

TORCH BEARER



SOCIETY of OLYMPIC COLLECTORS

TORCH BEARER

VOLUME III

SEPTEMBER 1986

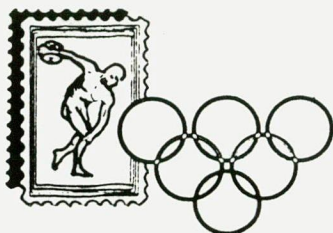
ISSUE 3.

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FRONT PAGE

At the time of writing, summer has only just started, and by the time of reading this issue, the autumn will almost be here. It occurred to me after the June issue had gone to press that I had not included a Front Page. Obviously I had nothing to add that could not be found in the pages of the magazine.

I would like to issue a warm welcome to Robert Kensit and Robert Farley, who are joining the Committee at the next meeting in October. At present, they will not have a specific function, but it was felt by the Committee that, with a membership of over two hundred and fifty, and growing, it was time to have some additional members to share the workload. If anyone feels that they can make a positive contribution to the success of the Society, perhaps they would drop me a line.

Elsewhere in this issue, you will find the first report of Olymphilex '87 in Rome. Those who attended the first exhibition in Lausanne had a marvellous time, and have already indicated that they will attend the Rome exhibition. If sufficient members are interested in visiting the Eternal City in August/September 1987, it may be worthwhile for the Society to undertake the organisation of such a tour. Could any members who may be interested drop me a line (without obligation at this time) and if there is sufficient interest, a full report will appear in the December magazine.

The Autumn issue of THEMESCENE, the magazine of the British Thematic Association is devoted to sport, in honour of the Commonwealth Games. If any member would like to receive a copy, they are available at £1.00 from Mr Brian Sole, 3, Stockfield Road, Claygate, Esher, Surrey, KT10 0QG, Great Britain.

DEAR FRANCESKA

The March issue, just received, is excellent; so rich in information. On page 29 there is a letter from Dr. M. Bergman concerning the Greek 1906 Olympic stamps. He writes that the imperforate stamps, values 1, 2, 3, 5, 10 lepta and 1 Drachma are genuine, while the 20, 25 and 50 lepta are not, and that these are doctored forgeries. He is only correct in regard to the 50 lepta. The 20 and 25 lepta exist in genuine imperforate pairs. It is interesting to note that, when in the 1930's, stock was taken of the remainders of all Greek stamps, ninety copies of the 20 lepta were found imperforate, as is shown by the official list which was drawn up at the time.

I am sure that readers will be interested in the above information.

- P.J.Drossos -

+++++

Thank you for sending me a copy of Mr Drossos' letter, thus giving me a chance to reply in the same issue. Mr Drossos was not the only voice which argued with my statement. Two other collectors approached me directly. One of them was Michael Tsironis, a pioneer of Olympic collecting for whom I have the highest regard.

I should have known that an absolute "No" does not, with rare exceptions, exist in philately, and would provoke reactions. My statement should have been limited to my own experience, and to the best of my knowledge, but I was carried away by my concern about the doctored items continuing to be sold. Mea culpa!

Being ready to stand corrected, I wrote to Mr Drossos asking him for photocopies of genuine accidental imperforates and the official stock list drawn up in the 1930's. I added that I would revise my opinion about the existence of accidental imperforate 20 lepta stamps, (but not about the doctored items now being offered) if convincing evidence were to be forthcoming. Mr Drossos

was kind enough to reply, and his letter is added as an appendix. To be frank, Mr Drossos' letter left me very perplexed.

1. The evidence alluded to in his original letter to TORCH BEARER concerning the stock lists, was not substantiated.

2. Mr Drossos now offers other evidence, namely the 1906 errors (read 20 lepta imperforates) found in the collection of the late Mr Argyropoulos. Mr Drossos acquired this material and sold it to many of his friends, who were happy to possess it. Does the fact the Mr Argyropoulos owned errors, (20 lepta imperforates) and that they passed through Mr Drossos' hands and thence to his friends, prove that they are genuine? I happen to own a 50 lepta imperforate. Does this mean that it is genuine? Of course it does not, and Mr Drossos' confirms this.

Kohl, in his handbook, (and I am fluent in German so I know exactly what he wrote) already doubted that the 20 lepta imperforates submitted to him in the 1920's had been genuine. Kohl suspected that they were items originating from sheets with misplaced perforations, and were therefore partially imperforate, which were then cut to create complete imperforate varieties. I happen to have a few of these, (including the perforate part of the stamp) and was able to reconstruct the whole "operation." (Please be a little patient, and you will be able to read the full details in the article that I am preparing.)

Furthermore, one has to consider the normal imperforate stamps that originate from the colour essays in the accepted colours, which were printed in sheets and can easily be mistaken for the definitive printing, and be confused with accidental imperforates. If Mr Drossos has concrete evidence that 20 and 25 lepta accidental imperforates exist let him come forward with this evidence, and I shall stand corrected. I am afraid that his statements are not borne out by concrete proof. Until this evidence is forthcoming, I maintain:

1. What is now being sold is either doctored or originating from a colour essay sheet, which is usually found imperforate.
2. Genuine, complete (four margin) accidental imperforates have not been found on the 20 lepta.
3. Even if they were "discovered", (and I shall be the first person to be happy about this and to acquire a copy,) will not alter the fact that the items now being sold are doctored. Of course, if Mr Drossos believes that the imperforates taken from the colour essays are in the same category as accidental imperforates, that is up to him. I agree with him that imperforate 20 lepta stamps exist, but they are not varieties.

Philately, as any other science, has to search in order to discover what is hidden behind "appearances", and often fight against the apparently obvious interpretation of the varieties that are "found." This gives me the opportunity to deal with another problem..... another expert..... and to put out another warning.

Many of you may be familiar with the Segg presentation sheet of 1906. (Segg, a British paper manufacturer, was under contract to supply Greece with its stamps since 1899. Segg sub-contracted the printing of the 1906 set to Perkins, Bacon and Co.) If you are new to Olympic collecting, an illustration of the Segg presentation sheet is shown. The stamps in this sheet are the same as the die proofs on carton paper in the accepted colour, though not 100% identical. There is a small vertical line at the top of the large format stamps and a horizontal line on the lateral margin of the small format stamps, which are found on the stamps of the presentation sheets, but never on the die proofs. Lately, Segg stamps are being offered, not in the sheet, but individually, as die proofs. They even have the certificate of a well-known expertiser. The problem is that the die proof is worth 10-20 times more than a stamp out of the presentation sheet, which

Dear Dr Bergman,

Thank you for your letter of 20 April. I read with interest what you write regarding the Greek Olympics. I see that you intend to write an article on the subject, giving your theories. Theories which are quite wrong. Once you mention Kohl's handbook, there is much to learn from it. When the book appeared around 1923, I was already active in business. I was well connected with the author, the late Alexander Argyropoulos, and had the possibility of studying his collections, which included much Olympic material, including the 1906 errors. Since then, quite a lot of this material has passed through my hands, and my friends who have acquired it, are most glad to possess it. At my age, I am trying to curtail my activities, and I have parted with all these rarities.

P.J.Drossos. 27 April '86.

(ED. I believe that this controversy is of sufficient importance to warrant publishing the correspondence in full.)

+++++

With regard to the 1984 Olympic Games stamps from countries which boycotted the Games, I was sent a registered letter from Poland, postmarked 1 Oct. 1984. Although I can have no idea when the stamps attached were purchased, the cover shows all six values from the 1984 Olympic set. This example of Polish postal procedure is certainly in contrast to that of the West German Post Office's attitude to their withdrawn 1980 Olympic issue. (See June 1984 TORCH BEARER) Mint sets of the Polish and Czechoslovakian 1984 Olympic issues seem to be easily available in some London shops, and I would surmise that these may have been sold to foreign dealers after they were withdrawn from sale in their own country. The withdrawn stocks of 1980 Olympic United States stamps were, in fact, made available for sale after the Games closed, on the supposition that there was no harm in reissuing them, since the Games, and therefore the boycott, was over.

-Robert Kensit-

It was reported in the Danish newspaper, "Berlingske Tidende" in the 18 January issue that the collector, Claes Weibel from Aarhus found an example of the unissued 1980 Olympic stamp of West Germany in a packet of German missionary kiloware. The example, apparently used by the son of the former Federal Postmaster Gescheidle, bears a very clear impression of the crown of the postmark of one of the machines used in the former post office at Munich railway station, 8000 BPA MUNCHEN, dated 8.11.82-15

++++
As a part of the Parisian bid to host the 1992 Games they are giving away a briefcase containing five pens in the Olympic colours as well as a quantity of literature, according to a French television programme. Has any member seen these briefcases, or have any further details? If so, please contact your Secretary or Editor.

++++
Greece issued a series of sports stamps on 3 March. The 110 drachmae value commemorates the 90th Anniversary of the first modern Olympic Games. It illustrates a god with a mythical bird and was a design planned by Nikephoros Lytras for the 1896 Greek Olympic issue.

++++
Among the souvenirs produced by Lillehammer in their bid to host the 1992 Olympic Winter Games are mugs, T shirts and ashtrays. Some Norwegians are a little alarmed at the aggressiveness of the campaign.

++++
Sandy, Oregon, in the United States intend to bid for the 1996 Olympic Winter Games. If unsuccessful for 1992, Anchorage, Alaska, also intend trying again for the next Winter Games in 1996.

WOO-96, short for Winter Organization Oregon 1996, will have a Sandy Post Office Box 1996, according to the WOO President Sam Lackoff. Sandy was chosen because it is the closest major town to Mount Hood, and is larger than Lake Placid where the Winter Games were held in 1932 and 1980. The final venue will not be decided until 1989, but Lackoff has assured the locals that none of the expense will be borne by the state tax payers. Mount Hood's Mirror Mountain would be used for ski jumping, bob sledding and luge, the Cloud Gap area is intended for speed skating, Mount Batchelor would be the site of the downhill and slalom and the Eugene Autzen Stadium would be used for the skating events.

+++++

At a general assembly of the Association of the National Olympic Committees held at the end of April, only Charles Palmer of Great Britain and Lance Cross of New Zealand voted in favour of allowing professional athletes to participate in the 1988 Games in Seoul. Before the meeting, it was anticipated that most of the 152 members would be in favour of the move. Charles Palmer called for an end to the hypocrisy and for the Olympic Movement to face the reality that professionals had already participated in the Games. Marat Gramov, the Soviet NOC president was the most vociferous in his attack on the commercialism and professionalism in present-day sport.

+++++

Olympic host cities are very reluctant to allow either the official five ring Olympic ring symbol or the city's special Games logo to be used commercially, and threaten legal action against anyone who copies them. But the boot could be on the other foot for the Seoul Games. The logo chosen for the Games, the Tiger, bears an uncanny resemblance to Tony the Tiger seen on the Kelloggs Frosties cereal packets!

+++++

The International Olympic Committee at their meeting in Seoul, changed its rules in a bid to discourage a possible boycott of the 1988 Games. The move was aimed at heading off a call by Cuba and North Korea for a boycott of the Games. The two nations have called for the boycott unless the event is shared with North Korea. Under previous IOC rules, Olympic nations have to give the host nation only six weeks notice whether or not they are attending. Olympic officials believe that this short notice allows some nations a form of blackmail to use against the Seoul planners as a political bargaining point. The I.O.C has decided that, in future, notice of intent to participate must be given six months before the Games, and for the first time, the invitations will be issued by the I.O.C. and not by the host. This is aimed at gaining an early commitment from countries and should help with the planning. It will also allow action to be taken against any who pull out at a late stage. It would also be seen as a direct snub to the I.O.C. for a nation to refuse to participate.

+++++

Australian federal government authorities believe Brisbane could host the 1988 Olympic Games, four years ahead of the present plan, if Seoul were to lose the Games for political reasons. Although this is unlikely, threats of internal upheaval, terrorism, conflict with North Korea and a crisis between neighbouring China and the Soviet Union have seriously heightened speculation that Seoul will be unable to host the Games. Brisbane's plans were far in advance of any other nation, and full financial support has been guaranteed, should the need arise.

+++++

Greek Prime Minister, Andreas Papandreou, called on the International Olympic Committee in April to allow Greece to host the 1996 Games on the 100th Anniversary of their birth. In a speech

to I.O.C. members, Mr Papandreou repeated that Greece had offered itself as a permanent site for the Olympic Games, founded in ancient Greece, but said that it was up to the I.O.C. to decide whether to accept the offer.

+++++

The Australian Olympic Federation wants to alter its constitution so that two athletes could be given a seat on the federation, and thereby have a voice in the policies. It would be the first time that athletes would have a seat on the federation and thereby help to formulate the decisions that affect them.

+++++

Many people were puzzled how synchronised swimming became an Olympic sport. The answer lies with Monique Berlioux, former director of the I.O.C. Herself an Olympic swimmer and a great fan of synchro, knew that it would be a close thing when it came for the members to vote. When the hands were raised, Madame Berlioux did a quick count, and told the then President, Lord Killanin, that the majority were in favour, with such confidence that Lord Killanin accepted what she had stated. In a recent interview, Madame Berlioux said that, to this day, she does not know whether or not the majority of the members were in favour of the inclusion of synchronised swimming!

+++++

The 50th anniversary of the 1936 Olympic Games was marked by an exhibition in the Wiener Library in London during June. The exhibition, entitled "When Hitler Toed the Line" portrayed the extraordinary events which led to Hitler staging an international showcase for the "new" Germany in Berlin. One of the organisers of the exhibition was Paul Yogi Mayer, who was himself put through a show training programme for Jewish athletes by the Nazis before the Olympics, in a

bid to convince the world that there was no discrimination. None of them took part in the Games. Mr Mayer, who was born in Germany, came to this country in 1939.

+++++

Sports Acrobatics has now been admitted into the Olympic Movement, and although it is rumoured that it will be included in the 1988 Games, this has not yet been confirmed. The sport is usually seen as a gymnastic sport, and events include tumbling, men's pairs, women's pairs, mixed pairs women's trios and men's fours. This minority sport has, so far, attracted only one philatelic item, a prepaid envelope for the 1974 World Championships in the U.S.S.R., no doubt this situation will change in the near future.

+++++

The Gymnastrada is an international non-competitive festival which is due to be held next year in Herning, Denmark. Stamps were issued by the host countries for Gymnastradas in 1957 (Yugoslavia) 1965 (Austria), 1969 (Switzerland), and 1975 (West Germany). The years absent from this list are 1953 (Netherlands), 1961 (Germany, West) and 1982 (Switzerland) when stamps were not issued. Does anyone know of any cancellations or other philatelic items that were issued for these Gymnastradas?

+++++

On the initiative of His Excellency, the President of the International Olympic Committee, a competition was held to decide which were the finest stamps issued to commemorate the 1984 Olympic Games in Sarajevo and Los Angeles. The judging team of ten, met in Lausanne on 10 October 1985, and from all the issues, selected a short list of twelve stamps. (Poland, France, Germany, Yugoslavia, Seychelles, Australia and Ireland, among others. This final selection was then submitted to one hundred and fifty postal authorities, philatelists and athletes, who awarded the Gold Medal for the fencing stamp

from Poland, the Silver Medal to France depicting various athletic disciplines, and the Bronze Medal to the Federal Republic of Germany for the yachting stamp. The prizes will be awarded at the next session of the I.O.C. to be held in Lausanne in October of this year. Two meter cancellations were used by the I.O.C. headquarters in Lausanne to publicise the Priz Olympia.

EXPOSITION PHILATÉLIQUE
PRIX OLYMPIA
 MUSÉE OLYMPIQUE
 AVRIL-MAI 1986

515



514



Gold Medal.



Silver Medal

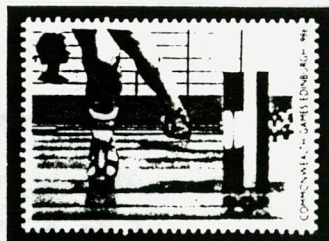


Bronze Medal

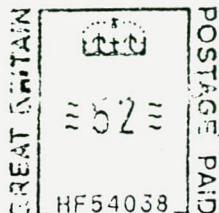
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The British Post Office issued five stamps on 15 July to commemorate the Commonwealth Games held in Edinburgh. The sports depicted are 17p. Track events, 22p. Rowing, 29p. Weightlifting, 31p. Shooting and 34p. Hockey.


The centrepiece of the Games was the Meadowbank Stadium where the track and field events were held. Other sports, badminton, bowling, boxing, canoeing, cycling, judo, rowing, shooting, swimming, weightlifting and wrestling were staged at other venues in Edinburgh and Scotland. The inclusion of a hockey stamp marks the hosting by the Hockey Association of the sixth World Hockey Cup for Men, to be held from 4 October in London. It will be the first time that this premier hockey event will be held in Britain. The stamps were designed by Nick Cudworth, and are his first work for the British Post Office. The stamps were printed by Harrison and Sons Ltd in sheets of 100. Horizontal in format, they are printed on unwatermarked paper, phosphor coated, with PVA Dextrin gum. They are perforated 15 x 14. Two special postmarks were used in Edinburgh on the day of issue.



No examples were available to illustrate the articles on Berchtesgaden and Birmingham. Shown below are the two meter cancellations that were used by the candidature committee's offices.



+++++



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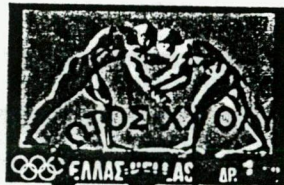
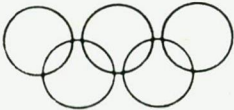


LET'S EXHIBIT A TORCH BEARER !

Shlomo Vurgan.

In the previous issue of TORCH BEARER, I suggested that an article be devoted regularly to torch run and torch bearers. To set the ball rolling, I follow the torch run for the Munich Olympics in 1972. It started in Greece on 28 July and arrived in Munich on 25 August. From the twenty nine day run, I can cover only eight days of it.

I am sure that there is other material available, so search your albums, and if possible, share with the rest of us the covers and postmarks for this run of the torch.



ΑΦΗ ΟΛΥΜΠΙ

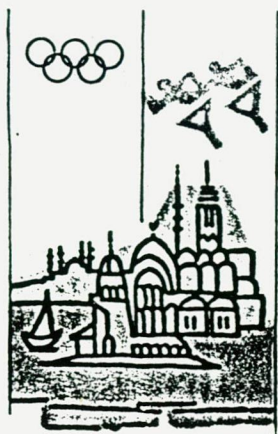


ΑΡΧ.ΟΛΥΜΠΙΑ
28·7·1972



Ancient Olympia. 28 July 1972.

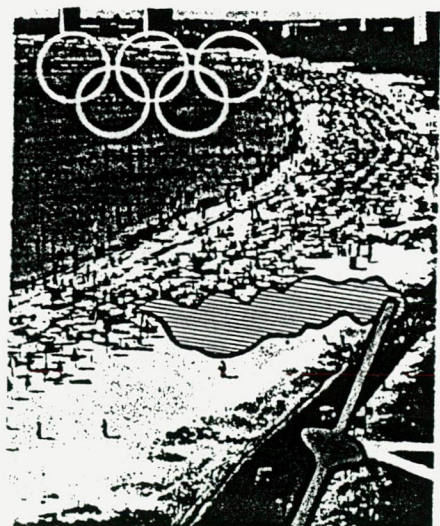
İLK GÜN ZARFI
FIRST DAY COVER



1972 Münih Olimpiyat Oyunları Meşalesi
The Torch of 1972 Munich Olympics Games
İSTANBUL, 8.8.1972

PTT M. O. B. Y. D. Ankara Şubesi P. K. 110

Istanbul, Turkey, 8 August 1972

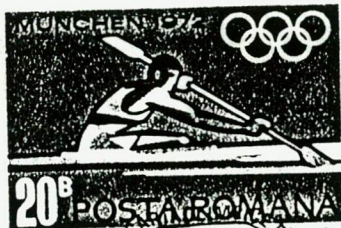


SLANTSCHEV BRJAG
OLIMPIİSKA STAFETA
PREZ BALGARİA 72

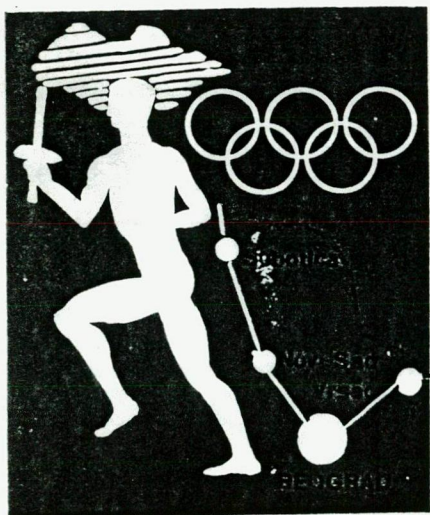
Bulgaria, 11 August 1972.

МЮНХЕН 1972

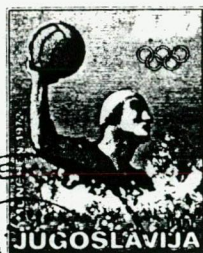




Romania. Bucarest. 13 August 1972.



BEOGRAD



Jugoslavia, Belgrade. 17 August 1972.

AZ OLIMPIAI LÁNG UTJA
MÜNCHEN FELE

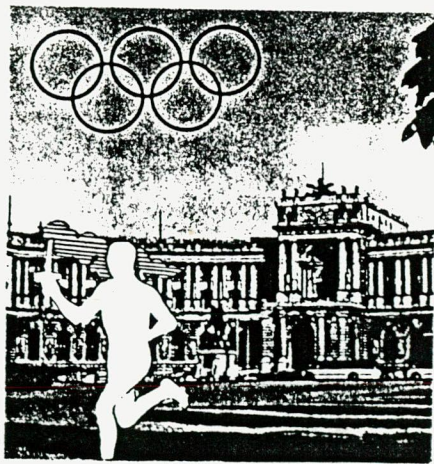


BUDAPEST

DER WEG DER OLYMPISCHEN FLAMME
NACH MÜNCHEN



Hungary, Budapest, 19 August 1972.



WIEN

Olympia-Fackellauf
durch Österreich



REPUBLIK ÖSTERREICH

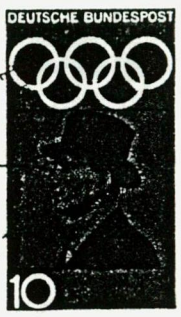


Austria, Vienna, 21 August 1972.



Olympischer
Fackellauf
München  1972

Offizielle
Sonderkarte



Germany, Bad Reichenhall, 23 August,
Nuremberg and Munich, 25 August 1972.

NEWS FROM SEOUL

A violent demonstration erupted at Yonsei University when fifteen hundred student protestors hurled rocks at police who used tear gas. Witnesses said that the students were chanting "Boycott the Olympic Games which are leading to foreign debts." (April 30 1986)

China announced at the end of April that her athletes would be participating in the 1988 Games. A committee spokesman said that China had already registered with the International Olympic Committee.

The International Amateur Boxing Association plans to introduce a 35-year-old age limit for amateur boxers. Even if the proposition were approved, it will contain a loophole that would allow three-time Olympic champion Teofilo Stevenson of Cuba, aged 37 years, to box in the 1988 Games. Dr Hans Grebe, the President of IABA said that a boxer who reached the age of 35 years could apply for an extension to box for a further two years, and would be allowed to do so if he passed a medical examination each year.

Wimbledon's professional stars' hopes of being Olympians went out of the window at the end of May when the Association of National Olympic Committees decided to rescind an earlier decision to allow professional tennis players to compete in 1988 in Seoul. The decision means that ALL professional athletes are banned from future Olympics, and thereby defer plans to make the Games "open". The standard of tennis in Seoul will be immensely poorer than that provided by the professionals and makes one wonder how tennis can be justified as an Olympic sport.

OLYMPHILEX '87

In Lausanne, which hosted the first Olymphilex, it was decided that the next event would take place in Rome in 1987. This second exhibition of Olympic and sports philately will take place from 29 August until 9 September, and will be organised by the Italian National Olympic Committee (C.O.N.I.) with the aid of the I.O.C., F.I.P.O., the City of Rome and the Ministry of Posts. The actual organisation of the event will be undertaken by the Federation of Italian Philatelic Societies

Olymphilex will be held at the same time as the Second World Athletic Championships, which will be held at the Olympic Stadium, the main venue of the 1960 Olympic Games.

The Ministry of Posts has already indicated that they will issue one or two commemorative stamps to mark the occasion, which will be released on 29 August, the opening date of both the exhibition and the athletic meeting.

Olymphilex will take place in the large gymnasium and other rooms at C.O.N.I.'s headquarters at the Foro Italico, only a short distance from the stadium.

This is not the first time that Rome has organised a major philatelic exhibition. The first international exhibition of sports stamps was held here in 1952, an Olympic exhibition was held in conjunction with the Olympic Games in 1960, and 1982 was the year of the highly successful Romolyphil, when the world's top collections were gathered in the Palazzo Braschi. Many of those who were responsible in the success of this exhibition, will also be involved with Olymphilex '87.

Further details of the exhibition are available from Espositzione Mondiale di Filatelia, Sport Olimpica c/o Comitato Olimpico Nazionale Italiano, Foro Italico, 00194 Rome, Italy.

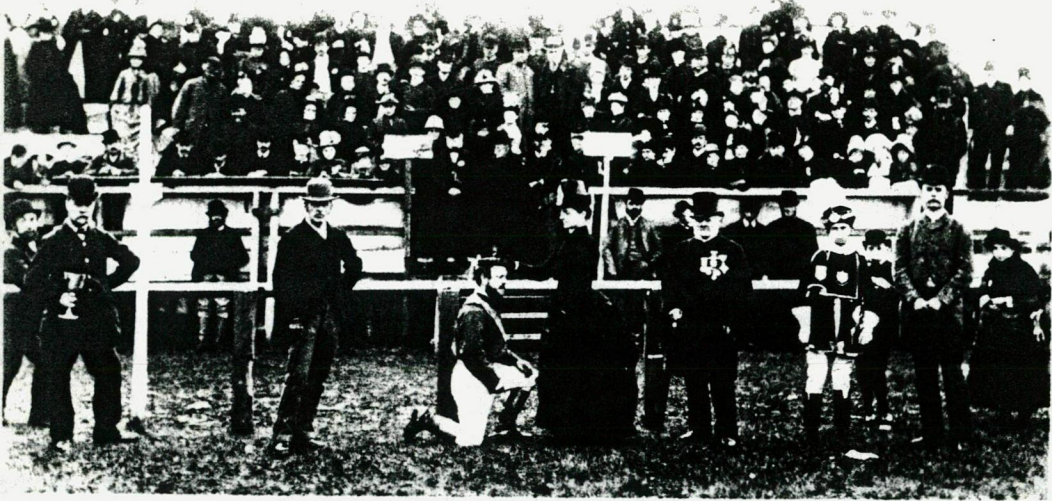
MUCH WENLOCK, 19 JULY 1986

For the first time since the Society was begun three years ago, we have sponsored our own handstamp, postcard and cachet to mark a sporting event. The 100th Annual Olympian Games were held in Much Wenlock on the weekend of 19 - 20 July. A full report of the happenings will be found on the following pages.

The Much Wenlock Olympian Games have a particular significance for Olympic collectors. They were first held in 1850, and thereafter somewhat spasmodically. Nevertheless, they were considered of sufficient importance by the founder of the modern Olympic Games, Baron Pierre de Coubertin, that he paid a visit to the Games in 1890, and thereafter continued a lively correspondence with the founder of the Wenlock games, Dr Penny Brook.

The postcard and cancellation, with its cachet would make a handsome addition to that section of a collection dealing with the early beginnings of the modern Olympic Games.





The souvenir postcard does not show the crowning of the first champion, as thought at first, but the champion tilter being presented with an olive wreath by Miss Serjeantson, at the 1887 Games, Dr Penny Brookes stands at her side with the herald.

The postcards and covers, with the special hand stamp applied to the 17 pence Commonwealth Games stamp, and our own commissioned cachet, are still available from Franceska Rapkin, at £1.50 for the postcard, and £2.50 for the cover. Mint postcards are sold out, and remaining stocks are limited, so if you are interested, don't delay.

Since 1986 also marks the fiftieth anniversary of the Berlin Olympic Games, the Much Wenlock Museum put on a stamp exhibition devoted to these Games. The material was supplied by our



The Post Office Handstamp.

Auction Manager, John Crowther, and could be seen during the month of July. This exhibition was well advertised in Much Wenlock and the surrounding towns with a poster that was a copy of the original poster designed by Würbel to advertise the 1936 Games. John showed some most interesting material, and he is to be congratulated for putting on such a splendid display. I am sure that visitors to the museum found it most interesting.

A symbolic flame was lit at the birthplace of the modern Olympic movement in Great Britain by the President of the Wenlock Olympian Society, Councillor Ernest Higgs, on the evening of Friday 18 July. The torch itself was the same as that carried across Africa, Europe and the United States by the Sudanese athlete Omar Khalifa at the start of the Sports Aid Race Against Time. From Much Wenlock, it was taken to the Alexandra Stadium in Birmingham where the Pearl Assurance athletic championships were taking place. It was carried by a relay of athletes, then returned to the Much Wenlock games grounds at Linden Fields for the opening ceremony on Saturday morning. This was performed by the grandson of Baron Pierre de Coubertin, the founder of the modern Olympic Games. Mr Denis Howell, the former Minister for Sport, and the Chairman of the Birmingham Olympic Bid Committee, as well as members of the British

Olympic Association, were present to witness the opening ceremonies.

The events on Saturday were largely limited to the archery contests and athletic events for young people. Sunday was the day for the adult athletic events. Those who won medals could be justly proud of them. They were the same design as the Much Wenlock 100th Games logo, large, and cast in heavy metal. They looked most handsome around the necks of the winners.

Although classified as a town, Much Wenlock is hardly more than a village. It is a delightful place, warm and friendly, a real piece of rural England. Anyone who is passing nearby, should make a point of taking a detour and paying a visit, it is well worth it. Nearby is the small town of Ironbridge, another town with a long history, and much of interest to see.

The meeting of S.O.C. members was limited to Ken Cook, Bob Wilcock, Alf Robinson and Franceska Rapkin. After meeting at the Museum and looking at John Crowther's exhibit, the meeting continued at an old-world hostelry across the road. Although stamps were not on display, naturally, the conversation was all about stamps and the Games.

The Society would like to thank the Much Wenlock Olympian Society with their help in organising our own special souvenir for the event. We are particularly grateful for the permission to use the 100th Anniversary logo, which was undoubtedly a great attraction. Most of our negotiations were with their Secretary, Norman Wood, and our particular thanks go to him.

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STOP PRESS!

We have just learnt that the Society of Olympic Collectors magazine was awarded a silver certificate at the Cardinal Spellman Literature Fair

READING MATTERS

George Griffenhagen, Giancarlo Morolli and Ernst Schlunegger have recently published a bibliography of monographs, handbooks and catalogues of thematic literature. Listed below are all those that have appeared which relate to the Olympic theme.

Baumgaetel, Werner E. MUENCHEN-SAPPORO NEUNZEHN HUNDERTZWEIUNDSIEBZIG. Schliersee, Germany 1969. 71 pages.

Bortolato, Otello. SAPPORO-TEMATICA OLIMPICA. Maerne, Italy. 1972. 34pp.

Bortolato, Otello. XX OLIMPIADE - MONACO 1972. Maerne, Italy. 1972 35pp.

Bortolato, Otello. LA PRIMA OLIMPIADE DELL'ERO MODERNA. Maerne, Italy. 1981. 30pp.

Bura, Fabian. DIE OLYMPISCHEN SPIELE AUF DEN BRIEFMARKEN DER WELT. N.Hoffman-Verlag AG. Cologne, Germany 1960. 181 pp.

Bura, Fabian. POLISH OLYMPIC CHRONICLE IN PHILATELY. Krajowa Agencjy Wydaawnicza. Warsaw, Poland. 1976 143 pp.

Busek, Vaclav R. OLYMPIJSKE FRANCOTYPY. Czechoslovakia. 1972. 42pp.

Canepa, Franco and Bergman, Manfred. I GIOCHI DELLA V OLIMPIADE - STOCKHOLM 1912. CIFT Gruppo Sport, Arcore, Italy. 1982. 16pp.

Cauret, Jacqueline. LES JEUX OLYMPIQUES D'HIVER A TRAVERS LES TIMBRES-POSTE. Presses de la Cite. Paris, France. 1968. 30pp.

Danner, James F. THE 1936 OLYMPIC GAMES: A HISTORY. 1972. Unpaged.

Furman, V. OLYMPIC PHILATELY. Moscow, USSR, 1982. 160pp.

Green, Richard. A CATALOG OF POSTER STAMPS OF THE OLYMPIC GAMES. Chicago, USA. 1940. 18pp.

Heyden, P.Th.van der. LES JEUX OLYMPIQUES: TELS

- QU'UN PHILATELISTE LES VOIT. n.d. 48pp.
- Hohenester, Hans. PHILATELIE + OLYMPIA MUNICH 1972. Schwanenberger Verlag, Munich Germany. 1972. 112 pp.
- Kudelka, Ott. OLYMP-SPORT: MISTROVSTIK EVROPY V ATLETICE. Knihovnicka No. 3. Nachod, Czechoslovakia. 1978 47pp.
- Mayer, A. OLYMPISCHEN SPIELE IM LICHTE DER PHILATELIE. Germany. 1952. 17pp.
- Matolo, Vincenzo. I FRANCOBOLLI DI GRECIA COMMEMORATIVI DEL RIPRISTINO DELLE OLIMPIADI 1986-1901. Bari, Italy. 1968. 12pp.
- Naegler, Kurt. OLYMPIADE SPIELE AUF DEN LAENDERBRIEFMARKEN. Berlin, Germany. 1952. 12pp.
- Podolsky, Sherwin. POSTAL HISTORY AND VIGNETTES OF THE Xth OLYMPIAD. Sports Philatelists International, USA. 1976. 204pp.
- Raftopoulos, Spiro. RAFTOPOULOS CATALOGUE OF WORLD OLYMPIC STAMPS 1896-1960. Greece. 1963. 96pp.
- Raftopoulos, Spiro. CANCELLATIONS AND POSTMARKS OF OLYMPIA. Greece. 1963. 14pp.
- Raftopoulos, Spiro. THE HELLENIC PHILATELY IN THE OLYMPIC KINGDOM. Greece. 1969. 98pp.
- Raftopoulos, Spiro. LA FILATELIA OLIMPICO. D'Urso. Rome, Italy. 1964. 48pp.
- Rampacher, Paul F. KATALOG DER VIGNETTEN ZU DEN OLYMPISCHEN SPIELEN. Itzehoe, Holstein, Germany. 1959. 26pp.
- Ridder, R.J. LES JEUX OLYMPIQUES. Birschwiler. 1957. 83pp.
- Sabelli, Giuseppe and Soler Vila, Jose Maria. OLYMPIC PHILATELY. International Olympic Committee Barcelona, Spain. 1982. 32pp.
- Sashenkov, Euegii Petrovich. OLYMPIC GAMES IN PHILATELY. Moscow USSR. 1966. 149pp.
- Sashenkov, Eugenii Petrovich, and M. Levin.

- THE PHILATELY OF THE FIVE RINGS. Moscow, USSR 1980. 336pp.
- Sauer, Gunter. OLYMPIA-LUFTPOST. Philatelistenverband. Zepernick, GDR. 1982. 96pp.
- Schmidt, Gerhard. DIE OLYMPIADE 1960. Coburg, Germany. 1961. 72pp.
- Schneider, Gunter. DIE POSTSTEMPEL DER WELT ZU DEN OLYMPISCHEN SPIELEN 1906-1960. Düsseldorf, Germany. 1962 48pp. Reprinted 1981.
- Sieger, Hermann Walter. OLYMPIA-KATALOG. Sieger Verlag, Lorch/Württemberg, Germany. 1967. 336pp.
- Sieger, Hermann Walter. OLYMPIA-KATALOG. Sieger Verlag, Lorch/Württemberg, Germany. 1968. 351pp.
- Sieger, Hermann Walter. OLYMPIA-KATALOG. Sieger Verlag, Lorch/Württemberg, Germany, 1972. 174pp.
- Tecardi, Maurizio. OLIMPIADI E FILATELIA. D'Urso Rome, Italy. 1965. 90pp.
- Trachtenberg, H. SPORTS OLYMPIQUES ET SCOUTISME 1978-1979. Ivry/Seine, France. 1979. 164pp.
- Trachtenberg, H. SPORTS OLYMPIQUES ET SCOUTISME 1982-1983. Ivry/seine, France. 1982. 132pp. + 34pp catalogue.
- Trory, Ernest. A PHILATELIC HISTORY OF THE OLYMPIC GAMES. Crabtree Press, Brighton, England 1956.
- Vogelsgesang, Wolfgang. 10 JAHRE OLYMPISCHE SPIELE 1972. Munich, Germany. 1982. 104pp.
- Volk, Heiko. DIE OLYMPISCHEN SPIELE IM BLICKPUNKT DER PHILATELIE 1896-1940. Erbach, Germany. 1976. 189pp.
- Wernet, K. DER TRANSPORT DER OLYMPISCHEN FACKEL NACH MEXIKO. IMOS, Schifferstadt, Germany. 1975.
- Winterheimer, Manfred. OLYMPISCHEN SPIELEN 1964. IMOS, Germany. 1976. 50pp.
- Winterheimer, Manfred. OLYMPISCHEN SPIELEN 1968-1972. IMOS, Germany. 1974. 139pp.

OLYMPIC EXHIBITION IN ALBERTVILLE

Francis Daziniere.

Albertville, a town in the French Alps, (Savoie) is one of the candidates to host the 1992 Winter Olympic Games. The Candidature and Bidding Committees, in conjunction with the sports group of the French Association of Thematic Philately (AFPT) and the local philatelic society, organised a large Olympic philatelic exhibition.

The show took place from 3 - 13 April 1986 and obtained the patronage and support of F.I.P.O. His Excellency, Mr Juan Antonio Samaranch, the President of the International Olympic Committee and F.I.P.O. sent a trophy which was awarded to the finest exhibit in the Olympic sports class.

The event was the largest ever held in France, and over the eleven day period, the public had plenty of chance to view the one hundred and fifty seven frames. The forty five exhibitors included several juniors, who represented philatelic societies from all over France. Apart from the three Olympic classes, WINTER SPORTS, OLYMPISM and OTHER OLYMPIC SPORTS, there was a class for the history of the Savoy, and another for the local society.

Francis Daziniere contributed two exhibits, "The History and Symbolic Significance of the Olympic Flame" and "France and Olympism." The winners in each class were:

CLASS 1. WINTER SPORTS:

RenéChristin. "The White Olympics."
AFPT Trophy.

CLASS 2. OLYMPISM:

No Award, but the I.O.C. Trophy awarded to René Geslin for his exhibit in Class 3, "The Bicycle in the Service of Man."

CLASS 3. OTHER OLYMPIC SPORTS:

Michel Pecquet. "A Century of Football."
Town of Albertville Award.

AN AUSTRALIAN POINT OF VIEW

Robert Budge.

Brisbane is applying for the 1992 Olympic Games. If successful, it would be only the second time in Olympic history that they have been held in the southern hemisphere; the last time being in Melbourne, Australia, in 1956.

From what I have heard and read about Brisbane's bid, it is the most compact of all the proposals and one of the strongest bids of all the cities that are vying for the Games. The Brisbane plan will use four major sites, all within a twenty kilometres radius of the village, except Lake Kurwongbah. This is one of the main claims for Brisbane's bid, since all the other cities have their sites widely spread. The Olympic Village will be to the north of Brisbane in a new coastal suburb called Boondall. This village will have everything that both the athletes and the officials could wish for. It will have its own marina, so the yachtsmen will be accommodated with the other competitors, instead of in a separate village, which has often been the case in the past.

Boondall will be one of the four major sporting venues for the Games. The Boondall multi-sports complex will house a number of events, including basketball, diving, gymnastics, handball, hockey, synchronised swimming, volleyball and yachting. All the venues will be within a ten minute walk from the village. To the northwest of Boondall is Lake Kurwongbah, which will be used for the rowing and canoeing.

The Chandler multi-sports complex, which is about twenty minutes away from the village, will be the venues for archery, badminton, pentathlon, shooting, swimming, table tennis, weightlifting and wrestling. This complex is really four separate, but closely linked, venues. Most of these are already built, and were used in 1982 for the Commonwealth Games.

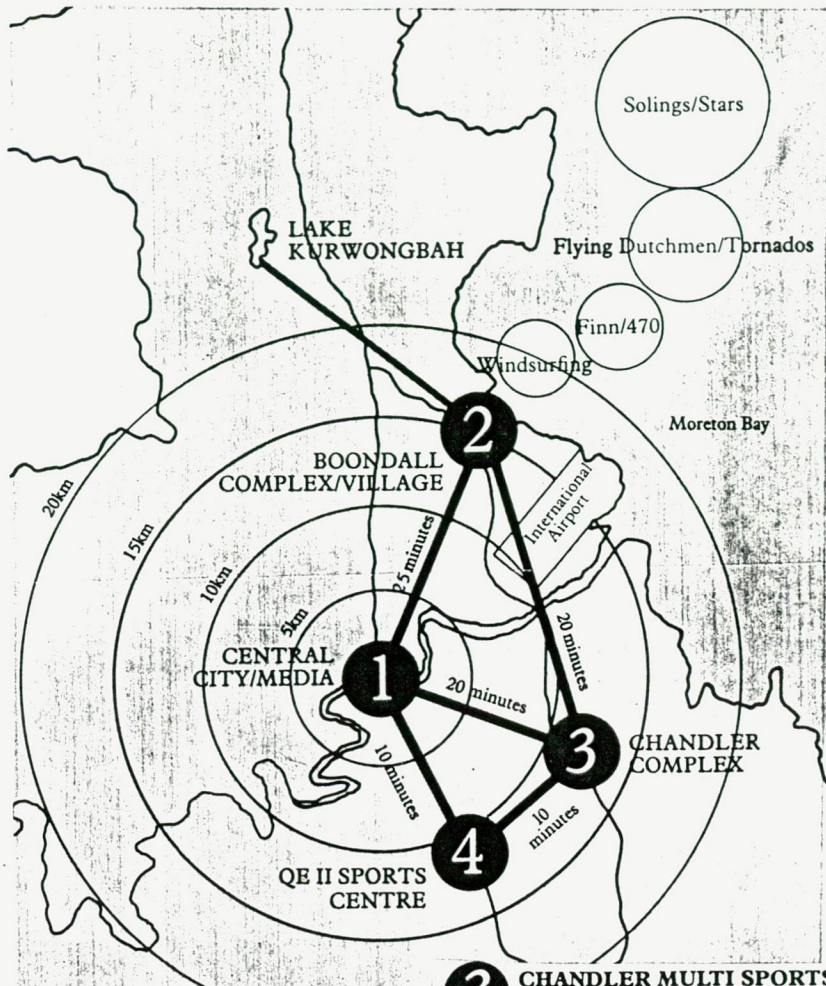
The Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee Sports Centre will be the focal point for the opening and closing ceremonies, as well as the athletic events and the finish of the Marathon. It will also be used for the finals of the equestrian show jumping. This stadium has a seating capacity for 95,000 spectators.

The last major venue is the city centre itself. Boxing, football (soccer), tennis and water polo. The city will also house the facilities for the media, which will be at the expo site, which will have an international broadcast centre, a main press centre and a media village. This will be where the press will do their reports and where they will be accommodated. The centre will have the latest communications for the media; videos, audios, and access to the Australian communications satellite, Aussat.

I have read of only three major disadvantages to Brisbane's bid to host the Games, and these are the distance to travel, the expense of air fares and our quarantine laws.

Let us look at each disadvantage. Wherever the Games take place, some teams will have to travel great distances. In my opinion, the expense of the teams, officials and equipment can be minimised by negotiation, so that should be no big problem. As for the quarantine laws, which prevented Melbourne holding the equestrian events in 1956, these too should cause no problem for Brisbane. The laws have been streamlined, and are already in use, as far as I know. To help Brisbane's bid, will call for a quarantine centre, with full training facilities, which will be developed as a part of the equestrian venue and will be accommodated in 200 hectare of bushland park.

All the existing venues and facilities, as well as those still in the planning stages, have been inspected by the evaluation teams from the I.O.C. and the Association of Summer Olympic International Federations, as well as by the



- 1 CENTRAL CITY VENUES/
MEDIA FACILITIES**
- | | |
|------------|----------------------------------|
| Boxing | Expo Site:- |
| Football | - International Broadcast Centre |
| Tennis | - Main Press Centre |
| Water Polo | - Media Village |

- 2 BONDALL MULTI SPORTS
COMPLEX/OLYMPIC VILLAGE**
- | | |
|------------|-----------------------|
| Basketball | Synchronised Swimming |
| Diving | Volleyball |
| Gymnastics | Yachting |
| Handball | Olympic Village |
| Hockey | Training Venues |
| | International Airport |

- 3 CHANDLER MULTI SPORTS
COMPLEX**
- | | |
|------------|-------------------|
| Archery | Modern Pentathlon |
| Badminton | Shooting |
| Cycling | Swimming |
| Equestrian | Table Tennis |
| Fencing | Weight Lifting |
| Judo | Wrestling |

- 4 QUEEN ELIZABETH II
JUBILEE SPORTS CENTRE**
- | |
|--------------------------------|
| Athletics |
| Opening and Closing Ceremonies |

- LAKE KURWONGBAH**
- | |
|----------|
| Rowing |
| Canoeing |

Australian sporting bodies, and have given Brisbane a favourable report.

Brisbane's bid for the Olympics has been given wide support from all levels of government, the public, corporate sponsors and the sporting bodies themselves. The Games would be held in the months of July and August, which will help with the seasonal differences between the northern and southern hemispheres, as it would be easier for the northern athletes coming from a northern summer.

The accommodation for the many thousands of spectators would also cause no problem, since Brisbane has plenty of space available, and there are plenty of beds on the Gold Coast and the Sunshine Coast, which is only a forty five minute drive by car from Brisbane.

With all the favourable reports, I and many million Australians, hope that Brisbane will get the Games, so that they can come "down under for a second time. We will all know the answer in October, and until then, I wish all the cities vieing for the Games "Good Luck", but I'll keep my fingers crossed for Brisbane!

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NEWS FROM CALGARY

A full colour, A4 sized brochure in English and French has been published about the 1988 Winter Games in Calgary. It is entitled COME TOGETHER IN CALGARY - The XV Olympic Winter Games February 13-28 1988" and can be obtained free of charge from: Travel Alberta, Government of Alberta, Alberta House, 1 Mount Street London W1Y 5AA. Members living in the United Kingdom and Europe should use this address, while those living outside Europe should write to P.O.Box 1988, Station C, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2T 5R4.

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MEMBER'S FORUM

Our Brazilian member, Roberto Gesto de Melo, Avenida 7 de Setembro 874, 69005 Manaus, Amazonas, Brazil, is looking for Official Olympic Reports and torches carried on the Torch Relays. If any member can help, contact Roberto at the above address.

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Our Librarian, Ken Cook is looking for postmarks from the Franco-British Exhibition for the dates 14 July and 19 July 1908. He has other cancels from the exhibition which he could offer in exchange. Write to him at 31 Thorn Lane, Rainham, Essex.

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Thanks are due to our Australian member, Robert Budge, not only for regularly keeping us up to date on news of the Brisbane bid to host the 1992 Games, but also for supplying your library with useful and valuable literature.

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The Barbara W. de Violini collection of Soccer material is being prepared for sale. It consists of three parts, Olympic Soccer, World Cup Soccer and Other Soccer Events. For further details write to Robert de Violini, P.O.Box 5025, Oxnard, California 93031, USA.

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Congratulations to our member Ron Pickering, who was awarded an OBE in the Birthday Honours List.

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John Osborne, 236 Bexley Lane, Sidcup, Kent DA14 4JH, UK, is looking for stamps, postcards, air-letters, postal stationery etc. of South Korean Olympic and sports, especially material from the 1948-1981 period. Will buy or exchange. John can supply all new Seoul '88 issues from 1984 to date.

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Franceska Rapkin is looking for two 1936 cancels. The one was for the Berlin rowing regatta, which was held from 26 - 28 June, and the other handstamp was used from 27 - 31 July to commemorate the International Sport Medicine Congress in Berlin. If it's any help, the two handstamps are illustrated below. (not to scale.)



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Ernest Nutman, 20 Sidenhill Close, Shirley, Solihull, West Midlands B90 2QD has for sale the two albums prepared by the Bahrenfeld/Altona cigarette company for the 1936 Olympic Games, and also the album prepared by the same company for the 1932 Games in Los Angeles. He also has 83 loose coloured cards issued by a Dutch Cigarette company for the 1952 Games showing the Dutch participants in Helsinki. Will sell or exchange.

Ernest would also like some help with the following query. He has a photographic postcard of the ship "Orange Nassau" In the bottom left hand corner of the photo are the words "HOTELSCHIP ORANGE NASSAU OLYMPIADE 1928". This may suggest that the ship was used to provide accommodation for visitors or competitors during the Games. Can anybody help?

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Congratulations to our American members, Morris Rosen and James Bowman who were awarded a small vermeil and a large bronze medal respectively for their exhibits in the thematic class at Ameripex. On this occasion, the thematic class was relatively small, and in total, there were only five Olympic exhibits.

Laurentz Jonker of the Netherlands writes in answer to John Murray's question, "When was I issued?" He has a cover postmarked on 30 July 1928, and has seen other covers of this date also. Laurentz also writes that the Soccer matches were not held during the period of the Olympic Games, (28 July - 12 August 1928) but were played in May and June. The final was on the 10 June, when the final score was a 1 - 1 draw between Argentina and Uruguay. The replay took place on 13 June.

Laurentz also has a query of his own. Does anyone know how many registered covers are known from the 1920 Games, with the special Olympic Games inscription. He would like members who have examples of this label to let him know the date on which it is used and the serial no. Write to him at Timmeestenslaan 14, NL 8014 EL Zwolle, Netherlands.

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New member Alan Rosenbloum, 417 Canterbury Lane, Gulf Breeze, Florida 32561, USA, is looking for daily programmes from all Olympiads, except Los Angeles 1932, Berlin 1936, London 1948 and 1956 Melbourne. He is also looking for official reports from the organising committees for the Summer Games, except, 1984, 1972, 1956, 1948 and 1908. Official reports of the British Olympic Association for 1924, 1928, 1932 and 1936. Die Olympischen Spiele in Amsterdam 1928, issued by Reemtsma in 1928, the 1966 reprint of the 1896 Official report, and any biography or other book on Harold Abraham. If anyone can help, write to Alan at the above address.

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Does any member know anything about the Korean Olympic albums that were available at their stand at AMERIPEX. Your Chairman did not see them during her visit to Chicago for the exhibition. If anyone has details, please let the Editor or Secretary know.

A 1906 QUERY

Ernest Nutman.



Some years ago, I obtained a part set of mint postcards in a descriptive brown envelope. As a subscriber to the then "Olympic Philatelist" produced by the late Ernest Trory, I submitted then for examination and information. To this day, no-one has provided any information about these cards, and I now hope that perhaps some member of S.O.C. may be able to throw some light on their history.

I have seven of the set of ten cards in their original packet. They have been issued to commemorate the Intercalated Games in Athens, held from 9 April 1906 (Gregorian calendar). One of the cards, illustrated above, shows a similar design to that used on the cover of the packet in which they came, and depicts a four-horsed chariot with the Acropolis in the background. Others in the set include gymnasts, wrestlers and runners, as well as allegorical scenes of angels over the stadium, and crossed rifles and targets.

As I have never before seen, or even heard, of this set of cards, and I have not yet been able to find anyone else who has seen or heard of them, are they perhaps one of the major rarities of the 1906 Games, or is this merely wishful thinking?

A translation of the Greek wording on the card might help, and perhaps one of our Greek members could come to the rescue and send a translation. If any further information comes to light, you may be sure that it will appear in TORCH BEARER.

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WOODS OF LOVE?

..... Dr Martin recently recalled the strange and sexy facts about the Germans' Olympic Love Garden: "The Olympic athlete in Berlin was elevated to a godlike creature. We were gods of the stadium. The Germans had even reserved a sort of heavenly forest near the Olympic Village for those gods. And there the prettiest hand-picked maidens would offer themselves to the athletes - especially the good Aryan types. Olympic babies born out of such encounters were cared for by the state. There was every indication that this Wood of Love was a matter of state policy by the Nazis.

The maidens were usually sports teachers or members of Hitler's Bund deutscher Mädchen (German Girls League) and they had special passes to enter the Village woods and mingle with the athletes. It was a lovely beech forest which had a pretty little lake, and the place was tightly ringed by Schupos (Berlin city police) so noone would disturb the sportive couples.

It was interesting that before submitting to the Olympic god of her choice, the girl would request her partner's Olympic badge. In case of pregnancy, the girl would give this information

to state or Red Cross maternities to prove the Olympic origin of her baby. Then the state paid for the whole works."

Dr Martin said that since Aryan racial improvement was apparently the object of the young ladies' affection, they avoided blacks, and seemed to favour Americans, Scandinavians, Finns Dutchmen, and of course, Germans.....

The above is an extract taken from the book, ALL THAT GLITTERS by Noel Gerson and published by Doubleday in 1975. Does anyone have any further information about this so-called Wood of Love? Not unnaturally, no mention of this is made in either the Official Reports, or in the literature of the time.

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1992 SOUVENIR

The best time to collect the souvenirs that are being produced by the Olympic Bid Committees for 1992 is NOW. Once the Games have been awarded to one or the other city, the media boys will pack their bags and go home. Although the souvenirs are probably being produced in their thousands, come 1987, they will be hard to find.

In a previous issue of TORCH BEARER, the address of all the known bid committees was given, so if you would like their pins, keyrings, labels, brochures or meter cancellations, write now before it is too late. Remember, the International Olympic Committee meet in Lausanne on 17 October to decide which two cities will host the Winter and Summer Games in 1992.

The following are known to be available:

Amsterdam: meter cancellation, brochure.

Birmingham: vignettes in several sizes, brochure newspaper, keyring, ashtray, Parker rolling ball pen.

Paris: badges (small rectangular and round medium size) keyring, brochure.

Brisbane: stickers, vignettes, brochure, lapel badges.

Belgrade: brochure.

Albertville: slogan cancellation, brochure, newspaper, stickers, lapel pins.

Falun: brochure, stickers, poster, lapel pin keyring and boiled sweets.

Lillehammer: brochure, stickers, lapel pins.

Anchorage: brochure, meter cancellation and slogan cancellation, stickers and lapel pins.

Sophia: brochure.

Berchtesgaden: brochure, stickers, lapel pin.

WHERE IN WINTER 1992?

In the June issue of TORCH BEARER, we discussed the relative merits of Lillehammer, Albertville and Berchtesgaden. In this issue, Bob Wilcock compiles a further article on the material that is at present available to us.

Since the original article appeared, Lillehammer has sent a magnificent hard-backed book, which formed a part of their official bid to the I.O.C. and which is certainly not lacking of detail.

Unfortunately, the meeting of the I.O.C. in Lausanne in October will take place too late for details of the results to appear in the December issue of TORCH BEARER. However, full articles about the two successful candidates will appear in the first issue of 1987.

ANCHORAGE.

The Anchorage Organising Committee (AOC) was incorporated in December 1984, originally with the intention of bidding for the 1996 Winter Games. However, the view was taken that the best chance of getting the 1996 Games was to be a U.S. nominee for 1992, so Anchorage changed tack and succeeded, becoming "America's choice for the 1992 Olympics", the Committee slogan.

However, to me, the Anchorage folder still conveys the impression of a half-hearted bid for 1992, with the sights still set on 1996. We have no glossy presentation, but a folder of loose-leaf fact sheets. After a brief introduction, fact sheet II makes what AOC clearly considers to be the key advantage: 'Anchorage's relationship to other national and international time zones offers the best opportunity to reach millions with live broadcast coverage' with morning events reaching Europe live at peak evening viewing, and afternoon events at prime U.S. evening viewing times.

Other fact sheets dispel the myth that Anchorage is too remote, or its winter climate too severe, or its February days too dark. There are already good facilities to an Olympic standard, and Anchorage will offer, for the first time, a main stadium for the Winter Olympics. The opening and closing ceremonies will take place there, as well as speed and figure skating and ice hockey. For general use, it will be an all-weather stadium, with facilities for field sports in the summer.

Other venues are situated around Anchorage and in the surrounding hills, with good transport facilities. Bob and luge are forty five minutes away, but that is by air, 350 miles away in Fairfax, surely a disadvantage. If required, Anchorage would build its own run.

I do not see Anchorage as a strong contender, but there are at least some interesting items

for the collector. The AOC has a meter, PB2700-975. Until early 1986 this was used as a plain meter, but then the logo was added. The AOC have their own printed stationery, but also a handstamp and vignette was used as an example on large envelopes. There is a general advertising vignette bearing the logo, as well as a lapel pin.

Each year, Anchorage holds a week long "fur festival" and from 21-23 February 1986, the 34th Alaska Philatelic Exhibition (A.P.E.X.) was held as a part of the festival. The handstamp was dedicated to the 1992 bid, but for some reason, the planned text was removed, and only the Olympic rings remain to indicate the connection.



The A.P.E.X. handstamp, as it was intended.



CORTINA.

Cortina does not found its bid on the 1956 facilities. These have already been improved over the years, and more would be added should

Cortina become the choice for 1992. For example, a new biathlon and speed skating Snow Stadium, and a second ski jump. Cortina's detailed documentation stresses the compactness of the facilities; all the events would take place within a radius of 15 kilometres. The Village is just twelve kilometres from the centre of Cortina, and is ready and waiting in a wooded natural park. Warm up and practice facilities would also be provided there. Cortina reckons to be the most popular winter resort in Italy, its southern aspect in the beautiful Dolomite valley giving ideal conditions for visitors and sportsmen to enjoy the facilities, and ensuring that the benefit of the improved Olympic facilities will endure long into the future.

To date, there is nothing philatelic for the collector, but three different vignettes incorporating the logo, a circular lapel badge and a lapel pin in the flame-shape of the logo.



SOFIA.

Little has emerged from Sofia, even collectors in Bulgaria have been unable to obtain information. However, The Times has reported that the Bulgarians plan to spend \$300 million to provide full facilities, should they be chosen. Like Cortina, they will be compact, for Sofia understands that Games are awarded to a city, not a country. The organisers, however, do like to mention that of the 1992 candidate countries, Bulgaria is the only country that was represented in Athens in 1896 that has, so far, never hosted an Olympic Games.

They still have a credibility gap to overcome. We shall know the choice on 17 October.

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FROM THE PACKET SECRETARY.

The packet is thriving. I should like to thank the members for their response to my request to pass the packet on as quickly as possible - at times it fair gallops, and some packets have caught up with the previous one, so my apologies to those who have had to cope with two packets arriving almost together - I do try to keep them a month apart.

The quality of the material in circulation remains very high. I have had enough stamps from one contributor for three packets, and even more postal history from another! Each packet is a mixture of stamps and postal history, and all on hand will be in circulation by September, so I do need more material for the autumn and winter packets, please. Packets may only circulate within Great Britain, but all members may dispose of their material this way. Whether from G.B. or abroad, material can be sent by ordinary post to me, but please make sure that you obtain a certificate of posting. As usual, you will find my address at the beginning of this issue of TORCH BEARER.

Illustrated is a postcard showing the 1936 Olympic Stadium in Berlin, with the German gold medal winner in the Hammer, Hein, in the foreground. The card advertises Leni Riefenstahl's epic film 'Olympia'. On both the front and the back, the inscriptions are in Japanese. Were other cards made to advertise this film with inscriptions in other languages?



JEUX DE L'AVENIR

Bob Wilcock and Francis Daziniere.

On 20 June 1985 an Olympic torch was lit at the headquarters of the French Olympic Committee in Paris. It was carried through the city to the Pershing Stadium at Vincennes for the opening ceremony of the first French "Games of the Future", presided over by Francois Mitterand and the I.O.C. President, H.E. Juan Antonio Samaranch.

These were the first such games for the youth of France. There was a competition in each Departement, then in each region, with the national finals taking place over a period of five days in Paris, to select the champions of the future in athletics, swimming and gymnastics.

The games were organised on the lines of the Olympics, including a village for the young competitors, and in the village, a temporary post office was installed. There was no special handstamp, a sorry omission on the part of the organisers, and indeed, the Paris 1992 Organising Committee missed a golden opportunity.

All that was available was the ordinary CDS of the temporary post office installed on the site inscribed "Bureau Temporaire No 2" This was used to cancel the one philatelic souvenir that had been prepared, a postal stationery card overprinted with the emblem of the games, the Gallic cock with the Olympic rings in a hexagon.

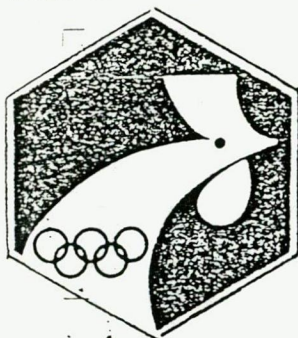
The next Jeux de l'Avenir are being held in 1987. Hopefully, there will be more interesting philatelic souvenirs. Other countries hold their "Youth Olympics" under the patronage of their national Olympic Committees, and for example, the U.S.S.R. has issued postal stationery envelopes in the past. This field could make an interesting sideline for the Olympic collector, for the champions of these games could well be the Olympic champions of the future.

CARTE POSTALE

EXPEDITEUR



VILLAGE COMMERCANT



JEUX de L'AVENIR
1985

Francis DAZINIERE
10, Rue Pierre Curie
33400 TALENCE

IN BRIEF

The Society held its first meeting in the north of England on Saturday 7 June at the Civic Centre in Otley, Yorkshire, during the 40th Annual Convention of the Yorkshire Philatelic Association. John Osborne, Bob Wilcock, Ken Cook and Bob Farley made the 500 mile round trip to join three of their colleagues from the land of tripe and Yorkshire pudding, Victor Hale, Dave Williams and John Crowther. Victor and John had, almost inevitably, cleaned out the dealers of Olympic material before the arrival of the southern contingent, so we repaired to the nearest local for a natter. Excellent displays were given by Victor, Ken and the two Bobs on frames lent by the host society. The enthusiasm of those present made up for the meagre attendance.

