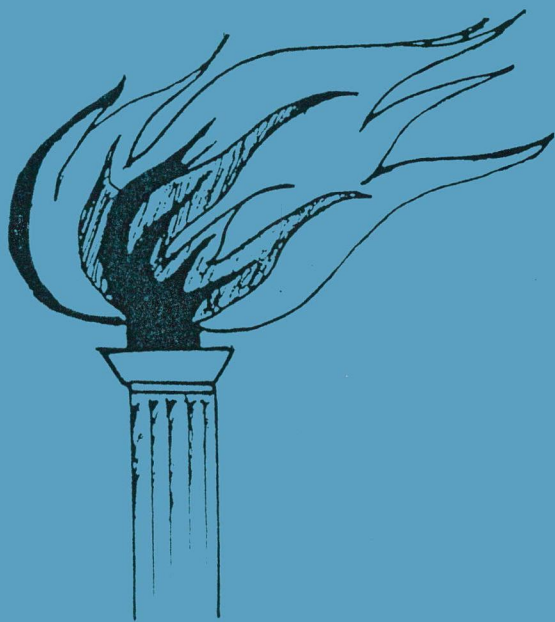


# TORCH BEARER



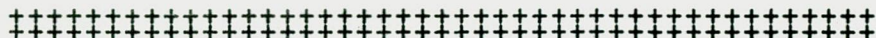
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SOCIETY of OLYMPIC COLLECTORS



# TORCH BEARER

Volume 1.                      Issue 4.                      December 1984.



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Editor: Franceska Rapkin.

## ■ Front page

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Enclosed with this issue of the magazine, you will find a subscription renewal form. Please complete it and send it with the appropriate amount to Colin Faers, to arrive by 1 February 1985, at the latest. Please help the Society's officers to help you by sending your subscription promptly. No money, no magazine, so it's up to you!

1984 has been an exciting year. I never dreamt that when I put the first small announcement in the philatelic press in March, that by the end of the year our society would have over a hundred members. It means that next year we will be able to have our magazine professionally printed. The basic format will not change, but the quality of reproduction should be improved.

I cannot let the year end without thanking the Committee for all their work and their numerous suggestions which helped to get the society established. Thanks are also due to my daughter Sarah, who helped with the typing of the magazine to my husband, who proof-read it, and to the staff at my husband's office who did the photocopying and the collating. Without these people my task would have been that much harder and far less enjoyable.

In this issue, you will be able to read the first part of Bob Wilcock's carefully researched review of the 1984 Games. Bob has promised further instalments in future issues, and we can look forward to these in 1985. Bob is to be congratulated for offering the Society the benefit of his work. If any member can add to his knowledge, I am sure that Bob would be grateful to hear from them.

It only remains for me to wish you all a very merry Christmas, and happy collecting in 1985.

# your committee

- Chairman: Franceska Rapkin, Eaglewood,  
Oxhey Lane, Hatch End, Middx.
- Secretary: John Osborne, 236 Bexley Lane,  
Sidcup, Kent DA14 4JH.
- Treasurer: Colin Faers, 76 Minsterley Ave,  
Shepperton, Middx.
- Auctioneer: John Crowther, 3 Hill Drive,  
Handforth, Wilmslow, Cheshire.
- Packet Manager: Bob Wilcock, 24 Hamilton Cres,  
Brentwood, Essex CM14 5ES.
- Editor of Torch Bearer: Franceska Rapkin.

## EDITOR'S REPORT.

You will notice that this is an extra thick issue. This should make up for the fact that the first issue was very slim! It was a case of sending something out as soon as possible. In 1985, we will be having the magazine professionally printed and bound, so it should have a smarter appearance. My thanks to all of you who have written to me throughout the year, and who have sent me articles. Please keep sending them in 1985. Bear with me if I do not print them immediately. It is not that I don't want to use them, only that I try to keep each issue balanced so that it contains a little for everyone. This is not the case this time. I have received so much information about this summer's events in Los Angeles, I thought it best to devote most of this magazine to the subject, while it is still fresh in the memory. Please let me know if there are any particular subjects that you would like aired in future issues, and remember that Member's Forum is your column to fill as you wish.

### THE CIRCULATING PACKET.

We are pleased to confirm that a Society packet will be starting in the New Year. This will provide an excellent opportunity for members to sell their surplus material, and to buy the stamps they need to fill those awkward gaps in the collection.

**VENDORS!** All types of material are required, from the commoner stamps, too cheap to put in the auction, to postal history, too difficult to describe, but which will sell on sight. Commission is just 10% and all material will be insured by the Society from the time you send it, provided you obtain a certificate of posting. I have blank booklets for 8pence each, plus 17pence postage for up to two books, 22p. postage for up to five books. Covers may be put in books or envelopes. If you have not sold this way before and would like advice, please write, with SAE. Overseas members should write in any case before sending any material, as customs regulations need to be explained. Insurance cover starts on 2 January, so please send your material after this date. Make your New Year Resolution to fill a booklet for the packet!

**PURCHASERS!** An application form is enclosed with Torch Bearer. Please return it to me as soon as possible, since I shall not be able to include you in the circuit until I have heard from your reference, then hopefully you will receive several hundred pounds worth of material to browse through and to make purchases according to your wants and your purse. The referee should be philatelic, (another packet secretary or a dealer from whom you purchase regularly, or your banker, would be fine) Please be sure to include your post code in your address, since this will help to determine the best order of circulation, and also, please

be patient; it will take some months for the first packets to reach everyone who wants to see them, but whoever is unlucky enough to be the last to see the first packet, will be the first name on the second circuit!

We are sorry that, for insurance and customs reasons, we can only circulate packets within Great Britain. Overseas members however, can send items for sale, and it will usefully acquire Sterling to pay subscriptions or auction purchases.

Bob Wilcock.

#### SECRETARY'S REPORT.

It is encouraging to note that the Society now has one hundred and fifteen members, and this figure changes daily. When a few other keen Olympic collectors and myself launched S.O.C. in March this year, we hoped that we could found a society which meets the needs of Olympic memorabilia, as well as philatelic material, and it is rewarding to find that we appear to have succeeded. With members in over sixteen countries throughout the world, and something like 35% of our membership resident outside the United Kingdom, we can truly claim to be an international society. Please use the Society to buy, sell, exchange your surplus material, and as a contact for new friends. The Editor will gladly publish member's wants; Member's Forum is for your use. We are always keen to receive your comments, news, views and articles, as well as praise or criticism. The Society's Officers are there to seek out special offers for members, free literature, whenever we can obtain it, and to help in any way we can. However, if you have any queries which need a reply, a stamped addressed envelope or an international reply coupon would be appreciated. My best wishes to you all for an enjoyable Christmas and a successful New Year.

John Osborne.

AUCTION MANAGER'S REPORT.

For the first auction ninety eight lots were received, with a reserve of L370.74. Sales totalled L164.50 and thirty seven lots were sold. One hundred and twenty six lots were received for the second auction, with a reserve price of L462.95. Of these, seventy five lots were sold for a total of L272.00.

Bids in the first two auctions indicated that there is wide interest in all aspects of Olympi philately among our members. It will be seen that sales in the second auction increased considerably due, no doubt, to the growth in the membership and the quality of the material included. We have been pleased to receive bids from as far afield as Japan, U.S.A., Italy and Swaziland. Inevitably, some bids have been received after the closing date, but if the lots have remained unsold, then these bids have been accepted. Whilst there are no viewing facilities, lots are described as accurately as possible, which should ensure that very few lots are returned because of misdescription. We are always looking for lots for future auctions, so please send your surplus material to the Auction Manager. This can include programmes, entrance tickets and other ephemera. Any unsold lots will be put in the following auction, and returned after that to the vendor. You will see from the December auction list that the closing date for bids has been extended to 31st January 1985 to allow for delays in the post during the Christmas period, and also enable me to put my feet up for a few days! Happy Hunting.

John Crowther.

#####  
SUPPORT YOUR SOCIETY! Sell your surplus  
material through the auction or the packet!

## HOLIDAY QUIZ

With time to relax over the festive season, spend a while doing this Olympic quiz. The questions should not be too difficult for the dedicated Olympophil! To give overseas members a chance to compete, the closing date is 31 JANUARY 1985, when the first three correct solutions opened will be awarded a small prize. To save on postage, members may send their completed entry forms with their 1985 subscriptions, to Mrs F. Rapkin, Eaglewood, Oxhey Lane, Hatch End, Middx HA5 4AL, Great Britain.

1. Name the first recorded athlete to wear an Olympic crown.
2. Name the first athlete to win a medal in the first modern Olympic Games.
3. Name the event for which he won the medal.
4. Who was known as the Flying Finn?
5. The King of Sweden called him the greatest athlete in the world. Who was he?
6. In London 1908, Dorando Pietri was the first man over the finish line in the Marathon, but was not the winner. Who was?
7. Who was Fabulous Fanny?
8. Who was the Iron Czech?
9. When did the Soviet Union first participate in the Olympic Games?
10. On only one occasion were the Summer Games held in two different countries.
  - a. When was this?
  - b. In which two countries?
11. Name the only diver to win an Olympic gold medal on three occasions.
12. Name the only athlete to win a total of ten Olympic gold medals in four Olympiads, (including Athens in 1906)
13. Who was known as the Ice Queen?
14. Name the athlete who carried the Flame into the stadium in 1952.
15. When was ice skating first introduced into the Olympic programme?

16. When were the Olympic Games first televised?
17. Who won the Marathon on two occasions?
18. The world and Olympic record in the long jump stands at 8:90 metres.
  - a. Who holds the record?
  - b. When was it won?
19. Who was the first female competitor to win an Olympic gold medal?
  - a. For what event?
  - b. In what year?
20. Until 1984, only one athlete took four gold medals in the track and field events. Who was he?
21. Who equalled this record in 1984?
22. When was the Torch Relay first introduced?
23. Where was a cricket pitch converted into an Olympic stadium?
24. Where were the I.O.C. headquarters before they moved to Switzerland?
25. When was the first Marathon held for women in the Olympic Games?

## **PROFILE**

JACK BERESFORD was born in Chiswick, near London, on 1 January 1899 and he died in London in December 1977. Between 1920 and 1936, he represented Great Britain in five successive Olympiads, helping to win three gold and two silver medals in the single sculls, double sculls and coxless fours as well as the eight oared events. At his last Olympic appearance in Berlin in 1936, he carried the British team flag. In 1949, the International Olympic Committee awarded him the rare Diploma of Merit and in 1960, he was made a Commander of the Order of the British Empire.

The United States Postal Service expects to derive a revenue of around \$99 million from the sale of stamps, postal cards and aerogrammes relating to the Los Angeles Olympic Games. Among the souvenirs is a superb special edition entitled "Golden Moments", containing all the commemorative stamps and postal stationery items issued by the U.S.A. 1984 Olympics, including two copies of the 30c aerogramme, one folded, one unfolded, and two stock book pages. The items are contained in a hard binding which includes a seventy six page book featuring 32 colour illustrations by Robert Peake, designer of all the 1983 and 1984 US Olympic postage and stationery items. The book tells the story of memorable Gold Medal moments in Olympic history. The edition costs \$20:50 by mail order from the United States Postal Service Philatelic Sales Division, Washington DC 20265-9997. USA.

Various collections are being made available by Stanley Gibbons from their address at Church Hatch, Market Place, Ringwood, Hants BH24 1DR. One such is the History of the Olympic Games, told in fifty stamps. It is available for £27:50, plus £1:50 postage. It is not known what the collection contains, but it is probably cheaper to buy the sets individually and to build up your own collection.

An American business that struck gold was the Ooh La La company, which made a fortune from its Olympic pins. They quickly became collectors items and the object of frenzied trading. One picturing Sam the Eagle, holding a bottle of Coke, withdrawn because the official mascot could not be shown hawking a product, was changing hands by the end of the Games for more than \$1,000! (£800+)

# THE OLYMPIC MUSEUM, LAUSANNE

Roger Bowers.

I was on holiday in Montreux on Lake Geneva in July, and seized the first opportunity to pay a visit to the Olympic Museum. Montreux is only about twenty minutes by train from Lausanne, so I went after lunch. The museum is easy to find; being only a few hundred yards from the main railway station. Entry is free, and a number of free magazines are available to visitors.

The main exhibition is sited on the ground floor, and consists of show cases, each devoted to a separate Games, commencing with Athens 1896. The glass fronted cases contain a variety of photographs, programmes, medals, official badges and sporting implements. Many feature outstanding sportsmen and women, including Owens, Nurmi, Zatopek and Weissmuller, and I understand that changes are made from time to time, for there is much available additional material that is not on show. One major display showed a number of torches that had been used for the opening ceremonies, and Coubertin's desk and office were also on show. Naturally, there are plenty of posters and written reports, and the overall impression was that money has not been spared to achieve an attractive display. I understand that there are occasional film shows, but the equipment was out of order during my visit.

On the floor above, there is a library which houses a magnificent selection of books, magazines and reports of all types, set out into each Olympiad. Obviously, there is less material for 1896 and 1900, but the Games from 1960 onwards are well represented. Various sports are covered by special reports, but the majority of works are general, including some really beautifully prepared volumes from the

United States and Japan.

A separate section is devoted to the official delegations' applications to hold the Olympic Games, including the applications which were not accepted.

For me, the library was the finest part of the whole exhibition, and I would love to have had more time to browse; and in particular to be the owner of so many books! The staff have much still to catalogue, and there were books all over the floor still waiting to be sorted out. The small staff were very charming and helpful, and willing to stop to explain any points. Madame Berlioux was in Los Angeles, so I did not meet her. I was advised that the present site is only temporary, and it is expected that the museum will move to a permanent site nearer to the I.O.C. headquarters building at Vidy on the outskirts of Lausanne.

If you are near Lausanne, do go and pay a visit, but provide plenty of time for that superb library!

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## MEMBER'S FORUM

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Member M.E.Wiggs, Bradenham, Moor Lane, Rickmansworth Herts, U.K. wishes to exchange or purchase official Olympic reports, Olympic programmes, competitor's medals and commemorative medals. Write to him direct at the above address.

Hans Lewinson, Sauerbrucherstrasse 8-5, 8000 Munich 70, can offer several copies of scarce USSR's 1964 Tokyo Miniature sheets, unmounted mint for DM360 each.

Peter C. Rickenback, 14 Rosslyn Hill, London NW3 1PF U.K. has good stocks of stamps, covers and cancellations for the 1936 Games in Berlin and 1972 Games in Munich.

Ken Todd, 290 Old Church Road, London E4 8BN, can supply most modern Olympic issues, mint, miniature sheets and FDC's. Wants list welcome. Please include an SAE. Refund if not satisfied.

John Osborne, 236 Bexley Lane, Sidcup, Kent, is interested in buying and/or exchanging archery, Moscow '80, Montreal '76, Sarajevo '84 and Los Angeles philatelic and souvenir material. Always interested in buying all types of material. Wants lists welcome. Please ask for my own Olympic duplicates for sale list.

Karl-Heinz Köller, Itzehoerstrasse 5, D2353 Nortorf, West Germany, is looking for material related to Kieler Woche (Kiel Week), in particular, cancellations used for the visit of the British fleet on 23 to 29 June 1904 and 24 to 30 June 1914. He is prepared to buy or exchange.

Glenn Estus, Box 451, Westport NY 12993, U.S.A. has available free Official Olympic Stamp Exhibition brochures from the 1980 Lake Placid Winter Games. Send a self addressed envelope and two International Reply Coupons for your copy. Glenn is also interested in purchasing or trading meter cancellations for any other Olympic Games, especially 1932 and 1984.

Bob Wilcock asks, Do we have a member who speaks Flemish who can translate, or otherwise cast some light on this 1983 postmark from Bruges?

Bob also would like to know if any member can explain the significance of this Dutch postmark with the text NEDERLANDS OLYMPISCH COMITE/ FAIR PLAY, showing boy and girl runners with Olympic rings on their chests.



overdekte kunstijsbaan  
 boude wijnpark  
 st-michiels  
 olympische afmetingen

344 92 40



There is nothing to suggest from the envelope that it came from the Dutch Olympic Committee.



British Medical Journal  
 British Medical Association

Member C.J.Rawlings has for sale the two 1936 Olympic cigarette card albums in fairly good condition. Anyone interested should write with an offer to, 1 Weaver's Close, Billericay, Essex CM11 2AS, or telephone Billericay 22138.

Member Keith Moulden, 2 Fullbrook Crescent, Tilehurst, Reading, Berks RG3 6RX is looking for the 1956 Australian Olympic football hand-stamp on official illustrated cover. Will either exchange it for Richard Mandell's book, The Nazi Olympics, or buy for cash.

Are any members prepared to undertake any translation work? Please write to the Editor with details of languages you are able to translate, and give some indication of the charges that you would make. Maybe if sufficient members reply, we would be able to offer a translation service.

## ■ A LEGACY TO YOUTH ■

The 1984 Olympic Torch Relay. Bob Wilcock.

The 1984 Olympic torch run was the longest and most controversial ever. The previous two issues of Torch Bearer have looked at the traditional lighting of the flame in Greece, and the Greek concern over this year's arrangements. As mentioned, there were no special postmarks, and the three planned pictorial handstamps were cancelled, and the prepared covers, including privately overprinted aerogrammes, were serviced with the ordinary date stamps of Olympia and Athens. This article looks at the American arrangement

There is no doubt that the introduction in 1936 of the Olympic torch run was an inspired idea, and it is a part of Olympic ceremonial that has firmly captured the public imagination. The development of the idea for the XXIII Olympiad has much to commend it; it is a shame that commercialism intruded too much. The concept that the ordinary citizens of the United States should be allowed to participate and to be a part of Olympic history for one kilometre, was marvellous. But a price pitched at \$3,000 (tax deductible) with costs estimated at only \$360 per runner, and a profit therefore of \$2,640, was where things started to go wrong, and it was the inbuilt commercialisation that did the rest. It is true that the runners could designate a charity, one of America's youth organisations, or the special Torch Relay Foundation, to receive the benefit of the funds for the future development of youth and amateur sports in the USA, but the commercialisation that secured and went with the giving was excessive. A more modest programme would have achieved almost as much, but would not have been in the American character. One of the strengths of the Olympic arrangements is that each

Games reflects and shows to the world the character and traditions of the host country. There is food for thought in the contrast between the ethos of the 1980 and the 1984 Games, and there will be much again in 1988 and thereafter.

Philatelically, the arrangements for the Torch Relay started a few days before the relay itself. On Monday 30 April, the first day ceremonies were held for the 13 cent postal card with the imprinted stamp depicting a torch runner. The ceremonies took place in the Los Angeles Coliseum. They were presided over by Charles King, Postmaster of Los Angeles, and among those present were Robert Peake, the designer of the card, and Olympians from the 1932 Games. At one stage, the flame was lit on the peristyle, a most stirring moment. Those attending were given an official first day folder containing a copy of the card with first day cancellation; there are the usual two variants of the First Day of Issue slogan postmark, with 20mm or 24mm circular date stamps.

The torch relay itself was inaugurated at a ceremony at the United Nations Building in New York on Tuesday 8 May. The honour of carrying the first torch went to the grandchildren of Jesse Owens and Jim Thorpe. It was carried on the second leg by Abel Kiviat, at 92 years old, the oldest living Olympic medal winner. (Silver in 1912 for 1500metres)

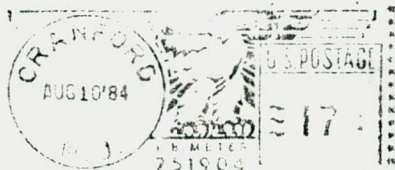
It was only on 1 May that the U.S.P.S. announced the philatelic arrangements; a special handstamp to be available at forty one cities, at temporary postal stations and at the main post offices, and also by mail order. Customer supplied covers and cards received conventional handstamps, but because of the short notice, the U.S.P.S. also offered by mail order cancelled torch run postcards. These had printed

cancellations. All forty one cancellations shared a common design depicting a stylised torch runner with starburst killer bars. The designers were Rudolph deHarak and Associates of New York. The forty one cities are listed in June Torch Bearer on page 40, but it should be noted that the torch was at New Haven on 9 May, Seattle on 6 July and Portland on 7 July. There was no special postmark when the torch passed through LA for the first time on 21 July, although items commemorating the passage can be found postmarked with an ordinary LA postmark of the day. There must be an enormous number of other local, unofficial souvenirs from many other places that the torch passed through, but they are beyond the scope of this article. There was however, one privately sponsored postal handstamp from Clarksburg West Virginia, on 16 May. This depicts a striding torch runner over a map of Virginia. The one variation in the official handstamp occurred at Pittsburgh, bright blue ink being used instead of black.

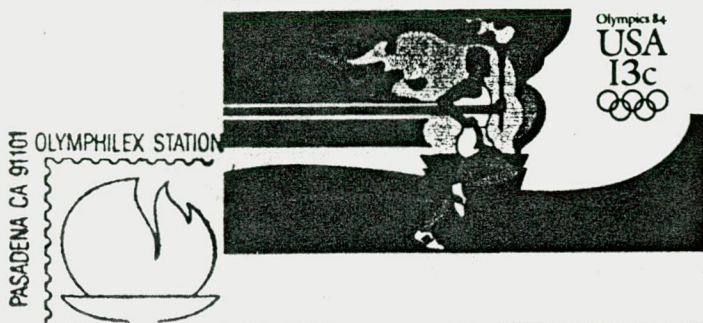
The agents appointed to implement the transit of the torch from New York to Los Angeles were Telephone Pioneers of America, a community service-oriented non-profit organisation. Their role was marked philatelically through a postage meter depicting the Telephone Pioneers triangular logo and a burning torch, with the text 'GO USA IN LA' in between.



POSTNET  
FIRST CLASS

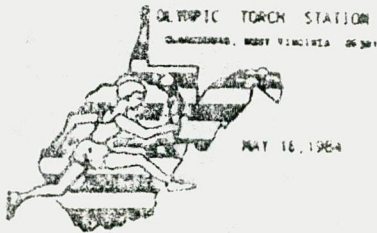


Drawing Board and other companies produced a number of postcards depicting a torch runner or the torch, and these are detailed in a separate article on the postcards of the Games. The philatelic surprise was that the U.S.P.S. released an official maximum card, No. 84-9, in the design of the 'stamp' of the 13cents card. There was no mention of the card in the press release of 1 May, and it seems that only two hundred and fifty were on sale, at

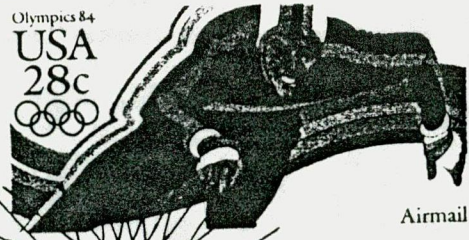


50 cents in New York and each of the cities along the route. It was left to the collector grapevine to spread the news, and well into the relay, collectors were discovering the card by accident. The cards were not on sale through the U.S.P.S. Philatelic Agency in Washington until August, but it seems that the cards were on sale, unannounced, well before the Games, at philatelic sales windows of the main Long Beach post office, where the Olympic post office facilities were established. Reportedly, only two hundred and fifty were available at the Los Angeles Terminal Annex post office on 28 July. It was at this post office that the Los Angeles 'Olympic Torch' handstamp was available, LA90052, whereas the 'Olympic FLAME' handstamp was in use to mark the opening ceremony of the Games, at the Coliseum post office, LA90037. Double cancellations were possible, but few collectors will have had either the time or the patience to join the long queues at both locations.

The identity of the runners who would carry the torch on its final leg of the long 9000 miles journey was a closely guarded secret. The honour of carrying the torch into the arena went to Gina Hemphill, the granddaughter of Jesse Owens. There were huge cheers for her and she handed to torch to Rafer Johnson, who won the gold medal in the decathlon at Rome in 1960, having taken the silver in 1956. It was he who, in an impressive variation of tradition, lit the fuse that burned through the Olympic rings, to light the flame for the Twenty Third Olympiad.



Olympics 84  
USA  
28c  
Olympic rings

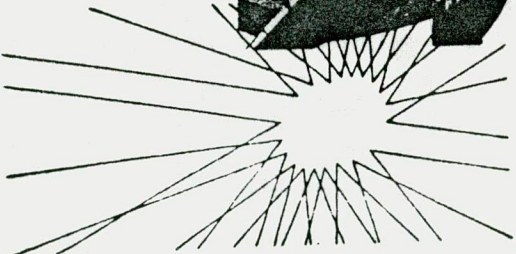


Airmail

SAN JOSE CA 95101



17 JUL 84



© USPS 1983

# THE RACE FOR THE GOLDEN BUCK

John Osborne.

Marketing the XXIII Summer Olympic Games.

The 1984 Summer Games have been considered the triumph of the large American corporations who were anxiously promoting their products and services against a backdrop of the Los Angeles Coliseum stadium. This was particularly apparent by the licensing arrangements for the copyright of the Olympic rings, and even the word OLYMPIC.

The copyright to the rings and to the word is apparently held by the International Olympic Committee, and for these Games, the Los Angeles Olympic Organising Committee (LAOOC), as well as their associate body, the United States Olympic Committee (USOC) based in Colorado Springs, who were given the task of licensing use of the name and rings to manufacturers of a range of consumer products.

Franklin Mint paid substantial sums for the exclusive right to market in the U.S.A. any Olympic philatelic product. The ingenious Inter Governmental Philatelic Corporation of New York, (IGPC) which has been exploiting the Disney theme for some time, realised that this was a great opportunity to sell the stamps of countries like Grenada, whose philatelic policy has become dubious in recent years. The Franklin Mint denied the corporation the right to market stamps of Grenada showing the Disney cartoon characters and the Olympic theme. Undeterred, the IGPS issued Grenada stamps in two versions:

1. Without the Olympic logo. These stamps show the sport with the name and inscription "1984 Los Angeles". The stamps were issued in long

sets with souvenir sheets containing the high value. These were designed to be sold and marketed inside the USA, presumably to circumvent the US Olympic Symbol Protection Statute of 1978, which, in effect, prohibits the use of the word "Olympic" in any combination that refers to the Olympic Games, without paying approximately £335,000 to the US Olympic Committee. However, these stamps, like the other version, were freely available, and are certainly easily obtainable in the UK.

2. With the Olympic logo. These stamps were to be sold and marketed outside the USA. This version consists of nine mini-sheets, five stamps per sheet, plus a label for each sport, which has the same design as version 1, but includes the inscription "1984 Olympics" and the five Olympic rings in colour, followed by the name "Los Angeles". The multi-coloured borders of the sheets have the same inscription and show the Olympic torch.

There is, however, controversy as to whether it is possible to claim copyright on the five rings since they constitute an ancient Greek symbol. Despite this, the IOC in Switzerland have claimed copyright on the reproduction of the rings in their five different Olympic colours.

Franklin Mint later relented and allowed postal administrations to market their own products without fee, provided they did so in combination with other countries. This still hit at IGPC, and left Crown Agents unsure as to how to handle the new Olympic sets issued by in excess of fifteen countries with which they have agreements. The query also arose as to whether the various private cachet and cover producers and numerous small show organisers in the United States could actually utter the word denoting the greatest summer competition of the year! Since the Olympic authorities

relented, numerous private covers and cachets have appeared, although it appears that they only relaxed on the question of the Olympic copyright. Certainly they were aware of the licensing opportunities pertaining to the symbols devised specifically for LA'84, such as the "stars in motion" logo and Sam the Eagle mascot, since the LAOOC apparently had a department in Los Angeles engaged in tracking down and prosecuting persons who had illegally used these symbols.

Drawing Board Greetings Cards Incorporated, of Dallas, were granted the exclusive right to produce "social expression" merchandise, which included postcards, even though it was a pity that they did not produce cards for every one of the Olympic sports. There is some confusion about the true extent of their marketing campaign. According to reliable American correspondents, including many who attended the Games, Drawing Board did not pursue the intensive promotional campaign promised in their catalogue, so it would be intriguing to know how many of their postcards were printed, distributed and sold; and how widely they distributed their postal merchandise. One reason why British dealers were reluctant to supply all unofficial cancellations and postcards was that noone could work out how to get hold of the cards in the first place!

A score of publishers of unofficial Olympic postcards has been noted, giving some sixty or more different cards to collect. A wide variety of products with Olympic cancels on them has been marketed by small dealers and collectors, actively encouraged by the U.S.P.S., who were happy to apply cancels to anything bearing 20 cents stamps, though this rule was sometimes broken in error, allowing 1932 Olympic stamps alone, vignettes etc, to be cancelled.

The large number of privately produced covers and post cards from small manufacturers may be one of the reasons why larger organisations interested in achieving healthy profits from the quest for Olympic golds decided to concentrate on marketing officially sanctioned material. At least the official material, that is, the USPS's Olympic products, is easily available, and so more likely to be collected by the less committed Olympic philatelist. The USPS issued twenty five full colour postcards in six sets, which were also used as maximum cards, that is, with the appropriate stamp affixed to the picture side and "tied" by the relevant Olympic cancellation. So far, one variety has been located. The first (40 cents) issue was printed on a weight of card that proved to be too thin, so that the gum showed through on to the face of the stamp. The USPS subsequently reprinted the postcards using a heavier card.

The USPS launched a heavy campaign on the US domestic market by mailing a double paged A3 Olympic colour leaflet to twenty million homes in the US. With an alleged budget of a cool \$6 million, their target was half a million new collectors, who they hoped to persuade to buy and collect US stamps on a regular basis. Their mailing shot included a sheet headed "Olympic Outlook" subtitled, "The Stage is Set". Which it was, in more ways than the athletic one! This was one of the many clichés used by the marketing moguls to emphasise that LA Olympic philately was devised to encourage American collectors to go on a spending spree of marathon length and endurance.

The USPS published two Olympic books, one was entitled "Golden Moments" and another, which is effectively a full colour review of the Winter and Summer 1984 Games. The hard-back book, "Golden Moments" is available from the

USPS in Washington by mail order for \$20, or you can obtain it, post free, in the UK from Stanley Gibbons. They are offering it to all SOC members at a discount of 10% off their retail price of £29:95, which includes some US Olympic stamps and postal stationery. The USPS are currently also selling two Olympic kits designed to appeal to younger collectors. One covers the 1980 Lake Placid Winter Games, and the other, the Summer Games. Priced at \$2:50 for each kit.

A Drawing Board executive stated that SOC would need to get the permission of the British Olympic Association in order to import Drawing Board's "social expression merchandise", an apt description that leaves one wondering whether anyone at the Dallas headquarters had intended British collectors to "socially express" for they certainly did not offer easy access to the desired mode of communication, namely, their postcards!

The essence of the Olympic Movement is to promote communication between participating nations, an ideal that has clearly ~~been~~ stretched ~~this~~ summer by those wanting to grasp the golden buck of Los Angeles. Perhaps LA served as an omen of things to come. It is interesting to note that all the contenders for the 1992 Olympics 'set up shop' in Los Angeles, and distributed literature, posters, badges and other souvenirs as a part of their campaign to market their respective towns, (Paris, Barcelona, Falun in Sweden and Lillehammer in Norway, as well as others) Barcelona also reportedly have a postage meter, and details of this, and 1988, as well as 1992 Olympic news, will appear in Torch Bearer as it becomes known!

If members would like further details about the Stanley Gibbons offer before committing themselves, send a SAE to John Osborne, 236 Bexley Lane, Sidcup, Kent DA14 4JH

## PERSONALISED OLYMPIC COVERS

Raymond Roy Marshall.

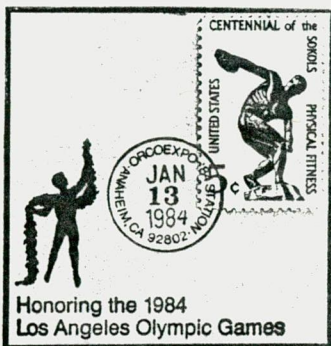
With the use of dry, flexible adhesive materials, combined with living in the Los Angeles California area during the XXIII Olympiad, I consider myself fortunate to have been able to fabricate some beautiful, custom-designed Olympic covers, with many varieties and great quantities of U.S. postal Olympic pictorial cancellations.

Luckily, I had several months to prepare and experiment with numerous combinations of stamps, cancels and pictorial material for the cachets. Shown with this article are but a few of the great variety of stamp and cancellation combinations that I have created. What you are looking at, however, is not supposed to exist! These stamp/cancel combinations are against the U.S. postal regulations, but I did not know that at the time, and nor did some of the postal officials. Evidently, I was the only person who had inadvertently fallen into this "twilight zone" of philately. The word eventually got around, and my packages for cancelling were being rejected. The special pictorial cancellations were only supposed to be applied to first class 20cent stamps, or on stamp combinations which made up the 20c rate. One could have one pictorial cancellation for each 20c supplied.

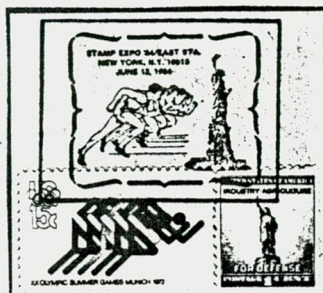
Meanwhile, back at the Olympics, not only did I design and prepare covers on regular and business envelopes, I also utilised magazine covers and Los Angeles Times newspapers, which showed the Olympic opening ceremonies in full colour. It was a thrilling sight to see large, full colour photographs on the front page of a major daily newspaper!

I made covers out of these items by attaching my trimmed, adhesive-backed cancels to the front pages, adding additional U.S. and foreign stamps, and having these pages hand cancelled at the local post office on the opening dates for the various events on 28, 29 and 30 July. These hand cancellations also "tied" my personalised cancels to these pages.

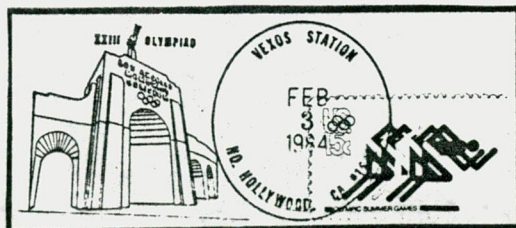
My most cherished cancellations are those showing the standing athlete holding the garland of flowers. This same design was used for the 1932 Los Angeles Olympic Games stamps. I consider myself extremely lucky in having approximately twenty sets of these combinations, as stamp dealers have been sold out of these mint 1932 stamps for many months!



63  
EXIST.



28  
EXIST.



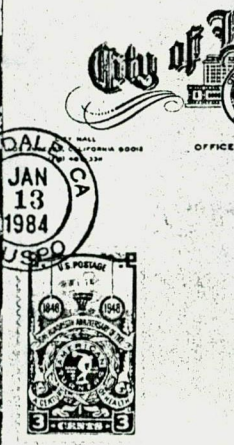
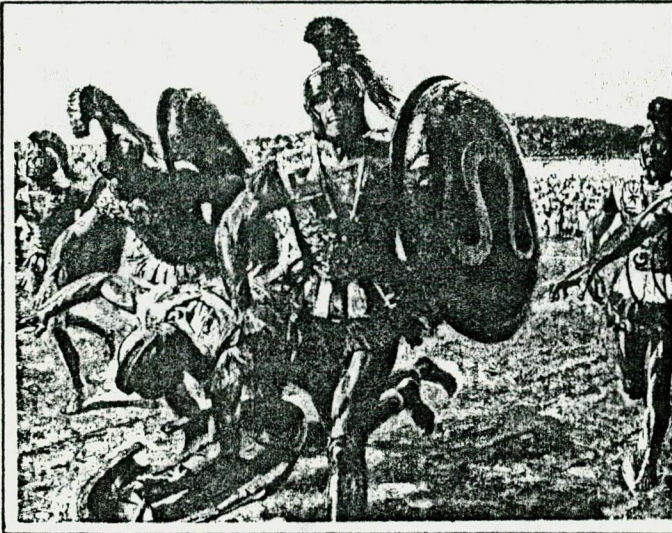
50  
EXIST.

Raymond Roy Marshall  
Box 702  
Glendale, CA 91209

*RRM*  
ONE OF TEN

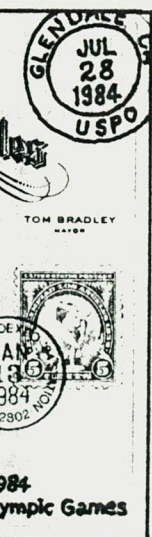


Additional notes on these covers: Sp  
arrangements had to be made with the  
dale Post Office to obtain their spe  
Saturday hand cancels for the Games  
ing and closing dates. (The Glendale  
office is closed on Saturday) As far  
is known, I may be the only person t  
Glendale opening and closing dates.





1932 Los Angeles Olympics design. You will see this design used on the 1984 pictorial Olympic cancel of 13 January at Anaheim, Calif.



90  
EXIST.

## PLANS FOR FUTURE OLYMPIADS

The International Olympic Committee have decided to examine the Greek proposition, first submitted eight years ago, to establish a permanent site for the Games in Greece. In 1976 Constantin Karamanlis, the Greek President, made the first offer of a permanent location in Greece, where the Olympics evolved from around 900BC. It was the venue for the first modern Games in 1896.

"Radical measures have got to be taken quickly to prevent the disappearance of the Olympic Games." Mr Karamanlis told the I.O.C. President in May. Greece's proposition was discussed by the I.O.C. in Los Angeles. Greece will have to produce a complete financial and technical study although the I.O.C. are prepared to offer technical advice, if requested.

Mr Samaranch, the President of the I.O.C. said that he would discuss the prospects of the 1988 Olympic Games in South Korea with Soviet officials in Moscow in September. Mr Samaranch reiterated that the I.O.C. would not move the 1988 Games from the South Korean capital, Seoul under any circumstances, not even if the Soviet bloc again decide to boycott the Games, as they have hinted, because they have no relation with South Korea. The I.O.C. agreed that there could be no excuses for staying away from future Games, and are to hold an extraordinary session in Lausanne in December, to move towards enforcing that decision.

The 1984 Olympics were the first Games to be staged by private business and, although Mr Samaranch would not say whether the formula would work for other countries, he was sure that they had revived the movement following the financial disaster of the Montreal Games eight years ago. Los Angeles was the only candidate

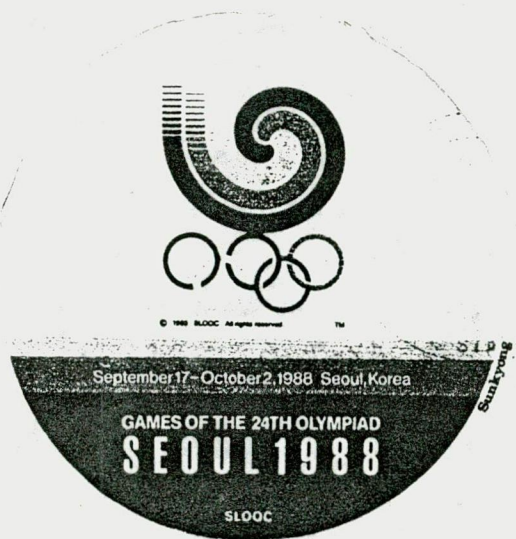
for this year's Games. "The economic success of Los Angeles can stimulate other candidates" he said. Already three cities have officially put in for the Summer Games of 1992 and six for the Winter Games. More are expected before next year's deadline. The Dutch government have agreed to guarantee Amsterdam 250 million Guilder (approximately £57 million) to meet any short-falls, if their bid to stage the 1992 Games is successful. Other cities showing an interest are Barcelona, Brisbane, New Delhi, Paris and Stockholm.

The weirdest Olympic contest took place in Los Angeles. It was between the King of Sweden and the King of Norway. Both crowned heads were locked in bitter struggle to see who gets the 1992 Olympic Winter Games. King Carl Gustav of Sweden appears to be the front runner at present. He was actually at the Games and attending the events. At 38, he is a sport. His royal opponent, now 81, is not so active these days. But unfortunately for King Carl Gustav, King Olav is an Olympic gold medallist. He won a yachting medal in the 1960's, and that, in the long run, could carry more weight. The Swedish King is asking for the 1992 Winter Games to be awarded to the twin resort of Aare-Falun. Olav favours Lillehammer in Norway, and has sent a personal letter to Juan Antonio Samaranch. He feels that he could offer a truly Norwegian welcome, far better than anything that Sweden could offer. Both the Norwegians and the Swedes claim that they have received encouraging letters from the I.O.C. President. Meanwhile, it is rumoured that things have not been so chilly between the two thrones since they went their ways as separate nations in 1905.

If any of the world's best athletes fail to turn up in Seoul in four years time, the case for a permanent home for the Games on a geo-

politically neutral site would become overwhelming. The tragedy of de Coubertin's ideal is that it was born just in time for the century of world wars and all-embracing ideologies. That it has survived at all since Hitlerism first poisoned the Berlin Games in 1936, is a minor miracle. That miracle should be venerated and nourished.

It is too often forgotten in the very public struggle for dominance by the super powers, that the Games also belong to the many small nations. Many of these will never achieve an Olympic medal, gold or otherwise, and it is a struggle for them to raise the necessary revenue to send their few athletes to the Games. For these competitors, Coubertin's ideals still hold true. For them, taking part is what Olympism is all about. As long as these nations participate, the Olympic Flame will remain alive, even if, at times it appears to splutter.



## WHAT THE NEWSPAPERS WROTE

The most dispiriting remark of the entire Los Angeles Olympics was that attributed to Mr George Schultz, the United States Secretary of State, at the opening ceremony. Purring with pleasure at the sight of uninhibited Americana, he is reported to have said "Eat your heart out Chernenko". The politicization of world sport has caused many a mature, democratic politician to talk like a blinkered partisan. Yet who in four or eight years time will attach the name Schultz to the 1984 Olympics? The cheering memory of Los Angeles will be the images of Carl Lewis, Daley Thompson, Joachim Cruz and Joan Benoit. The frayed maxim of Pierre de Coubertin, that the whole thing about taking part and not winning, has had new life breathed into it by the heroism of Gabriela Andersen-Schiess dragging herself across the finishing line of the first Olympic women's marathon and by the bravery of Steve Ovett. Spirit of that order brings its own reward, with or without the official recognition of a piece of emblazoned metal. On another level too, Los Angeles passed without the stain of violence and terrorism which besmirched the Games in Munich twelve years ago. The chief trauma was on the track in the shape of the Budd-Decker incident. The argument of who was to blame will remain evergreen. Los Angeles 1984, despite the Soviet-inspired boycott (with the triumphant exception of the Romanians) has earned the Olympics a reprieve. The prospect of Seoul in 1988 is still unnerving. It would be tragic if the Chinese, who made their first post-revolution appearance in Los Angeles, were prevented by their government from competing in a capital which Chairman Mao's forces attempted to overrun more than thirty years ago. What is needed above all, is a boycott-free Olympics for the first time since 1972.

For Los Angeles businessmen, the long-awaited Olympic goldrush turned to dross. During the sixteen days of the Olympics, southern California hotels and tourist attractions said that they suffered the worst summer season in memory with attendances down by 20% to 25%. It may have been a case of greed getting its just deserts. Airlines, car rental companies and hotels jacked up their prices in anticipation of 2m dollar-laden visitors. Angelenos rubbed their hands and waited. But the bonanza never came. Hotels, other than those taking care of official Olympic delegations, were half full. More spectators at the Olympics were southern Californians who took the bus, many for the first time, ate hot dogs and slept at home. Businesses blame bad publicity, stories of potential traffic jams, smog, threats of terrorism and money-hungry Angelenos, for keeping the tourists away. Even mums stayed at home to watch television. ABC's sixteen evenings of Olympic coverage were seen in an average of nearly 21 million American homes. Consequently the video stores were one of the few businesses in Los Angeles to report dramatic sales.

The President of ABC news and sports reprimanded his huge army of commentators for their obsessively pro-American coverage of the Games at the expense of the thousands of athletes from other countries. The mounting controversy came to a head when the President of the I.O.C. wrote a stern letter to Mr Roone Arledge, ABC's chief, urging the network to pay some attention to non-US competitors. Coverage was so one-sided, that even top TV critics admitted acute embarrassment at the chauvenistic coverage. In an attempt to defuse the whole incident, Mr Arledge said: "ABC's coverage is Americanised but visitors who see it here apparently don't realise that what they see on ABC is not what the folks back home in their respective countries are seeing.

## READING MATTERS

THE WINTERNHEIMER CATALOGUES OF OLYMPIC POSTAL HISTORY. Most Olympic collectors, I suspect, become interested in Olympic postal history sooner, rather than later. Olympic first day and commemorative covers turn up very frequently in dealers' stocks; they are often attractive, and often cheap, but not always, and prices can differ wildly from different dealers for apparently similar items. Collecting Olympic postal history can be a bewildering experience at times, and the major reason is that there is no comprehensive catalogue written in English. Manfred Winternheimer of Germany has, however produced very detailed catalogues covering all the Games since 1964 to date, and S.O.C. is able to make them available to members. They are written in German, but there is so little text, and virtually every item is illustrated, that any collector will be able to follow them with very little difficulty. They are a must for every modern Olympic collector's library.

Each catalogue lists all known items under the following headings:

- First Day Postmarks
- Commemorative Postmarks (Hand and Machine)
- Slogan Postmarks.
- Postage Meter Cancellations
- Special Markings (Cachets, etc)
- Registration Labels and Markings.
- Postal Stationery.

All items issued during, or relevant to, an Olympiad are listed in the appropriate catalogue, (so items relevant to two Olympiads, such as the first day postmarks for the 1968 German stamps issued to mark the Mexico Games, but with a surcharge for the Munich funds, are listed under each of the Games). The whole world is covered, but countries are grouped, host country, participating countries, and non-participating countries. Items are numbered and

described, with varieties, and mostly illustrated. The whole spectrum of Olympic postal history is covered, except, surprisingly, Olympic Organising Committee material, other than postage meters. The catalogues are A5 size, loose leaf, and except for 1964, the prices include the binders. Supplements update the earlier catalogues, and are included in the price. They are now the established international catalogues, and no serious collector can afford to be without them. Prices, are as follows:

1964. Summer and Winter Games.	L2:25
1968 and '72. Winter and Summer.	L7:75
1976. Summer and Winter.	L8:75
1980. Postal Stationery.	L8:25
1980. Postmarks Etc.	L6:75

IMPORTANT! Catalogues will be sent to you direct from Germany by Herr Winternheimer to save double postage, so please include a self addressed label for each catalogue orderd. Please also add 75p. per order towards the bank exchange costs. I shall order in batches during December and January, as sufficient orders are received to cover the exchange costs, so please allow six to eight weeks for delivery.

Orders may be placed at any time later, but it may then be necessary to charge full bank charges, which could amount to L4:50, so I really do recommend ordering early if you are interested. SAE and an extra 10p. with your order will bring you a glossary of basic German philatelic terms to help your understanding.

Please send all orders to R.J.Wilcock, at 24 Hamilton Crescent, Brentwood, Essex CM14 5ES, and PLEASE spell my name correctly on the cheque, so that I do not have problems with the bank! Thank you.

OSKAU 1980

GROSSBRITANIEN

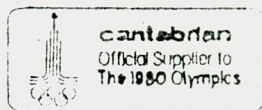
D. Hand-Sonderstempel

1. LONDON SWE / BRITISH OLYMPIC  
YACHTING / International Boat  
Show  
Bild: Olympische Ringe



F. Freistempel

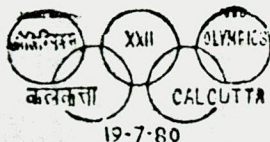
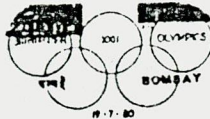
1. CAMBRIDGE / cantabrian / Official Supplier to /  
the 1980 Olympics  
Bild: Offizielles Emblem



INDIEN

C. Ersttags-Sonderstempel

1. BOMBAY / XXII OLYMPICS  
Bild: Olympische Ringe
2. ANNA ROAD MADRAS / XXII  
OLYMPICS  
Bild: Olympische Ringe
3. CALCUTTA / XXII OLYMPICS  
Bild: Olympische Ringe
4. LUDHIANA / XXII OLYMPICS  
Bild: Olympische Spiele



# **POLITICS AND THE OLYMPIC GAMES**

Manfred Bergman.

The assertion that sport has nothing to do with politics was already repudiated by Pierre de Coubertin, "In Olympism of the modern era, the competitor honours his fatherland, his race and his flag" Coubertin quoted.

The logical consequence is that the meaning, appreciation, importance and reputation of sport is closely linked to the values, norms and aims of social and state systems. This link guarantees sport its legitimation and its promotion through political, financial and moral support.

The duty of the Olympic collector is not only to document the sporting achievements, but also in a different section, to study the political implications and, if possible, to illustrate these philatelically. In this context, the article by Mr Vesper is to be saluted.

S.O.C. however, is an international thematic society, and every member should know ALL the political facts that influenced the Olympic Games. It should be the task of S.O.C. to accumulate a complete literature list, so that the collector is able to study the political history of the Olympic Games. On the whole, Mr Vesper has only sketched in the reasons for the exclusion of Germany in the Olympic Games. This is his prerogative. His article however, is not complete and, as I interpret what he has written, prejudiced. The political story of the Olympic Games should be interpreted objectively. I would like at once to turn back to the attitude of the German Turnerschaft (Sports Organisation) regarding participation in the Games of 1896. These patriotic athletes spoke against participation; other sports org-

anisations followed suit. Germany participated, but only with a partial team. The German athletic clubs boycotted the Games. Those athletes who, in spite of the prohibition, travelled to Athens, were reprimanded by their clubs on their return home, instead of being lauded. In 1900, the German Turnerschaft were again not represented in Paris. Carl Diem still believed in 1915 that the Games would take place in Berlin in 1916. The Turnerschaft, with Dr F. Götz at their head, still argued against these "unGerman sports". A wave of anti-Olympic articles were published.

Germany was not invited to the Games of 1920. However, to bring the Olympic flag, "the symbol of Olympic peace" into this context, is false. One cannot blame Belgium that she had not yet forgotten the German occupation, (even the Belgian State Printers had been destroyed, so that the Olympic commemorative stamps had to be printed in America) Equally, one cannot criticise Great Britain that she did not invite Germany (and Japan) to come to London. Does Mr Vesper really believe that in the name of "sporting peace" the sacrifice of over six million dead in the concentration camps can be forgotten?

1920, 1924 and 1948, Germany sat on the criminal benches. For me, Germany also sat on the criminal benches in 1936, even though the Games took place. That the Games were an example of pre-preparation and organisation is not under discussion. Who would have expected anything less from the Germans? The assertion of Mr Vesper that "there are those who would rather ignore them for political reasons, and because they have always been regarded as a glorification of the Third Reich" is, however, unacceptable. These Games were indeed a glorification of the Third Reich.

Munich 1 Sept 35.

Regarding: Jewish Sport Departments and their Activities.

The anti-Jewish excesses of recent times have again been exaggerated in the foreign press. The Jewish-influenced foreigners have taken this excuse as a reason to throw into doubt the holding of the 1936 Olympiad in Berlin. The Reichs sports leader has learned that secret negotiations have taken place with the intention of transferring the Olympiad to Rome or some other world capital.

It is the Führer's will that the 1936 Olympiad should, under any circumstances, take place in Berlin. In order not to endanger this aim, it has been agreed that the Reichs Committee of Jewish Sports Organisations should join other sporting groups in Germany. The Reichs sports leader will agree to these activities until the conclusion of the Olympiad, and no obstacles should be put in the way to bring this to effect.

It has been reported that local impositions make it impossible for Jewish athletes to practice. It is reiterated that these restrictions must be lifted at the present time, in particular with respect to the Maccabi and RJF organisations, where restrictions have been unreasonable.

To guarantee the accomplishment of the 1936 Olympiad, local sports groups will supply the following for the Reichs Commission for Jewish sports organisations.

1. Jewish sports organisations should not be hindered from practicing on their own sports facilities. Where hired fields or halls are used, regulations should be agreed with the local authority, and arrival and departure from the sports grounds should take place without friction or interference from non-Jews.
2. Competitions between the various Jewish sports organisations should be held without interference, and so long as the management keeps within the boundaries laid down by police directives, there should be no difficulties. Moreover, non-Jews will not be admitted, and therefore disturbances of the peace or of security are not expected.
3. Jewish swimming clubs will have a somewhat curtailed activity, since they will only be able to use the facilities at certain times, ie. in the evenings. The only condition that the facilities can be used is that the Jews are segregated from the non-Jews.

München, den 1. Sept. 35

Betrifft: Jüdische Sportabteilungen und deren Betätigung.

Die antisemitischen Ausschreitungen der letzten Zeit sind in der ausländischen Presse aufgebauscht wiedergegeben worden. Das jüdisch beeinflusste Ausland hat diese übertriebenen Nachrichten zum Anlaß genommen, die Durchführung der Olympiade 1936 in Berlin in Zweifel zu stellen. So ist bereits aus interessierten Auslandskreisen dem Herrn Reichssportführer der Vorschlag zu Verhandlungen mit der versteckten Absicht gemacht worden, die Olympiade nach Rom oder in eine andere Weltstadt zu verlegen.

Nach dem Willen des Führers soll die Olympiade 1936 jedoch unter allen Umständen in Berlin stattfinden. Um ihre Durchführung nicht zu gefährden, erscheint es angebracht, den dem Reichsausschuß jüdischer Sportverbände angeschlossenen Sportkreisen in Deutschland der von dem Herrn Reichssportführer zugesagten Betätigung bis zur Durchführung der Olympiade nach Möglichkeit Hindernisse nicht in den Weg zu legen.

Es ist wiederholt berichtet worden, daß örtliche Stellen den jüdischen Sport durch Verbote und örtliche Auflagen unmöglich machten. Diese Behinderung erscheint im Hinblick auf die gegenwärtige Lage insbesondere bezüglich der dem Reichsausschuß angehörenden Vereine des Makkabi Kreises und des RfJ unangebracht.

Zur Sicherung der Durchführung der Olympiade 1936 wird bezüglich der dem Reichsausschuß jüdischer Sportverbände angehörenden Sportkreise bestimmt:

- 1.) Jüdischen Sportorganisationen soll die Betätigung auf eigenen Sportplätzen nicht behindert werden. Wo armietete Hallen oder Plätze benutzt werden, ist im Einvernehmen mit den zuständigen Stellen eine Regelung dahin zu treffen, daß die sportlichen Übungen und der Zu- und Abgang zu den Sportstätten ohne nähere Berührung mit den Nichtjuden reibungslos gesichert ist.
- 2.) Der Austragung von Meisterschaften und die Veranstaltung von Wettkämpfen jüdischer Sportvereine untereinander sollen polizeilicherseits nach Möglichkeit Schwierigkeiten nicht bereitet werden, sofern sich diese Veranstaltungen in angemessenen Grenzen halten, Nichtjuden hierzu keinen Zutritt haben und Störungen der öffentlichen Ruhe und Sicherheit nicht zu erwarten sind.
- 3.) Jüdischen Schwimmabteilungen ist nach Möglichkeit eine beschränkte Betätigung etwa derart zu geben, daß ihnen an bestimmten Tagen bzw. Abenden die Benutzung von Schwimmgelegenheiten unter der Bedingung freigestellt wird, daß sich die Juden getrennt von Nichtjuden unter sich befinden.

For the Olympic collector, and in particular, for the young collector, the trauma of the 1936 Games should not be kept a secret. The political occurrences in the pre-Olympic years in Germany and abroad which affected the Games should be openly discussed. The long-standing boycott movement throughout the world, the racial laws, the number of political prisoners (in Olympic year, these rose to over 50,000) can not simply be discarded in one sentence. The illustrated document (with English translation) should be sufficient to convince one that it is not possible to view the 1936 Games only from the standpoint of the pre-preparations and the organisation.

It is not my intention to make a long dissertation about the Games of 1936; but I believe that it would be of value for the knowledgeable Olympic collector to study the facts in depth.

As already stated at the beginning, one should study all the political background for all the Olympic Games, and not only those that concern Germany. That was Mr Vesper's big mistake, and the reason for my response.

Mr Vesper wrote, not only of political facts, but also of dates in the Olympic calendar. May I be allowed to correct some of these facts.

1. The Olympic flag was not raised for the first time in 1920.
  - A. The flag was raised for the first time in Alexandria on 3 April 1914, at the start of the Pan-Egyptian Games for the 20th Anniversary celebrations for the founding of the modern Olympic movement.
  - B. The flag was then raised in Paris on 13 June 1914 at the start of the Olympic Congress, (also a 20th Anniversary celebration)
  - C. The flag was again raised in San Francisco on 18 March 1915 before the session of the

International Olympic Committee, at the time of the San Francisco Exhibition.

Therefore, in 1920, it was raised for the fourth time.

2. The Winter Games in Chamonix were held from 21 January to 5 February 1924. (Not 25 January to 4 February)

3. The Eighth Summer Games in Paris started on 3 May and ended on 27 July, not 27 September.

4. Women did not take part for the first time in Amsterdam in 1928. It is true that women participated in the track and field events for the first time, but women had participated in golf and tennis since 1900.

5. In Amsterdam, 122 contests were held in fifteen sports, not 120 in seventeen sports.

6. In 1936, the total number of participants in the Summer Games was 3,980 and not 4,069.

7. 1940, St. Moritz declined to accept the IOC demand that they organise a skiing demonstration. This was the reason that St. Moritz declined to organise the Games.

8. St. Moritz 1948. 30 January to 9 February, not 8 February; with 955 participants, and not 713.

9. London 1948. 69 nations participated, not 59, with 4,062 and not 4,099 participants.

10. It is true that the National Olympic Committee for Germany was founded on 24 September 1949. The Duke of Mecklenburg was elected as president. The recognition and acceptance was already proposed on 24 Novem-

ber 1949, and not in 1951, after the election of SA Standartenführer Karl Ritter von Halt to the presidency.

11. London 1948. The aerogramme had an imprinted 6d stamp, and not a 3d.

12. St. Moritz 1948. Apart from the special cancellation, an Olympic cancellation was also used in the telegraph office.

13. 1944. Gross Born and Woldenberg. This camp post was official according to the Geneva Convention for prisoners of war. They may have been organised as occupational therapy, but this was not under discussion. However, these were stamps and not vignettes. I am in agreement with Mr Vesper that these stamps are overpriced, but they do belong in an Olympic collection. Whether letters were conveyed over 20 metres or 60 kilometres, is of no importance. They were conveyed. How many cancelled items, which have not been carried in the post are found in collections? How many philatelic contrivances are there in Zeppelin or Colonies collections that have achieved large gold medals? How many astrophilatelic covers are there that have never flown further than from the table to the floor? Capital has always been made of hard times. What is here under discussion is whether these are vignettes (not issued by the postal authorities) or stamps. (issued by the postal authorities.) As the post in the camps was official, as laid down by the Geneva Convention, these can be considered as stamps. As a member of many international juries, I can promise Mr Vesper that the jury would not demolish such collections, and they would receive more than merely a certificate of participation. The jury, however, is influenced by thematic and historical errors, such as those that I have corrected. These errors

show that the collector has done insufficient research, and that he does not have a full grasp of his theme.

In conclusion, the following should be stated:

1. Sport and politics were always closely tied together. The Olympic collector should study this connection, and if possible, document it philatelically.
2. Political facts should be frequently and objectively presented. Prejudiced and unilateral statements, should, if at all possible, be avoided.
3. Numbers, dates, etc. should, before being published, be checked in the official records.

This article was first published in the August issue of IMOS Rundschreiben, and is reprinted with permission.

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## **OLYMPHILEX 84**

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Olympilex 84, the official Olympic philatelic exhibition for the 1984 Olympic Games, co-produced by the Los Angeles Olympic Organising Committee and the Federated Philatelic Clubs of Southern California was opened on Wednesday 25 July. A part of the Olympic Arts Festival, this invitation only, non-competitive display was at the Pasadena Centre's convention building, Pasadena.

Organisation of Olympilex 84 was directed by Robert de Violini, Chairman of the exhibition, with John Fluck, Vice Chairman, Dulcie Apgar, and Sherwin Podolsky, President of Sports Philatelists International.

The leading exhibit was the display of stamps from the personal collection of the President of the International Olympic Committee, Juan Antonio Samaranch. These relate to the history of the I.O.C. the Olympic Academy and Baron de Coubertin, Father of the modern Olympic Games.

Other exhibits included displays of issues for the 1st and 2nd Athens Games in 1896 and 1906, the Games of Paris 1900, St Louis 1904, London 1908, Antwerp 1920, Amsterdam 1928, Los Angeles 1932, and Berlin 1936. The cancelled Games of 1916 and 1940 were also represented, as well as the Games held by the Polish prisoners of war at the Woldenberg and Gross Born camps in 1944. Material from the Italian National Olympic Committee for the 1960 Games in Rome, and for the 1964 Tokyo Games were also displayed.

The U.S. postal service provided twenty one frames spotlighting the U.S. Olympic issues from the first in 1932 to present issues, including the stamps, die proofs, cylinder proofs, original art work, progressive colour proofs, and imperfect proof sheets of these issues.

Since this was one of the Olympic venues for the postal service, there was a special pictorial cancel in use. It was designated as Olymphilex station.

A seventy two page illustrated programme was produced, and will provide useful descriptions of all the exhibits. A limited number of these will be available to overseas collectors by mail at \$5:00 each, to cover the costs of mailing and handling by airmail. Orders should be sent to D.M.Apgar, Olymphilex Catalogue, P.O.Box 151 Thousand Oaks, CA 91360 U.S.A. with cheques drawn on U.S. banks or international money orders made payable to Federated Philatelic Clubs of Southern California (or just FPCSC)

# THE GAMES OF THE XXIII OLYMPIAD

A Review for Collectors.

Bob Wilcock.

The Los Angeles Olympics have passed into history. Prior to the Games, there was much controversy, principally over the financial arrangements, (but with some sour super-power politics) Financially, the Games were an undoubted success, the profit of £117 million is a far cry from near-bankrupt Montreal and the huge, but unpublished state subsidy to Moscow. In terms of performances, World and Olympic records, the boycott left its mark. Reports are however, that the competitors found the atmosphere and the facilities more relaxing than Moscow, enjoyed themselves on and off the track, and really found the Olympic spirit, which is what it is all about. The Californians too, to quote one of my correspondents, enjoyed themselves: "It was an experience I'll probably never have again, and certainly will never forget. Los Angeles and Southern California were swept up in the Games; we were a friendly, happy, hospitable people and it was a very livable place for sixteen days."

We collectors must also pause before we join the general criticism over the commercialism of the Games. There were the outrageous souvenirs, but as far as stamps and coins, those most popular collectibles, are concerned, the programmes were relatively modest. There were just twenty U.S. stamps, (twenty one including the Jim Thorpe issue) plus four stamps for the Winter Games in Sarajevo, and all at the most widely used values; and just four postal stationery items. They could be bought, including the reprints, for just £7, compared with the official Soviet agency prices for the seventy six stamps and souvenir sheets for the Moscow Games for a cost of over £70, and that does not include the eighty odd

postal stationery items with an additional thirty varieties! The only over-priced items that philatelists were faced with on this occasion were the twenty five maximum cards at 50 cents each, plus the stamps for cancelled cards.

For coin collectors, the U.S. Treasury released just one Silver Dollar and one Gold Eagle, \$10, whereas the U.S.S.R. issued five series of silver coins, six series of gold coins and five in platinum, which would have set collectors back by something over £3,500!

The review that follows looks at various aspects of the Los Angeles Olympics, primarily for collector interest. I have tried to include detailed information not published in the general philatelic press, and must apologise in advance to those of you who just collect stamps, that the coverage in this issue is limited. The general philatelic press has given good coverage, but even now, details are far from complete, and there are bound to be medal-winner issues still in the pipeline. When a full picture has emerged, I plan to publish a very comprehensive guide.

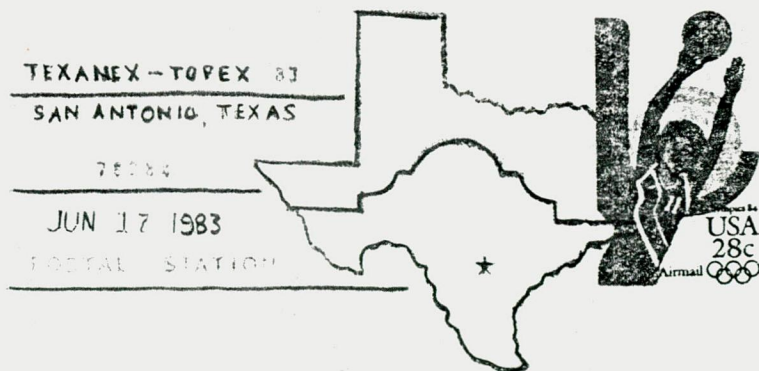
Meanwhile, as far as the host country stamps are concerned, I recommend the "Official U.S. Postal Service Guide to the Los Angeles 1984 Olympic Games", full details of which are to be found elsewhere in this issue. This also gives the complete listing of all the pictorial handstamps available during the Games, so again, this information is not repeated in this review. I include information gleaned from many sources, some has previously been published in the Journal of Sports Philately, issued by the Sports Philatelists International in the U.S.A. Much has come from other U.S. correspondents, and I should like to thank, in particular, Ed Epstein, Hugh Gott-

fried, Tim Nagel, Ward Nicholls and Sherwin Podolsky, the President of S.P.I.

### U.S. FIRST DAY CANCELLATIONS.

First Day of Issue cancellations for all issues come with two sizes for the date stamp, and on the maximum cards and some of the covers, the cancellation is printed. Look for registered covers or exhibition handstamps, these are much more imaginative than the regular cancels supplied by the U.S. post office.

- 8 April 1983. (40 cent stamps)  
Stamp Expo Olympic Stadium,  
Anaheim.  
also, Beverly Hills Olympic Sta.
- 17 June 1983, (28 cent stamps)  
Texanex-Topex, San Antonio.  
(non Olympic handstamp)
- 14 October 1983. (30 cent aerogramme)  
Sescal '83. Superb Olympic cancel.
- 4 November 1983. (35 cent stamps)  
Socopex '83, Colorado Springs  
(non Olympic handstamp)





All U.S. stamps are released on the first day in one town only. U.S. collectors also collect "Second Day" postmarks. For example, for the Jim Thorpe issue, (see Torch Bearer Page 37) the first day postmark was from Shawnee Oklahoma on 24 May. Commemorative second day covers were produced postmarked at Jim Thorpe, Pennsylvania. For the 17 June and 28 July 1983 Olympic issues, one enterprising U.S. dealer went one better and flew Olympic stamps to Los Angeles from San Antonio and South Bend and obtained "unofficial" Los Angeles first day postmarks on privately produced maximum cards, the design showing a reproduction of the 1932 "Call to the Games" motif.

#### OFFICIAL FIRST DAY CEREMONIES.

For the Olympic stamps and postal stationery, as well as all U.S. new issues, there were special ceremonies in the first day city. Those attending the ceremonies are given "First Day Folders". These are very attractive, with details of the ceremony and the stamps, or postal stationery, cancelled with the regular first day of issue postmark. The first day ceremonies for the Olympic stamps were held at the following venues:

- 8 April 1983. Los Angeles, Heritage Hall, UCLA.  
 28 July 1983. South Bend, Notre Dame University during "Junior Olympic Games."  
 5 August 1983. Long Beach, during international yachting meeting.  
 29 December 1983. Milwaukee Olympic Skating Rink, one day before U.S. speed skating trials  
 6 January 1984. Lake Placid Resort Hotel, during U.S. biathlon Olympic trials.  
 30 April 1984. Los Angeles Coliseum (main stadium).  
 4 May 1984. UCLA, during NCAA volley ball championships.

#### SOUVENIR PAGES.

For each new issue of stamps, the U.S.P.S. publishes a "Souvenir Page". These are 8" by 10½" on coloured paper, with a "black print" of the stamps, technical information, descriptive text and the stamp or stamps affixed, tied by a printed first day postmark. The price was \$1, or the face values of the stamps, if higher, ie. the 4x40 cent Olympic block cost \$1:60, but individual pages were not sold by the U.S.P.S. They were only available on subscription, and all pages for 1983 and 1984 had to be purchased to obtain the Olympic pages.

#### COMMEMORATIVE PANELS.

These are luxury versions of the souvenir pages, but with a quite different text embellished with hand engravings. They are on stiff card with the mint stamps held in Hawid mounts, these were also sold only as a yearly subscription for all issues, in limited quantities, at \$4 per panel.

#### OLYMPIC CHALLENGE.

This was the title of a U.S.P.S. direct mailing shot into millions of American homes. The first shot contained a folder with attractive pages on which to mount the Olympic stamps, a news

sheet "Olympic Outlook" and, naturally an order form for the stamps, which was fully illustrated. This was followed by two more mailings containing "Olympic Outlook" No 2 and No 3, and more order forms! Collectors should not overlook the specially printed envelopes as interesting, if rather large, examples of post office official Olympic postal stationery.

#### PUBLICITY PHOTOGRAPHS.

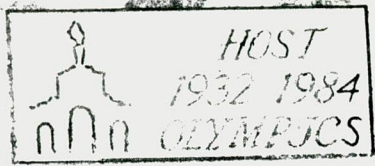
Each press release announcing the Olympic stamps was accompanied by a black and white print of the stamps on a glossy photocard. Marked "Copyright USPS" or similar, they are interesting items to include in the collection. Sent mostly to stamp magazine editors, they do appear in dealer's stocks from time to time.

#### REPRINTS.

The U.S.P.S. intended to make money out of Olympic stamps by selling them by the million for postal purposes, as well as to collectors; in contrast to 1980 when the Soviet authorities issued a lot of different stamps in small or limited quantities, and hoped to make a vast amount of money by putting high face values on them. By the conclusion of the L.A. Games, the U.S.P.S. had distributed more than 1.6 Billion Olympic stamps, more than 132.5 million postal cards and over 35.5 million aerogrammes. Sales to collectors were expected by the U.S.P.S. to bring in some \$99 million in revenue!

The 40 cent airmail stamps were issued in April 1983, and they became the effective definitive issue of that value. Late in 1983, a reprint became necessary to ensure that the stamps would still be available at the time of the Games. The original printing was comb perforated 11, but the reprint was line perf 11. All the other stamps are only known with line perforations.

The maximum cards of the 40 cent stamps also sold out very quickly, reportedly because of the very large quantities purchased by the German dealer, Sieger. The initial print was 30,000 on thin matt card. This was unsatisfactory, and the reprint in June or July 1983 was on thicker card with a glazed surface. The print run of this second issue was 100,000. The reprints can also be identified by the number 83-1 to 83-4, (the glossy card and the numbering sequence was continued for subsequent cards) Because of the policy decision to make all collector items available up to the time of the Games, it was necessary to use the reprinted cards to make up full maximum cards with the 8 April 1984 first day postmarks, and the U.S.P.S. did not differentiate between the printings in its sales brochures. Gibbons, the official agents in Great Britain, have listed the original and the reprint cards separately.



The slogan illustrated, designed by Ken Boheim of the LA post office, is being used in the period 1 June to 31 December 1984 at the Los Angeles Terminal Annexe main sorting office. It has not been used in all the machines throughout the period to date, partially because of the problems with wear and quality, wavy lines or other slogans being used instead. The single ring cds identifies the machine at 4 o'clock, and the following numbers have been reported so far: 8A, 8B, 11A, 13A, A13, 15A, 26A and 26B. Sometimes the numbers are inverted. Collector requests were met by use of a double ring handstamp version with Zip-code 90052 from 24 July 1984.

## In brief

Soviet authorities sent a delegation of scientists and scholars to the Olympic Scientific Congress in Eugene, Oregon, in July, despite the Soviet boycott of the Summer Olympics in Los Angeles. The conference, held in the Olympic host country every four years in conjunction with the Summer Games, is expected to draw about three thousand participants from more than a hundred countries. Since the late 1800's, world sports leaders and scientists specialising in sports have met each summer before the Olympics to discuss scientific aspects of sports.

The conference's field of interest is broad enough to permit discussion on developments in the "politicisation of sports".

This could prove embarrassing to both super powers given the boycotts of the 1980 and 1984 Summer Games.

Did you know that the first airmail was an Olympic one? In the year 444BC, the winner of the wrestling event sent a message by pigeon to his home town, Aigina, 170 kms from Olympia, to announce his victory!

L.A. 1984 posters. If you would like to have an example of the posters, write to the Official Licensee, Sales Corporation of America Inc. 739, Bryant Street, San Francisco CA 94107 USA.

Copies of the US Postal Service Guide to Los Angeles 1984 Olympic Games. A5 size, full colour booklets, are available free to members. To obtain a copy, send £1 to cover postage and packing, to John Osborne, 236, Bexley Lane, Sidcup, Kent DA14 4JH. Allow extra time for delivery over the Christmas period.



