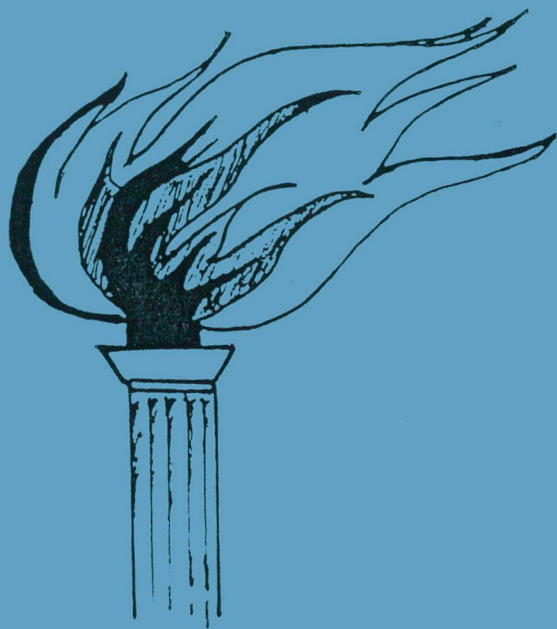


TORCH BEARER



SOCIETY of OLYMPIC COLLECTORS

TORCH BEARER

VOLUME II.

SEPTEMBER 1985.

ISSUE 3.

CONTENTS:

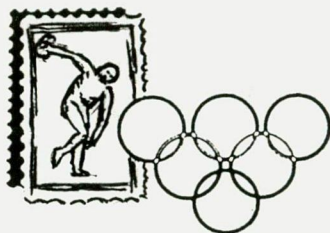
Your Committee.	103
Front Page.	104
Forgeries from Jugoslavia.	105
News.	108
Member's Forum.	111
Honouring Rumanian Winners.	113
Reading Matters.	116
Identifying Gymnastic Exercises.	118
Slogan Cancels for Lake Placid.	120
Skiing from the Start.	126
Olympics and the Movie-Makers.	129
Profile: Harold Abrahams.	133
Olympism, Nationalism and Politics.	134
Memorial to the Israeli Athletes.	137
The International Olympic Academy.	139
From the Diary of Tommy Hampson.	142
Australia at Los Angeles.	146
Olympic Coins.	150

Editor: Franceska Rapkin.

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FRONT PAGE

Make a note in your diary NOW. A society meeting has been arranged on Sunday 20 October at 2:00pm in the Orchid Room in the Horticultural New Hall, Greycoat Street, London during the British Philatelic Exhibition. You will have the opportunity to visit the dealers and view the exhibits in the morning, and spend time with other Olympic collectors in the afternoon. Display frames are available in the room, so why not bring along a few pages of your collection to show to other members?

The first international exhibition of the year, in Israel is over. It is interesting to note that there were eight Olympic collections in the thematic class, and of these, five were awarded gold medals of a total of nine awarded in this class. It is an indication that an interest in Olympic philately is not on the wane. The next International, Argentina '85, is a thematic only exhibition, and for political reasons, this has not been supported by the British. If anyone has details of Olympic interest from this exhibition, perhaps they would write details for inclusion in the December issue of Torch Bearer.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those of you who have written to me with your comments about the magazine and for sending me articles for inclusion. Please keep sending them, even if I am not able to use them immediately. An editor's task is that much easier if he/she has a reserve of suitable articles in hand, and I try to use original material wherever possible. Even tiny scraps of information are useful, for they can be used to fill a page.

Send your spare material to John Crowther to auction.
3, Hill Drive, Handforth, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 3AP.

FORGERIES FROM JUGOSLAVIA

Zvonimir Krelius.

Some two months after the close of the Olympic Winter Games in Sarajevo, there appeared on the philatelic market in Zagreb unofficial maximum cards with first day cancellations from either Zagreb or Sarajevo. There are eight different cards, which are printed on coloured card with the same designs as those used on the stamps. On the left of the card is the logo of these Olympic Games. These cards are fairly crude, but would not be worthy of mention if it were not for the fact that the official first day PRVI DAN cancellations have also been forged.

It is known that the first day cancellation, which is only used in conjunction with certain special issues, can only be struck at the post office counter for a period of three days from the date of issue of the stamps, and can only be struck by hand. On the aforementioned maximum cards, the cancels from Zagreb and Sarajevo have been printed by mechanical means. If one holds these cancellations up to the light, they have a sheen that is missing on the genuine hand-struck cancellations. It is believed that these cards and cancellations were forged to the detriment of the collector, and not the postal authorities.

The genuine first day cancellation from Zagreb consists of two circles with the inscription PRVI DAN 41001 ZAGREB 8.2.1984 in between the two circles. In the centre of the cancellation is a drawing of a pair of figure skaters, and on the inner circle is the inscription XIV ZIMSKE OLIMPIJSKE IGRE SARAJEVO 1984, and the Olympic Rings. If this cancellation has been well struck it is possible to clearly read this inscription and on the drawing, it is possible to discern lines of shading, particularly on the left leg of the male skater. The Roman numerals XIV are

clearly and completely printed.

In the forgery, it can clearly be seen that the R in PRVI is damaged on the top, that the numerals 8 and 9 in the date are also damaged, and that in the centre of the cancellation, the inscription XIV ZIMSKE OLIMPIJSKE IGRE, the letters IMP in OLIMPIJSKE, are joined. Smudging of the cliché has caused black flecks to appear, and these are particularly noticeable on the figure of the male skater. In size, the forged cancellation is the same as that of the original.

The difference between the genuine and the forged PRVI DAN cancellations of Sarajevo are easily discernible. One can see at once that the forgery is smaller than the original. The genuine cancellation has an overall diameter of 32mm and the inner circle has a diameter of 21mm. The forgery has an overall diameter of 30mm, and that of the inner circle measures 19mm. Once these measurements are known, it is not necessary to look further to distinguish the forgery from the genuine.

It would appear that the forgers were in a hurry to put their goods on to the market, a case of striking while the iron was hot, and so it would appear that they did not check that they were more than only reasonably accurate. Either that, or they believed that the gullible collectors would not notice the differences. Since at least a thousand sets of these cards, eight from Zagreb and eight from Sarajevo, have so far been found, the anonymous forgers were reasonably successful, and more may come to light. The sale price of each set was Dinar 900,000, approximately L5. So far, these forgeries have not appeared in Great Britain, but forewarned is forearmed, and it is as well to keep your eyes open.

From Arbeitsgemeinschaft Jugoslawien and reproduced with permission

Genuine.



Sarajevo '84
JUGOSLAVIJA



Forgery.



Forged cancellation and Maxi-Card.
Illustrations reduced in size.

Although East Germany was one of the first Soviet bloc nations to pull out of the Los Angeles Games in 1984, at the 90th Session of the I.O.C. held in Berlin in June, Mr Erich Honecker, the East German head of state, has given the South Korean delegates the assurance that East Germany will send a team to Seoul. Soviet sports officials have also indicated their intention to participate in Seoul. If this is the case, then it is unlikely that other eastern bloc countries will boycott the Games, even though they do not have diplomatic relations with South Korea at present.

Madame Berlioux, who won a silver medal for swimming in the 1948 London Olympic Games for France, has been a director of the I.O.C since 1971. She joined the I.O.C in 1967 as a press and public relations officer, before becoming the personal assistant of Avery Brundage, and then that of Lord Killanin, the two previous presidents of the I.O.C. Monique Berlioux has for long been one of the most outspoken voices at the I.O.C. headquarters in Lausanne. The demand for her resignation during the I.O.C. session in East Berlin has come as a shock to many, but not as a surprise to those with inside information. It has long been known that she and the present president, Juan Antonio Samaranch, did not see eye to eye on many issues. At a salary of L133,000 a year, she has held the highest paid professional position in world sport. It is reputed that she may receive as much as L400,000 in compensation for the termination of her contract, due to expire at the end of 1988. A prominent member of the I.O.C has said of her, "a brilliant woman, who unfortunately was either at your feet or at your throat, and who could not cope with no longer being effectively the president of the I.O.C.

At present, Amsterdam, Barcelona, Belgrade, Brisbane, New Delhi and Paris have asked to host the Summer Games in 1992. London, Manchester and

Birmingham have also asked to be considered, and in order to give them a chance to prepare a detailed plan, the deadline for receipt of nominations has been extended to the middle of August. Albertsville in France, Berchtesgaden West Germany, Cortina Italy, Falun Sweden, Lillehammer Norway and Sofia in Bulgaria are contenders for the Olympic Winter Games in 1992. The final decision will probably be taken at the I.O.C. meeting to be held in Lausanne in October 1986. By the time that this appears in print, it will be known which other British city applied to host these Summer Games.

Another decision taken during the I.O.C session in East Berlin was to grant medal status to badminton in 1992. It will be featured as an exhibition sport in Seoul in 1988. It is believed that the inclusion of badminton in the Olympic programme will make a tremendous difference to the Asian countries, especially China and Indonesia which have a long sporting tradition with this game.

Another possible area of controversy in 1988 is the timing of the most popular events. Without question, a large part of the financing for the Games will once again come from the American TV companies. Not unnaturally, they will want to show "live" those events which are of most interest to their viewers. This could mean rescheduling some events to the early hours of the morning. The President of the I.O.C. has stressed that the health and welfare of the athletes themselves must be paramount, but this does not rule out the possibility that some events will be timed to catch prime television time.

After the 90th I.O.C. session in East Berlin, a meeting took place with representatives of the North and South Korean sports organisations. It was the first time that the two parties have sat around the same table. Although there was

no formal agenda, the possibility of a combined Korean team may have been reviewed. A political meeting between the two countries has been beyond the abilities of the U.N., because they do not have diplomatic relations. So it is possible that sport will succeed where politics have failed. The meeting was set up by Ashwini Kumar of India, the Vice President of the I.O.C.

Peter Ueberroth, the organising genius behind the 1984 Summer Games, would like to be elected to the U.S. vacancy on the I.O.C., for which Don Miller is the U.S.O.C.'s official recommendation. The I.O.C. are unlikely to nominate Ueberroth however, feeling that he is probably too much of a professional showman.

As in previous years since 1612, Robert Dover's Cotswold Olympics took place near Chipping Camden in June. These are rustic events, with standing jump, tug-of-war, bail of straw hurling and throwing the hammer. Originally, Robert Dover devised a range of events that included bullbaiting, hare coursing, stick fighting and bell ringing. Shakespeare attended the games in the latter years of his life and in 1636, a book was published that honoured Dover and his wonderful games. This year's games came to an end with a torchlit walk through the lanes to Chipping Camden, and if not up to the standards laid down by the I.O.C. these games are probably a great deal more amusing and eccentric than those to be found in 1988 in Korea.

A competitive showcase for twenty four different sports not currently included in the Olympic programme, was held in London this year. The World Games, held from 25 July to 4 August were staged in venues in and around the capital and medals were presented under the banner of the World Games flag. The sports represented included speed roller skating, softball, life saving and tug-of-war. Any information would be appreciated.

MEMBER'S FORUM

John Osborne writes: whilst going through a 1985 US media directory, I came across a mention of the SPORTS COLLECTOR'S DIGEST. Has any member heard of it? I wrote to the Editor at Kraue Publications, 700E State Street, Iola, WI 54990 USA in March, but have received no reply. Has anyone any more information?

Congratulations to the following SOC members on their success at the recent Israphil International Stamp Exhibition. Franco Canepa, gold medal, Franceska Rapkin, gold medal and Morris Rosen, Large vermeil medal with special prize. Harry Beinart had an exhibit in the Court of Honour, and Manfred Bergman, a member of the Jury, showed a part of his collection in the Jury Class.

Olympism Through Posters, The International Olympic Committee Story, Olympic Philately, Olympic Congress in Baden-Baden 1981, Volumes I,II and III, The Olympic Movement (poster) The Olympic Message, The Olympic Movement, Sporting News Olympic Special, Sports Illustrated 1984 Olympic Special, Encyclopedia of the National Olympic Committees, Volumes I,II and III in binders, Olympic Directory 1984, Olympic Agenda 1984, Olympic Encyclopedia April 1985 (Gymnastics and Archery) Olympic Charter 1984, The Olympic Hymn and Olympic Revue complete for 1983 and 1984, part issues 1982 and 1985, This Great Symbol by John J.MacAloon. All the above for sale as one lot. \$250.00 including postage and packing, from Joe E.Shirmer, 193 Northwest Alpine Avenue, Port Charlotte, Fla. 33952 USA. Or telephone (813) 629-0309.

Mrs Jean Singleton, 42 Ladysmith Road, Enfield, Middlesex EN1 3AA U.K. would like to correspond with another member who would be prepared to send baseball material in exchange for other sports.

Member Mike Wiggs, Bradenham, Moor Lane, Rickmansworth, Herts, GB, has for sale stamps from the host countries since 1896. Mostly in mint blocks of four, but also some singles and used copies. Contact Mike at the above address, or telephone him in the evenings, Rickmansworth 779690.

Tim Nagel, a U.S. member, is trying to compile a listing of Olympic Committees world-wide and to find out what information and souvenirs they are offering for 1988 and 1992. John Osborne, our Secretary, has offered to gather information for Tim, so if any member is able to pass on any news, it may eventually make a worthwhile article for Torch Bearer.

Binders for TORCH BEARER.

Modern Bookbinders Ltd have produced a navy blue spring loaded binder which is a suitable size to hold twelve issues of our magazine. The binders cost £4 each, inclusive of postage and packing for members living in the U.K. Overseas members should write first for details of additional postage costs. Write to John Osborne.



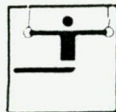
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HONOURING RUMANIAN WINNERS

Bob Wilcock.

The most successful nation at the Los Angeles Olympics, apart from the host nation herself, was Rumania, the only country in the Soviet sphere of influence to defy the boycott. Her competitors won a total of 20 gold, 16 silver and seventeen bronze medals.

Nationally, the success was celebrated philatellically through the issue of two sheetlets on 29 October 1984. There were 125,000 pairs printed, each individually numbered, and each sheet has six different stamps. Printed in multicolour litho, they were designed by Vlasto and Manescu. Each depicts a medal and an appropriate competitor or competitors, but they do not appear to depict the medal winners themselves. Designs are as follows:

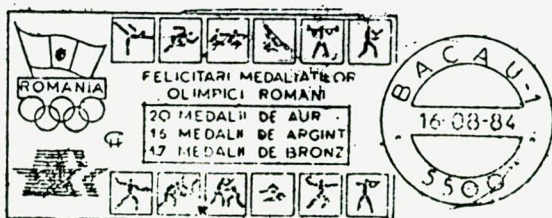
Sheet with blue border. The stamps are alternately predominantly magenta or deep green, with a face value of 3 lei.

1. Ladies single sculls, gold medal, Valeria Racila.
2. Weightlifting. Gold, only one medal and one competitor depicted, but the medals were: up to 82.5 Kg. Petre Bechero. Up to 90 Kg. Necu Vlad.
3. Ladies Track, gold, again, one medal shown, but two were won. 800 metres Doina Melinte, 3000 metres, Maricia Puica.
4. Mens Canadian pairs, 1000 metres, gold, Ivan Patzaichin and Toma Simionov.
5. Fencing. Ladies team foil, silver medal.
6. Modern Rhythmic Gymnastics, silver, Doina Staiculescu.

Sheet with yellow border. The stamps are alternately predominantly blue or rust red, again with a face value of 3 lei each.

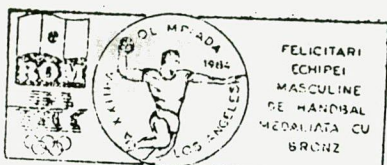
1. Ladies Floor exercises. Gold, Ecaterina Szabo.
2. Rowing. Ladies Coxless fours, gold.
3. Women's Long Jump, gold, Anisoara Stanciu.
4. Wrestling. Gold, one medal depicted, but the two medals were, Greco-Roman, 83Kg. Ion Draica, Greco-Roman, 100 Kg. Vasie Andrei.
5. Judo. Bronze medal depicted, but two won. Half Middleweight, Mircea Fratica. Open category, Mihai Cioc.
6. Shooting. Silver, men's rapid fire pistol, Cornelia Ion.

More locally, in the Bacau region, a series of thirty two slogan postmarks were used, each for just one day. Thirty one honoured medal winners from the region and are all in the same style; the Rumanian flag with the LA Olympic logo at the left, a central illustration of the sport, and the name (s) of the medal winners at the right. Illustrated is one of the cancels which shows one of Rumania's six wrestling medal winners, Vasilo Puscasu (bronze, free-style 100 Kg.) This is tied by an Olympic wrestling adhesive to one of the six postal stationery envelopes issued to mark the Games. The final cancel notes the total medal successes. It is reported from Rumania that no more than two hundred sets of covers were prepared, plus a limited number on the postal stationery and maximum cards. The dies are reported to have been destroyed.

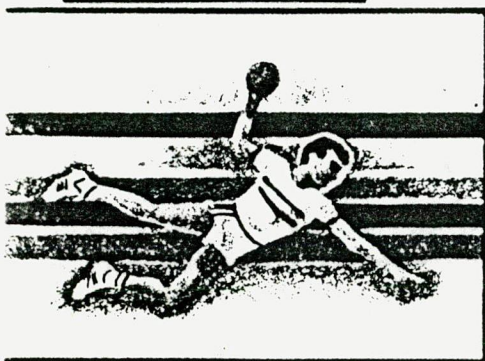


16.8.84. Bacau 1. Rumanian Olympic medal totals.

- 1.8.84. Comanesti Jud. Bacau. Weightlifting,
Gelu Radu.
- 7.8.84. Bacau 1. Women's Coxless Pairs, team.
- 8.8.84. Bacau 1. Women's Coxed 8 Sculls, team.
- 9.8.84. Bacau 1. Rapid Fire Pistol, Corneliu.
- 10.8.84. Bacau 1. Women's Single Sculls. Racila.
- 10.8.84. Bacau 3. Weightlifting. Eight winners.
- 11.8.84. Bacau 1. Greco-Roman. Five winners.
- 11.8.84. Bacau 3. Swimming, Ladies 200 metres
backstroke, Anca Patrascoiu.
- 11.8.84. Bacau 5. Fencing, Ladies team foil.
- 11.8.84. Bacau 6. Boxing. Light Welterweight,
Mircea Fulger.
- 11.8.84. Bacau 7. Men's team Sabre.
- 13.8.84. Bacau 1. Women's Team Gymnastics.
- 13.8.84. Bacau 3. Women's track. Four winners.
- 13.8.84. Bacau 5. Women's 400 metres hurdles.
C. Cojocaru.
- 13.8.84. Bacau 6. Long Jump A.Stanciu, gold,
V.Ionescu, silver.
- 13.8.84. Bacau 7. Canadian Pairs, 500 metres.
I.Patzaichin and T.Simionov.
- 13.8.84. Bacau 8. Women's Coxed Four Sculls.
- 14.8.84. Bacau 1. Women's 800 metres, Melinte.
- 14.8.84. Bacau 3. Women's Kayak, 4 X 500 metres.
- 14.8.84. Bacau 5. Handall, team.
- 14.8.84. Bacau 6. Women's 3000 metres, Puica.
- 14.8.84. Bacau 7. Handall, team member from
Bacau, Neculai Vasilica.
- 14.8.84. Bacau 8. Modern Rhythmic Gymnastics,
Doina Staiculescu.
- 14.8.84. Gh.Gheorghiu Dej 2. Member of Women's
Gymnastics team, C. Grigoras.
- 15.8.84. Bacau 1. Men's Canadian Singles, 500
metres, C.Claru.
- 15.8.84. Bacau 3. Rowing. Medal winning team.
- 15.8.84. Bacau 5. Women's Shot Put, M.Loghin.
- 15.8.84. Bacau 6. Women's Discus. F.Craciunescu.
- 15.8.84. Bacau 7. Freestyle Wrestling. 100Kg.
V. Puscascu.
- 15.8.84. Bacau 8. Judo medals, Fratica & Cioc.
- 15.8.84. Gh.Gheorghiu Dej 1. Rowing, Medal team
member, Florica Lavric.



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READING MATTERS

Catalogue de Timbres-Poste Sports et Scoutisme. Published in 1960 in Paris by Clement Brun. A small thin paper-back checklist available at Stanley Gibbons. It is a black and white illustrated 80 page listing in French of all the sports and scouting stamps issued up to Rome 1960. Catalogue numbers are from the Yvert et Tellier 1960 catalogues. If you are interested only in pre-1960 issues, this checklist is certainly a useful guide to the material available. A handy addition to early sports and Olympic literature. Price L2.

.J.O.

Games of the XXIII Olympiad Los Angeles 1984. Commemorative handbook. Published by International Sports Publications Inc. 1984. ISBN 0-913 927-02-3. Various authors. Price £19.95 (UK only) Overseas members should contact John Osborne for further details.

This is a full colour 288 page hard back book officialy sanctioned by the International Olympic Committee. It contains more than 250 colour photographs, articles of each sport, the official statistics and includes a full table of all the 1984 results in Los Angeles. This is a most interesting souvenir book devoted to the LA Games, with high quality action photographs which really do justice to the competitors. A most impressive high quality of printing and the attractive lay-out and easy to read text makes it an ideal gift for the Olympic collector.

J.O.

Los Angeles. Official Report of the British Olympic Association. Probably a better buy than the report mentioned above is the report by the British Olympic Association, which is somewhat smaller, though well done, with colour illustrations and full report of the results. Needless to say the comments on each sport give prominence to the British sportsmen and women. Members of the British Olympic Association received a free copy, and there is no indication of the cost. However, I am sure that the Association will supply full details. Membership to the B.O.A. costs £5 per annum. Full details from The British Olympic Association, 1 Church Row, Wandsworth Plain, London SW18, or telephone 01 871 2677.

R.B.

Fil-Tema Venditas u Offerta. 10 June 1985. Although this is an auction catalogue, its 52 pages are so filled with illustrations of sport and Olympic postmarks, it deserves a mention in this column. A wealth of material, including cards and postal stationery, as well as stamps and cancellations was offered. A copy may be obtained by writing to Filtema, Via Targioni Tozzetti 33D, 50144 Firenze Italy.

J.O.

IDENTIFYING GYMNASTIC EXERCISES

Robert Kensit.

Gymnastics, arguably more than any other sport, is a theme rather than a subject. Activities range from folk dance to circus and athletics. It is a part of recreation, health, education and nationalism. Until 1952, even Olympic gymnastic events included a wide range of activities, often chosen at the discretion of the competing nations.

After 1956, gymnastics as a competitive sport took the form in which it is now recognised. Even so, it can be difficult to identify the type of exercise depicted on a stamp or other image. It would be impossible to describe the variety of individual movements in gymnastics, but it should be sufficient to name the forms of apparatus used in the sport.

The best known form of gymnastics is now entitled ARTISTIC GYMNASTICS, although it was known as Olympic Gymnastics until a second variety of the sport was admitted into Olympic competition. Exercises are performed on fixed pieces of apparatus, as follows:

MEN'S ARTISTIC GYMNASTICS.

1. Floor Exercises.
2. Vaulting Horse.
3. Pommel Horse.
4. Parallel Bars.
5. High Bar.
6. Rings.

WOMEN'S ARTISTIC GYMNASTICS.

1. Floor Exercises.
2. Vaulting Horse.
3. Beam.
4. Asymmetric Bars.

Many of these are familiar in any school gymnasium. The floor area is 12 metres square; women perform to a musical accompaniment, while men do not. Men approach the vault from the front and women from the side, that is, "side saddle". The asymmetric bars were created by setting the two bars in the men's parallel bars at different heights, although it is now more commonly used in a similar fashion to the men's high bar. It is technically the offset parallel bars, as it is not really asymmetric. The beam is a strip of wood, 5 metres long, 13 cms wide, and 110cms above the floor.

In 1984, a new form of gymnastics was included in the Olympic Games. The more fluent forms of exercise which are largely excluded from the Artistic Gymnastics were formed into a separate sport called MODERN RHYTHMIC GYMNASTICS, or MRG. It is also known under different titles in other countries, including "Art Gymnastics". MRG is performed only by women, on a floor area identical in size to the Artistic Gymnastics floor, to musical accompaniment. MRG teams perform as a group of six, although, so far, only individual events are held in Olympic competition. Exercises are performed with small hand apparatus, which are manipulated in harmony with body movements. The exercises are the following:

1. Hoop.
2. Ball.
3. Rope.
4. Ribbon.
5. Clubs. (Used in pairs)
6. Free. (Without hand apparatus)

Acrobatic movements are forbidden in MRG; only four or five exercises may be used in competition, the free exercise being the most frequently dropped.

SLOGAN CANCELS FOR LAKE PLACID

Glenn Estus.

According to the United States Postal Service Philatelic Release No. 84, dated 30 November 1979, a special illustrated die hub, HOME OF THE WINTER OLYMPICS, would be placed into use at nine different post offices in the Olympic region of upstate New York from 1 November 1979 until 31 March 1980.

As a member of the Philatelic Subcommittee of the National Fine Arts Committee, the cultural arm of the Lake Placid Olympic Organising Committee, I have studied these cancellations for the last few years. From the first, there have been a number of questions arising concerning them.

The first major question assumes that since the U.S.P.S. press release was dated at the end of November 1979, the first day of use of the cancellations that month could have been different for each of the authorised post offices. The release was reported in LINN'S and other stamp journals during the first weeks of December 1979, so that other than those of local philatelists, and there are not many, the only examples of early usage would most probably be non-philatelic. I have seen no advertisements in the philatelic press offering early November examples of the slogan cancellation.

A primary source of information on the dates of use would be the postmasters of the post offices involved. Following is a list of the responses from the postmasters made to me in January 1980.

Lake Placid Club, New York, was not on the original list, but beginning in January 1979, it became the headquarters of the International Olympic Committee and also was the site of the first day ceremonies of the block of four stamps issued on 1 February 1980. It was a rural sub-station of the Lake Placid post office and sat within sight of the main post office, across Mirror Lake from the village of Lake Placid.

It being apparent that the press release was only a general advisement of the dates that the cancels were available for use, and not which told exact dates, it was necessary to turn to another primary source of information; actual mailings from the post offices involved. I had access to a large amount of mailing to a government agency from all the post offices involved except for Glen Falls and, as we shall see, Glen Falls had no real bearing on this survey.

These mailings were culled from the following:

1. All slogan cancels for all dates.
2. The latest date prior to the earliest dated slogan cancel.

Using this method, it was assumed that if the last date for the regular cancel was, for example 12 November 1979, and the earliest date for the slogan cancel was 13 November 1979, then we could assume that the first date was 13 November. This method was used to find the dates listed under "earliest seen" in the table.

To further complicate matters, there were three types of the cancels:

1. HOME OF / THE WINTER / OLYMPICS. Used at Plattsburgh.
2. HOME OF THE / WINTER / OLYMPICS. Used at Lake Placid and Ray Brook.
3. HOME OF THE / WINTER OLYMPICS. Used at Lake Placid, Lake Placid Club, Saranac Lake, Tupper

Lake and Wilmington. Notice that both Types 2 and 3 were used at Lake Placid.

The post offices at Keene and Upper Jay actually received the cancellation dies, but the dies were made for electric machines and both post offices are so small that they have only handstamps, and thus the dies were not usable.

Also, according to a letter from James M. Walsh, acting director of customer services for Glen Falls post office, "The Glen Falls post office does not have the cancel "Home of the Winter Olympics"." (letter to me dated 16 January 1980) This letter is in direct conflict with information written by Leonard Sautter in FIRST DAYS, (March/April 1981) Page 196:

"And what about Glen Falls? Well, the U.S.P.S. district coordinator for NY Olympic cancels is reported as saying that its die was "in storage" and further, "that the office had no occasion to use it". Not true. U.O. (unofficial) servicers aggressively sought it, but to no avail! Further elaboration concerning the non-availability of this slogan as reported in the philatelic press is bureaucratic gobbledygook beyond belief! In simple English, the coordinator was just plain disgruntled and uncooperative. He took out his pique on the public in general, and collectors in particular."

In a more recent letter to me (March 1983) Sautter stood by his statements made in the 1981 article in FIRST DAYS. However, in a conversation (February 1983) with a postal official from the Lake Placid region, the question of whether Glen Falls did or did not have

a special slogan die was again raised. According to this official, there was no reason for Glen Falls to have had the slogan cancel as it was not in the Olympic region.

However, Glen Falls did have cancels in storage because of its position as the sectional centre. These cancels were to be used in the event of a heavy overflow of mail to be processed or similar types of emergency during the period of the Games. It seems to be up to the reader to draw a conclusion concerning the Glen Falls slogan die.

I attended the 1980 Winter Olympic Games every day and was always attentive to philatelic matters. From the Games' beginning on 13 February to their end on 22 February, much of the philatelic mail was concerned, not with the slogan cancels, but with the special pictorial cancels available from the various venues (sites). Thus, it seems that the slogan cancels were relegated by the collectors to a secondary position after the middle of February until they were discontinued at the end of March 1980.

However, something happened in the Lake Placid post office around the middle of March. Until that time, the slogan cancel used in the main post office was the previously mentioned Type 2 (HOME OF THE / WINTER / OLYMPICS) But around 10 March, a Type 3 cancel, (HOME OF THE / WINTER OLYMPICS) was used. Why was this cancel used at the end of this period? According to the above-mentioned postal official, the main post office had a number of cancelling machines set up to handle any sort of overflow or emergency. It is believed that for a few days a new cancelling machine was placed in use. To date, only three covers have been located with the Type 3 cancel

used at Lake Placid. From the mailings that were searched, only two dates were identified, 10 March and 11 March.

In conclusion, although the events happened only a short space of four years ago, here is an area for the postal historian to research further. Obviously, the postal officials involved did not realise that someone would be interested in determining the actual first day of use of the cancel from each of the post offices. Moreover, is there a further story concerning the Glen Falls controversy? And, finally, exactly how many machines were in use at the main post office in Lake Placid? These are questions for the modern postal historian to try to solve.

This article was written partly to show that modern philately is ripe for research. We need not be concerned with only the classic period of philately; there is much yet to be done with recent postal events.

This article first appeared in the February 1984 issue of the American Philatelist, and is reprinted here with permission.

Post Offices Originally Listed in USPS Press Release

Post Office (New York State)	Date Cancel Put Into Use	Earliest Seen (see text)
Keene	never used (wrong machine)	—
Wilmington	December 1, 1979	November 23, 1979
Plattsburgh	around December 18, 1979	December 22, 1979
Upper Jay	never used (no machine)	—
Ray Brook	December 19, 1979	January 17, 1980
Glen Falls	never used (see below)	—
Lake Placid	during November 1979	December 15, 1979
Saranac Lake	November 15, 1979	November 27, 1979
Tupper Lake	November 1, 1979	December 8, 1979
Lake Placid Club	middle of January 1980	February 1, 1980

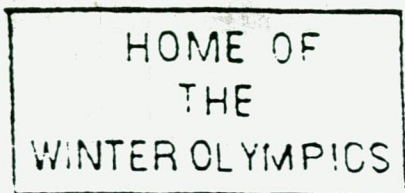


Figure 1.



Figure 2.

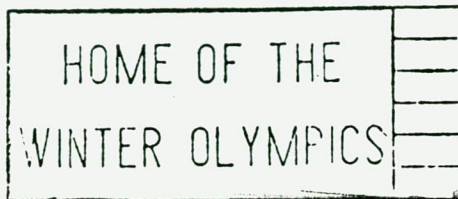


Figure 3.

J BLEAZARD	—	SPORT THEMATICS
WHY BUY RUGBY WHEN YOU WANT JUDO ?		
I provide a specialist service to supply the collector with the material he requires.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">* SETS SPLIT BY THEME* LOW PRICES* EXTREMELY FLEXIBLE SERVICE* NO VAT, GST or OTHER TAXES* PAYMENT ACCEPTED IN US \$,, STERLING or SA RAND* FULL UNCONDITIONAL GUARANTEE ON ALL PURCHASES		<p>For a price list to suit your needs send details of your collecting interests plus 30p in mint stamps (or equivalent from your own country) to cover postage and printing to :</p> <p>J BLEAZARD P O BOX 12191 BENORYN 1504 SOUTH AFRICA</p>
I also specialise in CHESS, the CINEMA and ART stamps		

SKIING FROM THE START

Sidney Amery

At the dawn of time, when hunters first fought their way north to reach territory covered with loose snow, snowshoes were invented as a means of crossing the inhospitable landscape. In Europe snowshoes have been known since ancient times in such areas as far apart as the Pyrenees and the Balkans, and in America, in a line north from New England to northern California. Archeologists have discovered snowshoes in New Mexico that were used over two thousand years ago. It was thought at first that skis developed from snowshoes, but this is unlikely, since on the one one glides, while on the other one walks, over the snow.

Skis are almost as ancient as snowshoes, and are known to have been used from the west coast of Norway and right across what is now the USSR to the Pacific coast. Early skis are divided into two different types; the Arctic, or Northern, ski and the Southern ski. The first type was used for hunting, and the second was used as a form of footwear for getting about in wintry conditions. It must be remembered that it was only in the middle of the nineteenth century that bindings were invented to keep the skis in place. Prior to this, they resembled clogs with long wooden extensions in front and behind, and the foot slipped into the gouged-out central section. Peat geologists have found a southern ski in a peat bog in southern Finland, and have dated it to the late Stone or early Bronze Age, which makes it at least 4,500 years old.

The main difference in the two types of skis lies in their length. The northern type had one long ski for the left foot and one short ski for the right foot, which was called an andor. The left ski was used for gliding, while the right ski kept up the momentum by kicking or scooting. In all probability, originally only one ski was used and the foot was used for scooting. Southern skis are of equal length,

and are as old as the northern type. In the mountain villages of southern Scandinavia, skis of unequal length could not be used since, both legs were of equal importance to cross the hilly terrain.

Skis in ancient times were used for practical purposes, as in many areas they were the only means of transport in the long, hard winters. However, in Medieval times, skiing contests took place between warriors, much as jousting contests took place in other parts of Europe. Not unnaturally in an area which is often covered by snow, the ski was also used as a mode of travel by soldiers in times of war, and much of the early history of skiing has been gleaned from military annals.

The popularity of skiing, both as a sport and for easy troop movement waned in the early nineteenth century. It was only in the second half of the nineteenth century that skiing again gained popularity as a sport. Fridtjof Nansen, the Norwegian humanitarian who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1923, did much to reawaken the interest in the sport after publishing his book "The First Crossing of Greenland", in which he relates his experiences in crossing that snow-covered land on skis in 1888.

The Norwegians probably more than any other nation, were responsible for the growth in popularity of this exhilarating sport. They were the innovators of such disciplines as ski-jumping, slalom and cross-country. Sondre Norheim, another Norwegian, developed the flexible ski with its safety binding in 1890, which made it possible for the first time to execute turns and jumps. It is therefore hardly surprising that the Norwegians and other Scandinavian countries dominated the skiing events in the Olympic Winter Games from their inception until the 1936 Olympic Games. At the first Winter Olympic Games, only Nordic skiing events were included in the programme, that is,

THE OLYMPICS AND THE MOVIE MAKERS

John Osborne.

"The most important thing in the Olympic Games is not to win, but to take part. Just as the most important thing in life is not the triumph but the struggle".

Baron Pierre de Coubertin, (1863 - 1937) founder of the modern Olympics.

It is a sad comment on our embittered world that this ideal has never been appreciated by film makers, who it seems have chosen to focus on politics and its relationship to the sports and games they have been trying to portray. Rather than discuss commercialism and politics, the following article will aim to show that Olympic films have emphasised the role of individual achievement and sporting success.

One of the first films to be made about athletics which are the highlight of the Summer Games, was "College" produced in 1927 and featuring Buster Keaton in a comic role. He attempts shot put, discus, javelin, high jump, long jump, pole vault, hammer and hurdles, all with amusing but ineffective results. In another comedy produced five years later about the forthcoming 1932 Los Angeles Games, "Million Dollar Legs" W.C.Fields succeeds in winning a gold medal by throwing a thousand pound weight. The film echoes the modern American ideal of competitiveness, as in the world of this early Olympic film, adults run the mile in a few seconds (a feat Coe would doubtless like to have achieved in the 1984 Games) and babies can jump six feet.

The 1936 Games in Berlin were among the first of the Games to be exploited by politicians. However, a four hour documentary "Olympia" shown in two parts, even used airships to convey the Greek ideals of beauty and antiquity, whilst taking the trouble to record Jesse Owens' victories

in winning the 100 metres, 200 metres and the long jump. Jim Thorpe, probably the greatest of all American athletes, whose story was told in issue 2 of TORCH BEARER was played by Burt Lancaster in "Jim Thorpe - All American" (1951) a film which ends on a sad note, as it shows the athlete as an alcoholic watching, instead of participating, in the 1932 L.A. Games.

The 1948 London Olympic Games are mentioned in the "The Bob Mathias Story" also called "The Flaming Torch" of 1954. It tells the story of the seventeen year old American who won the decathlon in London, and then went on to defend his title at the 1952 Games in Helsinki, where he won his event for the second time. The film is also an Olympic first in another respect, as the title role was played by the athlete and is one of the few Olympic films in which an actor was not used for the key role.

"Wee Geordie" is the American title of the film, made in 1956 about a Scottish hammer thrower who made it to the Melbourne Games, although it bears little relation to what actually happened. The American, Harold Connolly, won the hammer in the actual Australian Games, only to marry Olga Fikotova, the Czech discus gold medallist a year later.

The Japanese are renowned for their technical skill with the camera, an achievement illustrated in the epic film "Tokyo Olympiad" made by Kon Ichikaw in 1965, about the 1964 Tokyo Games. The film used one hundred and sixty four camera men, featured six thousand competitors and compressed the whole fifteen day event into a two hour and ten minute film - an Olympic feat, even by modern standards. The film was more fiction than documentary, emphasising the innately human quality of competitiveness so admired by de Coubertin.

"The Games" (1970) is the title of a film about four different men preparing in four different parts of the world for the Olympic marathon in Rome in 1960, where the XVII Olympiad was held. Michael Crawford stars for Britain as a milkman in training, Ryan O Neill for the Americans, an Aborigine mechanic represents the Australians whilst an aging Czech runner is portrayed by Charles Aznavor. The combination is an hilarious line up of characters, whose slapstick antics must be a reminder that every athlete needs to take a break from serious training.

The story of the Munich 1972 Games is apparently told in "Visions of Eight" produced in 1973 and claimed to be the official film of the German Games. If I seem vague, it is because the title refers to eight film directors who adopt eight approaches to emphasise the international aspect of the Olympics, with these eight different nationalities trying to explain what the Games meant to each of their countrymen.

By 1979, it had dawned upon film producers that Olympics tell stories of individual sportsmen and women, a terrible pun for the film "Dawn" produced in 1979 about a remarkable Australian swimmer. Dawn Fraser became "the human fish" one the gold medal for the Women's 100 metre free style at Melbourne in 1956, at Rome in 1960 and in 1964 at Tokyo. One of the world's greatest women swimmers, it charts her rise to success from her discovery at the age of fifteen to the death of her parents and the subsequent climax when she won her last gold in 1964.

"Running" (1975) tells the tale of a thirty two year old marathon runner, played by Kirk Douglas, who is aiming to compete in an Olympic marathon; whilst in "The Jerico Mile", also made in 1979, but this time, mainly for television, a convict beat the three minute fifty point six second mile, but does not escape to freedom.

1981 saw the arrival of probably the most acclaimed of recent Olympic films, in the form of "Chariots of Fire" which tells the story of Harold Abrahams and Eric Liddell, the latter is featured on a souvenir card produced by the Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies in April 1984. The film shows how they managed to overcome a series of figurative hurdles to win the 100 metres and 400 metres respectively for Britain at the 1924 Paris Olympics.

Coming right up to date, we now have "Running Brave" (1984) just released in London, which tells the story of Billy Mills, half Sioux, who went via Kansas University to win a gold medal at Tokyo 1964. If this film does not satiate your appetite for health and beauty, so religiously practiced by the Americans, then try "Golden Girl" a film made for T.V., shown this summer about an Olympic superwoman.

Producers have not ignored the Winter Olympics, although they have perhaps gone overboard in their obsession with the most popular of the winter sports, skiing. "Downhill Racer" (1969) stars Robert Redford, who is aiming to get his American team, in what is for me the most enjoyable and exciting movie I have seen about skiing and the Winter Olympics. "The Other Side of the Mountain" made in two parts in 1975 and 1978, and shown in 1983, on British T.V. is a "tear jerker" to put it mildly. It is an account of the American skier, Jill Kinmont, which shows just how much dedication and perseverance is needed to overcome a tragic accident. In this respect, the film shows what it really means to be an Olympian, but the producer's treatment is so maudlin that it is reminiscent of another American saga, "Peyton Place".

A good place to start your reading would be "Sports in the Movies" by Ronald Bergan, a large paper back, published in 1982 by Proteus Press.

PROFILE

HAROLD ABRAHAMSON.

Harold Abrahams was born in Bedford in England on 15 December 1899, and he died in London on 14 January 1978. His name became known to cinema goers throughout the world as one of the heroes of the award-winning film "Chariots of Fire". In the film, he was first seen showing his prowess as a runner by running around the courtyard at Trinity College in Cambridge. In fact, this episode in Abrahams' life was dreamt up by the film makers; it was Lord Burghley, another Olympic hero, who ran that historic race. However, Abrahams did win the 100 metres dash in the 1924 Olympic Games in Paris in a time of 10.6 seconds, an Olympic record. It was not the first time that he had participated in an Olympic Games. He ran in both the 100 metres and 200 metres events in Antwerp in 1920, but was beaten in the quarter finals. Both his brothers were well-known athletes, the one a participant in the 1912 Games in Stockholm.

After the Games in Paris, Abrahams never again reached his peak. The following year he injured his leg while long jumping and retired from competitive athletics. He went on to become a lawyer, statistician and became the president of the British Amateur Athletic Association. He was also a successful athletics correspondent for the Sunday Times and a radio sports commentator. As indicated in the film, he married his screen sweetheart. After their marriage, they lived in Hatch End, where they were both active members of the Hatch End Operatic Society.

Harold Abrahams has not been commemorated philatelically, but postcards from the 1924 period do exist that show him, and that other great British athlete, Eric Liddell.

OLYMPISM, NATIONALISM AND POLITICS

Manfred Bergman.

Politics have played a permanent role in the history of the Olympic Games and Olympic movement. Could it be otherwise? Coubertin said: "The competitor of the modern Olympic Games enhances his country, his race and his flag". It is not my intention to comment on the various political events linked to the Olympic Games; my wish is to ennumerate some of them. It is up to the reader to study them in depth, if he so wishes, and to draw his own conclusion.

FIRST OLYMPIAD 1896.

Germany, through its Turnerschaft, (the largest sports organisation in the world at that time) refused the invitation of the Greek government to participate. Dr Gebhardt, the German temporary member of the International Olympic Committee, succeeded in getting together a team made out of individual German athletes.

France, learning about the German participation, wanted to boycott the Games, but in the end, did participate.

Hungary financed its team with tax payer's money, to show its independence from Austria. The Hungarians showed their own colours, and not those of Austria. (Hungary at that time was still a part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire)

Irish sportsmen refused to be a part of the British delegation.

Turkey refused to participate.

SECOND OLYMPIAD 1900.

The German Turnerschaft again boycotted the Games, and more friction between France and Germany preceeded the opening.

THIRD OLYMPIAD 1904.

The Games almost did not take place because of politics. Chicago and St. Louis both wanted the Games. The President of the United States, Theodore Roosevelt, opted for St. Louis, which was celebrating the centenary of the Louisiana Purchase Exhibition. Coubertin was offended that the decision had been taken away from him, and refused to go to the States.

Again, the Turnerschaft boycotted the Games. This led to the withdrawal of Berlin's candidature to organise the 1908 Games.

10th ANNIVERSARY OR INTERIM GAMES OF 1906.

These interim Games were not to the liking of Coubertin. Gebhardt, the German, and Kémény, the Hungarian delegates of the I.O.C. were in favour of the Games. Both resigned from the I.O.C. in 1908.

FOURTH OLYMPIAD 1908.

Ireland refused to march under the British flag, while Finland refused to march under that of Russia. However, they were obliged to do so.

The U.S. team refused to dip their flag whilst marching past King Edward VII, and also protested against the inclusion of independent Australian, South African and Canadian teams. The U.S. team went so far as to ridicule Britain by parading a chained lion through the streets of New York on their return to the U.S.A. after the Games.

FIFTH OLYMPIAD 1912.

Finland again refused to march behind the flag of Russia, while Hungary refused to march behind that of Austria. Bohemia, which was a part of Austria, wanted to field an independent team. Coubertin succeeded in reaching the following compromise:

Hungary, who would have boycotted the Games, were allowed to participate as an independent nation. Finland and Bohemia marched behind the Russian

and Austrian flags, but were allowed to top these with their national flag. (Coubertin: "There also exists, next to the political geography, a sports geography!")

SIXTH OLYMPIAD 1916.

The Games did not take place because of the First World War.

Soon after the war started, there was an anti-German feeling within the I.O.C. Coubertin, however, refused to exclude the German delegates and to transfer the Games to the United States, which, at that stage, had not entered the war.

SEVENTH OLYMPIAD 1920.

Germany, Austria, Hungary, Turkey and Soviet Russia were not invited to participate. The Austrian, Hungarian, Turkish and Bulgarian members of the I.O.C. were excluded from their Olympic functions at the Games. All of the German delegates had either died or resigned during the war. On the other hand, the Russian delegate was not excluded from the I.O.C.

EIGHTH OLYMPIAD 1924.

Germany was again not invited. The First Winter Games (not then defined as Olympic) took place against the wish of the Scandinavian countries, who for nationalistic reasons had objected since 1900 to the idea of winter Games.

The German exclusion in 1920 and 1924, caused them to organise their own national "Olympic" Games, called the Deutsche Kampfspiele. They were held in 1922 in Berlin, 1926 in Cologne, and in 1930 for the last time.

In 1930, Theodor Lewald, the German delegate of the I.O.C. invited them to Berlin for the annual Congress. The German members of the Olympic Committee (DRA) and the German Turnerschaft opposed this invitation. They tried to prevent German participation at the Los Angeles Games of 1932. The team went anyway, financed by

several German industries, and encouraged by von Hindenburg.

To conclude this first part. Let us remember that the Olympic Oath, approved in 1912 in Stockholm, and used from 1920 until 1960, was submitted by the German members of the I.O.C. At that time, Asseburg, von Podbielski, Diem and Lewald.

"We swear that we will take part in the Olympic Games in loyal competition, respecting the regulations which govern them, and desirous of participating in them in the true spirit of sportsmanship, for the honour of our country and for the glory of sport".

The HONOUR of the COUNTRY precedes the GLORY of SPORT. Is it then surprising that nationalism and politics have played such an important role in the history of the Olympic Games?

MEMORIAL TO THE ISRAELI ATHLETES

The killing at the 1972 Olympic Games in Munich of eleven Israeli sportsmen by Arab terrorists will forever remain a black spot in Olympic history. The Jewish National Fund remembered the dead with special labels in 1972 and 1973.

The first issue to appear was an overprint on the 1951 Third Maccabiah Games held in Ramat Gan in 1950. The stamps depict the stadium where the games were held. The six stamps were overprinted in Hebrew and English, "1972, In Memory of the Israeli Sportsmen Massacred by Arab Terrorists at Munich Olympic Games on September 9 1972." The overprint was in black, and a second set was released with the overprint in red. The black overprint is known inverted.

In 1973, a single label was released with the names of the eleven dead as the main feature of the design. The tab bears the inscription "In Memory of the Sportsmen September 9 1972." This design was repeated in a miniature sheet that was issued later in the year, which makes up the twelfth label; the other eleven labels show portraits of the sportsmen. The sheetlet was perforated 10½, but it is also known imperforate. The top of the sheetlet depicts the JNF forest, planted in memory of the slain athletes, and is inscribed in Hebrew and English, "A Memorial Issue, Dedicated to the Memory of the Eleven Sportsmen, Munich 5 September 1972." Note the date, 5 rather than 9 September.

Prior to the release of this sheetlet, another twenty five label miniature sheet was issued for the beautification of developing communities. The first eleven labels also show portraits of the slain athletes, which are different than those used in the later issue. The eleven sports men were, Yosef Guttfreund, Moshe Weinberg, Eliezer Halfin, Mark Slairn, Zeev Friedman, Joseph Romano, Kehat Schorr, Andre Spitzer, Amitzur Schapira and Yaakov Springer.

The Jewish National Fund has been responsible for the acquisition of land and the work of restoration and reclaiming of barren wasteland and marshy swamps for nearly eighty years. Apart from the blue collecting boxes, familiar in many Jewish households, the JNF have issued stamps and labels to help raise funds to continue this restoration work. Like the Danish Christmas seals, the JNF labels have a large following of Cinderella philatelists, and a catalogue has been prepared which lists all the JNF issues from their inception in 1902 until 1973.

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Ask Bob Wilcock to send you a booklet to fill for the packet, 24 Hamilton Crescent, Brentwood, Essex CM14 5ES

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THE INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC ACADEMY

The International Olympic Academy was set up in 1960 in order to spread the Olympic ideals and principles. The original idea for such an Academy was suggested by Baron Pierre de Coubertin, the Frenchman responsible for reviving the Games in 1896. Sadly, de Coubertin died before the Academy came into being. His dream that people from all over the world could come together to learn about Olympism was not realised until over twenty years after his death in 1937.

The first Academy session was held in 1961, near the site of the original ancient Games, at Olympia on the western Peloponnese. The first students and lecturers sat on the banks of the River Alpheos and discussed the Olympic issues of the day. The Academy is now a sizeable sports complex, set among the beautiful pine-clad hills of southern Greece.

Every year, the Academy holds its main sessions for two weeks during July. These sessions are attended by lecturers, guests and students from many of the hundred and forty odd countries who belong to the Olympic movement. The National Olympic Associations select which students will be invited to attend the sessions. Generally four students attend from the United Kingdom, and these come from all walks of life, from all over the country. Generally, students range in age from 18 to 28 years, although older students are accepted. In Great Britain, the students are generally accepted for scholarships from P.E. students and teachers, sports administrators and journalists, as well as students, teachers and graduates in other subjects.

Each year's two week session is divided between lectures, discussions, films, sporting and leisure activities, and various trips are also made. Subjects covered include the history of

the ancient Olympic Games, the future of the modern Games, the working of the International Olympic Committee, the study of sport and art, as well as sport sciences and the sociology of Olympism. Talks are also given by past Olympic sportsmen and sportswomen.

From time to time, meter cancellations have been used on mail sent from the Academy. While the renovations at the Olympia Museum were being carried out from 1967 to 1970, and the site for the Academy was being prepared, the Academy offices were situated in Athens. Since returning to Olympia, the meter cancellation used by the Academy has not used a slogan.

09303



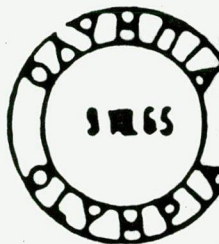
Cancellation without slogan, used for 11th session after the return to Olympia in 1970.



05626

ACADEMIE OLYMPIQUE INTERNATIONALE

VI SESSION - 8-24 Août 1965



Cancellation used for the 5th session of the International Olympic Academy at Olympia.



08913



Used during the 9th session of the IOA, Athens.



1961 1970

ΔΕΚΑΕΤΗΡΙΣ ΔΙΕΘΝΟΥΣ
ΟΛΥΜΠΙΑΚΗΣ ΑΚΑΔΗΜΙΑΣ

08913



17968

Used during the 10th session of the IOA, Athens.



Used in the early years that the Academy was established at Olympia.

FROM THE DIARY OF TOMMY HAMPSON

Thomas Hampson was born on 28 October 1907, and died on 5 September 1965. He was the winner in the 800 metres in Los Angeles in 1932, in a world and Olympic record time of 1:49,7. He was also a part of the British 4 X 400 metres relay team, which came 2nd.

FRIDAY, JULY 22, CHICAGO.

(Breaking the train journey across America)
I have seen most of the Canadian boys today, and the Canadian girls too, for that matter. (Alexander) Wilson (2nd, 800 metres) is bouncing in an outrageous manner, but Phil Edwards (3rd, 800 metres) is still the decent quiet gentleman without any side, but rather conscious of his colour, being black. I am not greatly afraid of either of these, though I do not underestimate their powers. If I keep within reasonable distance of them, no matter what pace they set, I should be alright. Pray God to multiply my strength a hundredfold that I may win for the glory of England, and the satisfaction of all who look to me to do great things. If I can do this, I will ask no more of a bountiful providence, but will give up athletic activity and make way for younger and better men.

MONDAY, JULY 25, LOS ANGELES.

Our hut is No. 907, shared with (Crew) Stoneley (2nd, with Hampson in the 4 X 400 metres relay) We have a glorious view from our little veranda, right over Beverly Hills to Hollywood, and we can see a good bit of the town and the air here is like wine, and the sun beautifully warm. The latest evening recreation in LA seems to be to drive, or bus up to the village and there stroll about and converse with such athletes as are willing. I notice, however, that the majority of the visitors are women, some of them quite young girls, but all heav-

ily powdered and painted. It is hero-worship which draws them in most cases, but I have no doubt that many of them have something of their own to sell or to trade for some souvenir of the Games.

SATURDAY, JULY 30.

I have never seen such a sight in my life, or participated in such an awe-inspiring ceremony as the opening ceremony. Tiers upon tiers of seats, crowded with about 80,000 people, all cheering and clapping as we passed by. The band played us all in, and it took well over half an hour for all the teams to march round the beautifully surfaced track and line up in the middle. We removed our hats for the march past. As I listened and gazed round at the applauding crowd, I lived an age in a moment, back to ancient Greece, yet always vividly conscious of the present. To the soft strains of another hymn, the standard bearers went up to the rostrum and every competitor raised his right hand to signify assent to the Olympic oath. The 10th Olympiad has begun. What will it bring for mankind, for my country and for my dear ones and for myself? Success or failure worries me very little, as far as I am concerned, it is the repercussions it will have for Great Britain, who has a middle distance reputation to keep up.

SUNDAY, JULY 31.

Laid out my things for this afternoon, my two pairs of running shoes, my tennis shoes for walking about, my vest and slippers etc., and my lovely silk knickers of happy association. I drew inside position in my heat of the 800 metres, but we waited for the American salute for the winner of the shot putt before getting to our marks. Two false starts by Danz and we were off, on a very comfortable 56 quarter, mine, I suppose being 56 $\frac{1}{2}$. The bunch did not seem to be thinning out, so at 600 yards I

lengthened and passed everybody quite easily and strode home a comfortable winner by 4 or 5 yards in 1:53.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 4.

All the events of this momentous time seem so jumbled that it will be difficult to sort them out. My athletic ambition formulated scarcely four years ago has been realised, and more than realised. That I, of all people, should be the first to accomplish what has hitherto been regarded as a physical impossibility, lowering 1:50 for 800 metres. Small credit to me too. Everything has been in my favour since August 1928, I have had "the breaks" all along the line. It was a beautiful afternoon at the track, warm and sunny, hardly a breath of wind and the track lightning fast. At last, the warning about fair play, the starter's remarks "And may the best man win", general handshaking. The calm steady voice of the starter, the only one who seems unexcited in the midst of this turmoil. Crack! goes the pistol, and I am badly away. A dizzy pace around the turn, the fools in front crashing each other as they jockey for position. Let 'em, I'm keeping out of it; once around this bend and I'll pick up and choose on the straight. A lank black figure striding out ahead. The voice of the microphone says "First 200 24:10 Sec". Why this madness? I am running to 55, so I shall be 30 or 40 yards back. Thank God he's easing up now, and round the bend we go. 52:3/5 Edwards' quarter. Mine must be about 54¹/₂ then, not so far out, after all. Watch for the boxing on the bend. Now down this straight, let them have it. Oh God, help me, I'm tired. I can't manage it. Yes I can, though. I beat Edwards twice two years ago. Oh damn this sun, round the bend; I can't see what's happening. We're in the straight. Wonder how far from the tape. I can't see. Harder, harder, harder, shall I do it? Yes, I will. At last, I'm just in front,

my shadow just ahead. Oh, where is that tape? My legs won't take me there. What a row the crowd are making too! Ah, thank God, I felt it break, it must have been. Yes, there's Wilson patting me: "Well run, Tommy". Yes, too damned well, I'm all out. Down, down, down, buzz and roar everywhere, I can't see anything.

Everybody crowds around with congratulations and after about ten minutes of back slapping, handshaking, photographing I am led back to the benches to find my shoes. How the crowd roars. They don't know how I feel. They don't know how I've broken my glasses as I fell. I raise my hat to the surrounding cheers. And the time, a new Olympic and world's record, 1m 49 8/10secs. God Save the King! No, I can't look at the flag, it seems like six flags. I stand to attention and try to control myself. I want to cry, to laugh, to shout and fling my arms about: but I can't. I was never so exhausted before; a dull ache all over, a heart nearly bursting with joy and pride, a roaring in my ears, and everything seems ashake. Once more to face the cameras and the microphone. A medal; many thanks, but I'll see it later. Douglas Fairbanks is standing and waving and shouting; "Well done, Tommy" and Mary Pickford also waves and smiles.



I'm the most important person in the world at this moment!

AUSTRALIA AT LOS ANGELES

Robert Budge.

From Australia's point of view, the 1984 Games were a success, especially since Glynis Nunn won the Heptathlon, the first time that this event was held, and Dean Lukin, John Sieben and the 4,000 metres Team Pursuit also took gold medals back to Australia.

A number of companies used envelopes which showed that they were a sponsor or supporter of the Australian team, while others advertised their allegiance in the newspapers. Companies that used envelopes included Dulux, the paint manufacturers, National Panasonic, the electronics company, and ANZ, the bankers. The Dulux and ANZ slogans were printed straight onto the envelope, while National Panasonic used a label.



Unfortunately, television coverage in Australia was not first class. As a matter of fact, it was about the worst that I have ever seen! The television station that televised the Games was Channel 10, and they used a postage meter to show that they had the official coverage. This was in red, but I wrote to them asking for an example of the meter and received a copy in purple. The wording above and below the Olympic Rings and the Australian 1984 Olympic logo was: NETWORK 10 / THE AUSTRALIAN OLYMPIC NETWORK. The circular date stamp is from the suburb of Nunawading, where the TV offices are situated.

To celebrate the Olympic Games, Australia Post brought out three stamps. The value of all of them was 30 cents, and they show a stylised rendering of before, during and after a race. A special postmark was also used, which showed Willie, the Australian mascot, in front of the Olympic flag. This was used in each state capital. There were only three official special postcards, and they were of the maximum card format, and were released by the Stamp Promotion Council of Australia.



The Australian Olympic Federation's logo, (the Olympic rings with two boomerangs) and the mascot, (Willie) were also used on an endless number of products, which included pens, Ties and T-shirts. Come to think of it, you name it, and it was available!

The Australian Olympic Federation envelope only differed from that used generally by a small sticker of Willie on the bottom left corner of the front, otherwise, there was no visible difference.

I have heard of two envelopes that were released after the Games to celebrate Dean Lukin's gold medal in the super-heavyweight class, and the other to celebrate the win of the 4,000 metres Team Pursuit member, Michael Grenda, but I have not yet seen these for myself.



The Australian match box company, Bryant and May, brought out match boxes called "Olympic Redheads", of which twenty were needed to complete a set. Perhaps it should be explained that the "Redhead" was a Bryant and May symbol. They offered a poster on which the the match box covers could be stuck, a differently hatted redhead for each Olympiad. To obtain the poster, it was necessary to send the outer wrapper from three packets of matches, twelve in a packet. The poster therefore cost A\$ 3 in reality, but one did get thirty six boxes of matches! These could be used to start the collection, but it was necessary to buy more or to swap them to get a full set of twenty "Redheads".

The poster, measuring 22" x 30" was printed on white gloss paper, with the printing and design in black and red. Apart from giving useful information for each Olympiad, such as the number of participating nations and individuals, it also gives the number of Australian medallists but otherwise gives only trivial information, though much of it is very interesting.

If any member would like a completed "Redheads" poster, Robert will try to obtain one for A\$ 5.

to cover the cost and postage. If he is unable to fill your order, he will return your cheque. In closing, if anybody would like to have a copy of the Australian Olympic Federation official report and the complete results from Los Angeles and Sarajevo, let me know. The report sells for \$A 4.95, and postage and packing will need to be added. Write to me at 46 Bent Street, Moonee Ponds, Victoria 3039, Victoria, Australia,

FROM THE PACKET MANAGER.

As well as the vignettes mentioned in the March issue of Torch Bearer, Royal Insurance's Watford office used an Olympic meter in 1984. They have made some copies available to S.O.C. members, and while most are now circulating with the exchange packet, overseas members may obtain a copy by sending any Olympic meter in exchange, or 2 IRC's (Europe) or 3 IRC's (Elsewhere)



The first packet contained some L600 in stamps and postal history, of which some 40% was sold. The second and third packets are selling equally well. These packets contain some superb modern material, much of it priced below cost. There is more of this material in the next circuit, starting in September. For insurance reasons, the packet can only circulate in the United Kingdom, but overseas members can send duplicate material. Application forms for inclusion in the circuit are available from, Bob Wilcock, 24 Hamilton Crescent, Brentwood, Essex CM14 5ES.

OLYMPIC COINS


The American Silver Dollar can claim to be the most famous coin in the world. It is associated with the Old West, and conjures up images of outlaws like Billy the Kid, riverboat gamblers, prospectors, cowboys and legendary lawmen like Wyatt Earp. It was the cornerstone of the American monetary system. Since its introduction in 1794, the United States has grown from a wilderness to one of the most populous and affluent countries in the world.

The striking of solid silver dollars to commemorate special events is rare. The first such coin was struck in 1900, the famous LaFayette Dollar, and it was not until 1983 that the second was minted to commemorate the forthcoming Olympic Games. A third silver Dollar was struck in 1984 in honour of the XXIII Olympiad in Los Angeles. Two versions of the coin, both in 90% pure silver, were struck. The proof version was struck at the U.S. Government Mint in San Francisco, while the coin described as "brilliant uncirculated" was struck at the U.S. Government Mint in Philadelphia. Both coins are encased in protective, numbered sleeves, housed in a presentation box. For the first time in fifty years, the U.S. also issued a Gold Eagle, (\$10 coin) to commemorate the Olympic Games of Los Angeles. Like the Silver Dollar, two versions were minted, proof and brilliant uncirculated. Both were struck at the U.S. Government Mint at West Point, and are the first coins ever to bear the 'W' mint mark. The coins are 90% pure gold and weigh 16.718 grams.

The striking of special coins for the Olympic Games is not a modern innovation. The first known Olympic coin was struck almost 2,500 years ago in 480BC. The minting of coins to


commemorate important events predates books, porcelain and many other artifacts, which are now regarded as highly traditional forms of souvenirs.

The United States was not the only country to issue commemorative silver coins in 1984 to mark Olympic year. Greece, China, Hungary, Bulgaria, Jamaica, Turkey and Lesotho, among others, all issued silver coins in various denominations, and varying degrees of purity. They range in price from £15 to £85, and anyone interested in purchasing these, could make enquiries at their local bank in the first instance.



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

1984
OLYMPIC 10 DOLLAR
.900 FINE GOLD
PROOF CONDITION



DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

1984 OLYMPIC 10 DOLLAR
BRILLIANT UNCIRCULATED

Specifications: face value: 10 U.S.S.
weight: 16.718 g.
fine gold: 15.046 g. (.484 troy oz)
diameter: 27.00 mm.

signature of Donna Pope guarantees
origin and authenticity of this coin.

Donna Pope
Director of the United States Mint

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0037947
U.S. Mint West Point

Official U.S. Olympic Coin holder
Authorized by U.S. Olympic Committee

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

1984 OLYMPIC 10 DOLLAR
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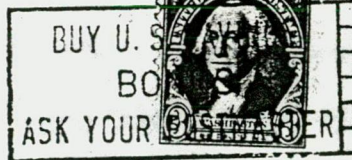
Official U.S. Olympic Coin holder
Authorized by U.S. Olympic Committee

1936 U.S. MARATHON TRIALS

Illustrated is a cover produced to commemorate the selection of U.S. Marathon athletes to represent the American team at the 1936 Games. Does anyone know of any similar covers? The American Olympic Committee Report of 1936, confirms that the final Olympic marathon trials were held on 20 April 1936 at Boston, and Washington DC on 30 May. As a result of these two try-outs, the following three men were picked for the team: Ellison M. Brown, William F. Mc Mahon and John A. Kelly. During the Berlin marathon on 9 August, Brown and McMahon withdrew from the race, and Kelly was placed 18th, with a time of 2 hours, 49 minutes, 32.4 secs.

Information supplied by Edward Epstein, New York

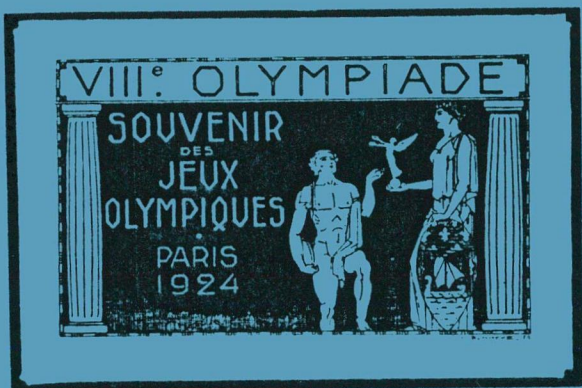
The Washington Star
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