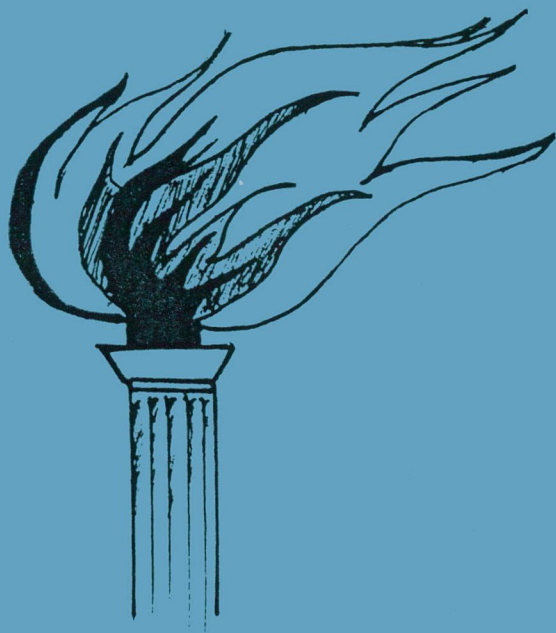


TORCH BEARER



SOC

SOCIETY of OLYMPIC COLLECTORS

TORCH BEARER

VOLUME II.

MARCH 1985.

ISSUE 1.

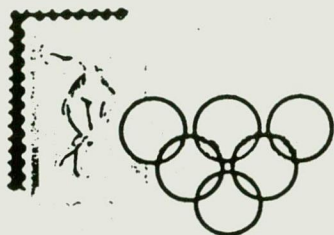
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Editor: Franceska Rapkin.

Heiko Volk Olympia-Philatelie

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FRONT PAGE

It is hard to believe that it is already twelve months since the first TORCH BEARER was produced. The Society has come a long way in one short year. By 31 December we have grown from a handful of members to almost a hundred and thirty members throughout the world. At the time of writing, it is still too early to know how many will fail to renew their membership, but I am very optimistic that it will be very few.

My thanks to those of you who sent me season's greetings, and my apologies that I was unable to reply to you all individually. They were very much appreciated, particularly some of the very nice comments about the magazine. It is always encouraging to hear that the magazine makes interesting reading. Thank you for sending in your articles for inclusion in TORCH BEARER, and for being patient when they have not appeared immediately. It makes an Editor's task very much easier when he has a stock of articles in hand, so please keep sending them to me in 1985.

You are probably aware that our Society is affiliated to the British Philatelic Federation. This automatically makes us members of the British Thematic Association also. B.T.A. publish a very lively little magazine three times a year called THEMESCENE. Our Secretary receives a few copies of it, and if you would like to see a copy, why not drop him a line. Better still, why not become a member of B.P.F. yourself, and receive your own copy. In addition to THEMESCENE, you will receive twenty four copies of STAMP NEWS through your letter box. This is probably one of the liveliest philatelic magazines available today, and with the additional benefits, makes the £12 annual subscription to B.P.F. very good value for the money.

CALLING ALL OLYMPIC COLLECTORS!

Denis Heenan.

I doubt if Pierre de Coubertin, in his wildest dreams, could ever have imagined the impact his plan of reviving the Olympic Games would have on the philatelic world. Since that day in 1894 about 10,000 different pieces of paper in every shape and size have been produced to hasten our letters on their way, and unfortunately, many only designed to fill our albums and empty our wallets. And the total grows as the years go by and I don't think that it will ever stop.

How do you collect Olympic stamps? Originally it was easy, as mostly it was just the host country which put out a commemorative issue, and even then, this did not always happen. Non host country issues were few and far between up to World War II. OK so far, but from 1948 onward, everyone was jumping onto the bandwagon and of course, in 1968 and 1972 in particular, every village on the Persian Gulf was issuing fifty sets perforated and imperforated! When eventually they got themselves under control, our friends in Togo, Chad, Equatorial Guinea, Paraguay, North Korea.... carried the good (!) work on, deluging us with views, flags histories, overprints (perfed and imperfed, don't forget) ad nauseam.

So. What to do? I know some keep it short and sweet, host country sets only. Others have suggested that one should keep it to participating countries only. Fine! I can't remember whether it was the previous Olympics or the one (two?) before, that Panama had one athlete in the Games, but have you seen the amount of stamps that that country can issue? For the last Games in 1980, Panama produced over one hundred and eighty stamps; they are very attractive (and expensive) but I wonder how many

have ever been affixed to a letter. Then too, what do we do with "pre-Olympics", Winter Olympics, Sailing Olympics, Winter Olympic winners, Olympic winners, individual/countries 75th Anniversary, 50th Anniversary Winter Games, this country's Olympic Congress, that country's Olympic Committee, de Coubertin anniversaries.... will it ever end? Can you draw the line?

It sound such an easy thematic subject. I mean, it's not just like "sport"; this is more specialised, that is until you dig into it and realise just how much more specialised. I suppose many, like myself, say, "Oh, what the heck, at least there's two or three years to catch up on the missing bits!" Believe me, you never do, but it's fun.

Back to the origins. De Coubertin formed the movement in 1894 and the first Games were held in Athens in 1896. The Greeks therefore had the dubious honour of producing the first Olympic stamps and these were, incidentally, also the first sports stamps (SG 110-121) In fact, up to World War I, no sports stamps, apart from a few hunting scenes, were printed. In 1900 five of the original set were overprinted (SG 148-152) then in 1906 the Greeks held a "mid" Olympics" to commemorate ten years of the Games, and produced a lovely set in honour of the occasion. (SG 183-196)

Between the wars, a number of non-participating countries sometimes issued sets commemorating their victory in an event (Uruguay in 1924 and 1928) or perhaps because they were using their home country's (who were host) stamps with an overprint, such as Syria and Lebanon, both in 1924; or on the other hand, perhaps like Costa Rica because they felt like it, and issued an equal number of sets, perforated and imperforate.

During this period, a few oddities crept in. The first Greek set showed up with some of the lower values imperforate; the Netherlands 1928 10 cents sometimes had an odd perforation, (Michel No 210D), Germany issued special imperforate sets for the Games of 1936 for presentation purposes, only ten sets were printed and are, of course, like hen's teeth. The first non-Games commemorative also appeared, this being the 1925 Czech overprint at the time of the Olympic Congress in Prague. (SG 246-248)

The Games were suspended during the period of the two world wars, and the only set to come out during these periods was the Swiss issue in 1944 (SG 434-436) marking the 50th Anniversary. 1948 saw the resumption with the XIV Games held in London. Eleven sets were issued by different countries, but five of these were overprints of the British set, and one was the Swiss issue for the Winter Games held in St. Moritz. The British overprints produced a few errors with double overprints on three of the stamps. Monaco and Peru also released a few sets imperforate, and the rot had set in.

1952 saw twelve countries issuing, though four sets had imperforate versions. From then on, it becomes difficult to keep a tally, for instance, in 1956, Dominican Republic printed four sets (over a fair span of time) both perforated and imperforate, plus single stamps, perf and imperf, but one of these appeared with three different centre motifs.

The situation from 1960 onward has become chaotic, with countries issuing many sets and combinations, with often special gold or sometimes silver foil issues repeated in miniature sheets, and then again compounded, with a full imperforate issue. One of the largest stamps

marketed was an Olympic stamp, being the 1972 10 nals of Fujiera, which measured some 70mm by 110mm. There have been 3D issues from North Korea and Umm al Qiwan, and there have been "jumbo" issues, such as the 1969 Chad Olympic gold medal winners, consisting of twenty four stamps, all of 1 franc denomination (SG 243-266)

There are ten Bolivian sheets from the last but one Games in Moscow, which I note are now being sold by dealers as £45 each! The story behind these and some previous Bolivian issues, that I have heard, (I cannot vouch for its veracity) is that 95% are sent to an agent in Europe and the balance sold over the counter at the main post office in La Paz, where, in the early morning of the day of issue, you will find a queue of lounging sombreros on the pavement outside.....the doors open.... the sombreros assemble at the counter..... all the sheets are quickly sold, and are on their way to destinations in Europe!

Panama's contribution to recent Olympics, I have already mentioned. Nicaragua had a nasty outburst of overprinting on a lot of sets, in red and also in silver. And it all boils down to a mighty rip-off, to which we, the collectors pander. Without further moralising, and to state the obvious, "You pays your money, and you takes your choice", and don't complain about it afterwards!

Like all collectibles, it takes time and money to build up something worthwhile and, if you wish to try to obtain as comprehensive a range as possible, it is better to go to those dealers who cater for such collectors. In the meanwhile, Los Angeles beckoned, collectors girded their loins, (metaphorically speaking) and Togo, Chad, Mali et al. are rubbing their

hands in glee! I hate to tell you this, but there is already a stamp out for the 1988 Olympic Games to be held in Seoul, issued by South Korea! Happy hunting.

This article was first printed in the January 1984 issue of the South African Philatelist, and is reprinted with permission.

(Editors note: When talking about the imperforate stamps of Germany 1936, I assume that the author is referring to the miniature sheets. The imperforate varieties are thought to be printer's waste that slipped through, and not prepared for special presentation. Only Michel Blocks 5 and 6 are known imperforate. Since these were printed in blocks of four, it is likely the the imperforate variety exists in multiples of four, probably twelve examples, rather than ten, as mentioned by the author.)



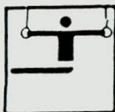
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PROFILE

Nadia Comaneci.

Robert Kensit.

The records show that the Romanian gymnast, Nadia Elena Comaneci won two gold medals, a silver and a bronze medal at the 1976 Olympic Games, and two gold and two silver medals at the 1980 Olympics, in addition to numerous World and European titles. To her millions of followers, however, all that somehow seems irrelevant. To them, there will always be only one Nadia.

What really matters is that when Nadia performed at Montreal, it seemed as if the world stood still to watch; this girl had the power to change lives, and she certainly changed mine. My teenage stamp collection of the USA and Canada aroused an interest in the 1976 Olympic Games, and although that stamp collection was forgotten, I went on to be a gymnastics writer, photographer and coach. Earlier this year, I also began to study the philately of gymnastics.

Four stamps either commemorate or depict Nadia. In the Romanian 1976 Olympic victories set, (SG 4247) the highest value is differently designed to the others, and it is the only one in the set to both depict and commemorate an individual. It is based on the photograph of Nadia standing on tiptoe by the historic score indicator which reads 073 (her competition number) and below it, the score 1.00. Nadia had, in fact, scored ten, but as this was thought to be impossible, the computer was unable to accept the score and had a nervous breakdown!

The Democratic Republic of Korea's 1976 Olympic medallists set includes a commemoration to Nadia (SG N1545) although the gymnast depicted on the beam bears no similarity to her.

Equatorial Guinea's 1980 Olympic set includes a stamp which depicts Nadia during her 1976 floor routine, unlisted in Gibbons, Mongolia's 1976 Olympic medallists set also includes a stamp honouring Nadia (SG 1005) The design is a reversal of a photograph of her on the beam during the 1975 championship tournament at Wembley, easily recognisable from the white leotard with the red triangle at the collar.

After seeing her compete in Moscow in 1980, I went to Romania the following year to see her final competition in the World University Games, As well as buying various magazine and newspaper articles, I bought a drawing of Nadia's 1976 beam routine from the Bucuresti art shop. It includes the famous score indicator, which is incorrectly shown reading 0.10, and is headed SWISS TIMIN. I also bought a doll dressed in the white Romanian team tracksuit, complete with gold medal and ribboned ponytail. She can be clearly seen in photographs of Nadia with her doll collection. When I visited Romania this year, the doll was no longer available.

While in Romania in May of this year, I went with a Romanian friend to the town of Gheorghe Gheorghiu-Dej, which has almost become a place of pilgrimage. It is where Nadia was born and where she trained until 1976. As the bus crossed the River Trotus, I instantly recognised the main hall of the sports school, with its high pointed arch windows and curved roof. This building has been depicted on a postcard, as well as being included in a composite postcard of the town.

I am aware of four postcards issued in Romania depicting Nadia. Two of them show the same pose from her 1976 floor exercises, one of which shows the photograph in reverse. Another shows a different pose. All three cards show

Nadia in the Romanian team leotard, which is white, except for the Adidas stripes in the Romanian national colours of red, blue and yellow. The distinctive windows of the sports hall can be seen in the background. The fourth card is a head and shoulders portrait of Nadia in a red leotard. All postcards were issued in 1976, and are extremely difficult to obtain.

I went into the supposedly closely-guarded confines of the Romanian gymnastics hall with some nervousness. After having heard so many stories about the Iron Curtain training methods, "there's no smoke without fire" I thought. But the children were considerably happier than many that I have seen in British gymnastics clubs. I watched as the session finished with one girl performing a walk-over on the beam, while her friends sat around with their hands clasped in prayer. When she finished, they clapped as the coach picked her up and hugged her.

To me, this visit was an honour granted to very few, but to the coach, ex-gymnast Dumitrita Craciun, I was a guest and a new friend. She invited my friend Adriana and myself to her home for a drink, and the ex-international gymnast, Dumitrita Turner dropped in later. Dumitrita Craciun exchanged photographs and addresses and promised to write.

Only a few weeks before this visit, Nadia Comaneci had officially retired at a special event in Bucuresti, and it seemed that my eight year love affair was over. But by chance, I was able to see a competition in Bacau at which Nadia gave a special performance. During the interval, Adriana and Dumitrita took me to Nadia's dressing room. Recalling press reports, I expected a formidable character. Although Nadia is very shy, she is extremely good natured and kind, even after being hounded by

strangers since the age of fourteen.

"Would you like my autograph?" she asked, taking the papers from my hand, so that I did not even need to request the favour. She signed the souvenir brochure from her retirement performance a few weeks earlier, which unfolds into a poster. It was quite impossible to be nervous with her, but a few minutes after returning to my seat, I could have wept! She's that kind of girl.

Out of the many biographies of Nadia, the following were published in England, all of them now out of print.

NADIA, the Enchanting Story of Little Miss Perfect, by Cliff Temple.

NADIA by Ion Grumeza.

NADIA OF ROMANIA by Marion Connock.

THE COMANECI STORY by Frank Taylor.

SPORTS STAR, NADIA COMANECI, by S.H. Buchard

THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF NADIA COMANECI, with Graham Buxton-Smith.

Three books were published in Romania, all of which are now unobtainable.

NADIA by Ion Chirila

NADIA COMANECI si Echipa de Aur (Nadia Comaneci and the Gold Team) by D. Dimitriu. (This was issued in a pre and post 1976 Olympic edition.)

Finally, I have seen, but do not own, the large format book of colour photographs called NADIA. I would be grateful to hear from anyone who can suggest where such a book could be obtained.

Nadia is currently working on her second book, "Victories for my Country", which will be published in Romania. The film of Nadia's career until 1979 should soon be on release in this country, but as this is an all-American production, I am looking forward to seeing this with some trepidation!

WINTER SPORTS

Manfred Bergman.

Bob Wilcock's Profile, and Sidney Amery's Harmony on Ice in the September 1984 issue of TORCH BEARER are indeed commendable. It is hoped that these articles will stimulate more collectors to dedicate their efforts to Winter sports and Winter Olympics. This area of thematics is, regretfully, still neglected. However, it should be mentioned that the exhibit of Mr E. Brenzikofer, "Games and Sports on Snow and Ice" was awarded a large gold medal and the Grand Prix in the thematic class at the last NABA '84 exhibition, which took place in Zurich last June.

Permit me to add some facts to augment the two articles:

Historical data:

The oldest pair of skis were found at Bas-Poitou in France and date back some 20,000 years.

The first skating club was founded in Edinburgh in 1742.

The first figure skating school was established in England in 1772.

In 1879, the English National Skating Association was founded, and the first national figure skating championship was organised at Thorney on 8 December 1879.

The first world championship of figure skating took place in St. Petersburg, now Leningrad, in 1896.

Speed skating was "invented" by the Scots. The first documented race took place in England on 14 February 1783. The distance was fifteen miles and the race was endowed with a prize of 10 guineas. John Lamb won the race in 46 minutes.

The first international meeting of speed skating took place in 1885 at Leeuwarden in Holland, with the participation of three British and twenty two Dutch skaters. The first world championship in speed skating took place in 1889, and the first European championship in 1891. The International Union of Skating, figure and speed skating, was the first ever established International Sports Organisation, 1892.

Olympic data:

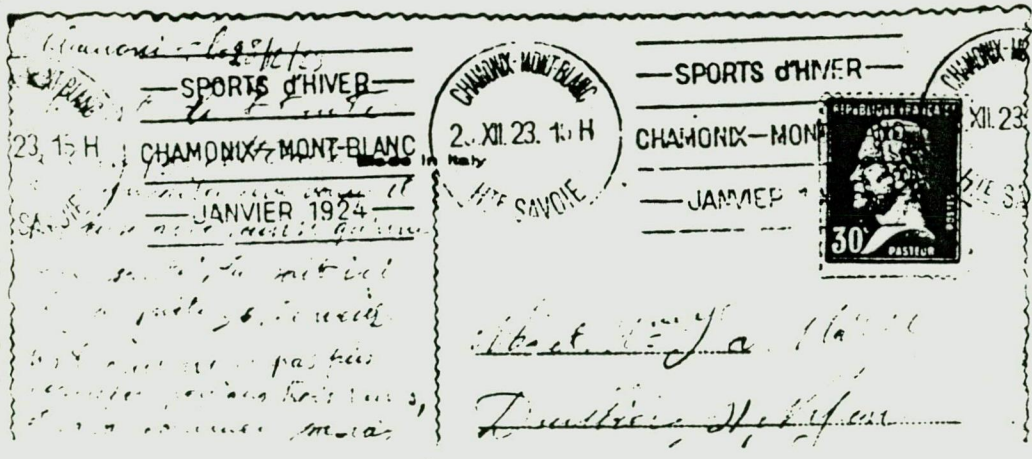
Skating was one of the Olympic disciplines listed at the First Olympic Congress, which took place in Paris on 23 June 1894. Skating was on the programme of the 1900 Games, but for unknown reasons was "forgotten" and no events took place. After the success of figure skating in London in 1908, it was hoped that skating would certainly be on the programme of the 1912 Games in Stockholm. The I.O.C. was rather surprised at the 1911 Session in Budapest, when Colonel Black of Sweden announced that no winter events would figure in the Stockholm Games, since "Nordic Games" would take place in 1913, and it would be normal that all ice and snow events should be regrouped within the framework of these traditional Nordic Games in northern Europe." Brunetta d'Usseaux, the Italian member of the I.O.C., immediately proposed to transform these Nordic Games into Olympic Winter Games. In order not to create a "diplomatic incident", no vote was taken. During the Olympic Congress in Paris in 1914, it was decided that winter disciplines, ice hockey, skating and skiing, would be included in future Games. In fact, winter Games were planned by Germany to take place during the Games of the VI Olympiad at Feldberg in the Black Forest in 1916. Naturally, these Games

never took place due to World War I. The 1921 Congress of the I.O.C. in Lausanne did not accept a separate cycle for the Olympic Winter Games. The I.O.C. accepted only an "International Winter Sports Week", on a trial basis, to be organised at Chamonix from 24 January to 4 February 1924, under the patronage of the French Organising Committee of the Games of the VIII Olympiad. It was only in 1925, during the Olympic Congress in Prague, that the "Winter Sports Week" was retroactively recognised as the First Olympic Winter Games.

While it is true that Canada dominated ice hockey since 1920, it should not be forgotten that already in 1936, Great Britain won the Olympic tournament.

Some philatelic data:

The Games in Chamonix were indeed commemorated philatelically. A publicity cancellation was used in Chamonix from 12 December 1923 until 6 February 1924, at the request of the Organising Committee.



Used in 1923.

Bon Baiser.



Last Day of the Games Cancellation.

Another philatelic document is the cover of the Organising Committee of the 1928 Olympic Winter Games, if posted at St. Moritz during the Games.



II. OLYMPISCHE WINTERSPIELE

ST. MORITZ 1928

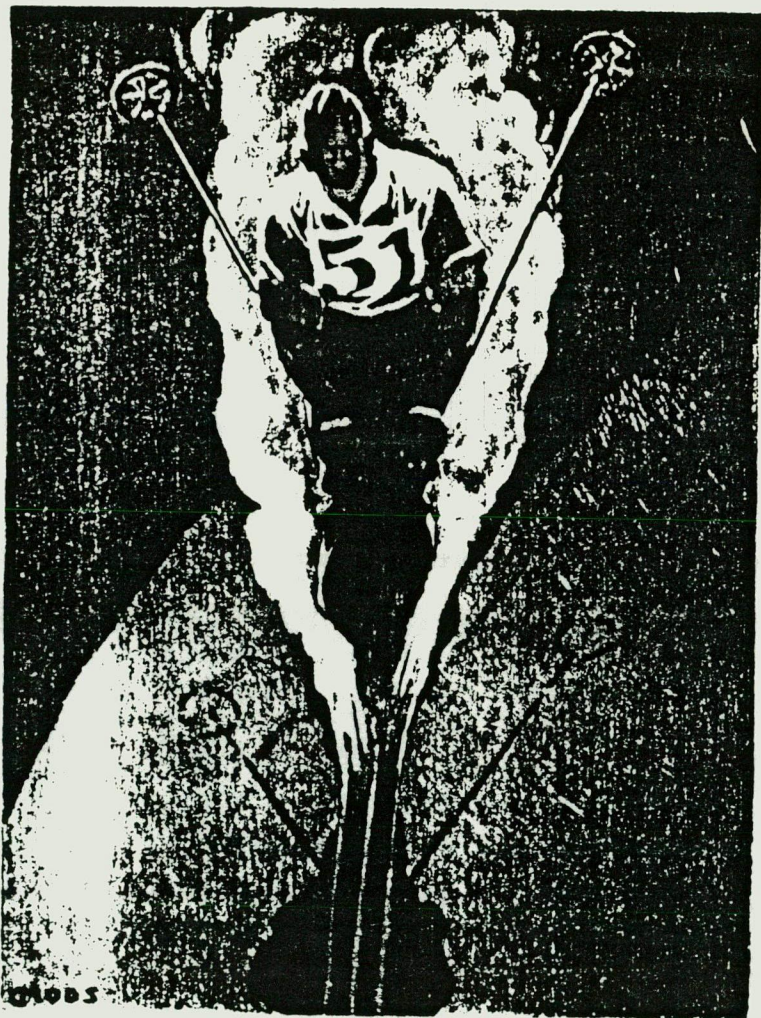
SCHWEIZ. OLYMPISCHES KOMITEE

Hockey-Kommission

Monsieur Edmond Kraner
 Conseiller Général
 Rue Neuve 8
 la Chaux-de-Fonds



Illustrated postcards were issued on the occasion of the Second Olympic Winter Games in St. Moritz in 1928. Written and posted at St. Moritz during the Games, they do indeed, document the Games philatelically.





11. OLYMPISCHE WINTERSPIELE
 11^{me} JOURNÉES OLYMPIQUES D'HIVER
 29. GIUGNO OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES
 29th JUNE OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES
 ST. MORITZ - 2. 11. - 5. 2. 1928



M. Olivier
George Legat
St. Moritz

The special card, with its printed inscription, posted in St. Moritz on 11 February 1928, the opening day of the Second Olympic Winter Games.

+++++

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FROM THIS ONE COVER

Masaoki Ichimura.

Illustration No 1, as you can see, is a cover addressed to Mr Ichiro Yoshida, a contributor of the Stamp Cultural Society, is cancelled with the first day use of the scenic canceller of Tattamaru (ship) on 23 June 1932.

Do you have any idea why I show this cover? What is the story behind the cover? Is it related to the Olympic Games? Do you think that the sender of the cover would have thought that the addressee was an important person? Please answer the above questions as you will be solving a mystery story.

If you have solved the questions in less than a minute, you are an expert on Olympic Games history, and also you will be my sympathetic friend and will be my supporter.

I have been corresponding with overseas Olympic Games philatelists for over twenty years, and they always ask me the following questions: "Why are there no books or pamphlets published concerning Olympic Games philatelic history of Japan, although there are a lot of Olympic Games philatelists who live in Japan, as there are Olympic Games philatelists who live overseas? The world Olympic Games collectors such as us, want to know what kind of philatelic material exists in an Oriental country, like Japan, and also want to know the history of the Olympic Games in Japan.

I want you to know that the above enquiries, made by overseas correspondents, come from more than just one or two. Certainly, various Communist countries and European countries have been active in studying their own country's Olympic Games philatelic histories, and as a result, many pamphlets have been published.

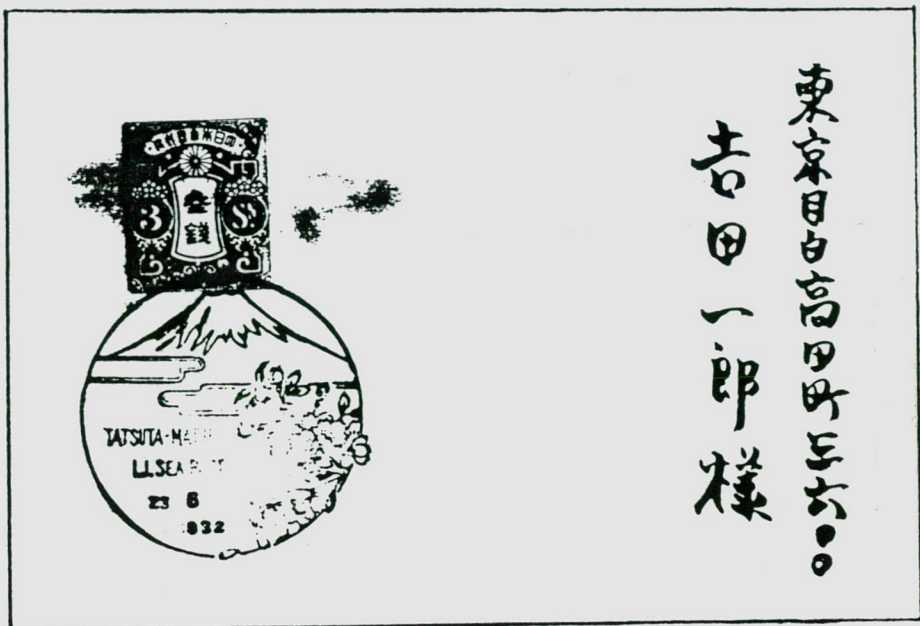
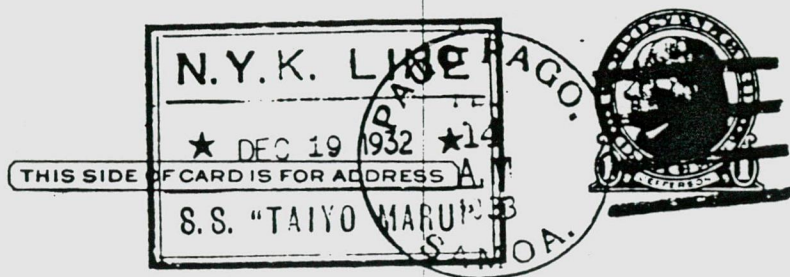


Illustration 1.



Mr. George S. Hill,
627 Fairmount Ave.,
Philadelphia, Penna

Illustration 3.

It has been seventy years since Japan participated in the Stockholm Olympic Games of 1912, Illustration 2 is a privately produced card shown obverse and reverse. The postcard, to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the 1912 Games, was cancelled on 29 June, the opening day of those Games, and then mailed to Japan. The cachets which were used during these Olympic Games were applied on the official stamps (affixing the postage that was current at that time, instead of contemporary stamps.)

Commemorative philatelic material for Olympic Games in Japan has been very poor. Generally, only small cachets have been used, except in the case of Tokyo and Sapporo. I think that no Japanese Olympic Committee members understand philately. It is indeed regrettable. One day I will ask the International Olympic Committee President about this. He will understand, for he is a collector himself.

To return now to the questions asked at the beginning. The cover in question was a commemoration cover for the departure of the Tattamaru, which departed from Yokohama port with the Japanese Olympic athletes bound for Los Angeles Olympic Games held fifty two years ago. The cover tells of an important Olympic Games romance.

Some of you may have read a novel entitled "Fruit of the Olympic Games", written by Hidemitsu Tanaka. The novel tells the onesided love story of Sakamoto (Hidemitsu Tanaka himself) who participated in the Olympic Games as a rowing crew member, and who was aboard the Taiyomaru, which set sail from Yokohama on 30 June, and Akiko Kumamoto (Yaeko Sagara) who participated as a broad jumper in the same Olympic Games. This is a most interesting novel, which tells of those Olympic events. Illustration 3 shows a US 1 cent postcard

Illustration 2.

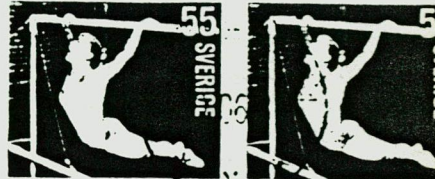
The 70th Anniv. of Japanese

Olympic participation in
 OLYMPIQUES and 29th 1982
 + STOCKHOLM 1912 +

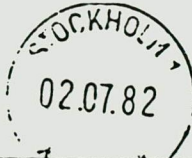


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 Tokyo
 149 Japan. (Nippon)



ストックホルム(1912)オリンピック入場券

Non reclamé

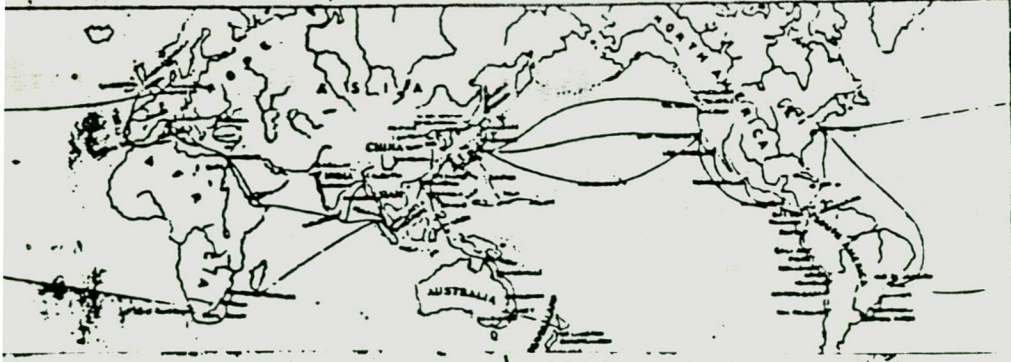
6-1-33 Sakura
 Minoo City Osaka
 562 Japan

〒562
 箕面市桜6-1-33

with a red cachet "N.Y.K. Line Dwc 19 1932+/
SS TAIYOMARU" which was applied to the post-
card. This Japanese mail steamer was taken by
the army at the opening of the war, but no
sooner had the steamer set sail for the Phil-
ippines on 8 May 1942, it was hit on the port
quarter by torpedoes and sank.

I have researched various places for the mails
cancelled with the Tattamaru's canceller which
were posted on board the ship by Olympic Games
related people, and fortunately, I finally
found one. Illustration 4. This entire, made
by the Nihon Yusen Steamship Company, was
cancelled with the Tattamaru's scenic canceller
on 29 June, and shows the dinner menu for the
Second Class passengers of 24 June. The sender
was an American, Mr R.T.Arubuster, and the
addressee was Mr Keijiro Kitazawa of Osaka City,
I read the Olympic Games description written in
the letter. According to that, not only the
Japanese athletes, but also those from the
Philippines and India, were aboard the ship,
and the athletes practiced every day. I am
very interested in such philatelic material for
they show hidden facts which can become truly
important. I would be very happy to receive
letters from members of the Society who have
letters and postcards which were sent by the
Olympic athletes and committee members from
places where the Games were held, but only
prior to the Tokyo Olympic Games. I am also
interested in covers with the cachet OLYMPIC
SHIP ----MARU, which existed from around the
1930's, which were made by the Nihon Yusen
Steamship Company. The illustrated cover is
only one such example. I have seen similar
covers serviced on the Shunyomaru, which was
the ship that carried the Japanese athletes
home after the Games. There is still a great
deal of Olympic history to be found, and I
would like the cooperation of the members of
the Society to find it.

R.T. Aramburte - 1860 So. Humboldt, Denver Colo. U.S.A.



June 26, 1902

My dear Mr. Kitazawa - Your kind remembrance of my
 my sailing day was a most delightful surprise. It was a
 pleasure to meet Mr. Forri - he told me that you had been in Tokyo
 on the 18th inst - and had telephoned to me. I was in Yokohama that
 day to see an old friend who is ill, & will probably not get well.
 (indeed) am sorry to have missed you, but perhaps you will be
 coming to the U.S.A. again, and we shall meet there. - I wish you and
 almost beautiful - and are still quite pretty. I have them by me
 at the dining-saloon. She has been worth 2000 yen but
 there has been much for. It is great fun to watch the Japanese
 going to all the various camps daily. I have
 to all your pen - and very many thanks for your kind
 remembrance of us. Sincerely yours. Rose Aramburte.

Mr. Keizō Kitazawa -
 Asaka, Japan.



天正寺区茶臼山町六拾二
 敬二 郎 林
 天正寺区茶臼山町六拾二

The Nippon Mail Order Co. Tokio

Illustration 4.

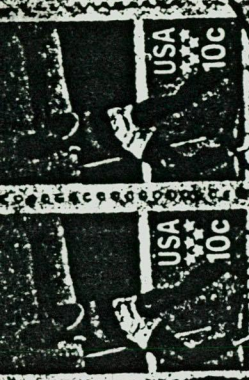
GREAT BRITAIN AND THE L.A. OLYMPICS

Bob Wilcock.

Carl Lewis was not the Man of the Games; despite all the build-up and the four gold medals, he only equalled Jesse Owens and failed to emulate him. He had no competition, was booed by a disappointed crowd because, having jumped a medal-winning long jump, he opted out of trying to beat Bob Beamon's world record, and only redeemed himself in the 4 x 100 metres relay with a stunning 8.94 seconds as his contribution to the world record.

No, the Man of the Games was Britain's Daley Thompson, who took his second Olympic gold medal in the decathlon (or, as one commentator put it, if Carl Lewis was Man of the Games, then Daley Thompson was Superman!) He did have to fight against his arch-rival Jürgen Hingson, and he endeared himself to the crowd and the TV viewers with his cheeky antics and remarks; he even had the nerve to complain about the US TV coverage given to Carl Lewis, (was there anyone else in the 100 metres?) while the BBC in Britain showed his 110 hurdles victory at least nine times in the 24 hours after the event!

One British cover dealer (Benham) is to be admired for arranging a souvenir cover postmarked at 'Thompson, Thetford' (Norfolk) 'on the day of the event'..... well, not quite, since although the covers are dated 10 August, and the last event of the decathlon was in the early hours of that morning British Summer Time, it actually took place on the evening of 9 August Los Angeles time! A better souvenir that I have obtained is a Drawing Board athletics postcard with the pictorial athletics handstamp franking the 1980 US Olympic decathlon stamps and bearing a BOA/USA vignette. Another British dealer (Henry Murray) advertised souvenir covers to mark each British



10 AUG 84



USA 10c

LOS ANGELES CA 90097

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Paravion**

Official Licensee of the 1984 L.A. Olympic Games

Photographer: Peter Klumma/Sears Illustrated & Jan Hyde

For Mailed orders, please send \$10.00 plus shipping charges to: Paravion, P.O. Box 222222



Official Licensee of the 1984 Olympic Games



TRACK AND FIELD, The Javelin Thrower. Over 1600 athletes compete in 200 runs and field events in the 1984 Olympic Games, held in Los Angeles, California.

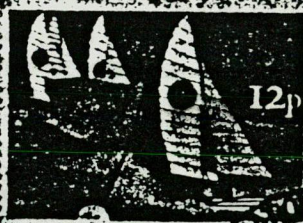
Official Licensee of the 1984 L.A. Olympic Games

Photographer: Peter Klumma/Sears Illustrated & Jan Hyde

For Mailed orders, please send \$10.00 plus shipping charges to: Paravion, P.O. Box 222222

gold medal win, but was defeated by the USPS system and was not in the end able to offer the covers.

The one truly British Olympic handstamp was in fact, used well before the Games, on 6 January 1983, at the London International Boat Show, and was sponsored by the British Olympic Yachting Association in support of their Olympic appeal. It is a pity that Britain did not win a yachting medal this time, because the official BOYA cover was large enough to comfortably take a US Olympic stamp to be given the Long Beach yachting handstamp to make an attractive double souvenir.

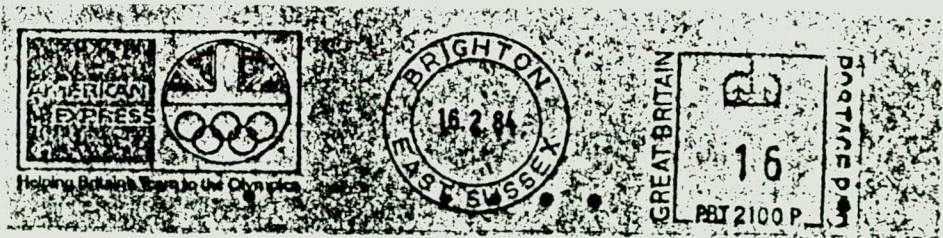


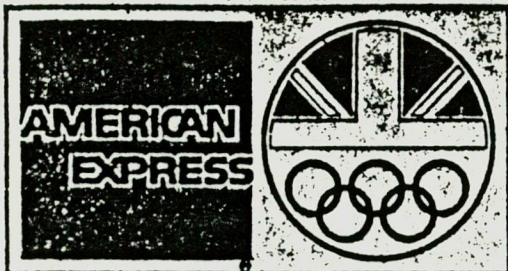
On To 1984!
JLY CACHET

I must mention in passing the 1984 Stampex handstamp in the form of a hand holding a torch (see Torch Bearer Volume 1 pp. 16-17 for other Stampex Olympic souvenirs) the Eric Liddell handstamp for the Scottish Philatelic Congress (Torch Bearer Vol. 1 pp. 53-55) and the Twin Towns Olympiad postmark of Glenrothes, Fife; although none of these had any direct connection with the LA Olympics.

The two postage meters did have a definite Olympic link; H.F.C Trust and Savings Ltd. advertised their Olympic sponsorship on two meter machines; PBT 2100P was used for a short while to send out monthly statements, and PBT 2644N for general correspondence. American Express also used a post paid envelope with a 'London S.W.D.O./Postage Paid Serial No. 131 imprint, with an Olympic illustration, to send out their quarterly magazine.

H.F.C. also had a small Olympic vignette, as did Royal Insurance 'Official Insurers to the British Olympic Association', with and without the name, and AMI Hospitals Ltd. (an American-owned private health care organisation), whose vignette proclaimed them an 'Official Sponsor of the British Olympic Team'. I used a number of these vignettes on covers posted in LA, but sadly did not have the luck, or foresight, to put the Royal Insurance vignette on an athletics cover with postmark 6 August, the day their services were called for when Steve Ovett dramatically collapsed; as far as I know, it was not an AMI funded hospital he was taken to.





Helping Britain's Team to the Olympics



The AMI vignette first reached collector hands on 7 May 1984 at the British Olympic Association Olympic Day at the Crystal Palace national sports centre, and S.O.C. member Ken Cook managed to obtain some maximum cards of the centre with the ordinary Sydenham S.E.26 postmark attractively tying AMI vignette.

The British Olympic Association authorised numerous souvenirs marketed by International Franchises Ltd., an official sponsor, or by the manufacturers. There was the usual miscellany, from medals to mugs, buttons to book marks. There was nothing of philatelic interest, and BOA did not bother to alter their normal postage meter die to refer to the 1984 Olympics, or the Olympic Appeal. There was one postcard advertising a Royal Doulton 'Olympic' Bunnykins showing 'Bunnykins' holding a torch and with the text 'John Sinclair's going to the Los Angeles Olympic

John Sinclair Ltd. of Sheffield selling the 'Bunnykin' and other Olympic souvenirs. One of the postcards of the Los Angeles coliseum, in foil, and distributed by Mitock, the principle LA wholesaler, was also made in Britain.

BOA produced, for members, an excellent guide to the Games, combined with a team handbook, and a revue with full results. Also, long before the Games they set up 'BOA-USA' in Los Angeles to raise funds from the British community in the USA for the British team. They organised numerous fund-raising functions, and for example, persuaded Mick Jagger and Keith Richards of the Rolling Stones to sponsor our gymnastic and decathlon teams respectively. They published five issues of a glossy magazine 'The British Olympian' which was given to passengers on British Airways flights from Los Angeles. The souvenirs which they offered in the USA included a lapel pin, much sought after in the USA and a large self-adhesive decal (vignette), most attractive on a philatelic cover.

In LA Daley Thompson was not the only Briton to retain his Olympic title; Seb Coe became the first man in Olympic history to retain the 1500 metres title, and had the honour to take the silver yet again in the 800 metres, this time to Brazil's Joachim Cruz. Steve Cram made it a British 1, 2 in the 1500 metres, while in the women's javelin Tessa Sanderson and Fatima Whitbread took gold and bronze. Out at Lake Casitas the men's coxed four rowed their way to gold, and Britain's first gold of the Games was won by Malcolm Cooper in the small bore shooting. Five golds, eleven silver twenty one bronze was Britain's best Olympic tally for many an Olympiad.

Just above Great Britain, with six gold medals came the team from South Korea; as hosts they will no doubt do rather better in 1988!

Meanwhile, may I invite our members from around the world to submit a short article to Francesca Rapkin about their country and the LA Olympics, with details of stamps and philatelic and other souvenirs. Representatives of some forty seven countries secured medals and it would be nice to see a range of articles from many of them.

*John Sinclair's going to the
Los Angeles Olympics*



Royal Doulton 'OLYMPIC' Bunnykins

FIRST DAY CEREMONY SOUVENIRS

Glenn Estus.

In the United States, each new issue of stamps is first placed on sale in one special post office on the day of issue. Usually, a special ceremony is held at the designated post office. The stamps then go on sale nation-wide on the next postal working day. This is reflected in the slogan cancellation FIRST DAY OF ISSUE that is used only at the special first day post office for the one day.

However, few people, even in the United States, realise that there is a very special souvenir issued by the United States Postal Service.

First Day of Issue
Winter Olympics
Block of Four Stamps
Lake Placid, New York
January 6, 1984

PRESENING

Lynn W. Wilson
Postmaster
Lake Placid, New York

PRESENTATION OF COLORS
Present participants in the Olympic Team Trials

PRAYER

The Reverend William B. Hayes
Rector
Saint Eustace Episcopal Church

WELCOME

George M. Kather
Director
United States Olympic Training Center
Lake Placid, New York

INTRODUCTION OF DISTINGUISHED GUESTS

W. D. Markness
President and Chief Executive Officer
Olympic Regional Development Authority

RELATIONS

Jack Sileo
1932 Olympic Gold Medal Winner in Speedskating
ADDRESS AND PRESENTATION OF ADDRESS
Gordon C. Merlean
Assistant Postmaster/General for Customer Services

BENEDICTION

The Reverend William B. Hayes

HONORED GUEST

Robert Pascech
Mayor
Village of Lake Placid



"Swifter, Higher, Stronger"

The modern English interpretation of the Olympic motto captures in three words the competitive spirit of these international athletic events.

Beginning in 776 B.C. and continuing for more than a thousand years the people of the ancient Greek city-states staged competitions every four years that included running and chariot races, jumping, discus and javelin throwing, wrestling, and boxing at the stadium in Olympia. In 1896, some 15 centuries following the banning of the games in 394 A.D. Frenchman Pierre de Coubertin revived the Games to begin the era of the "Modern Olympics." The birth year of the Winter Games was officially 1924, though some snow and ice sports were included in the modern Games.

The issuance of this block of four Winter Olympics stamps here in Lake Placid coincides with the Battalion National Championships and the U.S. Olympic Team tryouts. The stamps feature the Olympic sports ice dancing, Alpine skiing, cross-country skiing and ice hockey.

The 1984 Winter Olympics will take place in Sarajevo, Yugoslavia and the Summer Olympics will be held in Los Angeles, California.

All the U.S. stamps and stationery items commemorating the 1984 Olympics were designed by Robert Peak of Scottsdale, Arizona, who previously designed the 1968 Football commemorative stamp and the Auto Racing embossed envelope.

Lillian D. Hayes
Sandy Kather
W.D. Markness
Jack Sileo
Gordon C. Merlean
Robert Pascech
Lynn W. Wilson

This is only given to those persons who are actually in attendance at the special ceremony, as well as to selected postal officials in the postal region in which the first day ceremony is being held. This is a commemorative folder with a printed order of ceremony inside, as well as the relevant stamp or stamps cancelled with the FIRST DAY OF ISSUE slogan. Usually, the outside of the folder has a reproduction of one of the stamps issued that day. On the 1984 Olympic Winter Games issue, this reproduction was an enlarged version of the hockey player without any of the postal wording or denomination. According to one source, the average number of folders issued for each of the ceremonies is 1,900 folders.

I have tried to acquire examples of all the souvenir programmes for the 1983-1984 Olympic programme. The most difficult to obtain has been the programme for the 40 cents airmail block of four, issued in Los Angeles in April 1983. Hundreds of people attended the first day ceremony, and few are willing to part with their special souvenir of the Olympics.

An added sideline can be all the autographs of all the persons who are listed in the official programme. The illustrations show the souvenir programme for the stamps issued on 6 January 1984 in Lake Placid to commemorate the Olympic Winter Games in Sarajevo. Usually, a reception line is established so that those present can have the autographs added to their souvenirs. The 6 January ceremony was not well attended. The weather was snowy and Lake Placid is hundreds of kilometres away from the nearest metropolitan area. I would estimate that only about a hundred and twenty five people in total were present at the ceremony.



*First Day of Issue
Winter Olympics
Block of Four Stamps
Lake Placid, New York
January 6, 1984*

THE BEGINNING, ATHENS 1896

Michael Pagomenos.

The ancient Olympic Games were held in Olympia in Greece, every four years for over a thousand years, from 776BC to about 394AD. The Games were introduced as a religious ceremony, in honour of the father of the gods, Zeus, but belief in the traditional religion faded, and the Games lost their religious significance. It is still not known exactly when the Games died, but it is thought that they were stopped by the first Christian emperor of Rome, Theodosius I, who had issued an edict that all pagan cults and centres be closed. This was at about 393AD.



All S.O.C. members know that Baron Pierre de Coubertin revived the Games, but the plan that Athens should stage the first modern Olympiad was in danger of abandonment as the Greek government, facing both huge financial and political difficulties, refused any commitment to them.

It was then that the heir to the Greek throne, Constantine (1868-1923) the grandfather of the now exiled, Crown Prince Constantine, who won a gold medal in sailing in Rome in 1960, set up a twelve member committee under his chairmanship. This Hellenic Olympic Committee met for the first time on 13 January 1895. By April 1895, the committee had issued bulletins for the Games in English, French, German and Greek, containing the rules of the events, the definition of sportsmanship and instructions for the officials of the Games.

Collections were made both in Greece, and

Greeks living abroad, to obtain the necessary funds for the organisation of the Games and for the building of sports facilities. The response was incredible. Georgios Averoff, (1818 - 1899) one of Greece's wealthiest businessmen, donated 920,000 Drachmae in gold for the reconstruction of the Panathenian stadium in marble, and the architect, Anastasios Metaxas prepared the plans.

The first modern, international Olympic Games began in Athens on Easter Sunday, 24 March 1896, (5 April by the new calendar) with the unveiling of the marble statue of the principal benefactor, Averoff, which had been erected in the square of the Panathenian stadium. The following day was a Greek national holiday, and 80,000 people gathered in and around the Olympic stadium.

The commemorative issue of the first Olympic Games was issued on 25 March 1896. The set consisted of twelve stamps, it was designed by Professor Gillieron and engraved by Edouard Mouchon, and was produced for the Greek post office by the French Government Printing Works in Paris.

Coubertin opposed the Greek idea of holding every Olympiad in Athens, but as a compromise he supported the 1906 Interim Games, but did not give I.O.C. patronage to them. A commemorative issue celebrating the Tenth Anniversary of the revival of the Games was issued during the Interim Games from*9 - 19 April 1906 from three special post offices: one at the stadium, one at the Acropolis and one at the central park at Zappion in Athens. The set consisted of fourteen stamps and was printed in London. Each special post office had its own commemorative cancellation.

* It is more relevant to date these events by the Julian calendar.

READING MATTERS

GOLDEN MOMENTS. This hard-back book published by the US Post Office as part of their marketing drive was aimed at collectors. It has seventy six pages and thirty two colour pages, which are the work of US stamp designer Robert Peak. The introduction is by James Michener, and the book is dedicated to Jim Thorpe. Included in the price of the book are the 24 US Olympic stamps, and 4 postal stationery items. It is an interesting souvenir, although perhaps it lacks the impact of the superb photography in the earlier USPS birds and flowers book. The athletic vitality, of the sort that is immediately conveyed in a sporting photograph, is missing. This book may entertain passing guests and is a conversation point on the coffee table, but it does not contain the hard facts that make it a 'must' for the book shelf. Available from the USPS in Washington for \$20 plus postage, or from Stanley Gibbons in the United Kingdom.

THE GAMES WAR. A MOSCOW JOURNAL. By Christopher Booker. Published in 1981 by Faber and Faber, Ltd. London, in both hardback and paperback. Now out of print, but should be available at the local library, and an out of print book service should be able to trace a copy. A useful book which has been written by the first editor of the satirical British magazine 'Private Eye', and which looks at the way the USSR prepared for the Moscow '80 Games. The author traces the political developments from 1974 to December 1980 from a pro-Western, anti-Soviet viewpoint. This book adopts the stance that the Olympic movement is merely another political tool, and throughout the book there is a very cynical, and at times, unjustified, feeling of resentment that the Russians actually organised the Games! There are several accounts of persecution of Western journalists

and numerous quotes purport to show that the Soviets were staging a massive propaganda exercise. If you are interested in Olympic politics, then this book makes interesting reading, and it is worth obtaining a copy.

FIVE RING CIRCUS. MONEY, POWER AND POLITICS AT THE OLYMPIC GAMES. Edited by Alan Tomlinson and Gary Whannel. Published by Pluto Press, at £2.95, paperback in 1984. A 117 page book which is really a series of eight essays by different authors which traces the way that the Olympic movement has been undermined by politicians and which seems "constantly in need of restoration and modernisation" according to the editors. This phrase is typical of many in this book, which, like the press, tends to try to decry and dull the Olympic movement. It will certainly interest students of Olympic politics and anyone wanting an apparently informed academic view of the Olympic Games.

OLYMPIC REFERENCE INDEX. By Mrs A.L.Smith. A forty four page catalogue of all Olympic stamps published as a tagged computer print out by the author and compiler. To obtain a copy, write to Mrs Smith at 12 East Lodge Park, Farlington, Portsmouth, Hants PO6 1AG. £2 post paid within the United Kingdom. Overseas members please write to the author for additional overseas postage costs. There are several Olympic stamp catalogues, and this one is a welcome addition, as it is an easy to use format, inexpensive, and clearly laid out. The index lists all the Olympic issues by alphabetical order of country, using SG Stamps of the World catalogue numbers for the foreign sections and SG Elizabethan catalogue numbers for the Commonwealth issues. It includes all issues up to, and including, those recorded in the UK philatelic press until July 1984.

This is an invaluable listing because it is so easy to use, and includes abbreviations for Summer and Winter Olympic sports, so that one can work out which countries issues stamps showing football, or for that matter, any Olympic sport, which has been depicted on a stamp. The listing also gives the location, and so indicates whether the stamps was issued for Moscow or Mexico, for example. This catalogue will fill a long felt need for a simple and clear listing of all Olympic issues.

OLYMPIC STAMPS. By Vsevolod Foorman. English translation of the revised Russian text by Progress Publishers, Moscow 1981. Hardback book, beautifully produced with many full colour illustrations. Price \$5.95, plus US sales tax if ordering within the USA, plus postage. Obtainable from Imported Publications Inc., 320 West Ohio Street, Chicago Ill 60610. This is a fascinating book which serves as an introduction to Olympic philately, but has sufficient to interest collectors of all levels, as it includes postmarks, cachets, and maximum cards from throughout the world. The author is a Russian philatelic journalist, who is also a member of our sister society, Sports Philatelists International, based in the US. The book traces the Olympic Movement from its origins in Greece to the Moscow'80 Games, using Olympic philatelic material to tell the story. Cancels, including a set of Russian pictorial cancels from 1980, the scarce Russian 1980 meter cancel and varieties, are also illustrated. Although adopting a pro-Soviet line, there is sufficient variety in terms of the Games covered, and the material illustrated, to interest collectors of all Games. Foorman has been criticised for flaws and inconsistencies in his accounts of how some of the material was produced by the USSR in the past, and there may be similar slips in this book, although it appears to be well written.

OLYMPIC GAMES, A PERMANENT SITE?

Harvey Abrams.

Every Olympic year brings a flurry of interest in the Olympic Games and the problems which surround them. Recent Olympics have been plagued by serious political interference, which has resulted in widespread calls for a permanent Olympic site in some "neutral" country. For many years, Professor John Lucas of Penn State University has issued an appeal for a permanent site in Switzerland, while more recent appeals have called for a site in Greece. My ideas on this question are certainly not original, as I have heard or read other proposals that were similar. The idea that the Olympic Games should be at one permanent site has one very good reason supporting it, that being the cost of erecting such enormous facilities would be paid only once, and then would be available for many generations to come. At least the aspect of bankruptcy would be removed from the Olympic Games. However, to think that this would lead to a happier Olympic Movement is certainly false. Political intrusion would certainly not be automatically discounted. If the Games were situated in Greece, would there be problems with athletes from Turkey and Cyprus? With the current Socialist government's very antagonistic attitude towards the United States and Nato, of which it is a part, what problems could arise? Can anyone actually say that Greece is "neutral"? The argument for Switzerland is also very weak, since the Swiss themselves voted in a national referendum NOT to have the Olympic Games in their country.

The Games are a strong and positive factor in international relations. The boycott by any nation, U.S.A., Africans or Soviet Union, will not destroy the extremely powerful desire to be involved with the Olympic Movement. More than politics, the financing of the Games is the

Games is the major problem that must be overcome. I propose that the Olympic Games be placed on a rotation of four sites, that occasionally can permit a new site within the schedule. I propose that the Games be held every sixteen years in Munich, where the facilities are already completed and in use year-round. The major problem to be overcome in Munich is the Olympic Village for the athletes, which is now a successful housing district of rented apartments and student dormitories. The second site should be Montreal, where all the facilities are also in place, although the stadium is still not completed. If, every sixteen years the Games were in Montreal, that stadium could be completed, and the heavy expenses the first time around could be recovered. More importantly, this would be the North American site. My proposals include the very strong stipulation that never again should the Olympic Games go to either the United States nor the Soviet Union! My third site for the rotating Games is Tokyo, where the Games were held in 1964. This would serve as the Asian location. My fourth site is once again in Europe, the city of Helsinki, site of the 1952 Games. My proposal excludes the Third World, not for any political reason, or for any racist reason. It is very simply the fact that the cities mentioned above have adequate facilities already available, so that without extravagant cost, future Games could be staged. These cities are also very capable of handling hundreds of thousands of tourists attending the Games. When a new city appeals to have the Games, for example, Paris or Rome, or perhaps New Delhi or Barcelona the rotation could be delayed, and on that occasion, a new host city takes up the Olympic flag. Whatever decision is made, flexibility should be a part of the thinking. The Olympic Games belong to the world, and a permanent site would not be a guarantee of a permanent Games.

HOLIDAY QUIZ SOLUTIONS

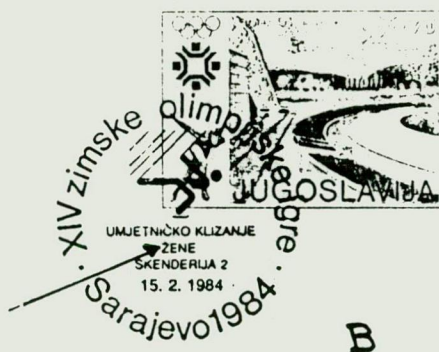
1. Daikles in 752BC at the 7th Olympiad.
2. James B. Conolly.
3. Hop, Step and Jump.
4. Paavo Nurmi.
5. Jim Thorpe.
6. John Hayes.
7. Fanny Blankers-Koen.
8. Emil Zatopek.
9. 1952.
10. a. 1956. b. Sweden and Australia.
11. Klaus Dibiasi of Italy.
12. Ray Ewry.
13. Sonja Henie.
14. Paavo Nurmi.
15. London 1908.
16. 1936.
17. Abebe Bikila in 1960 and 1964, and Waldemar Cierpinski in 1976 and 1980.
18. a. Bob Beamon. b. Mexico 1968.
19. Charlotte Cooper. a. Tennis. b. 1900.
20. Jesse Owens.
21. Carl Lewis.
22. 1936.
23. Melbourne in 1956.
24. Paris, France.
25. 1984.

Daikles, from Messenia was the first athlete to wear the olive branch wreath when he won the stadium race in 752BC at the 7th Olympic Games. At the first six Olympic Games, the winner was given an apple.

Some of you gave Pat McCormick (USA) and Ingrid Kramer (GDR) as the solution to Question 11. Although both these athletes won diving gold medals on three, or more, occasions, Klaus Dibiasi was the only diver to win three gold medals for the same diving event (Highboard, in 1968, 1972 and 1976)

MEMBER'S FORUM

Bob Wilcock would like help with the following query. The Sarajevo postmark A illustrated below shows figure skaters and the location SKENDERIJA 2. It is on the official list of postmarks, but not even my correspondent in Sarajevo has seen a copy. Was it ever used? There is a handstamp in an identical design for ZETRA, and it has been suggested that the events scheduled for Skenderija were transferred to Zetra, so that the postmark was not needed. Can anyone confirm this? Postmark B appears, printed on a cover prepared for the Swiss Sports Aid Foundation and depicts the winners of the Women's Figure Skating. This cancel, with the word ZENE (women) does not appear on the official list, and again, my Sarajevo correspondent reports that he has never seen a copy. Does any member have an example unambiguously posted during the Games, or even one that is clearly hand-applied, rather than printed. Any information on the above two queries would be most welcome.



OLYMSPORT is the name of the Czech society of Olympic collectors. It was founded by the late V. Busek and Jaroslav Justyn in 1967. Today, the society has about 200 members. A bulletin is issued three times a year, and several leaflets of single topics have also been issued, among them, Olympic Meter Cancellations, Basketball, Ice Hockey, Table Tennis and Tennis. Members who would like further details of the society and its publications, (written in Czech) should write to the Vice President, Jaroslav Petrsek, Zborovska 1025, Cesky Brod 282 23, Czechoslovakia.

Harvey Abrams, a Sports historian, is writing his Doctoral dissertation on the 1904 Olympic Games, St. Louis. He is seeking black and white or colour photos/slides of medals and/or medallions from 1904 to illustrate his work. Would also like to buy official reports, programmes, etc., 1896 - 1984. Still seeking 1908 British Report. Write to H. Abrams, An den Hubertshäuern 21, 1000 Berlin 38. West Germany. Mr Abrams is also willing to undertake German/English translation, will accept Olympic stamps or literature in payment.

David Bressler, 322 West 57th Street, Apt 12B, New York NY 10019, U.S.A. is looking for badges, medals, pins and decorations from all Olympiads. Buy or trade. Rubbings of medals or photocopies could be sent first

OLYMPICS ON COMPUTER.

48k ZX Spectrum owners can purchase two programmes, as a package. The first details the medal winners from 1896 to 1980, and the second enables the user to input the LA results and make analyses and comparisons. Available at software shops at £14.95. For further details, write to Storm Software, Winchester House, Sherbourne, Dorset.

Concerning some of the "private" USPS cancellations mentioned in December's TORCH BEARER and in the last auction list, our US member Glenn Estus writes:

There is nothing private about these cancels at all. It is true that they are designed by private organisations, but that is where the "private" ends. From the time that the design is approved by the local regional post office, everything else, including the production costs, is under the control of the USPS. The USPS pays for the canceller and sends people to cancel all the mail that is handed to them. Indeed, under current regulations, noone except USPS personnel is even to touch these cancellers! Also, many of these covers travel through the mails. There are "private" cancellations from a small stamp group in Long Beach CA, which are, in fact, only a publicity gimmick for that group.

GLENROTHES OLYMPIAD.

Colin Shields thought that members may be interested to learn more about the Glenrothes Olympiad, which was commemorated with a special cancellation, illustrated in the September issue of Torch Bearer. This was the Third Olympiad of Sport, and comprised twenty different sports which took place in and around Glenrothes New Town in Fife. The Olympiad was opened by Meg Ritchie, a British international discus thrower, who as the Commonwealth Games discus champion at the 1982 Games, and a discus finalist at Los Angeles. In all, seven countries competed, the other six towns which were represented were all twinned with Glenrothes. They were, Cwmbran in Wales, Pontoise France, Alba Italy, Bobslingen Germany, Geleen Holland and Fleckford in Norway. The next Olympiad will be held in Holland.

IN BRIEF

At least one set of singles from the upper row of the sheet with inscribed margin attached, of the 1980 Olympic Games stamps of Liechtenstein which were withdrawn and destroyed before issue, has surfaced at a continental auction. The only copies sent out by the Liechtenstein postal authorities were advance copies to the press and catalogue editors. These were individually recalled and returned. The origin of this new find is unclear, but the asking price is approximately DM25,000.

Paris has applied to the International Olympic Committee to stage the Games in 1992. France also hope to stage the 1992 Winter Games in the Savoy region in the centenary year of the speech by Baron Pierre de Coubertin which launched the Olympic Movement. Other candidates for the 1992 Olympic Games are Amsterdam, Barcelona, Belgrade, Brisbane and New Delhi.

Montserrat issued a set of four stamps on 26 March 1984 to commemorate the Los Angeles Games. The stamps are incorrectly inscribed as the Twentieth Olympic Games. They made the same mistake in 1980, when they described the Moscow Games as the Nineteenth Olympiad. Does any member know of any other countries which have omitted to include the cancelled Games of 1916, 1940 and 1944 when calculating Olympiads?

Members will be pleased to learn that Franceska ate her way through forty eight packets of Smiths crisps in order to receive her give-away Olympic medals! The crisps were good, but the medals really were not worth all that eating. They are very tacky, and took several months to arrive. For anyone seriously interested in obtaining a full set of ten medals, the promotion did not last for long enough, unless all the crisps were purchased at the same time.

Mr Lee Yong Ho, South Korea's sports minister is optimistic that the 1988 Games will not be boycotted by the eastern bloc, and has forecast that the Seoul Games will be a great success, with the largest ever number of teams attending. This in spite of continued warnings from Moscow that the Games should be moved from Korea. Time alone will tell whether Mr Ho's predictions are correct. A flood of articles critical of the choice of Seoul have appeared in the Soviet press, and on paper, at least, there seems to be little doubt that the Moscow authorities have decided not to accept this venue.

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CIRCULATING PACKET.

The first packet started circulating early in January, and should by now have been seen by a dozen or so members, It contained a wide range of material from 1896 to 1984, and some very reasonable asking prices, so there were some bargains to be had!

VENDORS! We need lots more material to keep the packets circulating regularly; stamps, postal history and postcards, and general sports material, as well as Olympics. A certificate of posting ensures that it is insured!

BUYERS! We need your application form before your name can be added to the circuit. If you have mislaid it, please send an s.a.e. and I send you another one.

**BOB WILCOCK, 24 HAMILTON CRESCENT, BRENTWOOD,
ESSEX CM14 5ES.**

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