1DE.

Many of you will probably be visiting the British Philatelic Exhibition. If you are there on Sunday 21 October, some of us have arranged to meet in the cafeteria at 2:00pm in the Horticultural New Hall, Greycoat Street, for an impromptu chat and exchange of ideas. All S.O.C. members are welcome to join in, for the price of a cup of tea!

BIPEX, the annual national postcard exhibition, have kindly offered us a room for a meeting on Saturday, 13 October, from 2:00pm to 4:00pm. Any S.O.C. members who are visiting the exhibition should make a note in their diaries and try to join us. Bring some swaps and a few sheets for viewing. If the meeting is a success, we will plan further meetings at future exhibitions. The address for BIPEX is Kensington Town Hall. The exhibition lasts from 10th to 13th October.

MEMBER'S FORUM

ADAM COOKE, a dealer member, has Olympic covers available. Write to him at 39, The Albany, Sunset Avenue, Woodford Green, Essex IG8 OTJ.

ANDREJ MAHER, Tugomerjeva 64, 61000 Ljubljana, Jugoslavia, can supply all Yugoslav Olympic stamps from 1945 to 1948.

PIM HUURMAN, Gooiergracht 145, 1251 Lare NH, Holland, is looking for official reports issued by the organising committees of each of the Games. He has a large collection of duplicates for exchange, or is prepared to buy for cash.

JOHN BLEAZARD, dealer member, can supply Olympic as well as general sports stamps. His address is PO Box 12191, Benoryn, 1504, South Africa.

FRANCESKA RAPKIN is looking for the 1936 Dresden Registration label for the Garden and philatelic exhibitions, used in conjunction with only the Gartenschau handstamp. Also the Tages Programme booklets for 10th, 11th, 13th, 14th and 15th August 1936. Will exchange, or pay cash.

The International Olympic Committee have just issued a book dealing with the stamps and postal history of the Games 1896 to 1930.

FROM YOUR SECRETARY

THE HISTORY OF THE OLYMPIC GAMES, from the House of Gibbons. A full page advertisement appeared in the Canadian Stamp News on 8 May 1984, announcing "a historic Olympic Stamp Collection." An exclusive limited edition and apparently "outstanding value" at \$35. The advert leaves out such important information as which stamps, and how many, are included in the collection. Presumably Gibbons have chosen to advertise only in the Canadian press after the recent adverse publicity which they received over here. This is the first time I have heard of the special Olympic collection. I would be very interested to receive copies of adverts in other magazines, and would really like to know how much publicity Gibbons are giving to this collection. If any member sees any of these announcements, could they please contact me.

GREECE ON THE CHEAP. This is a slogan cancel currently being used by Olympic Holidays. Their summer brochure and booking form includes the torch logo. Has anyone been able to obtain any of these meter cancellations? They could be a useful place to start a collection about the marketing of the Olympic Movement. Olympic Holidays can be contacted at 17, Old Court Place, Kensington High Street, London W8 4PL.

80 PACKETS OF CRISPS, AN OLYMPIC FEAT!

Franceska told me that Smiths Crisps have been trying to indulge our national love of snacks. Look out for the packets with an offer of a set of ten facsimile medals won by Britons in past Olympic Games. To qualify, hungry collectors have to send eight tokens for each medal. The offer closes on 31 October 1984. Some feast!

OLYMPIC POLITICS. This is the title of an article in 'SEE 4', the number 6 Spring 1984 issue of Channel 4's promotional magazine.

From May until September, there was a special exhibition of ancient Olympia at the British Museum. It was only by chance that I heard about the exhibition, as it was not well advertised. I made a point of visiting the museum as soon as possible, so that there would be plenty of opportunity for further visits and more study, should I wish. I need not have bothered! All the artifacts on display, and there were very few, were housed in glass cabinets in a small octagonal room, which was in an out-of-the-way corner of the museum, and reached by an endless narrow corridor. Apart from a large scale model showing how Olympia probably looked at the height of its fame, there was nothing on view that cannot be seen at other times in the Greek rooms of the museum. At the entrance to the exhibition was a life-size photograph of Myron's discus thrower, and I asked the attendant why the Roman copy of this famous statue, which the museum owns, had not been brought upstairs for the occasion. He did not know, but ventured to suggest that it might be too difficult. Surely it must have been possible to bring the statue up one flight of stairs, when on other occasions large pieces have been transported half way around the world? The exhibition left me frustrated and disappointed. I had seen and learnt nothing that I did not already know, and the exhibition was so starved of exhibits, that it wouldn't even occupy an hour on a rainy afternoon. Maybe it is as well that it was not better advertised, the room was far too small to cope with a crowd. While I was there, two other couples were there, and they appeared to be equally unimpressed.

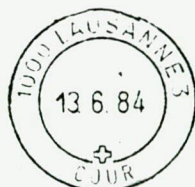
I.O.C. METER CANCELLATIONS. As stated in the March issue of Torch Bearer, the International Olympic Committee use meter cancellations on much of their mail. To meet the demand of collectors, the I.O.C. is offering a subscription for all the meter cancellations emanating

from their headquarters during 1984 and 1985 for the sum of SFr 20. These cancellations will be stamped on I.O.C. envelopes, and sent in two deliveries, in December 1984 and December 1985. If members are interested in receiving these cancellations, cheques should be sent to I.O.C., Chateau de Vidy, 1007 Lausanne, Schweiz.

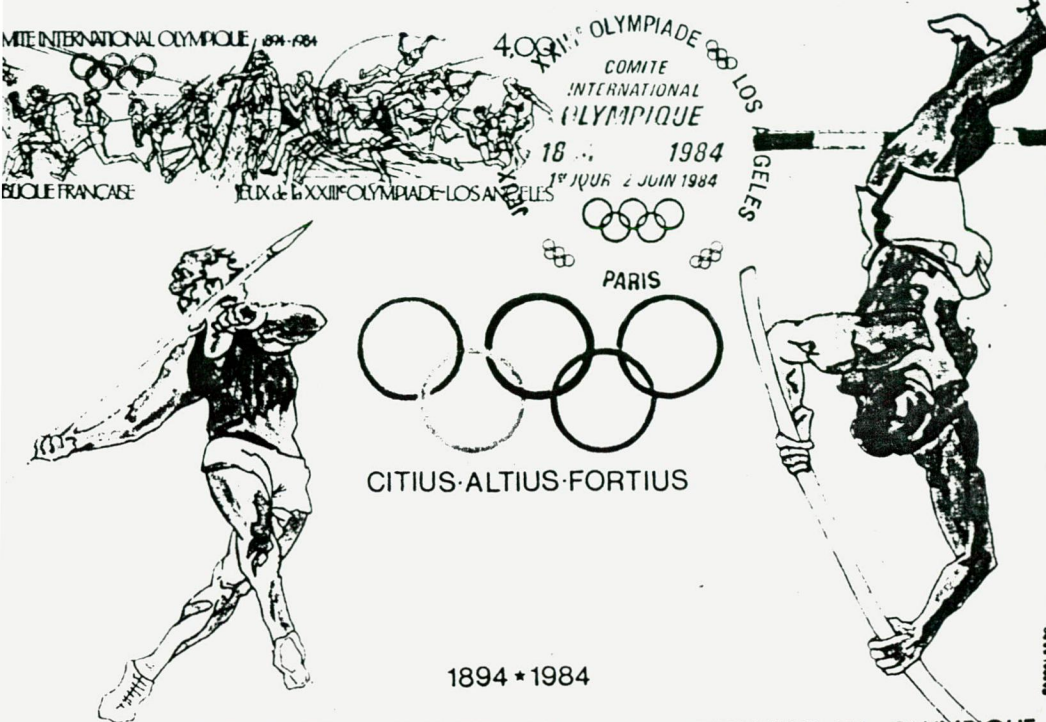
OLYMPHILEX '85. This is an international exhibition of Olympic philately to be held from 18 to 24 March 1985 in Lausanne. At the time of writing, F.I.P.O. who are organising the exhibition, are expecting about one hundred exhibits, and dealers, postal administrations and postal museums from many countries have applied for space. Several postal administrations have stated that they will be issuing stamps to commemorate the occasion, and it is probable that there will also be special handstamps and cancellations. If sufficient S.O.C. members are interested in visiting Switzerland for the exhibition, perhaps it would be possible to arrange group travel from the U.K.

90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE I.O.C. The International Olympic Committee was founded in Paris in June 1894. To commemorate the 90th anniversary, the French post office are issuing a stamp, and a philatelic exhibition will be held from 1 to 3 June. Two postmarks will be used, the one at the post office in Rue de Boetie and the other at the Comité National Olympique et Sportif Francais. The I.O.C. in Lausanne is also using a meter cancellation to mark the 90th Anniversary of the founding of the International Olympic Committee in June 1894 in Paris.

23 JUN 1894
90° ANNIVERSAIRE
C. I. O.
23 JUN 1984

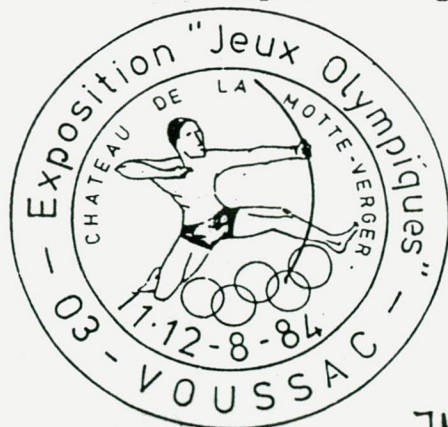


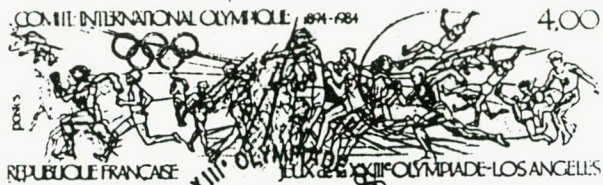
The official maximum card from the I.O.C.
Exhibition in Paris to mark the 90th Anniversary.



90^e ANNIVERSAIRE DE LA CREATION DU COMITE INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIQUE

An Olympic Philatelic Exhibition is being held
in Voussac in France from 11 to 19 August, and
the illustrated handstamp is being used.





Stamp and Cancellation for the French 90th Anniversary Commemoration of the I.O.C.

Games were held at the Warout Stadium in Glenrothes near Kirkaldy in Fifeshire, which were commemorated with a special handstamp. Boblingen in West Germany was one of the three towns taking part. Does anyone know which was the third town?



A GREEK REPORT

Mario Angelopoulos,



Since I was out of the country when the Torch was lit at Olympia, I am unable to give a first hand report, but I can confirm that no special cancellation was used to commemorate the event, either at Olympia or elsewhere on Greek soil.

I was present at the meeting held at Olympia from 17 to 19 March 1984, when more than four hundred delegates from every country, including the United States, met to condemn the sale of the Torch Relay. Among those present were past Olympic champions, writers, professors and athletes, and all condemned this unusual practice. The Torch is a sacred symbol of peace and of the Olympic ideal, and most of those at the meeting considered that what the American organisers of the Twenty Third Olympic Games have planned is profane, and an offence against the Olympic spirit.

We, the Greeks, could have decided not to participate at Los Angeles, but that would not have been fulfilling our ancient heritage. In any case, it could well have been the final blow for the continuation of the Olympic Games, and we would not wish to carry such a responsibility.

1940 CANCELLED GAMES

Manfred Bergman.

In answer to Mr Palethorpe's query, (Member's Forum, June issue) I can add the following information:

1. Finland did prepare itself for the Games scheduled to be held in Helsinki in 1940, both before the Second World War started, and even afterwards. Finland hoped that the war would be short, and that the Games could take place after all.

2. Postal documents are as follows:

A. A publicity cancellation for departing or outgoing mail, such as that shown by Mr Palethorpe.

B. A publicity cancellation used in Helsinki for incoming mail. This cancellation has an "O" before and after the date in the central date slug.

C. A meter cancellation used by the organising Committee for the Games.

D. Another meter cancellation used by the organising committee.

All the above cancellations were used from July 1939 until June 1940. Furthermore, a publicity cancellation was used in Riga, Latvia, from August 1939 until June 1940. This cancel was in French and German and read "To the Olympic Games 1940 via Latvia". (Latvia, in German, Lettland, was incorporated into the Soviet Republic from 1940.)

3. A meter cancellation was also used in Garmisch Partenkirchen by the organising committee of the V Olympic Winter Games. These Games, naturally, did not take place either.

4. Apart from the cancellations, Finland also prepared a set of stamps for these Games. Proofs of these exist in several colours, but the set was never issued.

AMBASSADE DE FRANCE



XII OLYMPIA

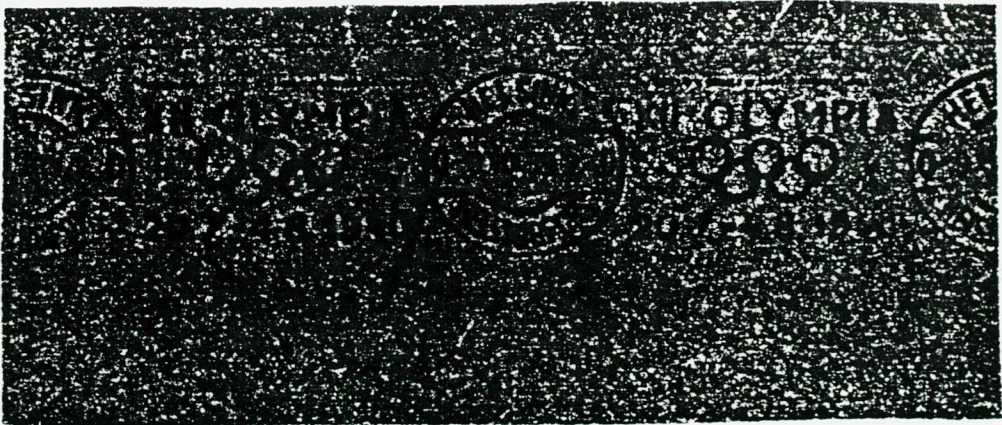
20 7.-4.8.1940



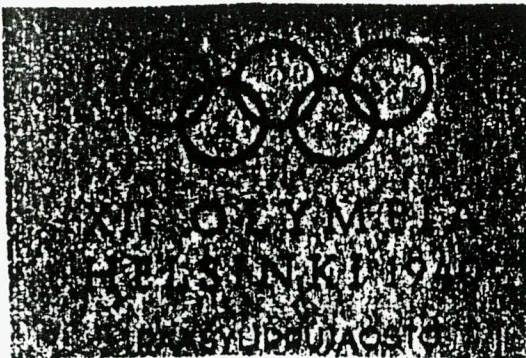
Monsieur F. M. Bardinet

5 rue Pergolèse
France
Paris

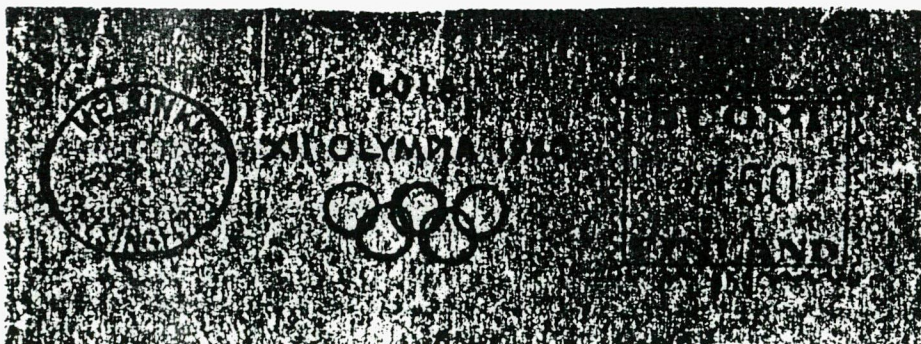
Cancellation on outgoing mail



Cancellation on incoming mail .



Stationery cachet of the 1940 organising committee.



8179

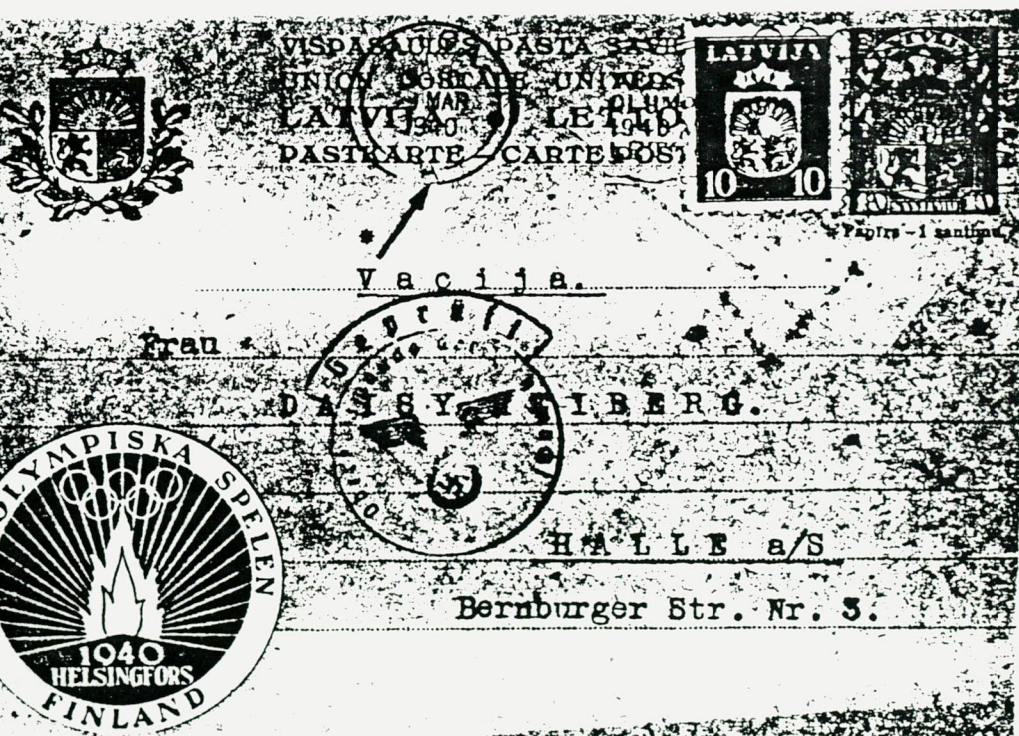
OLYMPIC GAMES
IN FINLAND
1940



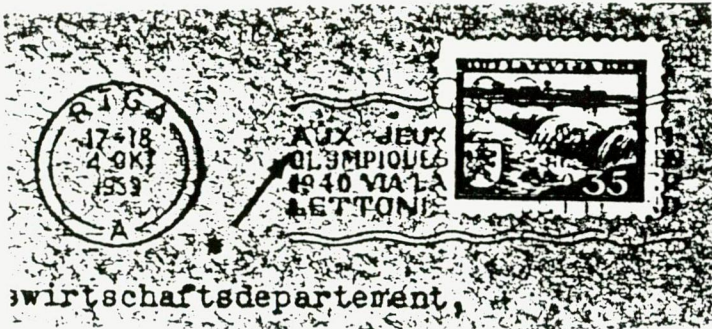
Meter cancellations used by the Finnish Olympic Organising Committee in 1939-1940.



Essays for the unissued Finnish stamps.



Finnish vignette, used on a Latvian postcard.



Slogan cancellation used in Riga, Latvia.



Drucksache



V. OLYMPISCHE
WINTERSPIELE 1940
Garmisch-Partenkirchen
2.-11. Februar



Herrn

Generaldirektor Komm.Rat W. Arendt



München
Ludwigstr. 12

OLYMPISCHE WINTERSPIELE 1940
GARMISCH-PARTENKIRCHEN
2.-11. FEBRUAR
ORGANISATIONS-KOMITEE E. V.
KARTENSTELLE

Meter cancellation and stationery used by the organising committee of the V Winter Games.

MORE ABOUT JIM THORPE

Manfred Bergman.

Jim Thorpe did not compete in the Modern Pentathlon. Although it is true that the modern pentathlon was introduced in 1912, this discipline included shooting, swimming, fencing, riding and cross-country running. The winner was J. Lilliehöök from Sweden. Thorpe competed in the Athletic Pentathlon, which included broad jump, javelin, 200 meters flat racing, discus and 1500 meters running. The athletic pentathlon was an Olympic event in 1912, 1920 and for the last time in 1924.

The United States Olympic Committee wrote on 27 January 1913 to Sweden, telling them that Thorpe was to be considered a professional and that the Amateur Athletic Union would do everything in their power to secure the return of the prizes. The I.O.C. at Lausanne on 26 May 1913, decided to disqualify Thorpe, and revise the pentathlon and decathlon results.

It should be mentioned that Wieslander, who was then declared the Olympic champion of the decathlon event, refused the gold medal. He considered that Thorpe was the winner. Avery Brundage (later the I.O.C. President) also competed in these events. He was partially responsible for the decision to have Thorpe disqualified.

The King of Sweden's exact words were "Sir, you are the GREATEST athlete in the World" to which Jim Thorpe replied "Thanks, King!"

Thorpe's achievements were indeed impressive! In four of the disciplines he would have been better than the winner of the 1948 decathlon, and would still have been amongst the first eight in 1956.

A small town in Pennsylvania is named Jim Thorpe Town, the only city named after an Olympic winner.

NEW ISSUES

Eight stamps and two miniature sheets were produced by the Yugoslav postal authorities to commemorate the Olympic Winter Games in Sarajevo. These were released on 8 February 1984, and details are as follows:

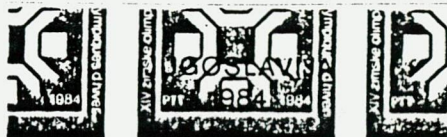
4:00 dinars.	Igman Veliko Polje. Biathlon.
4:00 dinars.	Jahorina/Bjelasnica. Slalom.
5:00 dinars.	Trebevic. Bobsleigh.
5:00 dinars.	Jahorina/Bjelasnica. Slalom.
16:50 dinars.	Zetra/Skenderija. Ice hockey.
16:50 dinars.	Zetra. Speed skating.
23:70 dinars.	Igman-Malo Polje. Jumping.
23:70 dinars.	Jahorina/Bjelasnica. Downhill.
50:00 dinars.	Olympic Flame. (miniature sheet)
100:00 dinars.	Route taken by the Torch. (miniature sheet)

The stamps were designed by A.Milenkovic, D.Andre, B.Cventkovic, N.Hrvanovic and D.Matic. They were printed by the Institute for the manufacture of Banknotes in off-set print. Five hundred thousand stamps of each value were printed, with the exception of the second 23:00 dinar value, of which only 395,000 were printed. 330,000 of each of the miniature sheets were printed. Information supplied by Ivan Jakic, Ljubljana. Illustrations supplied by Frank Spencer, David Field, New Issue Service.





Sarajevo '84
JUGOSLAVIJA



The Malta Postal Administration issued a set of three stamps on 26 July to commemorate the XXIII Olympiad. Malta has participated in seven previous Olympic Games, and will also send a small contingent to L.A. Despite its size and budgetary limitations, Malta is still able to take part in the Olympic Games, Commonwealth Games and European Championships. The Government also supports local sports organisations in the holding of international events, such as the Chess Olympiad, Commonwealth Weightlifting Championships and the International Archery Tournament.

The stamps were designed by Luciano Micallef and lithographed by Printex Ltd on paper water marked with Maltese Crosses. Perforated 14x14. The stamps were printed in sheets of 40.



PROFILE

Bob Wilcock.

To be the last in your first Olympics is not perhaps the most auspicious start, but when you are only eleven years old, and determined, it is no set-back. Born on 8 April 1912 in Oslo, Sonja Henie was only eleven when she competed in the figure skating event at the first Winter Olympic Games held in Chamonix. In the same year, she moved up from the last of eight in the Olympics, to the fifth position in the world championships. In the 1926 world championships she was placed second, and after this, she was never beaten again.

She won ten world titles from 1927 to 1936, and her first Olympic gold came in St. Moritz in 1928. She was not yet sixteen, and her refreshing athletic style commended itself to all the judges, and influenced the future course of the sport. She was again the unanimous choice of the judges at Lake Placid in 1932, but in 1936 at Garmisch Partenkirchen, she no longer dominated the field. She took the gold medal, but one judge gave her equal marks to Britain's Cecilia Colledge.

This was perhaps the factor that decided her to turn professional, and from being queen of the skating rink, she became queen of the silver screen; she was signed up by Twentieth Century Fox, and made eleven films between 1938 and 1960. She was enormously popular and successful, and with her third husband, Niels Onstad, she formed the Henie-Onstad collection of modern art, which was later presented to her native land, Norway. She died of Leukemia on 12 October 1969, on a plane carrying her from Paris to Oslo, where she was going for medical treatment.

Surprisingly, perhaps, considering her enormous world wide popularity, as far as is known, she has never been depicted on a stamp. There is,

however, an extremely rare postage meter from Berlin SW68 in 1936, with the text "Sonia Henie/ Ice Queen/ Film Company Twentieth Century Fox". Postcards of her as a film star are not hard to find, many with her printed signature. The illustrated card however, dates from 1928, and is not only personally autographed by her on the front, but sent by her from her native Oslo, and written just two days after her sixteenth birthday; even then she knew the art of publicity!



HARMONY ON ICE

Sidney Amery.

It is not known when skates were first used to cross ice. The earliest skate so far discovered was found in Bjorko in Sweden, and is approximately one thousand years old. Early skates were made from the jaw or leg bone of larger animals, such as cows and reindeer and were ground down until they had a flat traveling surface. They were fitted to the feet with leather thongs. These bone-skates were only suitable for forward movement, and were used in conjunction with sticks which had sharpened pieces of bone at the tips, which helped to increase the speed. From examples of bone-skates found in Scotland, Iceland, the Netherlands and Germany, as well as Scandinavia, it would appear that the Vikings used them during their invasions.

Naturally, the "blade" on these primitive skates wore down very quickly. The next development was a wooden skate shod with iron, and by 1400, iron skates were used. The Dutch were among the first to use an iron skate, both as a means of communication and as a pastime. The English word "skate" is derived from the Dutch word "skaat", and is found in literature dating from 1573. Both Samuel Pepys and John Evelyn mention that they watched the skaters in St. James' Park on 1 December 1662 in their diaries.

Until the middle of the nineteenth century, the metal portion of the skate was fastened to a wooden base or footplate, and the whole of the skate was fastened to the foot by means of thongs or leather straps. It was only with the introduction of the clamp fitting, and later the screw fitting, and subsequently the development of the mechanically refrigerated ice rink, that ice skating was transformed from a seasonal pastime to a major sport.

The world's first mechanically refrigerated ice rink was John Gamgee's "Glaciarium" in the

King's Road, Chelsea, built in 1876. By the end of the century, there were rinks in Paris, Berlin and several cities in Great Britain and the United States.

Although Olympic Winter Games were not introduced as a separate event until 1924, figure skating for both men and women, as well as pairs, was a part of the Olympic programme for the 1908 Games held in London. In that year, the Men's title was awarded to Ulrich Salchow of Sweden, the Women's title went to Madge Syers of Great Britain, and the Pairs Figure Skating title was won by Anna Hübler and Heinrich Burger of Germany. A Special Figures medal was awarded to Nicholai Kolomenkin of Russia, the only occasion that this event was included in an Olympic programme. Ice skating was not a part of the Olympics in the Summer of 1912, but was reintroduced in Antwerp in 1920, when the Games were held again after the First World War. On that occasion, the gold medal in the pairs was won by Ludovik and Walter Jacobsson of Finland, the Ladies medal was won by Magda Julin of Sweden, and the Men's figure skating medal was awarded to Gillis Grafström of Sweden, who also won the gold medal for this event in the following two Olympiads. There was one other skating event on the 1920 programme, and that was ice hockey. This was won by the Canadian team, who continued to dominate this team sport until 1952.

After the members of the International Olympic Committee from Norway, Sweden, France, Canada and Switzerland expressed the wish in 1921 that a separate event be held in the early part of Olympic Year for winter sports, it was decided to hold the first Olympic Winter Games in Chamonix in 1924. A full programme was planned, and speed skating was introduced for the first time, though until 1932, only for men.

The events on ice have not varied greatly since

1924, though the markings have changed with the times. Ice dancing, a discipline at which the British appear to do well, was not introduced into the Olympic programme until 1976, when Ludmilla Pakhomova and Aleksandr Gorshkov of the Soviet Union were the first Olympic gold medallists. The Russians, with Natalia Linichuk and Gennadi Karponosov, again took the title in 1980, and everyone must know that Jayne Torville and Christopher Dean were the winners in 1984 for Great Britain!

Although neither the first Olympic Winter Games in Chamonix, nor the second in St. Moritz in 1928, were commemorated philatelically, ice skating is well represented in the stamp album. The Hungarian issue for the 1984 Olympic Winter Games includes a set of seven stamps which show seven phases of a figure cut by an ice dancing couple. Tenly Albright of the United States, silver medallist in the figure skating in Oslo in 1952 and gold medallist in Cortina d'Ampezzo in 1956, was shown on a set dedicated to Olympic winners issued by the Dominican Republic in 1957 (SG 715). Sonja Henie, the Norwegian ice queen, who won the Olympic gold medal three times, in 1928, 1932 and 1936, has been depicted on many postcards, but has not, as far as I know, been named on a stamp. Maxie Herber was the model for a stamp designed for the 1936 Olympic Winter Games by Professor Max Eschle, but this design was never used. Instead, the 6pf. value showed a speed skater, though who the model was for this stamp is not known. There have been several cancellations with a skating theme, which will help to add interest and variety to a collection based on this elegant sport.

OLYMPICS AS A THEME

Harold Palethorpe.

Many years ago, when I wanted to buy my own house, as usual, in those days, money was short and wages were low. It was with great reluctance that I decided to sell off the best parts of my stamp collection, which fetched a fair price, and I was able to put down a substantial deposit.

I had virtually nothing left in the way of stamps and, as I did not want to stop collecting, the question then arose as to what to collect. I looked through the few miserable stamps that I had left and saw a few ship stamps, quite a large number of definitives from various countries, few sports stamps and a large number of useless items. It was getting more and more expensive to keep up with all the Commonwealth issues, which were coming out at an alarming rate, so in the end, I took out all the sports stamps and mounted them in an old photo album, any old how, and in no sort of order.

A couple of years later, when this album was full, I decided that I had better get them into some sort of order, and it soon became apparent that if I were to continue with sports stamps, I had better get hold of some complete sets and start off a thematic collection.

After many years, and far too many visits to stamp shops, I had a worthwhile thematic collection of sport on stamps, including a large number of Olympic Games issues. At this stage, I had been a member of a local stamp society for some time and was given many helpful tips. I was eventually persuaded to go in for the club's annual competition, which, with many misgivings, I did. Imagine my surprise when I was awarded a bronze medal for a nine sheet entry of Olympic Games stamps!

It now became apparent that I was getting somewhere, and by this time I was corresponding and exchanging stamps with collectors in six different countries, who were all sending me sports stamps. I was soon loaded with quite a large number of duplicates, and this is where, as far as I was concerned, my Olympic Games stamp collection really started. It was also obvious that I could not possibly collect all the Olympic stamps that were issued.

Having by now amassed Olympic stamps from most countries of the world, with only a few complete sets, I came to a decision to confine myself to the host nations only, and would try to get as many as possible, including first day covers, postmarks, propaganda issues, medal winners and any specially printed postal stationery. Fortunately my foreign contacts have helped me enormously in this respect, and the 1980 Moscow Games issues are practically complete.

I now came to the problem of what to do with hundreds of duplicates, and looking through them, I had an idea as to how to put them to good use. There were many stamps of other sports, as well as Olympic issues, but not many of these duplicates were in full sets. I decided to make up a thematic collection based on all the events in the Olympic Games, allowing one album page for each event. Each page consists of four, five or even six stamps from different countries showing the same discipline, a short write up of the event and a note of the sports that the stamps portray.

The first step was to separate the Olympic issues from the other sports stamps, which proved to be a very enjoyable task. Having done this, it now remained for me to put the same sports together in groups, that is, weight lifting, archery, running, hurdles, swimming, diving etc. I then found that I had only one stamp of some events, two of others and of others, I had four

or five stamps. On the other hand, there were some events for which I had no stamps at all, and this was when the fun and excitement really started; trying to get together enough stamps for each event to tell a story. With this aim in mind, I drew up a list of Olympic events, together with their dates of introduction into the Olympic programme and also dates for any of the events that were deleted over the years.

After many more years and many more hundreds of duplicates, I have now eventually completed the task. But have I completed it? No! I wanted a preface to the events, and this took the form of an introduction page, detailing a short history of the Games, both ancient and modern, followed by a page showing the Olympic Rings, then a page showing Pierre de Coubertin, the founder of the modern Games, and then, of course, pages showing the stadia, the Olympic Flame, and finally, the stamps showing parades of athletes at the opening of the Games. These of course, will be followed by the events. I have split these up into field, track, indoor, water sports and various other categories, starting off with the earliest of the ancient Olympic Games, such as the chariot races. There are not many stamps showing this event, but I have managed to find a few.

I get a lot of pleasure in showing this collection at local clubs and organisations, and at the same time I am concentrating on the host countries for my future collection. This year, of course, there is plenty of material for the Olympic Games being held in Los Angeles.

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SUPPORT THE AUCTION!

Send your surplus material to John Crowther,
3, Hill Drive, Handforth, Wilmslow, Cheshire.

READING MATTERS

THE ANCIENT OLYMPIC GAMES. Judith Swaddling. British Museum Publications, £3:95. First published in 1980, this slim volume has been reprinted for the third time to coincide with the Ancient Olympia Exhibition at the British Museum during the Summer of 1984. This book is well researched, and contains a surprising amount of detail in its eighty pages. All the illustrations in the book are taken from artifacts in the museum, so the dedicated "Olympophil" has the opportunity of seeing them in the flesh, so to speak. Although not philatelic, the book provides much useful background knowledge, and many of the scenes illustrated will be familiar from the stamps of Greece, Italy and Cyprus.

THE GUINNESS BOOK OF OLYMPIC FACTS AND FEATS. Compiled by Stan Greenberg. Published by Guinness Superlatives Ltd. at £8:95. Available from good booksellers. Another non-philatelic volume on Olympic facts and figures. The book is divided into two sections, the Games and the Sports, and it is this second section which is the most interesting. Most collectors of stamps of individual sports, will have the necessary literature, but for the collector who only needs general details of all the Olympic disciplines, this is a useful book to have at hand. Apart from giving the times and the first three placings for all the events, it gives a brief history of the sport, and when it was introduced into the Olympic programme. Most books do not include the demonstration sports, and it is helpful that the complete list is included. Also included are listings of all the athletes who have taken the Olympic Oath, and those who lit the final flame in the stadium. The information is complete to 1980, and advance information is given of the events in Sarajevo and Los Angeles, but naturally, does not contain any details.

OLYMPIC ACCESS by Richard Saul Wurman. Published by Access Press Ltd. P.O.Box 30706 Los Angeles CA 90030. Price \$4:95 plus postage and packing. This ninety four page booklet is intended to be used as the U.S. T.V. guide. It is fully illustrated in colour and is loaded with information. Each sport is analysed to enhance the viewer or student's appreciation of the finer points, in a nutshell. Olympic champions and world records are given. Member nations of the I.O.C. are listed. Collectors wishing to seek only the stamps of the participating nations, will have a useful guideline here. The finer points of each sport are well illustrated, and also be useful in checking the stamp illustrations when writing up the collection. The ancient and modern history of the Olympic Games is briefly presented. The booklet is published under licence from the LAOOC. It is excellent value and a valuable introduction to the philatelist not particularly familiar with the highlights of sports. Information supplied by the Journal of Sports Philatelists, magazine of S.P.I.

A PHILATELIC HISTORY OF THE OLYMPIC GAMES.
Ernest Trory. Crabtree Press, Brighton, 1956. The 1956 edition only covers the Olympic Games from 1896 to 1924, and the 1925 Olympic Congress in Prague. The 1928, 1932 and 1936 Games were covered at a later date. This was the first publication to deal with the philately of the Olympic Games. More recent works have covered the subject in greater depth, but as far as I know, it remains the only work written in English. Nevertheless, the late Mr Trory's book gives background information that is important for the collector, and has not been included in other works. The original book was printed in loose-leaf format, to fit into a Frank Godden album. It is printed on quality, high-gloss paper, and the quality of the photographs and cancellations is excellent. No longer generally available, copies do appear at auction.

SPORTS STAMPS, by Carl-Olof Enghagen, was published in November 1961 by Stanley Paul and Co.Ltd, in hardback with an illustrated jacket. Now out of print, it is occasionally seen in the U.S. and U.K. in literature sales at between £1 and £5 per copy. Although now very dated, the publishers called it "the first comprehensive handbook and catalogue in English of the world's sports stamps. It contains 275 pages, including 4 appendices, and consists of three sections. Part 1, Scope and Design, has four chapters, in which the layout and organisation of a sports collection is considered. Part 2 deals with Olympic stamps, and Part 3 consists of check lists of over forty two sports, all without a catalogue number. The central section, dealing with the Games, will interest S.O.C. members most, although much of the information is out of date. It consists of a brief introduction to the origin of the Olympic Games, followed by a check list of Olympic stamps from throughout the world, again, without catalogue numbers. Not to be recommended as a source of information for writing up, as today there is a wealth of good material available on Olympic philately. However, for non-philatelic Olympic items, this book deserves a place on the book-shelf. It was among the first books to mention Olympic philately, and was published at a time when thematic collecting, not to mention our own specialisation, appealed to only a small number of British collectors.

WHO'S WHO AT THE OLYMPICS. Erich Kamper. Edited by Leykam Buchverlagsgesellschaft, A-8010 Graz, Austria. P.O.Box 424. Price öS 790, sFR 92 or DM 113. The book is in three languages, German, English and French and includes biographies of the medallists in each event. 668 pages, plus 133 pages with illustrations. This is a detailed lexicon of 14,000 participants since 1896 for both the Winter and the Summer Games.

Other recent Olympic titles, in brief:
THE OLYMPIC GAMES 1984. Edited by John Rodda and Lord Killanin. Published by Collins Willow. Hardback. £8:95.

BRENDAN FOSTER'S OLYMPIC HEROES. By Brendan Foster. Subtitled "Past Champions, and favourites for 1984" Harrap Publishers £3:95.

THE OLYMPIC GAMES. by Peter Arnold and published by Optimum, an imprint of Dean's International Publishing, Southwark, London, which is a part of the Hamblyn Group. Large A4 size, colourful hardback, published in 1983 at £14:95.

OLYMPIC GAMES 1984. Subtitled "The Essential TV Guide to the Los Angeles Games". By Tom McNab and published by Hodder and Stoughton at £1:50.

THE SONY TAPE GUIDE TO WHO'S WHO IN THE 1984 OLYMPICS. Edited by David Emery, with a foreword by Brendan Foster. Large A4 white covered paper back, published by Pelham Books at £4:95.

OLYMPICS '92, WILL YOU BE THERE? Subtitled "The Stars Show You the Way". Compiled by Ann Griffiths and David Minton of the ONLINE Leisure Information Company. Introduction by Daley Thompson. Published by Blackie in paper back at £1:95. Also available hard back.

PLAYFAIR OLYMPICS 1984 LOS ANGELES. Edited by David Emery and published by Queen Anne Press, a division of Macdonald and Co. Price £1:50. This is a small paper back book, barely measuring 5x4 inches, which on newsprint quality paper gives a brief history of the modern Games, and a full list of medal winners, which takes up most of the book. Look for it at cash desks of major newsagents, as it can be hard to find in a large book shop.

WHEN GERMANY DID NOT PARTICIPATE

Hans Egon Vesper.

Germany did not take part in the XXII Olympic Games held in Moscow, but German athletes had already discovered that sport was not the be-all and end-all, after losing two world wars. The Germans were disbarred from participating in the summer Games on three occasions, and twice at the winter Games.

When the Allies agreed an Armistice with the German Empire on 11 November 1918, and signed a peace treaty at Versailles on 28 June 1919, not only did Germany lose great tracts of territory and have to repay immense reparations, she was also not permitted to take part in the 1920 Olympic Games in Belgium. The Games planned for 1916 in Berlin were cancelled because of the war, but have always been counted as the Sixth Games, so that the 1920 Games in Antwerp are regarded as the Seventh Olympic Games. They were held from 20 April until 12 September, and twenty nine nations participated. This was the first occasion that the Olympic flag, designed by Baron Pierre de Coubertin, with its five intertwined rings representing the five continents, was raised. It was because of this new symbol of Olympic Peace that Germany, Austria and Hungary were not allowed to attend. They were never officially disbarred from the International Olympic Committee, but the host nation, Belgium, simply did not send them an invitation. In Antwerp. for the second time since London in 1908, winter sports contests were held from 23 to 29 April 1920. As for the later Games in the summer, the three conquered nations were not invited.

Although Austria and Hungary were readmitted for the VIII Olympic Games held in France in 1924, Germany was again not invited to participate. Prior to the summer Games, an international winter sports week was held in the French resort of Chamonix from 25 January until 4 February,

at which sixteen nations, including Austria and Hungary, participated. It was only after their successful conclusion, that the International Olympic Committee designated these games as the first Olympic Winter Games. The summer Games were held in Paris from 4 May until 27 September 1924. A contemporary reporter wrote that the antagonism of both the referees and the spectators was keenly felt by both the participants and the reporters.

At the following IX Olympic Games, held from 17 May to 13 August 1928 in Amsterdam, women participated for the first time, although this was against the express wishes of the founder, Pierre de Coubertin. Forty six nations applied to enter the one hundred and twenty contests in seventeen sports. Germany participated for the first time since the war and, securing ten gold, seven silver and thirteen bronze medals, was placed second, behind the United States, in the medal table. Two of the first German medal winners are shown on the charity/commemorative issue of the Federal German Republic in 1968. Carl Friedrich Freiherr von Langen, (who won two Olympic medals in the equestrian events, the individual dressage and the team dressage) and Helene Mayer, who won her medal in fencing.

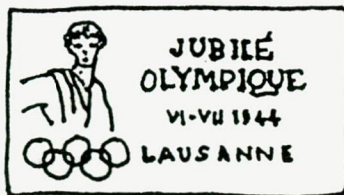
After the successful conclusion of the Fourth Olympic Winter Games in Garmisch Partenkirchen, from 6 to 16 February 1936, the XI Olympic Summer Games followed in Berlin from 1 to 16 August. Even today, they are used as an example for the successful organisation and preparation of the Games, even by those who would rather ignore them for political reasons, and because they have always been regarded as a glorification of the Third Reich. Both the winter and the summer Games achieved record numbers of participants; seven hundred and fifty six athletes from twenty eight nations at Garmisch Partenkirchen, and four thousand and sixty nine athletes from forty nine countries at Berlin and Kiel, where the yachting



Cancellations for the 1920 Olympic Games, Antwerp.



Cancellation for the 1924 Olympic Games, Paris.



Cancellation for the 50th Anniversary of the IOC.

events were held. These figures had not been achieved until that time.

The Fifth Olympic Winter Games would have been held in 1940 in Sapporo in Japan, but already in 1938, the International Olympic Committee transferred them to St. Moritz in Switzerland on account of the out-break of the Sino-Japanese War. However, because the Swiss did not wish to accept the amateur rules laid down by the I.O.C. for the alpine skiing contests, St. Moritz refused the honour, and the I.O.C. found itself again forced to offer the fifth Games of the winter to Garmisch Partenkirchen. What exists in the way of essays and special cancellations are detailed in the Volk catalogue. Naturally, the Fifth Olympic Winter Games fell by the wayside on account of the war, although official covers and meter cancellations were used. In 1954, the Mayor of Garmisch Partenkirchen was still using the meter cancellation that advertised the 1940 Games. Similarly, the XII Summer Olympic Games, which should have been hosted by Japan's capital city, Tokyo, was also transferred. There are several postal documents from the preparatory period, and these are also listed in Heiko Volk's catalogue. The summer Games were transferred to the Finnish capital, Helsinki, but in spite of plentiful slogan cancellations and vignettes prepared in anticipation, the International Olympic Committee had to find an alternative venue for, on 30 November 1939, the so-called Winter War broke out, and Finland was invaded by the Soviet Union, and after a great loss of territory, Finland sued for peace on 12 March 1940.

In 1944, the Olympic Winter Games would have been held in the Italian resort of Cortina d' Ampezzo, and the summer Games in London, but the Second World War also laid waste to these plans.

On 27 June 1944, however, there was a celebration

to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the International Olympic Committee, and the 1894 decision to reintroduce the modern Olympic Games. This was held at the I.O.C. headquarters at Mon Repos in Lausanne in Switzerland. About the Games, it was impossible to think or to make plans. Even so, thirty three nations, from both sides in the conflict, attended this celebration. The Swiss postal authorities issued three stamps for this occasion with a design that showed the head of the god Apollo and the five Olympic rings. Additionally, two slogan cancellations were used in Lausanne, inscribed "Jubilé Olympique."

Although the Olympic Games of 1944 were cancelled, the Polish officers at the German prisoner of war camps at Woldenberg and Gross Born used the occasion to hold sporting contests between themselves. With the use of primitive wood blocks, they produced the clichés to prepare special stamps and cancellations, through which the Olympic Games, philatelically at least, became a reality. Although these letters could only be used from one camp block to another, since these vignettes were not official stamps, they were used, and are therefore postal documents.

On 8 May 1945 the Second World War, at least in Europe, was over with the signing of the cease-fire. With the breakdown in the alliance between the victors, and the political division of the world, the Olympic Ideal appeared increasingly attractive. Therefore the quadrennial cycle of the Olympic Games continued; ie 1948.

The first Olympic Winter Games after the war were held from 30 January to 8 February 1948 in the Swiss resort of St.Moritz, with seven hundred and thirteen participants from twenty eight nations. The summer Games which were held from 29 July until 14 August of the same year, attracted four thousand and ninety nine competitors from fifty nine countries, and took place

in London. The British post office produced an aerogramme with an imprinted dark violet 3d. stamp, and also a special cancellation, with seven wavy lines and the Olympic rings at the side, which was used at Wembley. For the winter Games, Switzerland produced four special stamps, and a special cancellation was used in St. Moritz. Only the Germans and Japanese were disbarred from entering the Games in 1948, the Austrians and Italians were allowed to participate. For Austria, at least, it was an excuse to issue a stamp on 16 January 1948, with the Olympic flame as the design, with a charity premium for the benefit of the Austrian competitors.

Although the Swedes, with Sigfrid Edström, the President of the I.O.C. at that time, were among those who pleaded for German inclusion at the Games as early as 1948, by too many, the war had not been forgotten. Only after the National Olympic Committee for Germany was founded on 24 September 1949, with the former German I.O.C. delegate, Karl Ritter von Halt elected as the national President, was the proposal made at the 45th Session of the International Olympic Committee, held in 1951 in Vienna, that Germany be readmitted. At the same session, there were proposals that the U.S.S.R. and East Germany also be admitted. The acceptance of Russia was purely a formality, but the national Olympic Committee for the German Democratic Republic created a problem, since two national committees from one country were against the I.O.C. rules. After discussion with the G.D.R. delegate through the Executive Committee, the I.O.C. decided that a joint German team should be formed for the Olympic Winter Games of 1952 in Oslo, and the summer's Games in Helsinki, but this was easier said than done.

Admittedly, at the first meeting on 22 May 1951, the two German delegations agreed in principle, but a method for the necessary elimination heats could not be found. Baron von Frenkell, the President of the Organising Committee for the

summer Games in Helsinki, arranged a meeting in Copenhagen, in the presence of the Vice President of the I.O.C., Avery Brundage and Chancellor Otto Mayer, in an attempt to reach agreement. He not only failed to reach an agreement, but received a deliberate snub by the East Germans. The G.D.R. delegation was led by Kurt Edel, the President of the non-accepted national Olympic Committee. Because of passport difficulties, the airplane arrived in Copenhagen, by way of Prague, at 2:30pm. In the meantime, the meeting arranged for 10:00am had been postponed until 3:00pm, to give the East Germans time to arrive, but they declined to attend, stating that they were tired and hungry after their long journey. Although the greying I.O.C. President, Sigfrid Edström had made a special detour to be in Copenhagen for the meeting, instead of travelling straight to Oslo, he, the Vice President, Avery Brundage, Chancellor Otto Mayer, as well as Ritter von Halt, Dr. Bauwens, Dr. Danz and Willi Daum, who represented the West German delegation, waited until 5:30pm at the headquarters of the Danish sports organisation, the East German delegates did not appear, although they were accommodated at an hotel less than three hundred meters away. Shortly before the I.O.C. President and the West German delegate's departure from Copenhagen, President Edström declared, "Nothing will stand in the way of the German team's participation in Oslo. Regarding the formation of a joint team for Helsinki, this will have to be discussed at the next I.O.C. meeting in Oslo."

After Copenhagen, no further attempts were made to find a solution for a joint team for the 1952 Games. At the winter Games in Oslo, as well as at the summer Games in Helsinki, only the athletes from the Federal German Republic were at the starting posts, since from 22 April 1951, the German National Olympic Committee was again accepted as a member of the I.O.C.. The contrived provocation of 8 May, cost Kurt Edel the presid-

ency of the National Olympic Committee of the German Democratic Republic. At the 49th Session of the International Olympic Committee, held on 14 May 1954, the request for admittance by the East Germans was again turned down, and it was only at the 50th Session, held in Paris in 1955, that provisional agreement was reached, on the understanding that at the Olympic Games of 1956 in Cortina d'Ampezzo and Melbourne, there would be a joint German team.

In both 1960 and 1964 a joint German team, with a compromise flag in red, gold and black with the five Olympic rings, was used at the Games. The I.O.C. decided at the 63rd Session on 6 October 1965 in Madrid, that at the next Olympic Games in Grenoble and Mexico City in 1968, to allow two separated teams, but both under the existing "Olympic flag" and, instead of the national anthem of either, Beethoven's Ode to Joy (from the 9th Symphony) would be played for any German winners.

Only three years later, on 11 October 1968, one day before the opening of the XIX Olympic Summer Games in Mexico City, the last restrictions were lifted, and the G.D.R. was able to use her own flag, own emblem and own national anthem. The seventeen year long fight for Olympic German unity was over.

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Cancellations used in St. Moritz and London, 1948.

In brief

Jim Thorpe Town in Pennsylvania, which uses a cancellation with the town name, also boasts a 20 ton statue of the athlete, with the inscription at its base, "Sir you are the greatest athlete in the world."

At the Pre-Olympic basketball matches held in France, the Soviet team won, followed by Spain with France in third place. West Germany, who were fourth, will be going to LA, thanks to the boycott. As for the postmarks, the Orleans slogan omitted the date beneath the slogan on all the dates seen, the date was originally included in the St. Quentin slogan, but on 17 May (the last date of use) the date was omitted and the slogan was placed to the right instead of the left of the cds. It is not known whether it was also transposed on other dates.

Apart from coverage of the Games themselves, television has devoted several programmes to the Olympic Games past and present. A series of four programmes on Channel 4 outlining the history of the Olympic Games showed some very rare film of early Games. The anchor man on the series, which was networked during July, was John Rodda, the athletics correspondent of the "Guardian". He has written a booklet to accompany the series, though further details are not known.

SKI, the United States magazine, included in their April issue a free poster of skiing champions and a review plus very interesting comments on the Olympic Winter Games in Sarajevo.

Sharp's have issued a video tape entitled "The Olympic Story, Circles of Flame". It was being offered free in the national Sunday press with the purchase of Sharp Video recorders.

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Arrangements are now being made for S.O.C. to run a circulating packet, starting in the New Year, to enable members to buy and sell stamps and other Olympic material. Full details will be given in the December TORCH BEARER, but members may like to start preparing their booklets for circulation now, so that the packet gets off to a good start. I have blank booklets at 8 pence each, plus 17 pence postage for two booklets, or 21 pence for up to five booklets. Please do NOT however, send the material until after the December announcement. The packet will only be able to circulate within Great Britain, but contributions will be welcome from overseas members, who may like to offer their surplus material for sale. Potential overseas contributors should write to me before sending any items.

Bob Wilcock. 24, Hamilton Crescent. Brentwood, Essex. CM14 5ES.

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Although the postal arrangements for the Torch Relay and the journey of the Flame through Greece have been cancelled, the Greek Mint have not withdrawn the coins that were struck to commemorate the occasion. These are available from banks and souvenir shops throughout Greece and the Greek islands. There is a gold coin with the head of Apollo and a face value of 5,000 Drachma, and a silver coin with a Torch Runner and a value of 500 Drachma. Quantities produced are 15,000 and 50,000 respectively.

HFC Trust and Savings are sponsors of the British Olympic Association and sponsors of Olympic Trials held in this country. They have been using a meter cancellation for their mail throughout the Summer. Bob Wilcock has examples of these, with an imprinted 12½p stamp. Any member who would like an example of this cancellation should send 14 pence, plus an SAE larger than 220mm X 110mm to Bob at the above address.

